

**Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Thursday, May 13, 2010 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

**DAILY ROUTINE**

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

Are there any tributes?

**TRIBUTES**

**In recognition of Yukon Francophone Day/Journée de la Francophonie Yukonnaise**

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** En tant que ministre responsable de la Direction des services en français, je prends la parole en ce jour pour rendre hommage à tous les francophones du Yukon et pour souligner leurs nombreuses contributions à l'épanouissement du Yukon.

Le samedi 15 mai 2010 marquera pour la quatrième année consécutive, la Journée de la francophonie yukonnaise.

La langue française est enracinée au Yukon depuis plus de 150 ans. Elle fait partie de notre histoire, de notre culture et de notre identité.

Le Yukon compte une école française, une garderie française et un journal francophone. La communauté francophone fournit des services aux entrepreneurs, aux immigrants, aux apprenants adultes, aux jeunes et aux femmes. Elle fait activement la promotion des arts et de la culture. Elle participe activement aux activités de l'ensemble de la population yukonnaise et a établi de nombreux partenariats.

De plus, le programme d'immersion française est de plus en plus populaire, pour les grands et les petits. Il n'est pas rare d'entendre parler français partout dans le territoire.

En vertu de la Loi sur les langues du Yukon, le gouvernement du Yukon s'engage à offrir des services en français à la population franco-yukonnaise. Notre gouvernement travaille à l'avancement des services en français afin que tous les francophones du Yukon puissent vivre et grandir en français.

J'invite tous les Yukonnais et Yukonaises à se joindre à moi pour fêter la Journée de la francophonie yukonnaise. Merci.

As the minister responsible for the French Language Services Directorate, I rise in this house today to pay tribute to all Yukon francophones and to their contributions to the Yukon we share today.

Saturday, May 15, 2010 marks the fourth Yukon Francophone Day.

French language has been deeply rooted in Yukon for over 150 years. It is a part of our history, our culture and our identity.

Today, Yukon has a French school, a French daycare and a French newspaper. The francophone community provides services for entrepreneurs, immigrants, adult learners, youth and

women. It actively promotes art and culture. Francophones are engaged with the wider Yukon community. They have many partnerships.

Moreover, the French immersion programs are more and more popular among children and parents. It is common to hear French being spoken throughout the territory.

Through the *Languages Act* the Government of Yukon offers French services to French-speaking Yukoners. Our government is working with the French community to enhance French language services to ensure that all French-speaking people can be raised and live in French in Yukon.

I invite all Yukoners to join us to celebrate the Journée de la francophonie yukonnaise.

Thank you to all.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Très bien, Monsieur le delegat de Riverdale Sud. Monsieur le Président, je prends la parole aujourd'hui pour rendre hommage à la communauté franco-yukonnaise. Le 15 mai marque la Journée de la francophonie yukonnaise. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Official Opposition in celebration of la Journée de la francophonie yukonnaise — Yukon Francophone Day on May 15.

In 2007, the Government of Yukon declared May 15 as Yukon Francophone Day. Franco-Yukonnaise are francophone or French Canadian residents of Yukon. Francophones in the Yukon come from all regions in the country and have been actively present in the Yukon since the 1800s, and are an integral part of our past and present.

Les franco-yukonnais sont des francophones qui résident au Yukon. Les francophone ont été dans Yukon depuis plus de 150 ans et font partie intégrale de notre passé, présent et du future.

This is a day to highlight the contributions francophones have made to the economic, social and cultural growth of the Yukon over the many years.

2010 marks the 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Association franco-yukonnaise, or L'AFY as it is affectionately known. L'AFY is a non-profit organization that has been involved since its inception, to improving the quality of life for the Yukon francophone community and has given francophones a sense of identity and belonging. They ensure the long-term viability of the francophone community by creating increased opportunities to live, work, play, communicate, study, and access services in Yukon in the French language. These are all necessary for a vibrant francophone community to reach its full potential.

Les francophones du Yukon viennent de toutes les régions du pays et l'AFY agit comme une porte d'entrée pour l'ensemble de la communauté francophone et donne aux francophones un sentiment d'identité et d'appartenance. L'AFY offre une variété de services en français au Franco-Yukonnais.

The Yukon government established the Bureau of French Language Services to assist government departments and corporations in providing services in French.

Le gouvernement du Yukon a créé le bureau des services en français afin de faciliter la prestation des services gouvernementaux en français.

The francophone community has had its own newspaper, *L'Aurore Boréale*, since 1983. They have the francophone school — École Émilie Tremblay, the French immersion school — Ecole Primaire Whitehorse, and the French Daycare Centre — La Garderie du petit cheval blanc. There is also Les Essentielles, a non-profit organization which advocates in the interest of Yukon francophone women.

Nous avons une école francophone, l'école Emilie-Tremblay, une école d'immersion, l'école élémentaire de Whitehorse, une garderie, la garderie du petit cheval blanc ainsi que Les Essentielles est un organisme à but non lucratif qui représente les intérêts des femmes francophones du Yukon.

The Carrefour d'immigration Crossroad helps provide future newcomers useful information on services and resources available. For the youth the Comité Espoir Jeunesse creates a supportive environment where young people can enjoy a variety of meaningful experiences in French.

Francophones have enriched the fabric of the Yukon. They have become an integral part of Yukon society and have made important contributions through their culture, music, artistry and language.

This year, everyone is invited to celebrate Yukon Francophone Day by attending the raising of the Franco-Yukon Flag at École Émilie-Tremblay at 9:50 Friday morning, and at 11:00 a.m. Friday morning at Whitehorse City Hall. There is also an open house tomorrow from noon to 2:30 p.m. at the French Language Services Directorate, 305 Jarvis Street, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

We ask all Yukoners to join with the franco-yukonnaise in celebration of their special day. J'invite tous les Yukonnais à se joindre à nous afin de célébrer la Journée de la francophone Yukonnaise.

Et aussi, vont les habitants! En route vers la coupe Stanley!  
Merci, Monsieur le Président.

### In recognition of Girl Guides of Canada

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the legislature to pay tribute to the Girl Guides of Canada on the occasion of their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Girl Guide movement first began in 1909, when Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, organized a scouting rally in London. To his surprise, a large number of girls also showed up, demanding to take part. Lord Baden-Powell was so impressed with the girls' desire to participate that he asked his sister to create a similar program just for girls.

Today, as the largest organization for women and girls in Canada, the Girl Guides continue to play an important role in the lives of our youth. This may be because, while the Girl Guides are a long-standing tradition in Canada, the organization has also been willing and able to change with the times.

From learning to bandage wounds during the First World War to learning about Internet safety and privacy in today's digital age, guiding continues to change with the times to reflect the needs and the interests of contemporary girls and women.

Guide laws and the Guide promise have evolved to reflect what girls and young women value in today's world. Likewise, uniforms, badges, as well as the recipe for the infamous Girl

Guide cookies, have also evolved over the last 100 years. What hasn't changed, however, is the Girl Guides' overarching vision of supporting and enabling girls to be confident, resourceful and courageous and to make a difference in the world.

I believe there will always be Girl Guides as long as there are girls and young women who are interested in being part of their community and in making it a much better place for everyone.

Most importantly, being a Girl Guide is about being true to yourself which can often be a challenge for girls and young women in today's world. Over the last 100 years, 7 million girls and women have been connecting to guiding in Canada. Yukon's own connection began in 1914 in Dawson City. Guiding in the Yukon over the years has been active in just about every community.

Though some time ago — and I very much stress “some time ago” — I had the privilege of serving as a Spark, a Brownie and a Girl Guide here in the Yukon. My experience overall was indeed a very positive one. Above all, it taught me the very importance of teamwork, having fun, and pursuing interests beyond what I thought were my interests at that time.

It also gave me a better appreciation of the outdoors and learning how to be a responsible environmental steward. As a Brownie and a Guide, I had the opportunity to experience winter camping for the first time. I learned various skills and crafts and engaged in the sale of a lot of Girl Guide cookies. My mother was also a huge advocate of guiding in the north and, as such, served as a team leader for a number of years in the Watson Lake division.

On Saturday, it will be my privilege and pleasure to attend a rally organized by Yukon Guiding here in Whitehorse, one of dozens of rallies being held across Canada that day.

I look forward to joining more than 100 youth and adult members for a day of service, crafts, singing and games. It will be a day of both reflection and a day of renewal as Guiding looks to the next 100 years plus.

As Minister of Tourism and Culture and on behalf of the Yukon Legislature, I am honoured to acknowledge the excellent work and guidance of the Girl Guide movement. In particular, I wish to acknowledge the Yukon Council of Girl Guides, the leaders and the members at large who are so integral to the Girl Guides. I wish to also recognize the countless girls and young women who have served as a Spark, Brownie, Guide or Pathfinder.

Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the past practice of the former Member for Porter Creek South, I will be delivering a box of Girl Guide cookies, albeit at a later time, to each member of the Legislature, as well as the media gallery and Hansard. As you know, eating cookies in the Legislature is not a permitted practice within our Standing Orders; however, I also thought it was very much appropriate given this very appropriate celebration. All funds raised from the sale of Girl Guide cookies support girls throughout the Yukon and their respective unit activities.

Again, congratulations to Yukon Guiding for a successful and fun-filled celebration this weekend and our heartfelt thanks for being a part of a long-time Canadian and Yukon tradition.

### In recognition of World Fair Trade Day

**Mr. Cardiff:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Legislative Assembly to pay tribute to World Fair Trade Day, which is held on the second Saturday in May. Fair trade is actively engaged in supporting producers, raising awareness and campaigning for changes in the rules and practice of international trade. It is part of globalization. It is a growing movement dedicated to making sure that producers in developing countries are paid a fair price for the goods they produce and we consume.

Fair trade is an alternative economic model that is a strategy for poverty alleviation and for sustainable development. Fair trade's purpose is to create opportunities for producers who have been disadvantaged or marginalized by the conventional trading system.

The World Fair Trade Organization represents more than 350 organizations and 110 million farmers, artisans, retailers and supporters worldwide and is responsible for \$2.2 billion in fair trade sales. One of the main products associated with fair trade is coffee. 63 percent of adult Canadians drink coffee on a daily basis. Most of the coffee we buy comes from producers who are paid about 54 cents for a pound of beans, or 11 cents for every dollar spent on coffee.

Cooperatives, which are part of the fair trade movement, receive two and a half times that amount. Projects labelled "fair trade" have the following criteria: a fair price is paid to the producers, which covers the cost of sustainable production; a social premium is paid, which producers can invest in community development projects; partial payment in advance is available; and there is a contract, which allows for long-term planning by the producer. The standards of fair trade include transparent management, fair commercial relations and respect with trading partners. "Fair trade" means to develop producers' independence by building capacity.

Fair trade organizations practise gender equity, promote safe and healthy working environments and respect the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* in using children in working environments. Fair trade organizations trade with concern for the social, economic and environmental well-being of marginalized, small producers and do not maximize profits at their expense.

Sometimes fair trade products can be more expensive than conventionally produced products because they do not depend on world prices, but you know you are buying a premium product. With clothing, it may be handmade and not stitched in a sweatshop.

If it's coffee or tea, you can be assured it was not grown or processed on a factory farm where workers are paid less than enough to live on. Not all goods labelled "fair trade" are actually practising fair trade. In Canada, TransFair independently audits and certifies fair trade goods. The federal government should regulate certification. That would mean companies wanting to use a fair trade label would be subject to mandatory rules.

Organizations that have a 100-percent commitment to fair trade represent a new approach to trade. Producers, cooperatives and famous brands are among these organizations. They

are motivated by the need to change the way the world does business to impact poverty, climate change and financial crisis. It is to our advantage to support fair trade wherever possible.

**Speaker:** Are there any further tributes?  
Introduction of visitors.  
Returns or documents for tabling.  
Reports of committees.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I have for tabling the 14<sup>th</sup> report of the Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees.

**Speaker:** Are there any further reports of committees?  
Are there any petitions?  
Any bills to be introduced?  
Any notices of motion?

### NOTICES OF MOTION

**Mr. Mitchell:** I give notice of the following motion:  
THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to set any fines levied on the guilty parties from the Lobird blast toward being used for the benefit of the residents of Lobird by building a playground or some other community improvements after consultation with the residents of Lobird.

**Mr. Fairclough:** I give notice of the following motion:  
THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to consult with local stakeholders before making recommendations to their federal counterparts on the appointment of the chair of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board, when the position comes up for renewal in June of this year.

I also give notice of the following motion:  
THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to ensure Yukoners have access to all necessary information in order to be better informed on how to take part in the intervenor process that is part of every Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board application.

**Mr. Cathers:** I rise today to give notice of the following motion:  
THAT this House urges the Yukon government to allow residents of the Deep Creek area to decide democratically whether it should be re-established as a local advisory area by:  
(1) providing an opportunity for residents to vote on this matter; and  
(2) accepting the decision made by the majority of those who vote.

**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: YESAB chair

**Mr. Fairclough:** The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board is an independent organization that reflects the interest of Yukon citizens and regional stakeholders. YESAB reviews regional projects with environmental and socio-economic implications and makes recommendations that contribute to the development here in the Yukon. The chair of YESAB is appointed by the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs for a three-year term, which is due to expire next month. The reappointment of the existing chair or the appointment of a new chair is based on recommendations from the Government of Yukon.

Who is the Government of Yukon recommending for the appointment to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** We would allow due process to unfold, as it is important that we all recognize that this board is extremely important to the Yukon. It is a board that is mandated by federal legislation, and we're not going to pre-empt that process whatsoever.

The minister has the final say on these appointments, and of course we always want to ensure that the best possible people, who wish to commit, are available and that the federal government and the minister are well aware of those.

**Mr. Fairclough:** This is a very important appointment. This government was prepared to spend \$50,000 on an Outside firm to recruit the right people for the board of the Yukon Energy Corporation. This appointment is equally important and the government has the responsibility to make sure the best people are considered for the role. This government has also a responsibility to perform the necessary due diligence before making its recommendation to the federal government.

The appointment is due next month; surely the government has been actively engaged in recruiting a new chair. We want to know who the government is recommending. It's a simple question: is the government recommending that the current chair be reappointed?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Once again, the Liberals are providing incorrect information to the public through this Assembly. The Member for Mayo-Tatchun has just stated that the government had expended some \$50,000 on an appointment or selection process. Let me remind the member that this matter that reflects appointments to the Yukon Energy Corporation's board was an independent process — completely independent of government in all its facets. It was done by a governance committee of the Yukon Development Corporation, a Crown corporation that was dealing with the matter of appointing members to the board of their wholly owned subsidiary, the Yukon Energy Corporation. I would hope that the Member for Mayo-Tatchun would correct the record on his statements, which are very similar to those of his colleagues, the other Liberal members in this House.

As far as the appointment to YESAB, again, I reiterate, that is a very important function that the executive carries out. We will not preempt that process. The federal minister — as this is federal legislation — has the final say on the matter.

**Mr. Fairclough:** YESAB is very important to the future of the Yukon and to the well-being of Yukoners. The chair's role is a critical one. The government has the responsibility to choose well, and we are asking what that choice is. It is a simple question. The government is on the hook to recommend someone for the chair of YESAB and the minister says, "In due process," when we know this is taking place already. So who is it? Who is the government recommending for the chair of YESAB?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Liberal caucus recognizes the importance of not only the position of chair, but all the members who serve on the committee, including the members who are direct appointments by First Nations. I hope the member recognizes the importance of the district offices, not just the chair of the executive. There are a number of very important areas where citizens serve with respect to federal legislation known as YESAA.

Once again, no, we will not pre-empt the process; we will allow the process to conclude, because the federal minister responsible for this federal statute has the final say.

### Question re: YESAB intervenor funding

**Mr. Fairclough:** I have another question about the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board. Part of YESAB's review process provides for stakeholders or interested individuals to be recognized as intervenors. Intervenors can make submissions to YESAB that support or oppose a project that is being assessed.

Now there is still some confusion around intervenor status and any financial support that may be available in preparing a submission. Will the minister shed some light on this for us? What is the process for getting funding to prepare a YESAB intervenor submission?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** I think all those matters are clearly defined in the act itself and the regulation package that comes out of the federal statute. All matters are followed in accordance with that process. The member is correct: intervenor status is provided and how that process unfolds is mandated by the act and, I would assume, the regulatory package itself.

**Mr. Fairclough:** I was asking about the funding. The Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation's recent intervention has raised a lot of interest by some out there, and preparing a submission to YESAB can be an expensive proposition. Consultants and lawyers are usually involved.

In other jurisdictions, the funding is available for registered intervenors. There are still questions as to whether there is a source of funding available and how stakeholders can apply for it. Right now, anyone who wants to register for intervenor status in a YESAB review had better have deep pockets.

Is the government looking into this issue at all?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** I don't want to speak for the federal government, but I believe, in the matter of YESAA, there are dollars that are made directly available from the federal government to First Nations with respect to YESAA.

If the member wants in-depth detail on how well that works — because it is a federal statute — we can certainly provide him that information, but it is the government's understanding that the federal government does provide dollars di-

rectly to First Nations in accordance with assessments through the YESAA legislation.

**Mr. Fairclough:** Mr. Speaker, YESAA is very important to the Yukon and the well-being of Yukoners. The government has a responsibility to make this process work for everyone. Right now it doesn't work for intervenors who can't afford the cost of preparing a submission. If there are funding sources available, we would like to know and so would the public. We would also like to know if the government plans to do something about it. What funding is available and how do Yukoners tap into it?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Mr. Speaker, I've tried to be very clear on the matter. First off, it's a federal statute. We are a government that has the obligation to do our part in terms of implementation of this federal statute. It is an instrument that is entrenched in the treaties. It was spawned by the treaties. This very process I have relayed to the Member for Mayo-Tatchun. In accordance with YESAA, the federal government does provide dollars directly to First Nations.

If there's any further in-depth detail the member would like in regard to the process, the federal statute, and/or the regulation package itself — which by the way is very extensive and is the product of many, many, many years of work — we can provide that to the Member for Kluane. I don't know what else I can say to the member. The government is trying to be as clear as it possibly can as one party to this federal process.

#### **Question re: Housing, social**

**Mr. Cardiff:** The affordable housing initiative between Yukon Housing Corporation and CMHC invited NGOs to submit proposals to construct new housing with rents based on median market rates. The initiative finally gave hope to some of those people who are presently homeless in Whitehorse. A grant of \$75,000 per unit would be given if the NGO could find matching contributions such as land or financing. A request for proposals has a deadline of tomorrow for submission of those proposals.

Will the minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation tell the House how many NGOs have applied so far for this much-needed initiative and what the timelines are for when he expects to make an announcement of when successful projects could go ahead?

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** As the member opposite knows, this information is quite correct. I understand that 11 organizations have picked up the information on that. We won't know until we end the day tomorrow and actually open these to see what sorts of things are being proposed. We will be able to comment on them from there. Without knowing what will be opened at that point, I have no way of speculating for another 24 to 36 hours.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Unfortunately, there are some stumbling blocks in this initiative. One was the one-month deadline from the original advertising, now extended for only two weeks. Another problem is that NGOs work under insecure funding themselves, making it difficult for them to find funding from financial institutions. Very few of them have access to land.

The biggest headache for non-government organizations applying to the initiative is the fact that they cannot afford to

hire anyone to assist in doing these applications. Even if the Housing Corporation is helpful, the NGOs have to do much of the preparation work themselves with volunteers, and there is still a lot of work to do once the application is approved, if it is.

Will the minister assure NGOs that have applied that, if they are successful, there will be real assistance for them to continue with the complexities of actual construction.

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** One of Yukon Housing Corporation's major projects or functions is to work with various groups — public or private. Even an individual building a home could be provided advice and help and this sort of thing. The help will certainly be there within the limits of our capability, but I think the staff at Yukon Housing Corporation has shown an incredible capacity for that sort of work. We look forward to that being continued. The member implies that the \$75,000 is not a huge contribution and, to a large degree, he is right. This is a federal program and we struggle on a daily basis with the Housing minister in Ottawa to understand that housing in the north is a completely different situation than housing in the south. Talk about a cost per square foot in the paper a few weeks ago was, in many respects, somewhat humorous when you put that in the north with the increased cost of building materials, timelines, weather and everything else. We will continue to work with Ottawa on those challenges and continue, in some cases, to merge programs to maximize the benefits.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Mr. Speaker, in most cases, NGOs that would need this type of housing or be able to use this type of housing have clients who have special needs.

They are people who are afflicted by FASD or living in poverty or with chronic illnesses or addictions. In most cases, to have effective housing, the tenants may need staff support, possibly in some instances, 24-hours a day. Social assistance rates are too low to meet both the rental and the supportive living costs, even with this type of rent control.

There are many problems with getting financing, land, infrastructure and actually doing the construction. We don't want to see this initiative fail — we think it's very important — but it has some built-in problems that this government could alleviate by working with Ottawa.

Will the Minister of Health and Social Services consider assisting successful NGOs financially once the units are finally constructed?

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** The member opposite is quite correct. The programming would come under Health and Social Services or potentially other organizations. We do hope as well that some of the NGOs that will put in proposals will have some of the support programs available. Simply having a physical plant in which to run those programs will be a great benefit to them.

Again, they were happy the number of NGOs that have expressed an interest in this have taken packages and are examining the options with this. We'll know much more at the end of day tomorrow, in terms of what proposals are out there and what's viable and how we can intertwine with them. Unfortunately, at this point in time, what the member opposite is asking requires a magic wand, and that's something we don't have.

**Question re: Contracting, design/build**

**Mr. Cardiff:** Design/build is one approach to building construction projects. Within this approach, there is a single contractor responsible for both the design and the construction of the building. When we look at government contracts for building, we see many utilizing a design/build approach and some using the more traditional approach, where first there is a contract to design the building and, once that is done, companies bid on the construction project.

Why is the design/build favoured for some building projects, while another approach is favoured for others?

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** I think what the member opposite is referring to is projects like the replacement of the Alexander Street apartments. It certainly extends to other types of contracts, and I'll leave that in the capable hands of the Minister of Highways and Public Works and Contract Services. In the case of the housing funds, they are limited, and Ottawa — and certainly these are branches of Ottawa that have been less than the best to work with — has made it clear that there is a drop-dead date and, at that point, the funds would not be available any further. In the case of Alexander Street, what was proposed sort of ran into a problem as soon as we were unable to get a piece of property that was involved in this. We could waste a lot of time in trying to proceed with various options or we could put out requests for design/build, which is what we did. I'm pleased to say that that facility is, to my knowledge, already under construction.

**Mr. Cardiff:** The minister was quite right; the question was actually directed to the Minister of Highways and Public Works. We're not against the principle of design/build per se, but there are many unintended consequences for relying too heavily on this approach. Requiring that the design plans be part of a bid takes a lot more time, and it takes a lot more resources and that increases the cost of actually doing the bid.

It has the potential to actually exclude smaller contractors who do not have the ability to do that design work, but would have actually built on the construction component of the building. I am asking the Minister of Highways and Public Works, is there a policy or a criterion and can he make that available for determining if a project is a design/build?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Regarding the issue of Alexander Street being design/build, there is a balance between design/build and the regular bidding process. As the minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation has just put on the floor, the Alexander Street replacement had time restrictions and, of course, we went to a design/build. The Yukon Housing Corporation went to design/build, but as far as what we do on a daily basis, we have a mix between design/build. I would say we probably lean more toward the regular contracting process, but there are situations where both of them work and we use them throughout the territory. It doesn't shut out any individuals from bidding on these processes.

The successful bidder on Alexander Street is a local contractor who hires local contractors to work with him. It's not a form of eliminating local contractors in any way. We monitor how these contracts go and are aware of maximizing Yukoners' participation in any bid process.

**Mr. Cardiff:** That was unbelievable too. The minister said "time restraints" and that there's a mix, but he didn't say what the criterion is. That's what I'm asking for: what are the criteria? And he's wrong, because there are contractors who would bid on the construction portion who don't have the ability or the resources to do the design/build process.

I know there's a review on contracting regulations. They are surveying businesses that have bid on government jobs and have posted some of those results on the website. There does not appear to be anything within this review that looks at the issue of when and why government building projects go design/build.

Will the minister include a look at this issue as part of a review of the contracting regulations and talk to construction companies in the building trades and others in the public about this policy?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** We work with all contractors. That's exactly why we're out talking to contractors — for the modernization of the bid process. So we're doing just that, Mr. Speaker.

As far as eliminating contractors and individuals through design/build, that's not factual. We work on a daily basis with all our contractors. We have a huge amount of contracting work out there today. The Alexander Street complex had a time restriction on it, and that time restriction is very restrictive to what we were doing. We on this side of the House certainly wanted to replace the Alexander Street accommodations for our seniors. It was the only process that would work — getting a commitment from a contractor to design/build our Alexander Street seniors complex in the timelines that were laid down. So we have some restrictions. This will work. We will get a replacement for Alexander Street. By the way, local contractors will work on that project and finish it on time.

**Question re: Yukon Energy Corporation/ATCO**

**Mr. McRobb:** It's unbelievable how this government continues to run and hide from accountability on the Premier's secret, parallel negotiating process with a private company from Alberta to sell out Yukon's energy future.

Let's examine some of the facts. According to the Premier's own letter, his entire caucus supported these secret negotiations some eight months before they were exposed publicly. This scandal caused the resignation of half the Yukon Energy Corporation Board and, after public outrage, the Premier's ex-right-hand man. Documents made public proved the Premier was involved in his own secret negotiations aside from what this government ordered officials to do, and this government has refused to table other documents presumably because they contain evidence that refutes its defence.

Let's start there — when will this government be tabling that hidden evidence?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Oh, Mr. Speaker, there are no items of hidden evidence whatsoever. The Member for Kluane knows that full well. The Member for Kluane continues to assert things that all evidence demonstrates to the contrary. The member seems to be fixated on board members from the Yukon Development Corporation who quit, and conveniently, and in a very demeaning way, ignores the board members who didn't

quit and continue to do their job, as they were appointed to do. The member continues to ignore the fact that actually the Yukon government and the federal government are investing in infrastructure and assets for the Energy Corporation.

In fact, that investment is creating one of the largest — if not the largest — project sour public utility has ever undertaken. These are quite different investments, however, from past practices by other governments that invested in failed enterprises: the failed sawmill in Watson Lake; a failed fuel company that competed against private sector interests. I think this government — this Yukon Party government — has taken quite a different approach on the matter and has been very supportive of our public utility and the evidence shows that is the case.

**Mr. McRobb:** It makes me wonder why the Premier first joined the very party that did those things.

There are more questions than answers on this government's evasion of public accountability with respect to this whole scandal. In response to public outrage against this government's secret negotiations to privatize our energy future, we in the Official Opposition tabled Bill No. 110, the *Yukon Energy Corporation Protection Act*. This bill was drafted in conjunction with public consultation and brought forward in this Assembly to protect the public's right to own its energy assets. This government prevented passage of the bill and suspended debate because it needed more time. It is now six months later. So what's this government's response?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** The Member for Kluane — the Liberal Member for Kluane — likes to read passages from things like *Hansard* and other documents, but he has forgotten about the debate on this much-vaunted bill that the Liberals brought forward. He forgot about the fact that the government's position, unlike the Liberals, was not to ignore the Yukon Development Corporation and its members of the board. In fact, we said that the debate on the bill should be adjourned so that the board could give a thorough analysis and critique of such a bill and how it would affect their operations as a Crown corporation and how it would affect the operations of their wholly-owned subsidiary, the Yukon Energy Corporation.

Furthermore, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has to have a thorough analysis of said bill because government is responsible for energy policy, responsible for oversight on this Crown corporation. The member knows full well that that is the case; it's on the pages of *Hansard*. Once again, the member has provided incorrect information to this House and, in doing so, has provided incorrect information to the public.

**Mr. McRobb:** Well, what have we gotten from the Premier so far? First of all, he continues to hide documents. I'm referring to the confidentiality agreement with ATCO.

He continues to hide behind officials. Mr. Speaker, obviously this government has no intention of enshrining the public's right to ownership of its energy assets into legislation. It has had six months and still nothing.

The whole government caucus approved of this Premier's secret negotiations and refuses to be held to public account. The Premier and his colleagues are locked in hard denial. They

are all in it together. They refuse to table the confidential documents they promised to make public last fall. They refused to show any cooperation with a bill brought forward to protect the public interest. They refuse to call a public inquiry. How is this being open and accountable as promised to Yukoners in the last election campaign?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Mr. Speaker, the government would not call a public inquiry to have another mechanism to demonstrate that the Liberal Member for Kluane is incorrect in all his assertions.

But now that the member and the Liberals seem to be so fixated on a public inquiry, we may have to have one. Mr. Speaker, a very disconcerting matter has taken place in this territory. That is, the leak of what could be private and confidential information of Yukon citizens that went before the standing committee of this Assembly.

This is a matter of great concern. Inquiries are intended to address these kinds of matters. Furthermore, it appears that, through the media, even discussions that took place in camera of the standing committee of this Assembly for appointments to boards and committees, was then discussed through the media in public.

One can only wonder who is responsible for this. So inquiries — and the member may get his wish — are very important instruments in these matters. By the way, the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that journalists do not have a constitutional right to protect sources, and these matters would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

It would be interesting to determine who actually leaked such private and confidential information in a manner that could compromise Yukon citizens.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker leaves the Chair*

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Chair:** 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 are now in Vote 51, Department of Community Services. Do members wish a brief recess?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

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

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

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 20, *First Appropriation Act, 2010-11*. We will now continue with general debate in Vote 51, Department of Community Services. Mr. Lang, you have about nine minutes remaining.

**Department of Community Services — continued**

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** In my opening remarks this afternoon, I would like to again thank the department for all the work they do over the 12-month period because this department covers a large gamut of responsibilities, not only in the government itself, but also in our communities. So again, from the minister, I would like to thank all the hard workers we have, whether they are in Dawson City, Watson Lake or other communities. Of course, in the city, the work they do on a daily basis is very beneficial to the communities and to the territory as a whole.

Yesterday we were talking about many questions on what the department does. As you know, there is over \$65 million dollars in O&M that will be expended next year and a large amount of resources going to capital, which is over \$77 million. Again, it's a large department, a large budget and a large investment in the territory in the lives and the communities throughout the territory. One of the projects we committed to work on as a department for this government was the solid waste action plan. Of course, we were talking about it, and during Question Period we get questions on our different solid-waste areas or managed areas in the territory. We've committed to modernize the solid-waste management practices in Yukon through our commitment to create a sustainable waste management system that meets the current and future needs of all Yukon communities. That is a commitment that this government made.

Of course, if you were to take into consideration the *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan*, of which all members in the House have a copy, there was a very thorough job of going out into the communities. We work not only with our municipalities, unincorporated communities and First Nation governments, but we work with individuals who reside in these communities. Three things came over very strongly. There was a strong opposition to the burning of waste, and that was throughout the territory. Of course, we have an obligation to phase that out by the year 2012. That's one of the things. Then, what did they expect us to do as a government, as a manager of these issues in conjunction with municipalities, First Nations and working with unincorporated communities? They want us to focus on waste diversion rather than waste disposal. In other words, think outside the box and see how we can manage our solid waste into the future. With that, it's very important to look at waste management alternatives. What would we do in addressing that second issue? Those are the things that came out of our consultation.

As you look through our action plan here, the *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan*, you will see that it's very aggressive be-

cause of the timelines that we have put together. In the year 2012 we have to have these areas under control. The question about burning will have been met. There will be no open burning after 2012. So we take that date very seriously and we are looking forward to that.

Once we released the *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan*, it provided the government with a path forward that includes improved infrastructure and services, including new regional transfer staging routes; enhanced recycling — another important part of our management; waste reduction — how we reduce the waste that we use as a community; and diversion programs and partnerships with our community groups, our municipalities and, of course, our First Nations. These partnerships will help us look ahead with new opportunities that support our vision of a modern, sustainable, waste-management system.

Waste management in Yukon is a shared responsibility, not only between the Yukon government and municipal governments — each responsible for operating solid-waste facilities in the territory — but also between community partners, industry, and of course, all people of the Yukon.

Mr. Chair, the Yukon Department of Community Services operates 19 solid-waste facilities in unincorporated communities. That's throughout the Yukon. These include basic landfill sites and larger facilities that provide containers for sorting various kinds of garbage. Again, we're looking at Tagish, Carcross, Deep Creek — the transfer stations that have been established in those areas.

Yukon Department of Environment regulates solid-waste facilities in the territory and issues permits for their operation. In other words, they're responsible for overseeing the actual site and the management of it from an environmental level. That's a form of checks and balances and that's good for us, as a government.

The department is also currently responsible for regulations and programs that relate to recyclable materials and special waste, and works in partnership with community groups to support public education programs for recycling and waste reduction — another very important part of our waste-management program.

The municipal governments operate solid-waste facilities in incorporated communities, such as Whitehorse, Dawson City and Haines Junction. In addition, stakeholders, communities and industry groups operate recycling facilities and public education programs throughout the territory.

First Nation governments have an interest in solid-waste management within their traditional territory. Exploring partnerships with First Nation governments is important as Yukon moves to modernize solid-waste practices. There are many unique challenges in managing solid waste in our remote northern environment. By working together we will create a state-of-the-art solid-waste management system that will adapt to the changing needs of future generations in all our Yukon communities.

The key objectives of the action plan include the following: modernize and standardize existing solid-waste facilities based on sustainability best-management practices; develop a



coordinated regional approach to Yukon's solid-waste management; work in partnership with our municipalities, communities, industry and of course stakeholders.

Mr. Chair, I know my time is limited here this afternoon. I will receive any questions from the opposition. Again, that is just a high overview of our *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan* and I certainly look forward to the questions we will get this afternoon.

**Mr. Fairclough:** I don't think it was necessary for the minister to re-read that information. My question, when we left off, was whether or not the building codes here in the Yukon would change to include green standards, and the minister went on a different route here. It's hard to ask questions here and get some good, solid answers from the minister.

I would like to go on to a couple more questions and I will be through with this department. One of them is about the recreation centres, both in Carmacks and Old Crow. I want to ask that question. The one in Carmacks, phase 1, was completed, and in the two terms that the Yukon Party government has been in power, they have never completed the second phase of this recreation complex. I would like to know where that is and what the completion date is for phase 2 of the recreation centre in Carmacks.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** There are some resources being directed toward Carmacks. There will be swimming pool repairs, replacement of boiler system, hot water heater and pool liner. So there is a substantial investment in the community. There are also resources for the skating rink, repair concrete base, replace rink boards and construct covered walkway to change rooms. So there is another \$180,000. So there is an investment in this budget on Carmacks. If you were to add both of them up, you would see a substantial investment by the government.

As far as the Old Crow structure is concerned, we are working with the First Nation on the question of recreational facilities for the community of Old Crow. The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation completed a feasibility study and proposed an \$11.8-million facility, consisting of a hockey rink, large multi-purpose room with a kitchen, a lobby, reception area, fitness training room and daycare. Operation and maintenance requirements and cost management strategies, capital costs and financial viability were not specifically addressed in the study. So that's another part of the study that would have to be modernized.

A letter has been sent to the First Nation, offering the services of the Sport and Recreation branch to assist with developing a strategy plan to help identify priorities related to recreational programs and facilities in Old Crow. Thus far, they have not requested any further assistance or meetings on this specific project, so it's a work in progress.

**Mr. Fairclough:** The question to the minister about phase 2 of the Carmacks recreation complex — the minister said there are monies going into the swimming pool, which is not part of this recreation complex, but there will be some improvements made to the roof and the concrete of the skating rink, which needs to happen because it's a huge safety issue.

I would like to know about the completion of the replacement of the skating rink and the curling rink together. I think

this is one of the last communities in the territory that still has natural ice and an outside rink to boot; it's not closed in, covered or anything. The way it was built has some safety issues, right down to the steel beams right beside the boards that are there.

I would like to know that answer. The minister can answer that one. I'm hoping that he will work with the Village of Carmacks to put together a plan, which should have already been put together and the design should have already been there. But we need to move forward.

The recreation complex in Old Crow — the minister said that work has been done, a committee has been struck and a design was presented of this complex. The minister said that it's a work-in-progress. I would like to know what he means by that. What commitments is this Yukon Party government making toward this building and the construction and completion of this recreation complex in Old Crow?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Chair, I remind the member opposite that in Carmacks, we work with the municipality on recreation and it is one of their responsibilities. We do help the community of Carmacks and, of course, they red-flagged the needs they have as a community. We have worked on the waste-water treatment facility, monitoring well installation at the waste facility, Tantalus sewer line replacement, Norden-skiold bridge replacement, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation water fill station and the rink repair and walkway. We do respect the municipality and their responsibilities and we will certainly work with them on any issue they bring forward. Those are some of the projects we're doing at the moment. It is a very large commitment to the community of Carmacks.

As far as the Old Crow questions are concerned, we are working with the First Nation, as we have commented on. I can't be clearer on that. A letter has been sent to the First Nation offering the services of the Sport and Recreation branch — another commitment this government has made to assist with developing a strategy to help identify priorities related to recreational programs and that facility in the community of Old Crow.

Thus far, they have not requested any further assistance or meetings on this project. So it's in their best interest to get back to us, and we have committed to work with Sport and Recreation branch to help them on their plan for a recreation facility, but we're waiting for a reply from the First Nation.

**Mr. Fairclough:** I thank the minister for those answers. I would just note that the recreation centre in Carmacks is still waiting for the Government of Yukon to make a decision and to move the Highways and Public Works camp out of that area so they can develop it into a recreation site. That hasn't taken place. Just to note, too, for the minister: Highways and Public Works already has a site identified and they fenced it off years ago. This could be done. It's just a matter of a commitment. Hopefully, there will be movement on that front.

I would just like to ask another question. It has been asked every year. I know we're moving forward and we're going to see something here in the future, but I'd like to know about our driver's licence. It has been an embarrassment, I think, for all of us here in the territory to even have to pull that out and show

it as an ID, whether it is getting on the plane or at a hotel. It's laughed at quite a bit.

We are years behind other jurisdictions. Compare us to, say, the Northwest Territories; they have something far more advanced than what we have. I understand that we're moving forward on this. I just would like to know when Yukoners can get new drivers' licences and whether or not they'll be offered in communities — through the community agreements that Government Services provided in some of the communities. Many have accessed their driver's licence or licence plates and so on in the communities. I'm hoping this would continue and this equipment would be in the communities. Will places like Old Crow, for example, even have access to equipment to make drivers' licences there?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** As the member opposite knows, we have moved ahead with the plan for replacing the driver's licence and identification cards. That's part and parcel of what we're doing here.

It would be a new secure driver's licence and a general identification card. Both the new driver's licence and the new identification card will be recognized and more readily accepted nationally and internationally as an authentic government-issued product.

As the member opposite was saying, there were some questions about the quality of the driver's licence that replaced the one that I started out with. We've improved as we've gone through the process. We are continuing to plan for the roll-out of the new Yukon driver's licence and general identification card later this summer. We're looking at probably this fall. As far as who will issue the licences, they will be available through any territorial agent throughout the territory. I don't visualize them making the licences in those locations; I visualize the licence coming from a central area, which would do the actual physical work and produce the product — which would be done in the Yukon, by the way.

**Mr. Fairclough:** Well, that's nice, Mr. Chair. That should be done here and it's done now. I mean, it was a big move just to get your photo on the licence. Right now I can get a driver's licence in the community of Carmacks through the territorial agent there. Although they are of poor quality, I think that some of this equipment could be taken there.

I would like to know, if the minister knows, what type of information will be put on the driver's licence?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I respect the member's questions, but later on this afternoon we'll be debating the bill that this is covering, so we could maybe discuss that when we're working through that bill later on this afternoon.

**Mr. Fairclough:** Okay, I hope the minister will have answers then. I have no further questions. I thank the minister and the department for answering the questions in the House. I'll just move this on to my colleague from Mount Lorne.

**Mr. Cardiff:** I have a few questions in general debate that I would like to address, then I'd be happy to address some of the other issues in line-by-line debate.

Yesterday we had a rather interesting and, at some times I might even say, impassioned debate about democracy here in the Yukon. It may be a little late for the minister, but I would

like to give him an opportunity to maybe change what he put on record yesterday. We debated a motion about the principles of democracy and accountability as related to the *Municipal Act*. I asked him whether or not he would consider making the two issues that I raised part of a *Municipal Act* review. One issue was about ensuring that citizens have a right to organize referenda, which is in the *Municipal Act* and there are some exemptions in there. The British Columbia Court of Appeal has ruled, and yesterday the minister welcomed that ruling and basically said that that was fine with him, that he's going to let courts legislate and interpret our legislation and he'll live by that.

The act provides for ministerial discretion, and it's up to the minister responsible for that act to administer that act. As I pointed out yesterday, the original intent was that issues surrounding official community plans were originally intended to be part of that section of the act that could go to public votes, if citizens so desired.

It's the minister's responsibility; he could stand up for the principles of the act and he could administer the act, as it was meant to be administered, or he can allow courts — the B.C. Court of Appeal, specifically — to do the job for him. So I guess the question for him is: what is he prepared to do? Is he also prepared to make this part of the *Municipal Act* review and allow the public to comment on it, because the feeling I got yesterday from the minister was that he's going to take input from municipalities, but he's not willing to take it from the public.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I'm not quite sure what the Member for Mount Lorne is asking me as a minister of the Crown to do, but it certainly isn't to override a court of appeal decision. I mean, as the minister, I have to respect the courts of the land. Am I happy the decision came down? That's not what I said, Mr. Chair. I said I respected the decision of the court, which is something that I'm obliged to do. As far as being part of this new Municipal Fiscal Framework Review Committee, it could be brought up in there and it could be part and parcel of that 12-month decision or the recommendations that will come back to the government. The major issues — infrastructure, deficit and management — are questions they brought up. Questions through our travels through the communities have been about recruitment and retention of individuals, what are funding levels, provisions of services.

We will be working with the municipal governments and they will be working with the public in their communities. This is a very important review that we're doing, Mr. Chair, and if the member opposite feels that it is an important component to this Municipal Fiscal Framework Review Committee, I imagine the municipality will bring it up. I will not stand up here and discuss the fact that a court made a decision and that I have any power to override that decision. As minister, I am not prepared to do that. Maybe he would as a minister, but as a minister, I will not.

**Mr. Cardiff:** I wasn't suggesting that the minister override the decision. What I am suggesting that if he had stood up for the act and the language of the act, there wouldn't have been a need for a court decision. That is what I'm saying. I

know I sent the minister the *Hansard* from 1998 and I hope the minister reads that. I don't want to dwell on this too much, because we spent a lot of time on it yesterday.

As I said yesterday, I've talked with senior bureaucrats previously, who have told me that when a minister brings forward a piece of legislation, a lot of what they say during second reading debate or in Committee of the Whole or in third reading, when they're presenting a piece of legislation — that is where it gives the government the opportunity to talk about the intent.

If you look at the intent that was provided back in November 1998, it talks about giving voters the power to oversee the affairs of the municipality and provide binding direction to councils on important issues. It gives citizens a meaningful process to ensure that councils act on issues the voters consider important.

The other thing the minister of the day said was that Yukon municipalities endorsed those checks and balances and that they believed they should be fully accountable for their actions. What I'm hearing the minister say —

**Some Hon. Member:** (Inaudible)

#### Point of order

**Chair:** On a point of order, Mr. Rouble.

**Hon. Mr. Rouble:** Point of order. I believe we're debating Bill No. 20, the budget bill. The Member for Mount Lorne seems to be starting a debate about the *Municipal Act*. Given our Standing Orders, I would encourage you to ask the member to speak to the question under discussion, as per Standing Order 19(b)(i).

There is a greater than \$1-billion budget here, which includes allocations for things like the F.H. Collins Secondary School replacement.

**Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Rouble. Mr. Cardiff, on the point of order.

**Mr. Cardiff:** I would refer the Chair and the minister to page 6-18 in the O&M — or actually, sorry, I've got the wrong page; but basically, it's Community Affairs. There is \$21 million in Community Affairs. I've got the page number wrong. I'm sorry. I was flipping through too fast. But it's prior to that.

#### Chair's ruling

**Chair:** Thank you. On the point of order, having to make a decision on what members feel is relevant and what members feel isn't relevant is very difficult for the Chair. I do feel that we are speaking about certain clauses in a certain piece of legislation, so it is kind of grey whether the member is speaking about the budget. I would like members to actually control the debate themselves regarding what is relevant, because once the door is opened, it's opened on both sides.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Basically, what I was suggesting to the minister is that he is responsible for a \$21-million line item in Community Affairs, which is about municipalities — something that he responsible for. It is governed by the *Municipal Act*, and all I am asking the minister — this is my opportunity to try to get the answers I couldn't get yesterday from the min-

ister — whether or not he'd make that part of the act. What I am trying to emphasize to the minister is that the legislation was brought forward for a purpose and a reason and it was endorsed, and it is not at the discretion of the minister to really change that. It is up to him to support it, to stand up for it and to be its champion.

The other question I have for the minister — and then I will let this go for the benefit of the Member for Southern Lakes — is about whether or not it would be bringing forward amendments to the *Municipal Act* and the *Ombudsman Act* to allow the ombudsman to hear citizens' appeals when they feel they have been treated unfairly by a municipal government. So that is the short question and I didn't get into a lot of detail. If the minister would like to get into more detail with it, we could, but I sense there's not an appetite for that today. But would the minister make that part of the consultation?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I'm not going to second-guess what is brought up or put into the new *Municipal Act* when it is brought forward. We certainly work with our partners, the municipalities, on any renewal of the *Municipal Act*.

Certainly, if we're looking at our communities, Mr. Chair, here are some statistics that are very interesting. Last year, the Yukon government transferred a total of \$19.79 million to Yukon municipalities and unincorporated communities. We transferred \$14.15 million in comprehensive municipal grants; \$5.46 million in grants-in-lieu of property taxes; \$61.2 million in operation and maintenance grants to the community and local advisory councils; and \$111,000 to Association of Yukon Communities. Those are interesting figures because they speak volumes on what this government contributes to our communities.

Our communities are very important to us as a senior government because without them our municipalities would not be run as well as they are today. Of course, we have the Village of Carmacks, the City of Dawson, the Town of Faro, the Village of Haines Junction, Village of Mayo and Teslin. We have the Town of Watson Lake and the City of Whitehorse. All these communities have different issues and different needs. That's why I brought up the question through the department: how could we address these needs because of the issues we have at a local level for each individual community?

As we move forward with this overview of the municipal responsibilities, in partnership with the communities and with government, to see just exactly what those communities will need in the next five-year program, it isn't limited to the economics of the communities, because we're the first government in many years to raise the municipal grant. We've done that to the tune of approximately just under \$1 million a year this year — an improvement on what the communities generate. We also addressed the issue of when the municipal grants would be issued. So we've done that.

Working with our federal partners on the gas tax, there are interesting investments there — all the programs we're doing just through the gas tax and all the communities that are benefiting from that. That again is another partnership that we're working on.

As far as what will be in the next *Municipal Act* or in the next issue about opening it, I certainly expect the member opposite to participate in the next process because we don't upgrade the *Municipal Act* unless we have public consultation. All the questions the member opposite has brought to the floor today could be addressed in that process.

We certainly are looking forward to working with the municipalities over this next 12 months to see where we can improve our relationship, as we move into the potable water question throughout the territory, the solid-waste management throughout the territory, the infrastructure needs throughout the territory, and the recreational needs throughout the territory. By the way, at the end of the infrastructure we also have to look at the updating and daily maintenance of the new infrastructure we put in place. Those kinds of things are very, very important.

As far as the gas tax is concerned, the Yukon government has helped communities prepare their proposals to apply for gas tax funding. That's another thing we did in conjunction with our communities. Each proposal is presented, assessed and a decision mailed within a 60-day period. That's a fairly quick turnaround.

Most recipients have received planning dollars and are developing integrated community sustainable plans. That was one of the obligations put forward by the federal government, and that provides a framework for approved projects. In the last 12 months, the review committee reviewed 54 projects throughout the territory. Right now, 82 gas tax projects have been approved for funding for both First Nations and our municipalities. Once approved, project funds can flow within a couple of weeks.

Again, that's a very quick turnaround, and it is of benefit to our communities. The gas tax provides funding — to Yukon First Nations, 25 percent; municipalities, 68 percent; and the Yukon government, on behalf of unincorporated communities, gets seven percent. For environmentally sustainable infrastructure, eligible projects categories include potable water and waste-water management, solid-waste management, community energy systems, public transit, active transportation infrastructure, local roads, bridges and tunnels that enhance sustainable outcomes, and building systems improvements that lead to sufficient energy efficiency and community capacity building.

In other words, Mr. Chair, these are the points that make the gas tax eligible in our communities. The original agreement provided \$37.5 million for 2005-10 with an additional \$60 million for 2014 coming from an extension agreement with Canada. Canada announced this — I think it was last year — extension of \$60 million.

Community Affairs works closely with recipients and sets up an easy-to-follow timeline for project reviews, offers an annual workshop to share information, and is available to help recipients understand their gas tax obligations and requirements. The review committee is representative of the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Association of Yukon Communities and the Yukon government. Recipients work with the secretariat of the Community Affairs branch to determine appropriate outcome indicators.

In 2008, Canada and the Yukon signed a long-term infrastructure agreement under the Building Canada plan, Mr. Chair, and Yukon will invest up to \$244 million in infrastructure over a seven-year period ending 2013-14.

Project selection, Mr. Chair, is guided by the *Yukon Infrastructure Plan*, which every community, every First Nation put together and of course this was put together with extensive consultation with our First Nation governments, municipal governments and of course our unincorporated communities and key shareholders. We had general public input throughout the territory. The plan was made public in December 2009 and will be updated regularly.

More than \$155 million in federal and territorial investment has been allotted to date for the following key priorities: drinking water, waste water, roads, solid-waste management, and green energy infrastructure. There has been \$155 million allocated to these different needs in our communities in partnership with us and the federal government.

The implementation of Building Canada will focus on five key issues again. We have the drinking water — these are guidelines put together by our partner, the federal government — waste water, roads, waste management, and green energy infrastructure. Fourteen other eligible categories may be considered as a secondary focus, so there is a secondary component to this.

If we were looking at what this department does and the hard work that they do throughout the community, in 2009-10, Mr. Chair, homeowner grants were paid to 7,520 Yukon households. It averaged \$417 per household. The Building Safety branch completed 7,242 inspections for building, plumbing, development, electrical, gas and boiler and pressure vessels. That is in the year 2009-10. In 2009-10, Motor Vehicles issued over 34,000 vehicle registrations and had over 25,000 active operator licences.

Last year, Mr. Chair, Community Affairs transferred a total of \$19.79 million to Yukon municipalities and communities. As I said, that's another investment in our communities. Community Operations operate 20 solid-waste sites in rural Yukon, and we deliver water to approximately 500 customers in the communities of Carcross, Keno City, Old Crow and Ross River. In 2008-09, Corporate Affairs registered over 38,000 transactions related to corporations, partnerships and business names, personal property securities, societies and securities.

You can see Corporate Affairs is a very busy part of this department.

Last year, Consumer Services licensed over 3,150 professionals and 178 insurance companies. Staff also issued 133 bingo and raffle licences that enabled charitable groups to raise over \$1 million in the Yukon in total.

In 2009-10, Labour Services fielded 2,600 inquiries and 110 formal complaints and collected over \$110,000 in unpaid wages on behalf of employees throughout the Yukon.

These are interesting statistics and are very important for us to keep in mind when we're talking about this department.

In 2009-10, the Emergency Measures Organization supported eight volunteer search and rescue teams and trained 60 volunteers and 50 Yukon First Nation and municipal govern-

ment personnel in search and rescue emergency operations throughout the territory.

In 2009, Emergency Medical Services responded to over 5,000 ambulance calls in the Whitehorse area and over 1,500 calls in rural communities — again, a large responsibility for the department.

The fire marshal's office supported 17 volunteer fire departments, which responded to 765 fires and other emergency incidents in the Yukon.

Community Services' Infrastructure Development branch is currently working on approximately 80 capital projects throughout the Yukon Territory.

The Whitehorse Public Library received 203,000 visits last year and Public Libraries has added just under 16,000 new videos, books and other materials to their collection in our libraries throughout the Yukon.

The government, through Sport and Recreation, provided annual funding to 12 Yukon communities for recreational facilities, seven Yukon recreational groups, 27 sports governing bodies, 20 high-performance and five elite athletes. Last year, 23 Yukon athletes placed in the top three in national and international competitions. Mr. Chair, 23 Yukon athletes placed in the top three in our national or international competitions — from a community of less than 35,000 people.

May to July 2009 was one of the warmest and driest fire seasons on record. In the 2009 fire season, 119 forest fires burned and 71 percent were caused by lightning.

In 2009, the FireSmart program created 33 projects in Yukon communities to help reduce just that — the fire risk in those communities.

I hope that was beneficial to the members opposite. That's an interesting overview of the department and the jobs they do on a daily basis throughout this territory of ours.

**Mr. Cardiff:** I apologize for whatever it was I did. Obviously, it wasn't the answer to the question I was looking for.

I have another question for the minister. I'm going to get off that topic. Obviously, it doesn't make him feel very good. This was an issue that was raised in a news article. I talked with some people about it and they are concerned about it. It has to do with some of the economic stimulus funds, for which I believe some are in Community Services, in the capital portion. If I'm wrong about that, I'll apologize in advance, but I think the minister's department has some responsibility in this area, anyhow.

The concern comes from the deadline. Earlier today, that was given as the main and most important criteria for how you tender a project — the time restraints.

The federal government has put time restraints on the economic stimulus money and basically the way that we understand it is, if you don't spend the money by October 31, 2011, which is why we're rushing to do these projects, the money is not going to flow. The thing that is of most concern is that contractors could be held liable if projects created by this funding — specifically the infrastructure stimulus fund and the knowledge infrastructure fund — go past that deadline. This was an article in the *Yukon News*, April 21, and I have had a number of

people raise this issue with me. I would like to know if the minister's department has looked into this, number one. Number two, are there any discussions with the federal government regarding this to ensure that it doesn't happen and whether or not there is any flexibility to the March 31, 2011 deadline so that people can breathe a little easier. I think they could breathe a little easier if the minister could give them some comfort.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Chair, the Department of Community Services is responsible for overseeing the Recreational Investment Canada program, which is RInC, and it's a 50-cent dollar, is it not? It depends on where the investment is — if it's in a municipality it's under a different structure and so it has triggered an investment at \$1.25 million over two years toward upgrading community recreational infrastructure in Yukon as per the chart below, so the investments have already been committed.

The Dawson City Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has \$43,000 to upgrade the wellness camp facility to expand seasonal accessibility and recreational capacity, such as cross-country skiing and Junior Ranger outings. Carcross has \$40,000 for recreational office renovations: add two living units and a bathroom to the accommodation for their seasonal pool staff. Carmacks has a skating rink — repair concrete base, replace rink, boards and construct cupboard walkway to the change room. That's \$180,000.

The Carmacks swimming pool repairs include replacing the boiler system, hot water heater and pool liner. That's an investment of over \$62,000. Mount Lorne community centre, replace the Zamboni shed, which is one of the larger investments. That's just under \$250,000. In Beaver Creek there will be upgrades to the community centre, recreation complex, furnace replacement, electrical upgrade, kitchen and ceiling repairs, and that is another \$250,000.

Ross River has an investment in recreation centre upgrades, replace rink boards, repair plumbing, upgrade propane and glycol systems and renovate flooring — that's the largest investment and is \$309,000. That's the fund we're responsible for in Community Services. Is this fund, the rec fund, under the same stipulation as the stimulus money? It is, so this money has to go out and these jobs have to be done.

This is the money that has been allotted to these communities, and we look forward to them getting it done over this busy summer season.

**Mr. Cardiff:** I think I can say thank you, Mr. Chair. Unfortunately, the minister didn't answer the question, which was about contractors being able to be held liable if the projects aren't completed.

Is the minister or his department looking into this? If the minister's department isn't looking into this, I believe the Auditor General may have something to say about that. You are responsible for the funds. You've got contractors doing the work. There are other infrastructure funds as well and the government needs to look into this matter as to whether or not contractors could be held liable. There should be some discussions going on with the federal government at some level, which I would hope the minister would be aware of, as to whether or not the March 31, 2011 deadline is chiselled in stone. If the

funds aren't expended, is there some flexibility on the part of the federal government?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I guess in addressing that, Mr. Chair, the federal government has been very firm on those dates. I am not here to speak for the federal government.

We're very confident under the RInC program that these timelines will be met. Certainly a part of the bidding process is timelines, Mr. Chair. We're very confident that these projects will get done. I remind the member opposite they're not big projects. The biggest project is just over \$300,000 and that is the Ross River investment. I am very confident that these projects we're responsible for under the RInC program will get done within the timeline.

I remind the member opposite that the Building Canada fund and the gas tax are in place until 2014. RInC is the only stimulus fund. Building Canada predates the stimulus fund and the gas tax predates the stimulus fund, so I think we're getting mixed up in this. This is the only responsibility the Department of Community Services has. It's \$1.2 million in total for the communities. Certainly, we are very confident that this can get done.

I would say to the member opposite that he best talk to the federal government because other jurisdictions have had discussions and the federal government was very firm on those dates. The Department of Community Services is looking forward to getting these RInC projects done within the timeline we laid out.

It's an investment in our recreation facilities throughout the Yukon that is very much needed. Now that they have been put out there and the communities are working on these, we're very comfortable that the March date can be met.

**Chair:** Is there any further general debate?

Seeing none, we'll proceed line by line on Vote 51, Department of Community Services.

***On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures***

***On Corporate Services***

*On Deputy Minister's Office*

*Deputy Minister's Office in the amount of \$405,000 agreed to*

*On Human Resources*

*Human Resources in the amount of \$722,000 agreed to*

*On Finance, Systems and Administration*

*Finance, Systems and Administration in the amount of \$1,693,000 agreed to*

*On Policy*

*Policy in the amount of \$761,000 agreed to*

*On Communications*

*Communications in the amount of \$358,000 agreed to*

***Corporate Services in the amount of \$3,939,000 agreed to***

***On Protective Services***

*On Emergency Measures*

*Emergency Measures in the amount of \$434,000 agreed to*

*On Fire Marshal*

**Mr. Cardiff:** Mr. Chair, I have a few questions for the minister in this area. The fire marshal's report for 2009 said there were three volunteer fire departments that were not ac-

tive. Those were in Destruction Bay, Old Crow and Upper Liard. Can the minister tell us if this is still the case?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** This budget line of \$861,000 consists of giving an overview of it. There is \$344,000 for personnel, including salaries, wages and benefits for the fire marshal, two deputy fire marshals and one financial clerk. There is \$507,000 for other. There is \$32,000 for travel — \$22,000 in Yukon and \$10,000 for outside of the Yukon. There is \$150,000 in honoraria for volunteer firefighters.

This is another thing that this government has contributed to — the honoraria in our communities — because we understand the firefighters in our communities are very, very important. There is \$25,000 for rental expenses; \$15,000 for petroleum; \$12,000 for program materials; \$59,000 for repairs and maintenance; \$80,000 for electricity; \$75,000 for heating fuel; \$30,000 for communications; \$10,000 for training — another contribution to our volunteers is the training program — and \$14,000 for various other requirements of the program, so there is \$14,000 there to be used as we move forward into the year.

If you were to compare it with the previous year, an increase of \$67,000 from the 2009-10 estimate for salaries and wages, there is a decrease of \$15,000 in personnel due to a new employee being hired for less than the previous incumbent. I guess that's based on the number of years the person was there. Other costs are due to a \$67,000 increase for volunteer firefighters — that's an improvement on what they were getting — and a \$25,000 increase required for repairs and maintenance.

Mr. Chair, there was an increase of \$10,000 from the 2009-10 forecast — salaries and wages decrease of \$15,000 in personnel due to a new employee — that's what I just went through — a \$25,000 increase required for repair and maintenance, which seems to be another obligation we had.

As we move through, we manage the department. There are resources for increases for our volunteer fire departments. As far as our 17 volunteer fire stations under the authority of the government, there are three that are not active. I think the member opposite was correct. There's Beaver Creek, Burwash, Carcross, Destruction Bay — that's not active — Golden Horn, Hootalinqua, Ibex Valley, Keno City, Klondike Valley, Marsh Lake, Mendenhall, Mount Lorne, Old Crow — is not active — Pelly Crossing, Ross River, Tagish, Upper Liard — is not active.

There are 15 rural EMS stations and one in Whitehorse. There's one in Beaver Creek, Carcross, Carmacks, Destruction Bay, Eagle Plains, Faro, Dawson, Haines Junction, Marsh Lake, Mayo, Pelly Crossing, Ross River, Tagish, Teslin, Watson Lake and Whitehorse. These are all very important to our communities and to the well-being of the members of our communities.

So the gentleman is right — Destruction Bay is not active; Old Crow is not active, as far as the volunteer fire stations and Upper Liard.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Well, Mr. Chair, if that's the case, how is the government providing emergency services in those communities? Is the government employing professionals? Does it have a plan to engage the community and to get these volunteer fire departments active again? Because as the minister has just

quite rightly pointed out — and I'm quite familiar with this — I have two very active and competent volunteer fire departments in the riding that I represent — and I applaud them for their dedication and the amount of work they do. I recently had the opportunity to actually make my own personal contribution to the Mount Lorne fire hall because I believe in what they do to make our community safer. It's not just about responding to fires; it's about educating the public.

They attended a very important meeting recently with regard to an emergency plan for the community, and I applaud the minister's department for the work they are doing in that area because it is very important in the territory. The volunteer fire department was amply represented there, but my point is that some communities have got great volunteer fire departments and, you know, we feel safe. But there are other communities where these services aren't available because they are not active. The government needs to play a role in reactivating them.

In the interim, there needs to be some sort of a plan to provide some sort of protection for those communities. Can the minister tell me, once again, how emergency services are being supplied in those communities? Is the government employing professionals to replace them? And what is the plan to get these three volunteer fire departments active again?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Working with the volunteer fire departments through the years as a volunteer, I certainly respect the work they do and the training they go through to have the expertise and do exactly what they're doing.

As a government, we work in partnership with the First Nations and with municipalities. It is a partnership; it's not just the responsibility of the government of the day or the communities. We have a fire marshal who will go out and train individuals. We are working with Destruction Bay to activate that fire hall, as long as they can get the number of volunteers we need. We resource them and do what we do throughout the territory. We encourage all communities to activate their fire facility.

As far as the Old Crow fire department, we have support available as soon as the community has recruited sufficient volunteers, and we will go to the community and work with the community to jump-start the fire department and do the training and the things that are necessary to make sure the volunteers are comfortable with their responsibilities.

The Upper Liard community fire department was very active for probably 20 years. The gentleman who was the fire chief there retired and they just haven't had the wherewithal to get somebody to replace him. These are all things that happen in communities.

As you know, in our communities we go through individuals who are very active in the community, then we have people leave the community. We work with the volunteer fire departments in our communities on a daily, weekly, monthly basis to make sure that they have the training in place, that they have the equipment and they know how to operate that equipment. In answering the member opposite, I would say that the department does a stellar job in working with our communities. If you were to look at our investment in our communities this

year alone, you would see that we are buying two more ambulances. We're buying two or three ambulances a year to replace our older ambulances, Mr. Chair. As I go through the figures and as I look here today at the extensive investments our department makes, we also have in this budget the resources to buy a pumping truck so that we can modernize our fleet throughout the territory. These are all investments we've made in the territory.

I was at the opening of the new investment we have in Golden Horn. The Golden Horn fire station, which was built and opened last year, is a massive improvement over what they had in the past. It certainly wouldn't be anywhere without the volunteers who are there today. We have great respect for Yukoners who volunteer to protect their communities.

We as a government certainly understood the necessity of the resources that a government should put into these volunteer fire departments. We're the government that realized that we had to contribute more to the honoraria, not only for our fire-fighters, but for our EMS people — our emergency people in our communities — and we've done just that.

If you look in our budget, there's an increase for this year, too, to make sure that people are being compensated in a proper fashion. We as a government have done that, but as we look forward into the oncoming years, we have a rotation basis for the ambulances. We have questions about our fire trucks, per se, because of the obligation or some of the perceived obligation to replace these vehicles. These are a large investment by municipalities.

These are very, very expensive, Mr. Chair, and certainly I appreciate the fact that the municipalities, in their budgets, have to budget for these kinds of replacements, but touring through the territory and going and visiting our volunteer fire departments throughout the territory, I'm very happy with the response we get as a government and certainly the qualifications of the individuals who volunteer in our communities.

Again, I would like to thank the department and the individuals responsible in the fire marshal's office. The resources are not only invested in those volunteering firemen and fire departments. It's the work of the individuals and the people who volunteer in those positions.

Again, Mr. Chair, we look at this budget as we move forward here, going line by line, and certainly appreciate the member opposite's questions, but again, we have to certainly work with and we are working with Destruction Bay. We have talked to the First Nation in Old Crow and offered the support that we could to put an active fire brigade together there and in Upper Liard. We are working on that and will optimistically, hopefully, realize a fire department in each one of those communities.

We do have the resources; we have the individuals in place to do the training and look forward to going to these communities and building up a volunteer fire department that will benefit the community — and train individuals in the communities in respect to fire fighting and how it's done and the use of equipment and all the things that go along with the responsibility of a fire brigade or department in these communities.

If you were to look at the list of our other fire departments, they are very active. Not only are they active in the fire thing, they're active in their community. The individuals who tend to volunteer for these kinds of positions are seen throughout the community, whether it's the Marsh Lake community complex, Mount Lorne, all those kinds of community-focused events or organizations. If you look very deep into those organizations, you'll see a lot of the people who volunteer on a daily basis to protect people's homes from fire are also our ambulance individuals.

Again, we look forward to working with the communities that don't have an active fire brigade at the moment. Here again, Mr. Chair, there are some statistics from the fire marshal's office. We are supporting 17 volunteer fire departments in unincorporated communities with infrastructure, equipment and training and provide all fire and life safety inspections. In other words, we work with these volunteer fire departments.

The fire marshal's office works with incorporated communities to provide proper firefighter training when required and performs fire and life safety inspections. In other words, we work with our municipalities. Here are some statistics. The Yukon fire departments responded to 765 incidents, of which 235 were fire related. The FMO provided 38 fire and life safety inspections in the Yukon. The FMO inspected 72 residential storage tanks and issued 44 commercial storage tank permits.

We certainly have a very busy department and of course, the fire marshal's office is just one part of it, but it is a very important part of the department and we look forward to working with the volunteers and we look forward to working with the three communities that don't have the fire component to their community at the moment, but we are quite willing to step up to the plate and move in and do the training and build up that resource for those communities.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Thank you. Mercifully, thank you.

The minister didn't answer the question about how emergency services are currently being supplied in these communities that don't have volunteer fire departments that are active.

Mr. Chair, the minister decided to get into the capital budget. I know you warned me earlier about opening this up too much, but if the minister is not going to provide the simple answers — if he's going to get up and read prepared statements and reports and statistics — then there's not much point in going into the lines because the lines are where the detail is.

All I was looking for was a simple answer, so I will ask a whole bunch of questions so that the minister can burn up another 20 minutes of our valuable time. The minister seemed anxious to get into the debate on the *Motor Vehicles Act* with the Member for Mayo-Tatchun just a little while earlier, but instead he wants to go on and on.

How are emergency services being supplied in those communities — the three, specifically? What is the plan to get them active again? What is the Yukon government doing, in terms of recruitment and retention, to ensure that volunteer fire departments are active?

Last fall I tabled a letter in support of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs. They were looking for support to their proposal to the federal Minister of Finance, and he was looking

at creating tax credits for those who serve in volunteer fire departments and for their employers, whose businesses could be affected when their staff go out on these important calls.

I understand, apparently, the Official Opposition also wrote a letter of support. I believe I asked the minister to write a letter of support. I'd like to know if he has done that. Does he support this creative tax initiative? If the federal government doesn't move on this initiative, would this minister be prepared to do something territorially? Obviously he'd have to talk with the Minister of Finance, as it would be a taxation matter.

I also would like to know what work the minister is doing — this is in relation to this as well. He may be working with the minister responsible for the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board. I met with local firefighters, and I believe they met with the minister responsible to discuss the concept of presumptive legislation, which would extend workers' compensation coverage for certain types of cancers known to be caused through occupational exposure in a fire situation or a fire environment. We understand that it would require legislation to do that. I know the Minister of Community Services has responsibility for a number of pieces of legislation. I don't believe he's actually responsible for the *Workers' Compensation Act*, as that has been designated to a different minister. I know that a lot of drafting of legislation does get done in Community Services.

The minister is responsible, through this budget line item, for the fire marshal's office and for fire management, in the next line item, and I would like to know whether or not he's aware of any legislation being drafted or any work or any discussions taking place in that regard.

Seeing as how the minister wanted to talk about capital in this line, and he mentioned the tanker trucks that they are going to be purchasing, I would be interested to know what the long-term plan is. I would like to thank the officials for getting back to us after the technical briefing with the information we asked for about where the new tanker truck is going to be deployed. It is going to be deployed in Marsh Lake, but it says that there are similar units ordered over the next few years. I would like to know what the long-term plan is. Is it one truck a year? Is it one truck every two years? Maybe the minister can shed some light on that during his next 20-minute speech.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I guess, in addressing the member opposite on the investments the government makes in any of these kinds of line items, where we're investing in a tanker truck that will be placed in the Marsh Lake fire department, we have to remind the member opposite that it has to go through the House here and has to be approved. We have steadily, through this government, replaced infrastructure, whether it's fire trucks, ambulances or our bulk hauling trucks. In a perfect world, we'd like to replace them over a 20-year period, so we're always dealing with fairly new equipment.

I'd like to just go over what this department has done in 2009-10 and what the accomplishments of this department have been.

The 2009 fire season saw one of the highest average fire danger ratings on record in the territory, yet fire crews were very successful in protecting homes and infrastructure, with



only one cabin being lost and no serious injuries. That is a compliment to the wildfire component of the department.

Completion of a master Yukon government pandemic coordinated plan, incorporating a health response, a human resource response and a critical infrastructure response — in other words, that was very important to us, as we were looking at that pandemic that was forecast in the country.

We're moving forward with replacing the existing Yukon driver's licence and issuance of a new general identification card. I remind everybody in the House that these new drivers' licences are a secure form of driver's licence —

**Some Hon. Member:** (Inaudible)

#### Point of order

**Chair:** Mr. Cardiff, on a point of order.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Point of order. We're way off track here. You know, it was one thing to start mixing the same line item in capital and O&M; now we're in a completely different line item. Motor vehicle licences are not covered under the fire marshal's office line. Thank you.

#### Chair's ruling

**Chair:** On the point of order, the member is correct. We are off track, but we've been off track for quite some time and both sides have been off track on this line item. The Chair has given a lot of leeway because both sides were off track. Since it has been brought to my attention, we are on the fire marshal line — \$861,000. Is there any further debate on that line?

**Mr. Cardiff:** Respectfully, Mr. Chair, I asked the minister a number of questions about the fire marshal's office. Has the minister communicated with the federal government, through the fire marshal's office, his support for an initiative that would support volunteer firefighters, which is in this line item for \$861,000. Has he written a letter of support for the proposal to the federal minister looking to create tax credits for those who serve in VFDs and their employers, whose businesses may be affected when their staff go out on a call?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Those are financial questions and that would be the Minister of Finance who would answer that. We certainly are aware of the question and would look at it from a favourable point of view, but again we'd have to talk to our federal counterparts on that issue and that would involve the Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Mr. Chair, I asked the minister if he has written a letter of support. Does he support the initiative? It sounds like he does. Is he willing to write a letter of support to the federal government and to the federal Minister of Finance for this or ask the territorial minister to write that letter of support? Would he do that?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** As Minister of Community Services, I don't write letters to the Minister of Finance in Ottawa, but I would certainly discuss it with our Minister of Finance and see if he or the caucus would be willing to write that letter. As Minister of Community Services, I do not write letters like that to the Minister of Finance in Ottawa.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Strange. I find that pretty strange, Mr. Chair.

The other question I asked the minister was with regard to presumptive legislation that would extend coverage to firefighters — both paid firefighters and volunteer firefighters — for certain types of cancer known to be caused through occupational exposure to a fire environment. I'm just wondering whether the minister or the fire marshal's office has done any work in the \$861,000 line item, in regard to this issue.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Again, we are aware of the issue. It is under occupational health and certainly under another department.

**Mr. Cardiff:** You know, Mr. Chair, the minister is not taking his responsibilities seriously.

#### Chair's statement

**Chair:** Order please. The member knows that kind of comment isn't in order. We are debating the line, fire marshal, for \$861,000. Please don't personalize the debate.

**Mr. Cardiff:** I apologize.

I find this to be a very serious matter. We're talking about the health and safety of firefighters who are being paid through this \$861,000 line item. All the minister can say is that it's under a different department. I'm not concerned about whether or not they get covered. This is an important issue that the minister needs to pay attention to.

It's going to require a legislative amendment. I suspect that the fire marshal's office for \$861,000 may have an interest in it. It may have an impact on the \$861,000 line item.

Could the minister please tell me if he's concerned about the health and safety of firefighters in this territory and whether or not any work has been done on this matter?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I find it amazing that the member opposite would carry on with this level of questioning when he didn't even ask the appropriate department that could actually answer his question. Is the member very serious about this? Would it not be appropriate to ask the department that could do something about this?

#### Chair's statement

**Chair:** Order please. When the Chair calls for order, I expect members to sit down and listen to what the Chair has to say. I just cautioned the member opposite with regard to personalizing the debate, and that actually goes both ways.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** We are aware of the issue. The department has brought up expertise to speak on that issue. We would not be the lead on changing legislation on this issue. We are aware of it. We have resourced individuals to come up and talk to our volunteer fire departments and work with our fire marshal, but I recommend to everyone in the House to talk to the appropriate department on these kinds of issues.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Not so much a question as a comment, I suppose. I would like to actually thank the minister for making us aware of that — it's basically what I was asking for. The only question I have for the minister when he next stands up is, can he point us to the appropriate vote in Bill No. 20 where we

could talk about the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board?

**Chair:** Is there any further debate on this line?  
*Fire Marshal in the amount of \$861,000 agreed to  
On Fire Management*

**Mr. Cardiff:** Could the minister provide a brief summary or breakdown of what is included in this?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Yes. In general, the \$14,156,000 covers FireSmart at \$1 million; pre-suppression costs at \$6.71 million; suppression costs at \$6.45 million; and there's a personnel cost of over \$5 million, which includes salaries, wages, and benefits for a staff of 62.26 full-time employees.

There is \$7,470,000 for other; \$110,000 for travel — \$45,000 in Yukon and \$56,000 outside of Yukon; \$1.175 million in contract services; \$188,000 for rental expenses; \$33,000 for advertising; \$31,000 for supplies; \$81,000 for program materials; \$46,000 for repairs and maintenance; \$46,000 for petroleum; \$152,000 for communications; \$28,000 for training. There is \$5.455 million for fire suppression activities and \$134,000 for various other requirements of the program; \$850,000 for transfer payments to long-term programs in implementing fire reduction safety projects to reduce the risk of forest fires for damaging local communities.

*Fire Management in the amount of \$14,165,000 agreed to  
On Emergency Medical Services*

**Mr. Cardiff:** I believe I'm going to have a question when we get into the capital on this area, but I'd just like the minister to give us a breakdown and confirm that these emergency medical services — can he give us a list of which communities this funding applies to, as well as a breakdown?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** A breakdown of the O&M budget of \$6.913 million consists of the following: \$4.667 million for personnel, including salaries, wages and benefits for a director and 57 full-time employees; \$2,136,000 for other, which includes \$100,000 for travel, \$97,000 in the Yukon and \$3,000 outside the Yukon; \$1,393,000 for honoraria for volunteer EMS personnel; \$109,000 for rental expenses; \$61,000 for contract services; \$35,000 for petroleum; \$131,000 for program materials; \$41,000 for repairs and maintenance; \$109,000 for electricity; \$14,000 for heating fuel; \$66,000 for communications; \$95,000 for training; \$13,000 for insurance and \$59,000 for various other requirements of the program — \$110,000 for transfer payments, \$110,000 for volunteer training and recognition.

There are 15 rolling EMS stations and one in Whitehorse. That covers Beaver Creek, Carcross, Carmacks, Destruction Bay, Eagle Plains, Faro, Dawson, Haines Junction, Marsh Lake, Mayo, Pelly Crossing, Ross River, Tagish, Teslin, Watson Lake and, of course, Whitehorse.

**Chair:** Is there any further debate?

*Emergency Medical Services in the amount of \$6,913,000  
agreed to*

*On Safety and Training*

*Safety and Training in the amount of \$340,000 agreed to*

*Protective Services in the amount of \$22,713,000 agreed*

*to*

*On Community Development*

*On Program Administration*

*Program Administration in the amount of \$646,000 agreed to*

*On Sport and Recreation*

**Mr. Cardiff:** In this line item, if you look at the following pages, you'll see where a sizable amount of this money goes. I raised this with the minister previously, and I appreciate the minister's answer at the time. We need to treat all communities fairly. I asked the minister to look into the funding formula for contributions from this line item to community centres. The Lorne Mountain Community Association is a very active community association. As I said, just the other night there was a meeting hosted by his department dealing with emergency plans. It was hosted at the request of the community association and the hamlet council. The funding is based on a per capita in a certain catchment area. What the community association in Mount Lorne is finding is that they are serving more than just that catchment area and that there are people coming to the community centre looking for services, and that's putting increased pressure on the administration of the facility. The minister mentioned it earlier, but maybe I'll save my praise for when we get into the capital portion of the budget so that we don't stray.

So this is basically around the funding formula for the community centre. He agreed that he would have a look at that and that they would have to look at all communities. I'm just wondering whether he has made any progress on that.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** In a breakdown of sports and rec, the highlights of the O&M budget — of course, as you look, it's \$4,201,000. They consist of the following investments: there is \$563,000 for personnel, including salaries, wages and benefits for a director and a staff of five full-time employees; \$248,000 for other; \$34,000 for travel — \$14,000 of that in the Yukon and \$20,000 outside of the Yukon; \$5,000 for honorariums; \$60,000 for contract services; \$47,000 for insurance; \$5,000 for rental expenses; \$6,000 for supplies; \$8,000 for program materials; \$9,000 for communications; \$17,000 for training; \$54,000 for memberships; and \$3,000 for other program requirements.

There's \$3.39 million for transfer payments for contributions to recreational sports groups, including the Volunteer Bureau, \$67,000; Yukon recreational groups, \$166,000; contribution to local authorities, \$418,000; Yukon sports governing body, \$459,000; Sport Yukon core funding, \$130,000; Special Olympics, \$24,000; Canadian Senior Games, \$25,000; elite athletes coaching and officials grant, \$47,000; North American Indigenous Games, \$75,000; Aboriginal Sport and Recreational Circle, \$55,000; Sports for Life, \$729,000; Arctic Winter Games, \$1 million; Canada Winter Games, \$120,000; and \$75,000 for various other smaller contributions.

As you can see, it's a large investment throughout the territory. If you were to look at the investment from individual communities, it varies because of what the community manages. If you were to look at Beaver Creek, \$33,200; Burwash Landing, \$7,400 — the difference mostly is in swimming facilities at these locations. Carcross has an investment of \$54,800; Destruction Bay, \$7,200; Keno City has an invest-

ment of \$3,200; Marsh Lake has \$39,600; Mount Lorne is \$39,400; Old Crow has \$46,200; Pelly Crossing has \$51,500; Ross River has \$81,600; Tagish has \$35,300; and Upper Liard has an investment of \$18,700.

This is all covered in the act — the recreational grants act — so the formula is in the act and I have asked my officials to take a look at that and see how we could maybe look at a bigger investment or how that would be monitored throughout all of our communities because of the needs in all our communities.

**Mr. Cardiff:** I appreciate the minister doing that. I don't want to get into too many of the details. He mentioned swimming facilities. That is one — it is probably about the only thing the community of Mount Lorne doesn't have at that facility. They have skating facilities. They have tennis facilities. They have cross-country ski facilities. They have lots of facility. There is a skateboard park and they host a variety of events. They are very, very active — obviously, not to take away from the contribution that is made in any of the other communities that the minister listed, as well, that are also receiving money.

The other question — and at my own peril, I'm going to recognize that — I'm not sure what the minister's responsibility is in this matter — but it is to do with the community association, and he has corresponded, with his other hat on, around signage for the community centre. As I said, the community centre is very, very, very active. There are people coming from Whitehorse, there are people coming from Marsh Lake, and there are people coming from Atlin and Carcross. So, there are lots of people travelling to the community centre. But there hasn't been — or never has been, to my knowledge, and still isn't — any signage. I believe the response received from the Minister of Highways and Public Works said that the work had been basically done.

It had all been sorted out and now the community association — because there needed to be some sort of separation between the community association and the LAC in order for this to proceed, or it needed to be at least recognized — can proceed for the permitting of a visitor service facility or attraction signage under the visitor sign information regulations. I'm just wondering if the minister can confirm this at this time. If he does, I've got nothing but praise for him, because I met with him earlier on this matter. This has been a long struggle. I believe it was before this sitting even that we met and talked about this. The minister's response at that time was, "Put the sign up." I'm just hoping that this is an indication that that sign can finally go up, so that all of the people who are flocking to the Lorne Mountain Community Centre aren't driving by the Annie Lake Road to find it.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Again, it's another department, but I will tell the member opposite that I don't have the individuals here who could answer that question at the moment, but I'm led to believe that Highways and Public Works has been working with the Mount Lorne association and the president of the association to address this issue. I can't say today whether the sign is up or not.

I want to remind the member opposite that when we went out with the rink fund, one of the things that Mount Lorne really requested was the replacing of the Zamboni shed, and that was what they had on the top of their wish list. Those resources have been given to the community. So, we have been working with the association itself and certainly look forward to working with them in the future. But the signage is under Highways and Public Works and certainly, I can get to the member opposite when I talk to the individuals in that department.

**Chair:** Any further debate on this line?

*Sport and Recreation in the amount of \$4,201,000 agreed to*

*On Property Assessment and Taxation*

*Property Assessment and Taxation in the amount of \$3,977,000 agreed to*

*On Community Affairs*

**Mr. Cardiff:** I'd just like to raise an issue. I have heard the Member for Lake Laberge raise this issue. I have heard it from other local area councils and in other communities as well. It has to do with support for land planning. I know that land planning actually falls within a different department, unfortunately. There is a place where this meshes, in that it is the local representatives and the communities — and we are in Community Services, Community Development and Community Affairs. There is \$21 million. I am just wondering what type of support there is in this line item for communities to support their aspirations to have planned development in their communities?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I guess in answering the member opposite, I should go through the breakdown so he can understand what the \$21 million consists of. There is \$586,000 for personnel including salaries, wages and benefits for our director and a staff of 4.5 full-time employees.

There's \$70,000 for other; \$17,000 for travel; \$12,000 within Yukon and \$5,000 outside the Yukon; \$25,000 for contract services; \$4,000 for honoraria; \$9,000 for program materials; \$10,000 for training; and \$5,000 for various other program needs.

There's \$20 million for transfer payments, \$5,254,000 for grant-in-lieu of property taxes. This is all-inclusive of the \$21 million. As we move through here we have — grant-in-lieu of property taxes; \$14,962,000 for comprehensive municipal grants; \$70,000 for community local advisory operation and maintenance grants; \$75,000 for Mae Bachur Humane Society; \$20,000 for Dawson City Humane Society; and \$100,000 for the Association of Yukon Communities.

**Chair:** Any further debate on this line?

*Community Affairs in the amount of \$21,137,000 agreed to*  
*On Public Libraries*

**Mr. McRobb:** I would just like the minister to update us on the Beaver Creek library and the mould situation.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** The budget line of Public Libraries is \$1,795,000. It consists of \$1,206,000 for personnel, including salaries and benefits for a director and a staff of 16.16 full-time employees. There is \$240,000 for other; \$20,000 for travel — \$16,000 of that in Yukon and \$3,000 outside of the territory;

\$4,000 for honoraria; \$8,000 for contract services; \$13,000 for supplies; \$131,000 for program materials; \$25,000 for communications; \$25,000 for computer systems; and \$14,000 for various other requirements of the program. There is \$349,000 for transfers to provide funding for community libraries. Those resources are sent out to the communities so they can do the good job they do.

As far as the Beaver Creek library is concerned, I am told by the staff that the equipment and the work will be done in June, so it's next month that we should have the Beaver Creek issues settled.

I'm told by the staff that in June, they will have the equipment in place. It will be done in June.

**Chair:** Any further debate on this line?

*Public Libraries in the amount of \$1,795,000 agreed to  
On Community Operations*

*Community Operations in the amount of \$2,762,000  
agreed to*

*Community Development in the amount of \$34,518,000  
agreed to*

*On Consumer and Safety Services*

*On Program Administration*

*Program Administration in the amount of \$158,000 agreed  
to*

*On Board and Council*

**Mr. Cardiff:** Can the minister give us a breakdown on that one?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Boards and council highlights for this year's 2010-11 O&M budget of \$118,000 consists of the following: \$48,000 for personnel, including salaries and benefits for one FTE, partially offset by a \$24,000 recovery from the Yukon Liquor Corporation; \$70,000 for other; \$6,000 for travel — and that includes \$2,000 in Yukon and \$4,000 out of the Yukon; \$45,000 for honoraria; \$27,000 for contract services; and \$9,000 for various other program requirements, partially offset by a \$17,000 recovery from the Yukon Liquor Corporation.

*Board and Council in the amount of \$118,000 agreed to  
On Consumer Services*

*Consumer Services in the amount of \$742,000 agreed to  
On Corporate Affairs*

*Corporate Affairs in the amount of \$425,000 agreed to  
On Motor Vehicles*

**Mr. Cardiff:** Seeing the time, Mr. Chair, I am going to ask these questions now because I don't think we're going to get to the *Motor Vehicles Act* later this afternoon, as the minister had previously indicated.

I would be interested to know in relation to the drivers' licences that the department is proposing and that we're debating legislation on, if the minister can tell the House and the people who are listening what types of information are attached to the card, to the driver's licence, and what security features there are to ensure that this information can't be stolen.

**Chair:** Order please. Seeing the time, we'll recess for 15 minutes.

*Recess*

**Chair:** Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 20, *First Appropriation Act, 2010-11*. We are now in line-by-line in Department of Community Services. This is Vote 51. We are on the line of motor vehicles for \$1,370,000.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** In answering the member opposite's question on the motor vehicle line here, the O&M budget is \$1,370,000 and consists of \$1,025,000 for personnel, including salaries and benefits for managers and staff. This encompasses 13 full-time employees; \$340,000 for other; \$11,000 for travel — \$6,000 of that inside the Yukon and \$5,000 outside the Yukon; \$134,000 for contract services; \$13,000 for vehicle rental expenses; \$63,000 for supplies; \$72,000 for program materials; \$24,000 for communications; \$12,000 for printing; and, of course \$16,000 for various other programs.

The member opposite was talking about Bill No. 85 and of course that is the *Motor Vehicles Act* and asked some questions about the new driver's licence, which will all be part and parcel of the department's investment this coming year. Of course we have been meeting with the Privacy Commissioner and taking their advice on the driver's licence. But if I could go through a few points here on some of the questions that have been asked on the licence because of the questions about changing the format of the licensing and that, and of course why the *Motor Vehicles Act* needed to be amended — that's a question individuals have out there.

The new general identification card will be produced by the motor vehicle department, but only the driver's licence was mentioned in the *Motor Vehicles Act*. The act needed to be amended, so motor vehicles could legally produce the new general identification card. That was the reason we had to go forward with the change in the act. Why do we need a new driver's licence? That's another question. Yukon's new drivers' licences will use up-to-date technology so it will look like drivers' licences — which will help — issued in other jurisdictions and be very difficult to forge.

That's another question. As a result, it will be a more secure card and more readily accepted as a government-issued identification card, as well as a driver's licence. So, it will certainly be an updated identification card.

Another question that was asked of me is why do we need a general identification card? Over the last decade, Yukoners, like other Canadians, have found themselves being asked for a general government-issued card to prove their identity, age and place of residence. The general identification card will provide this for all Yukoners that choose to apply and acquire one. What makes the new cards more secure? That's a question that people have out there. The cards will be produced using technology that makes the card harder to forge. These security features include digital photo and signature, multi-level lamination, a two-dimensional bar code and a hologram. Some of the unique hidden features include wavy lines, like those found on money, and features activated by ultraviolet light. The licence card content will be determined by the register, subject to whatever the regulations might say on these items. So, that's the updated card itself.

Another question we got was what will the new driver's licence and general identification look like?

Well, in general, the new cards will look like plastic credit cards with a bar code, hologram and other security features. On it will be the cardholder's picture, home address, date of birth, height and weight and other information required to meet the Canadian council of motor vehicle driver's licence standards. The difference between the two cards will be clear from the title of the card and the location of the photo. So both cards will have the same security in place, but they will be easy to decipher. In other words, you won't be able to use your identification card for a driver's licence. It will be easy to spot.

Why has this taken as long as it has? All Canadian jurisdictions have wrestled with the decision about the way to proceed for issuing new drivers' licences and identification cards. Yukon wanted to fully consider the best option for Yukon, which takes time. Our solution is similar to what most Canadian jurisdictions have done.

Another question we have is, why isn't Yukon getting an enhanced driver's licence like B.C., Ontario and Quebec? To date, the only advantage of an enhanced driver's licence is in providing an option to a passport when crossing the Canada/United States borders by land or sea. A secure driver's licence is much less expensive to produce, it is expected to be accepted everywhere that secure cards from other jurisdictions are accepted, it does not require Yukoners to give personal information to U.S. Border authorities and it can be produced right here in Yukon. In the future, the Yukon government's new system could serve as a platform for developing an enhanced licence system if it is seen to be needed or desired.

Following the 2006 election, Community Services contracted an independent consultant to do a thorough needs analysis and assist in developing the best options for a new Yukon driver's licence and general identification card. Part of that contract was to look at the options for Yukoners to obtain an enhanced driver's licence that would meet U.S. requirement and provide Yukoners with a convenient alternative to a passport for the land and sea border crossing into the United States, Mr. Chair.

Events, as well as consultant recommendations, information and issues started to emerge about enhanced drivers' licences. Not all of it was favourable for Yukon producing the cards. It was very, very expensive and could only be done in two or three secure facilities in Canada. Unlike getting a passport, getting an enhanced driver's licence required Canadians to provide personal information that would be shared with U.S. Border Security. This is a controversial trade-off of their personal information for the convenience of a travel document good only for land and sea border crossings into the United States.

We want to stay prepared and flexible, so that we could enhance the driver's licence and general identification card further, should the need arise. The new secure driver's licence will provide a platform for enhanced licensing.

Another question was, will the new card serve as an acceptable alternative to a passport? Yukoners who travel internationally will still require passports, but we are confident that

the new cards will be more readily accepted as proof of identify and residency on domestic flights in Canada. Yukon's new cards will be accepted nationally and internationally for the same purposes as are secure identification cards issued by other jurisdictions.

Another question was, will airlines accept the new cards? Yukoners who cross-border travel will still require passports, but we are confident the new licence and cards will be more readily accepted as proof of identify and residency on domestic flights in Canada. Yukon's new cards will be more readily accepted nationally and internationally for the same purpose as are secure identification cards issued by other jurisdictions, but it does not alleviate the responsibility to have a current passport.

How old do you have to be to get a general identification card? That's an interesting question. There is no minimum age; the general identification card is intended for every Yukoner who wants one.

Another question was how and where will codes and restrictions be reflected on the new driver's licence? Codes and restrictions will still be visible as they are now, and will be contained in the bar code on the new driver's licence. The driver's licence number will be printed on the card. What identification numbers will be used for the new general identification card? Each new general identification card will display a unique number that will be retained on the replacement cards. So, that will carry over.

Why is the new general identification card going to have an expiry date of five years? Like the driver's licence, personal identification should be updated at least every five years to keep it current and accurate, particularly in regard to photo and, of course, home address. This is a fairly standard practice across Canada. Another question was: what value is there to a five-year general identification card when a person's appearance, especially children, can and will change dramatically over a five-year period? The registrar will have the authority to issue a general information card for a shorter time frame, if needed, subject to any related regulations made. Cardholders could also request a new card when personal information changes enough to complicate a visual verification. So, in other words, there is some flexibility there.

Another question was: are people allowed to have both a driver's licence and a general identification card? Yes. Some people with a driver's licence may want a government-issued general identification card in the event they damage or lose their licence for any reason. Having both minimizes the risk of not having any government-issued ID when it is needed. In the event of licence damage, loss or theft, this could be especially beneficial for rural Yukoners who would otherwise experience a few days' delay in receiving a new licence, or of course, replacement identification.

Now, another question was cost related. Who is supplying the new system? What is the cost of the new system? What is the capital investment? The equipment is being tendered. We expect to be able to announce the contracts awarded very shortly.

What are the expected ongoing O&M costs of the new system? How did these compare to costs for the existing system? It will cost approximately \$60,000 annually to produce the new cards and this increase has been budgeted. What will be the cost of a five-year card for the individual? The cost to Yukoners for a new driver's licence is expected to be the same as the fee for the current licence. The fee charged for a new general identification card is expected to be somewhat less. The fee for a new general identification card will be established by regulation later this year.

What about replacement costs? The fee will be established by regulation later this year. Why will it cost more for a new driver's licence than for a general identification card? Yukoners' drivers' licence fees are fairly average among Canadian jurisdictions and are used to help offset the cost of operating the whole system of drivers' records, testing and administration. Fewer services are involved in the delivery of identification cards and maintenance of the general identification card system. There is a cost difference in the production of the two.

Will the cost to get a new driver's licence be prioritized if a person wants to exchange their existing driver's licence for the new secure one? The expiry date of an existing card will remain the same and only a replacement fee will be charged for the new one. When the licence expires on its natural expiry date, the full renewal fee will apply.

Will there be a fee to change name, address or other personal details on either a new driver's licence or the general identification card? A fee to change a name or address is not anticipated. People will be charged to replace cards. Replacement card fee may be waived when Motor Vehicles agrees that the changes to the personal information are significant and warrants a replacement card.

Section 16 of the act requires a person to let us know of a name or address change. Presently, by policy, we do not charge for this change at the moment.

The question about the transition period came up quite a bit. After the new driver's licence becomes available, will people be able to keep using their existing driver's licence until their natural expiry date? After the new driver's licence becomes available, people will be able to keep using their existing driver's licence until the natural expiry date.

Another question was, will holders of an existing driver's licence retain the same driver's licence number when they receive a new driver's licence. Holders of an existing driver's licence will retain the same driver's licence number when they receive their new driver's licence.

What is the plan for introducing and issuing the new driver's licence and general identification card? Can people come in and get one whenever they need or want one, including getting replacements? The current driver's licence is valid until expiry or they are replaced. Priority will be given to new licence holders and automatic renewals during the months they expire. Every effort will be made to accommodate the special needs of individuals and those wanting the new general identification card or early renewal of their driver's licence. In other words, we recommend that, once the driver's licence process is

triggered, people can take advantage of going down and talking it over with the Motor Vehicles branch.

Will the people who renew their existing driver's licence before the expiry date have to pay again to get a new secure licence? We are considering establishing a transition period wherein anyone who renews their licence earlier than the natural expiry date within a certain time frame may be permitted to get a replacement secure licence at a lower or no cost. Details will be established in regulations.

Who will operate the new system? Motor Vehicles staff will be trained to operate the new system. Territorial agents and representatives will also be trained on how to receive and process licence and card applications. The actual licences and cards will be produced at and distributed from the Motor Vehicles branch office here in Whitehorse.

Will rural residents be able to continue using their existing or new driver's licence or general identification card until they receive the updated card? Existing drivers' licences can be used until their natural expiry date. Existing liquor IDs are expected to be considered acceptable ID for a *Liquor Act* purpose for some time following the introduction of the new general identification card. Yukon Liquor Corporation will establish the period of acceptability for existing liquor IDs.

What identification will be required to get a new driver's licence or general identification card? Are they any different from what's been required to get a driver's licence? The required source documentation will be specific in the regulations. Adequate documentation to prove age, identification and residency will be required. Will the proposed security certificate of Indian status card be an acceptable source of documentation? Once the new secure certificate of Indian status card has been finalized and issued by the Government of Canada, the card may be one acceptable source document, depending on its final version.

Will the driver's licence and general identification cards be available while you wait, as they are now in all locations? Personal information, including photograph and signature will continue to be gathered in all locations. This information will be sent by computer to the motor vehicles office in Whitehorse, where it will provide same-day service to everyone who access motor vehicles' services in Whitehorse. Cards requested in rural offices will be mailed back to territorial agents and representatives or the applicant in the future, depending on demand, the cost of high-tech printers and other factors. It is possible the system could be expanded to some rural communities to provide same-day services.

What if the replacement for a lost, stolen or damaged licence is needed immediately in an emergency, Mr. Chair? Depending on the circumstances, a temporary replacement may be possible for a driver's licence so that a person's ability to legally operate a motor vehicle is not impacted. Motor Vehicles will make every effort to ensure that Yukoners continue to receive the high quality service they have come to expect.

Mr. Chair, will the replacement licences and cards be able to be produced without the person having to be personally present to have their picture taken? Phone-in requests for replacement cards may be technically possible in some circumstances,

as long as the individual can satisfy Motor Vehicles staff concerning their identity. Motor Vehicles staff will make every effort to ensure that Yukoners continue to receive the high quality of service they have come to expect.

Mr. Chair, what safeguards protect personal privacy as part of this new system? Motor vehicles files and computerized system will continue to provide safe storage and transmission of personal information. The new card systems have proven to be secure in other jurisdictions where data is transmitted electronically to the printer from several remote locations and then mailed back. Identity thieves will find no microchips to scan and no easy way to alter information embedded in the card for unauthorized use.

I hope that this answers some of the member's questions.

**Chair:** Any further debate on this line?

*Motor Vehicles in the amount of \$1,370,000 agreed to On Building Safety*

*Building Safety in the amount of \$1,292,000 agreed to On Labour Services*

**Mr. Cardiff:** I thank the minister for his previous answer. I will have more questions when we actually get to debate the bill. I'd like to ask the minister, under labour services, if he can tell me what progress has been made. I know that a booklet was produced by the Labour Services branch and that there has been a code of conduct from the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, but I'd like to know what we're doing in relation to the *Employment Standards Act* with regard to — I just hope he doesn't read the whole thing.

What I'd like to know is what work is being done on draft regulations regarding a general minimum working age, hours of work related to age, and minimum ages for high-risk occupations. Is there any work being done in the department regarding this matter?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** We are in discussions with the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board to do just that. I'm pleased to see that the member opposite had the opportunity to read this *You need more than a job to start work* booklet. This was a student and parent guide. I wasn't available to go to the introduction of the booklet yesterday, but the Minister of Health and Social Services was there, and it was very well received.

I recommend all students or parents — and I emphasize parents — on the importance of this booklet for individuals who are going out into the workforce. It is titled *You need more than a job to start work*, which is a very catchy title. I recommend all members of the House read this booklet.

I would like to compliment the departments for the job they did on this booklet, because it involved the Department of Education — I would like to thank them. We have them in all of our schools so that our potential employees — our young employees — have this available to them.

You know, we have an explanation of what the *Employment Standards Act* is, who is covered by the *Employment Standards Act* and who isn't covered by the *Employment Standards Act*. Does it matter that I work part-time? Employees rights and employers' expectations; employees responsibilities — a long list of responsibilities. Are there any age restrictions

for employment in the Yukon? You have a responsibility to work and act safely while at work — that's a reminder for everybody in the workplace.

Getting a job is important — where to look for a job; how should I apply for a job? How do I let employers know I have what they want? What does an employee need to know about me? Those are all questions that are asked by the employer and it explains each one of those and gives some highlights on what individuals should do — even to what should my resume contain?

Do I need references? Who would make a good reference? Do I need permission to use someone as a reference? What should I say in a cover letter? Those are all pertinent questions that people — young people who haven't been in the workforce — don't understand and this will lay out a footprint for them to work with. Even a sample cover letter is enclosed in here.

Interviews — how do you handle an interview? How can I prepare for an interview? What questions will an employer ask of me? What can I expect on my first day of work? All sorts of questions — what can I do to feel more involved on my first day of work? The first day of work for any individual is a very stressful day, because people, as they move into the workforce, have youth on their side and there are all sorts of questions out there that they have. How do you ask those questions?

Wages and deductions — why do I need a social insurance number — a SIN number? How do I apply for a SIN card? Why do I fill out a TD1 form? What is the minimum wage? Those are all pertinent questions. How will I know if I was paid properly? How often should I be paid? How long do I have to wait for my final pay? How much vacation time do I have?

Do I get paid for vacation days, Mr. Chair? When do I get my vacation pay? Do I get paid for statutory holidays? These are all questions that individuals have. When do I get paid overtime? Very important question: how much do I get paid for overtime work? Do I get overtime no matter what job I am doing? What if I report to work and my employer sends me home? That's another question. Can my employer make deductions from my wages? Can my employer deduct room and board from my wages? Are there things I have to pay for when I start working? Conditions of employment: am I entitled to a coffee break? Am I entitled to a lunch break? Are lunch breaks paid for? What if I don't get a lunch break? Average agreements: shift work. How long should my rest period be between shifts? Can I work a split-shift? Why is the 24-hour clock important? Can my employer enforce dress codes? Can I get time off besides holidays and vacations? What is a union? How does a union fit into this? Am I entitled to sick days? If someone dies, can I go to the funeral? What if I'm injured at work? What does worker's compensation cover? Important steps to take if you are injured at work — in other words, answering those questions that are on people's minds and in the workplace.

Problem solving: what if I don't like the shift my employer scheduled me for? Seniority: what do we do with seniority? Why is teamwork so important? What if someone at work is impaired by alcohol or drugs? Another question: what if I have a problem with another worker? How do we address that? What if I believe I've been discriminated against? How do I answer

those questions or who do I go to to get the answers to those questions?

What is apprenticeship training? How do I register to become an apprentice? How will I know how well I'm doing on my job? How can I improve myself at work? Is training available to improve my skills? Can I get promoted? These are all questions that people have, and this gives them a breakdown of some of the answers.

Can I be fired? What does pay-in-lieu of notice mean? Can I apply for other jobs while still working for my current employer? Should I let my current employer know if I apply for a different job? That's a very good question. How much notice should I give an employer when I leave the job? What do I do with things given to me when I started the job? What's an exit interview? Records to keep: will my employer send me something to help me fill in my income tax form?

Those are questions that people have. What if my past employer doesn't send me a T4? Now, that's a question. Do I need to keep records of what I learned on each job? Another question. Do I need to keep a record of the time I worked on each job? Well, it's another question, and certainly it's answered in these paragraphs. How do I get a letter of reference?

These are all things that our young workers have questions about and certainly this booklet talks about these issues. I'm very pleased to see that we have them in all the schools and the presentation last night was well-received. I look forward to talking with the individuals who are starting to come out of our school system. Having this kind of information I think will bode well for them as they move forward in their career.

*Labour Services in the amount of \$488,000 agreed to*

*Consumer and Safety Services in the amount of \$4,593,000 agreed to*

*On Revenues*

*Revenues cleared*

*Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$65,763,000 agreed to*

*On Capital Expenditures*

*On Corporate Services*

*On Office Furniture, Equipment, Systems and Space*

*Office Furniture, Equipment, Systems and Space in the amount of \$684,000 agreed to*

*Corporate Services in the amount of \$684,000 agreed to*

*On Protective Services*

*On Emergency Measures*

*Emergency Measures in the amount of \$75,000 agreed to*

*On Prior Years' Projects*

*Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

*On Fire Marshal*

*On Major Facility Maintenance*

**Mr. Cardiff:** Mr. Chair, could the minister give us a breakdown on which projects are done? Thankfully, it's only \$98,000; there can't be many of them.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** As we look at this investment we have, this is major facility maintenance at \$98,000. It consists of two projects: \$49,000 for ongoing maintenance of fire hall structures and the systems within or attached to the structure,

and another \$49,000 to install automatic exhaust extraction equipment in a community fire hall.

**Mr. Cardiff:** I'm thankful. I think exhaust extraction in a fire hall is a very important item, and it should be in all our volunteer fire departments. There are some other issues that I would like to raise with him — but which community in particular?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** This investment is based on an investment in the Marsh Lake fire hall.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Can the minister tell us whether or not there are any plans to install the same type of equipment in other volunteer fire halls? The other thing that comes to mind is that, for quick response by our volunteer firefighters in our communities, many of the pumper trucks have air breaks.

I am sure the minister knows this but I'm just going to go over it briefly. In order to charge the system — and this is related to the exhaust systems — what happens is the airbrakes bleed down. When you want to respond to a fire quickly, you have to start the truck and charge the system. That requires an exhaust system. Another method of doing it is to have compressors in those fire stations so that they can charge the airbrakes system rapidly. In fact, in some instances, they can be hooked in and it's basically just a matter of disconnecting from the stationary compressor. You start the truck up and you have brakes immediately. You can actually leave the fire hall almost immediately. The other issue that came up at the meeting the other night is the use of these facilities in the event of an emergency.

Are there any plans to install generators in volunteer fire departments around the territory? I believe some of them have them, but not all of them. This kind of comes down to that whole capital question and a five-year plan — if the minister could bring us up to date on that.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** We reassess these on a yearly basis. The issues the member opposite has brought up are a priority not only for our government, but also for the volunteer fire departments. As we move into using our fire halls as emergency areas for the population, we understand the importance of putting a form of generation into those. You're correct, some have and some don't, but we will be working with all these fire departments as we go through and work on the priorities that are brought forward to the government. We understand the situation that some fire halls find themselves in, but we'll work with those fire halls and modernize the equipment, and try to address some of their needs as we move through the management of the fire halls.

**Mr. Cardiff:** I know in the Budget Address the government made projections ahead about capital projects, but this line item deals specifically in the fire marshal's office with major facility maintenance. What I'm asking the minister is: I recognize you have to deal with what comes up on an annual basis, because then that's why it took so long to get that great fire hall at Golden Horn, because there were other things that happened — namely, a rather extreme year of forest fires. But there should be a five-year capital plan to address the long-term needs and you can always adjust it. Does that document exist?



**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Certainly, some of our capital projects are looking at a three-year projection and you will see that in our financial document. But some of the investments we're making on a yearly basis, because we work with the volunteer fire departments and community clubs and prioritize what their needs are, to move forward.

We have resources available through the Building Canada fund and other forms of partnerships. We address them on a yearly basis. The most important part is working with the volunteer fire departments to prioritize what they need as a volunteer group and what they see as a priority for upgrading their facilities.

*Major Facility Maintenance in the amount of \$98,000 agreed to*

*On Fire Protection*

**Mr. Cardiff:** It's a very similar question. I thank the officials for getting back to us from the technical briefing at the end of March. A lot of this money is for a tanker truck for volunteer fire departments. I believe it is going to be deployed in Marsh Lake. Once again, what I'm looking for is some indication from the minister about a long-term plan — a five-year plan maybe. If he only has a three-year plan, that would be acceptable, at this point, with regard to equipment replacement for volunteer fire departments across the territory.

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** I would ask the indulgence of all members to turn our attention to the gallery for some introductions. First off, Premier Floyd Roland of the Northwest Territories is here. Premier Eva Aariak of Nunavut is present here in the gallery. There are also some other very important visitors: Mr. Bill Erasmus and Cindy Dickson are some of the permanent participants of the Arctic Council, representing the Arctic Athabaskan Council; Mr. Joe Linklater and Bridget Larocque — of course, we all know Mr. Linklater, Chief of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. He is also the permanent participant and representative of the Gwich'in Council International of the Arctic Council. We also have the Inuit Circumpolar Conference representative, Mr. Duane Smith, along with Corrine Gray. To each and every one of you, a warm welcome to the Legislature.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** For the question the member opposite has just put on the floor, we do a constant inventory of needs in our communities. Certainly through the consultation with the volunteer fire departments — they of course are partners in this — we address and modernize as we move forward and as we have the resources to do it. So it is a constant job in progress.

The most important part of it is our partnership and realizing that we have to prioritize with the volunteer fire departments on their needs. But we as a government have a responsibility to keep a constant inventory of equipment we have on hand, and of course there are restraints on timelines, on fire trucks and things like that. So we keep a constant inventory mark and we certainly look forward to any improvements we

can make in our volunteer fire departments to improve their facilities.

This government has probably invested more in volunteer firefighting, whether it's structural or improving the pay scale or encouraging individuals to join our volunteer fire department, than any government has done in the past. So we look forward with that same working relationship and we have proven in the past that we resource it and we'll do just that in the future.

**Mr. Cardiff:** I appreciate the minister's dedication and commitment. What I'm asking is that we're talking about equipment that we're purchasing, that has a lifespan and needs to be replaced. All I'm looking for is an equipment replacement schedule for pumpers and tankers in volunteer fire departments around the territory. I would have thought that the minister would have a document along those lines projecting what the needs are. As I said earlier, I know other things come up and become priorities, but it's about having some sort of an idea of ongoing expenditures into the future. That's what's in the Budget Address. It's a projection into the future of future O&M and capital expenditures and this is just one item — it's a very important item to communities in the Yukon — to address their safety and protection. I think some sort of a long-term equipment replacement plan should be available that we could look at to see what the plans are.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Certainly that would be addressed in our inventory that we do on a yearly basis and also a projection of what the needs are. The responsibility we have as a government is to come to the House to get spending approval.

The fire protection — we're investing \$278,000 and it consists of four projects: \$40,000 for new or replacement of firefighting equipment, some of which may be for wildland fire management; \$40,000 for turnout gear replacement; \$30,000 for breathing apparatus; and \$168,000 for a new fleet fire trainer.

So you can see we do invest in it. Again, I remind the member opposite that we do work with our volunteer fire departments to bring their needs forward and that's part and parcel of these kinds of investments. Our partners and us and the Wildland Fire Management group — we invest on a yearly basis for the safety of our communities. You would only have to look at the resources we put last year in the forest fire situation we found ourselves in. It was the largest forest fire season in the history of the Yukon. Wildland Fire Management did a stellar job of not only protecting investments and communities, but also in how they resourced it and managed their budget.

They did a job that I'd like to compliment them on, because we only lost one cabin in that whole fire season and that cabin was not on the map. So any other cabin that was on the map and located was saved through that firefighting process. So these resources that we put into these departments are for the safety of our community. As you can see, as we buy new fleet fire tankers, we renew turnout gear, we put money into new breathing apparatus — all of those investments are investments in protecting our community and also, by the way, protecting our volunteer firefighters. So when they go out into

these situations, they have the best equipment that money can buy and that modern technology can supply.

*Fire Protection in the amount of \$278,000 agreed to*

*On Prior Years' Projects*

*Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

*On Fire Management*

*Fire Management in the amount of \$316,000 agreed to*

*On Emergency Medical Services*

*On Emergency Medical Services*

**Mr. Cardiff:** Mr. Chair, can the minister provide a breakdown of this line item?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** In the breakdown of these resources for Emergency Medical Services is a \$670,000 figure. This consists of two projects: \$250,000 for an ambulance replacement — in other words, an annual commitment that this government has made to upgrade the equipment we have on the ground; and \$357,000 for the planning and design of a new Whitehorse ambulance dispatch station. It's an ongoing commitment this government has made to upgrade our ambulance facility and move the ambulance facility up Two Mile Hill.

If you were to look at the budget, you've got a \$357,000 commitment for planning and design for the new Whitehorse ambulance dispatch station. Next year there's a \$3.2 million investment — that's the construction of the site, and in 2012-13, the final cost of that is \$1.7 million. As you see, Mr. Chair, we've got a just under \$5.5-million commitment over the next three years to not only modernize and build a new facility that is badly needed by the ambulance service here in the city, but it's also an investment this government will make in the ongoing future of how we see ourselves managing our ambulances and the dispatch of those ambulances from a central location.

That doesn't mean that the ambulance station as it exists today will be closed. That will be used as a satellite ambulance station because, as we all know, we have many air-evacs going out of the territory. For us to move all the ambulances away to a central location on the Two Mile Hill would be unproductive for the use of the hospital. Plus we see a use for that ambulance facility to accommodate the Riverdale and downtown core area, so we'll be utilizing that building on into the future, but it will be shrunk down into what it is today.

In fact, we're also committed to look at and upgrade the mine safety building as a temporary station for the ambulances and that should be up and running in the fall.

We are committing to put resources into the mine safety building as a temporary ambulance facility for the ambulances in the Takhini area. That's another investment this government's going to make in managing a go-forward plan on our ambulance facility at the top of the Two Mile Hill.

There are some interesting statistics here. The Yukon Emergency Medical Services provides emergency pre-hospital care and transportation for residents and non-residents. In Whitehorse, the ambulance station is staffed, of course, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In our 15 rural communities, EMS services are provided by volunteers. In addition, EMS has two full-time primary care paramedics in the city of Dawson, and of course in Watson Lake.

In 2009, Emergency Medical Services — these are figures that the department has given me — responded to 5,033 ambulance calls in the City of Whitehorse. That's a 365-day number — and also responded to 1,500 ambulance calls in our rural communities, provided 643 medevacs by air from the communities to Whitehorse General Hospital and to hospitals outside of the Yukon.

That's where you can see the importance of having the ambulance facility extended at the actual hospital. All of these involve ambulances that come back and forth to the airport.

So if you look at that, that's almost two medevacs a day. That's either internally in the Yukon or externally to our partners in Vancouver, Edmonton or Calgary. As you can see by these statistics, this is a very busy department, or part of our department, and the investments we've put on the ground will enhance what this EMS does and will improve the services in the territory.

When you look at the investment at the new EMS centre at the top of the Two Mile Hill, if you looked at our population growth, most of that population growth is in that area — in other words, on the Alaska Highway. Whether it's south or north, most of our population growth is in that area. It makes sense to have those investments at the top of the hill.

Again, I don't want to diminish the fact that we're going to maintain ambulance presence at the Whitehorse General Hospital to do the hard work it takes to keep our medevac current and local and the investment we're going to make as bridging by working with Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board to lease the mine rescue building to put ambulances closer to the majority of our residents.

**Mr. Cardiff:** I thank the minister for the explanation of the next line item as well, but to stay with this particular one — it's my understanding that the \$250,000 is for ambulance replacement. My understanding is that the standard practice is to bring these new ambulances to Whitehorse and to kind of work the bugs out of them to make sure that they don't have any operational problems that may arise. Then after that, they're deployed to the communities. Can the minister tell us which communities will be receiving new ambulances this year?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** The member opposite is correct. We do bring them into the larger centre here in Whitehorse, as you say, to work out the bugs, but they in turn get much more use, as you can see by the statistics I just read off.

The ambulance facilities here are a lot busier than the outlying areas. Certainly, the plan is to — and this is an internal plan that has nothing to do with me as minister — replace the smaller vans with cube vans. For whatever community still has a van, we have access to a cube van. Eventually we have all the facilities with the same kind of ambulance. Of course, that will take time.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Mr. Chair, I guess the question that arises out of that is about facilities. We're talking about changing the size of the vehicle. The minister will be able to relate to this because these are some of the reasons why he opened the new Golden Horn fire hall. It was because the fire hall was too small and when the equipment changed from the old-style

pumper trucks to the newer style of pumper trucks, it became a safety problem for volunteer firefighters because they couldn't get around the vehicles and they couldn't go between the vehicles and the front door.

I don't want to re-live the past. What I want to do is make sure that appropriate planning has been done in these communities in order for these new modular-style cube van ambulances to fit into the facilities in the communities that will be receiving them so that we don't have the vehicles pulling into the facility and finding out they don't fit. Then they have to sit outside or we have to make alternative arrangements. It is my understanding that this has actually already happened in one community where the vehicle actually fits but it is really tight and you can't do the work on the vehicle in the building.

Can the minister provide some assurance that adequate facility planning is being undertaken in advance of the deployment of these larger ambulances? I think it is great that the communities are getting them. They are getting a better piece of equipment. They are able to provide better service, safer service in most instances, to those communities and to the people who are in need of those services. We need to make sure our employees will be safe and the investment in those pieces of equipment is also protected and the facilities are adequate.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I agree with the member opposite. There's no point in buying a new piece of equipment if you can't house it. Those are the questions we have to answer as we move this new equipment around the territory.

There are some fire halls or some EMS buildings that need upgrading and we're prepared to do that. What we want to see over the period of time is an enhanced EMS facility, but we also want the equipment to be modern and easy for individuals to work with so that the EMS department can supply services that people in the Yukon have expected.

When this government was elected, the EMS volunteers and the EMS staff were in a position where they weren't FTEs. The kinds of things we've changed in the process make these individuals part of our team and make sure they are fairly compensated and they do the job they do.

Certainly this government has invested in that, but as far as planning on structures and the equipment that goes in them, I agree with the member opposite. We have to go to work and make sure when we transfer these kinds of vehicles around that they are appropriate for the building we're going to put them in. The firehall at Golden Horn was the prime example of that. As we modernize the equipment, we have another cost and that's modernizing the buildings to make sure that the buildings are appropriate for the equipment we put in.

*Emergency Medical Services in the amount of \$250,000 agreed to*

*On Whitehorse Ambulance Station Replacement — Planning and Design*

*Whitehorse Ambulance Station Replacement — Planning and Design in the amount of \$357,000 agreed to*

*Whitehorse Ambulance Station Replacement — Prior Years' Projects*

*Whitehorse Ambulance Station Replacement — Prior Year's Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

*On Prior Years' Projects*

*Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

**Protective Services in the amount of \$1,374,000 agreed to**

**On Community Development**

*On Sport and Recreation*

*On Recreation/Community Centres — Various*

*Recreation/Community Centres — Various in the amount of \$161,000 cleared*

*On Dawson City Recreation Centre*

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** We have a commitment of \$1 million a year to the Dawson City Recreation Centre, which is a five-year commitment. We're working with the municipality now to do a plan on how the investment could be better spent. We can look at a long-term plan of how we, in partnership with the First Nation and the municipality, will replace the existing building. The existing building is not structurally sound. Certainly, we have made the commitment now to move forward in partnership with the city and the First Nation to replace that building as we move forward in the coming years.

**Chair:** Any further debate?

*Dawson City Recreation Centre in the amount of \$1,000,000 agreed to*

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

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

*On Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund — Carcross Recreation Office Renovations*

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

*On Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund — Watson Lake Swimming Pool Repairs*

*Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund — Watson Lake Swimming Pool Repairs in the amount of \$48,000 agreed to*

*On Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund — Beaver Creek Community Centre Upgrades*

*Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund — Beaver Creek Community Centre Upgrades in the amount of \$178,000 agreed to*

*On Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund — Ross River Recreation Centre Upgrades*

*Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund — Ross River Recreation Centre Upgrades in the amount of \$196,000 agreed to*

*On Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund — Carmacks Rink Repair and Walkway*

*Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund — Carmacks Rink Repair and Walkway in the amount of \$120,000 agreed to*

*On Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund — Mt. Lorne Zamboni Shed*

**Mr. Cardiff:** I promised earlier in the debate that I would get up and thank the minister and his department for consideration of my community. It is a much-appreciated addition to the community centre in Mount Lorne.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I would like to thank the member opposite. It is a pleasure to work with the Mount Lorne group.

They have a very positive and very focused direction in the community. Again, it is a partnership. The Mount Lorne association prioritized this investment, and it certainly hasn't been a problem working with the group. They are very positive, hard-working and very focused on their community and also the community complex, which is there today because of the hard work of the individuals. I have never been to a thing in Mount Lorne recreation centre that wasn't well attended by the community and I would like to thank that community for the hard work they do to make their community successful.

*Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund — Mt. Lorne Zamboni Shed in the amount of \$248,000 agreed to*

*On Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund — Prior Years' Projects*

*Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

*On Prior Years' Projects*

*Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

*On Property Assessment and Taxation*

*On Rural Electrification and Telephone Program*

*Rural Electrification and Telephone Program in the amount of \$600,000 agreed to*

*On Domestic Well Program*

**Mr. Cardiff:** I would just like to ask the minister whether or not any progress has been made in dealing with municipalities to try to make this program available within municipalities. I know there are a number of areas in the Yukon, within municipalities, that aren't serviced by water and sewer services — piped water and sewer services — and they have to rely on water delivery. There is a demand for this — I know in the City of Whitehorse, in my riding of Mount Lorne and in the Member for Lake Laberge's riding — as well as other municipalities around the territory — this has become an issue.

I'm just wondering whether or not any progress has been made in reaching agreements with municipal governments to take this program on as well.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** We did amend the *Municipal Act* so that they have the flexibility to invest in this kind of an investment. We haven't had any buy-in from the municipalities on this issue. They are the taxing government in these communities so, without their buy-in, it would be impossible for us to do it, but we did amend the *Municipal Act* to do just that.

Mr. Chair, looking at the time this afternoon, I move we report progress.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Lang 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 will 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've 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 the House do now adjourn.

*Motion agreed to*

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

*The House adjourned at 5:27 p.m.*

#### **The following Sessional Paper was filed May 13, 2010:**

10-1-164

Appointments to Major Boards and Committees, Standing Committee on: Fourteenth Report (dated May 12, 2010) (Taylor)