

**Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Thursday, October 14, 2010 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

**DAILY ROUTINE**

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

Tributes.

**TRIBUTES**

**In remembrance of Gordon and Bonnie Cameron**

**Speaker:** Members and guests, it is my pleasure on behalf of the House to pay tribute to two prominent Yukoners of years past. Gordon Cameron, a former Commissioner of the Yukon, passed away peacefully on August 10, 2010. He was predeceased by his loving wife and soulmate, Bonnie, who passed away on November 1, 2009.

Gordon Cameron arrived in the Yukon on March 15, 1941, to commence a career as an aviation mechanic with the British Yukon Navigation — a.k.a. “the BYN” — company air service. In 1944 he married 19-year-old Bonnie Hunter, and for a brief time the newlyweds settled in Whitehorse, until Gordon enlisted with the Canadian Army. After an 18-month stint in the service of king and country, Gordon mustered out of His Majesty’s Service, and the young couple resettled in Whitehorse.

Over the next 16 years Gordon’s aviation career took many twists and turns, culminating in his holding one of the highest level air engineer’s licences in the country, as well as logging hundreds of hours of bushflying experience.

Over that same period, Gordon and Bonnie were very immersed in the betterment of their community. Gordon served two terms on Whitehorse City Council as an alderman, and one term as the second Mayor of Whitehorse. He was also active in the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Mines, the Yukon Transportation Association, Yukon Order of Pioneers, the Masonic Lodge, the Midnight Sun Pipe Band and the Whitehorse Kiwanis Club. As a sideline from aviation, he also established the Volkswagen agency for the Yukon with his father, “Pop” Cameron, and Northern Metallic Sales.

Bonnie was always busy with the tasks of being a supportive and devoted homemaker for Gordon and their four sons, but she still found time to be an active member of the Whitehorse Drama Club and a strong booster of the Alaska Music Trail. As the second “First Lady” of Whitehorse during Gordon’s term as mayor, Bonnie was always a gracious hostess, whether it be extending warmth and greetings to locals, or good old Yukon hospitality to guests from far away, including Prime Minister and Mrs. Diefenbaker, and Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip.

And of course, present at all times was Gordon’s famous and indomitable sense of humour, which was usually at the

forefront, whether he was dealing with a citizen irate over a missed garbage pick-up, or escorting the Queen along First Avenue.

In May of 1962, Gordon was appointed Commissioner of the Yukon by Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, a move that set the precedent of appointing local Yukoners to the top post. Once again, he and Bonnie served the position with distinction, sharing their Yukon hospitality with all visitors.

In the spring of 1966, Gordon resigned from the one and only government job he ever had and returned to private enterprise. He and Bonnie moved to Edmonton, where Gordon commenced a 20-year career as an executive assistant with Canadian Utilities Ltd., which subsequently became part of the ATCO Group. In this job Gordon’s administrative skills were put to work, along with his popular public speaking style, as he served in the role of company public relations throughout the Yukon, Alberta and Northwest Territories.

Of course, Bonnie hosted as required. She also immersed herself in the sport of curling, as a player in two leagues, as well as ardently supporting “her” Edmonton Eskimos.

Throughout his life, Gordon indulged in his hobbies of model airplanes and model railroading, but his greatest recreational passion was boating. For over 40 years he bought, swapped, built, traded, and restored dozens of boats, his ultimate nautical achievement being the restoration of the historic Yukon vessel *MV Dorothy*.

As a break from his white-collar job in Edmonton, Gordon built a flying replica of an open-cockpit World War I fighter plane just to keep up his aircraft engineering and piloting skills, not to mention his sanity.

On Sunday, October 17, the Cameron family is holding a celebration of life for Bonnie and Gordon at the Yukon Transportation Museum, between the hours of 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. The family invites all those who would like to share a few memories of Bonnie and Gordon’s life in the Yukon to join them for refreshments in the Bush Pilot Room.

I’d like you to join me in welcoming sons, Bob and Hunter, daughters-in-law, Lois and Carol, and grandsons, Kyle and Bryan, who are in the gallery today. Thank you for coming.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Are there any further tributes?

**In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** I rise on behalf of the government, the Independent member and the NDP to pay tribute to Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I stand here before you because I have a dream. I have a dream of a day when no women will feel terror at discovering a lump in her breast. I dream of a day when breast cancer no longer steals our wives, sisters, mothers or daughters from us. I dream of a day when we no longer need a Breast Cancer Awareness Month. According to the Canadian Cancer Society, breast cancer is the most common cancer among Canadian women.

*[Member spoke in French.]*

The society estimates that over 23,000 women will be diagnosed with cancer this year and that over 5,000 women will die from it. Men are not immune either; almost 200 Canadian

men will be diagnosed, and 50 will die. Here at home, 24 Yukon women were diagnosed with breast cancer last year. Breast cancer is a sneaky killer of mostly women — I say women because the vast majority of breast cancer occurs in women, but women are learning to decrease their odds by doing regular breast self-examinations to detect changes before they become lethal. Thank goodness a diagnosis for breast cancer is no longer an automatic death sentence.

*[Member spoke in French.]*

Science is fighting back and breast cancer rates have been declining since the mid-1980s. According to the Canadian Cancer Society, the five-year survival rate has improved by nearly five percent over the past 10 years. The five year survival rate for women aged 40 to 79 is now almost 90 percent, and over 80 percent of the women are under 40. The facts are cause for hope and celebration and that's why I am pleased to stand here and congratulate all the men, women and children who are working so hard to raise funds for cancer research and to support women with breast cancer.

*[Member spoke in French.]*

Their work makes a huge difference. As in previous years, Whitehorse volunteers have rallied together to organize Mardi Bra this Saturday, a fun evening in support of Karen's Fund, which provides financial support to women with breast cancer. It features a dance and auctions and, for the first time, it is open to men. I encourage all my colleagues in the House to buy a ticket and take part this year.

As well, the health promotion unit has organized a women's night out, which features a Patti Flather play about the search for the perfect bra, a photo exhibit of real women, real breasts and a question-and-answer session to find out more about what women can do to take an active role in their breast health. These "getting to know your girls" nights have taken place in four Yukon communities during November. We know that breast cancer does not only impact women, but the men in their lives as well.

I would like to recognize the Whitehorse firefighters. This year they are sponsoring a "pink shirt" campaign, selling specifically designed, pink t-shirts to support Karen's Fund. They know that pink is a very strong colour for everyone this month. We honour their commitment to the women of this community.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to say thank you to all those who work so hard to beat cancer. Their commitment, passion and accomplishments give me hope that one day cancer will be one thing of the past.

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

**Mr. Mitchell:** I rise today on behalf of the Official Opposition and the Third Party to pay tribute to Breast Cancer Month. October 2010 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> year that National Breast Cancer Awareness Month has been educating women about breast cancer detection, diagnosis and treatment.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women in Canada. It is estimated that 23,300 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in Canada in 2010. There is no single cause of breast cancer. However, personal or family history of cancer may put women and men at risk. A cancer diag-

nosis can lead to many challenges for the person diagnosed with cancer and for their families.

I'm sure each and every one of us has been touched, in some way, by the terrible impact of this disease on a loved one, a friend, a colleague. Early detection means finding a cancer or a pre-cancerous condition at an early stage. Early detection does not necessarily prevent cancer, but in most cases, finding cancer early increases the chances of successful treatment and a better outcome.

This year in Yukon, as mentioned by the minister, our Whitehorse firefighters, in conjunction with the International Association of Firefighters, have kicked off a new campaign called, "Care Enough to Wear Pink," aimed at raising awareness and funds for breast cancer. Our firefighters, some of whom are with us in the gallery today, will all be wearing pink t-shirts on the job during the month of October, and the pink t-shirts are on sale at both the city fire halls. Funds raised locally from the sale of t-shirts will go to Karen's Fund, which was set up to provide financial assistance for Yukoners with breast cancer to provide financial assistance throughout their cancer journey.

The fourth annual Mardi Bra Costume Party, as noted, is being held Saturday, October 16, and is also a fundraising event to support women with breast cancer. This year the event will be co-ed, as a diagnosis of breast cancer also affects the men in our lives. All funds raised will go to Karen's Fund.

Fighting breast cancer is a difficult battle. The women and their families should not have to worry about money.

In Yukon in 2009, 24 women were diagnosed with breast cancer. Breast Cancer Awareness month provides a reminder to women to perform a breast self-examination and schedule a mammogram. Please remind all the women in your lives to do the same.

We give a heartfelt thank you to the many volunteers, fundraisers, sponsors and supporters who help in the fight against breast cancer. Your generosity and the giving of your time to such a worthy cause is how we can make cancer history. None of us can rest easy or relax in our fight against cancer until we achieve victory.

### **In recognition of the Be the Change movement**

**Hon. Mr. Rouble:** I rise today to honour our young leaders in the Be the Change movement and their wonderful work over the past week and in the past six years. I'd also like to honour our leaders in the Yukon Circle of Change. The Be the Change movement inspires people to realize what's happening in the world around them, make positive choices and act as a living example of the power of contribution and compassion. Each year on Challenge Day, students make promises to be the change they want to see in the world, to embody their vision for a better world. As a follow-up, there will be Be the Change newsletters and bulletin boards in the schools, with reminders to students and staff of their commitments and also Be the Change challenges.

There was a "sea of pink" campaign in which students all wore pink in protest against bullying. The annual week-long campaign of kindness involves commitments to do an act of kindness every day based on themes.

There was a “pay it forward” campaign in which the movie was screened and students passed “pay it forward” cards when they performed an act of kindness.

All these small steps put together create positive change for the people of the community, and they are even more powerful for the people who perform them.

The Be the Change movement started in F.H. Collins Secondary School and has spread to Porter Creek Secondary School and to l'École Émilie Tremblay. The movement has extended beyond the schools now, and there is a Yukon Circle of Change comprised of supportive adults committed to the movement. I commend all people involved in the Be the Change movement, and I look forward to seeing the movement continue to grow and flourish.

Our adult and youth leaders of the Be the Change movement are truly making a difference.

Mr. Speaker, we are joined today in the gallery by Ms. K.S.P., some of the coordinators and many of the students involved in the movement. Please join me in welcoming them.

*Applause*

### **In recognition of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**

**Mr. Cardiff:** I rise on behalf of the NDP caucus and other caucuses as well, if they so choose, to pay tribute to International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, which is marked on October 17, this Sunday.

The Commissioner's proclamation announcing this as Poverty and Homelessness Action Week admits that poverty and homelessness is prevalent in the Yukon. It goes on to state that the health and welfare of many Yukoners are impacted by the dominance of poverty in their lives.

What we need to take from this week's proclamation is the word “action” that is part of the proclamation. It is time to be serious, to take sincere measures to actually alleviate the conditions that cause poverty and homelessness, not just to talk about it and to study it some more, not just to make proclamations and speeches.

The amount of poverty in Canada is a disgrace, particularly for our children. The poor and the working poor in our territory do not have the tools for their full participation in society. They have problems with health and they are overrepresented in the justice system. The working poor are in the lowest paid and most insecure jobs and have twice the average rate of unemployment.

Because of the cost of childcare responsibilities and transportation, women are often marginalized by having to stay home and are not able to attend training, full-time work or social events that would broaden their lives. The amount of social housing available at reasonable rent right now is close to nothing, causing people to have to live on the streets.

All of these conditions have tremendously negative effects on our children's health and welfare. The cycle of poverty, violence, addictions and crime is thus perpetuated through generations. It costs Yukon society valuable lives that could have been contributing to the general social wellness of all of us.

The financial investment made by taxpayers in social programs, in the belief that it will change poverty and homeless-

ness, is almost totally wasted. Patchwork programs of government and non-government organizations attempting to alleviate poverty are not successful enough. If they were, we wouldn't be bringing poverty and homelessness to everyone's attention this week. We wouldn't be spending hundreds of thousands of dollars talking about social inclusion.

Many of these programs blame the victims of our economic system, rather than taking the courage to change things.

Charities such as food banks and soup kitchens are symbols of our society's failure. They don't change things; they keep the poor where they are. All they really do is make us, here, who do the giving, feel a little better. They make us feel like we're doing something, but we're not solving the problem.

One of the main threads that can be traced through all the conditions of poverty is the lack of literacy. This week we were asked in the House to celebrate the high rate of literacy in the Yukon. It is true that 33 percent of the Yukon's population scored in the lower levels of the international adult literacy skills survey in 2005, while the average across Canada was 48 percent. However, I was dismayed to listen to this statistic being used to make ourselves look good. The survey the government refers to is misleading. It is also detrimental since it leads to complacency about funding literacy. The survey did not gather data from rural communities, or from adults whose first language was neither French nor English. In other words, the respondents in the Yukon were from Whitehorse, where there is a high concentration of highly educated professionals. This distorts the statistics to the point of unreliability. A more recent statistic and analysis shows that the rate of literacy is much lower in rural Yukon, and they were not even considered in the five-year-old survey, as if they did not exist.

Poverty is intertwined with low literacy levels. If we are to act honestly on the very serious problems of poverty, we must invest in education at the levels where it is needed the most. We must invest in adults who are not able to participate in society because of conditions beyond their capacity to change. One of the most important ways to act on poverty and the lack of literacy is to ensure that we have a truly lifelong education system that includes everyone. To eradicate poverty, we need to understand that it is a condition of our capitalist economy that needs transforming.

Thank you.

**Mr. Mitchell:** I rise today on behalf of the Official Opposition to pay tribute to the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The eradication of poverty means to eliminate, remove or erase poverty. Whenever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights and dignity are violated. Whole families — children, parents and grandparents — find it hard to escape poverty, as it is passed on from one generation to another. People born into poverty are more likely than others to be poor when they get older because their life chances were undermined at an early age.

In Yukon, the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition acts as an umbrella group for a number of local organizations that work to assist Yukoners who are struggling to make ends meet for a variety of reasons. Despite our relative wealth as a territory,

there are Yukoners who live below the poverty line; there are Yukoners who struggle to afford a place to live or have no place to call home; there are Yukoners who cannot afford to feed their families without help from others.

Today during Poverty and Homelessness Action Week, Whitehorse Connects is providing services, including haircuts, massage, legal advice from lawyers and health advice from nurses, food and clothing, all day long at the Old Fire Hall. All these services are being provided by volunteers who are giving of their time to assist fellow Yukoners.

Children growing up in poverty and social exclusion are less likely to do well in school, enjoy good health or stay out of trouble. They may find it difficult to get work and struggle to find their place in society. By eradicating poverty, we can create true equality.

This day is an opportunity to acknowledge the struggle and efforts of those living in poverty and to make the voice of the poor heard. We go about our daily lives, not realizing how poor people are living their lives and how difficult life becomes when they are unable to get the basic needs of life.

There is extreme poverty in the world, particularly in underdeveloped countries, but we must also realize there is poverty and hardship in our own developed country. Many Canadians are jobless or homeless, or live below the poverty line. The recent economic crisis has impacted the situation.

Older people, many of whom live on small pensions, are forced to help out their children and grandchildren when their children lose their jobs. The reverse problem also occurs when younger people must help out parents who are struggling to make ends meet on small pensions. This situation is putting ever more people at risk of poverty.

Poverty and homelessness is perhaps the challenge of the world today. We must undertake a truly collective anti-poverty effort that will lift living standards and alleviate human suffering. This challenge cannot remain a task for the few; it must become a calling for the many.

We salute the many volunteers, supporters and non-profit organizations that offer help and hope to those in need. We urge everyone to join the struggle. Together we can make real and sufficient progress toward the end of poverty. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Are there any further tributes?  
Introduction of visitors.

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** Unfortunately, it took a little while for tributes to take place, so some of my guests have left, but I would like members of the House to help me recognize members from the Whitehorse Firefighters Association, local 2217, who are donating their time and effort to bring awareness to breast cancer and also to generate donations to support Karen's Fund. We have two members here from the local firefighters in the gallery with us today.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Are there further introductions?

## Speaker's statement

**Speaker:** Prior to returns or documents for tabling, the Chair will make a statement about events yesterday that occurred during tabling of returns and documents.

At that time, the minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation sent to the Table a box of black markers. That was not in order. Members are aware that the only items that are acceptable for tabling are paper documents, and the Chair would ask all members to resist the temptation to send anything else to the Table.

Also during tabling of returns and documents, the Leader of the Official Opposition made remarks about the utility of the document which he sent to the Table. This is also out of order as there is no debate permitted at that time.

Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

Any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motion?

## NOTICES OF MOTION

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to support Bill C-545, titled *An Act to Eliminate Poverty in Canada*, sponsored by the New Democratic Party of Canada and presently before the House of Commons, in order to establish a national poverty elimination strategy that will:

(1) make income security, housing and social inclusion priorities;

(2) be based in a strong human rights framework;

(3) measure poverty;

(4) deal with factors that put some at greater risk than others;

(5) have health and income security ministers take the lead;

(6) establish a stronger, renewed National Council on Welfare to be called the National Council on Poverty and Social Inclusion; and,

(7) establish an independent poverty elimination commissioner to monitor and hold government accountable for the elimination of poverty in Canada.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to support Bill C-304, *An Act to ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for Canadians*, which is sponsored by the New Democratic Party of Canada and is presently before the House of Commons, in order to require the minister responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to:

(1) consult with the provincial and territorial ministers responsible for municipal affairs and housing; and,

(2) consult with representatives of municipalities, aboriginal communities, non-profit and private sector housing providers and civil society organizations;

in order to establish a national housing strategy.

**Speaker:** Are there any further notices of motion?

Is there a ministerial statement?

### Speaker's ruling

**Speaker:** Prior to proceeding with Question Period, the Chair will rule on points of order raised during yesterday's Question Period.

In the interest of time, the Chair will not repeat all that was said yesterday and will simply rule on the matter.

However, the Chair does thank all members for their contributions to the points of order yesterday. The Chair finds that neither of the phrases used yesterday by the Member for Kluane were out of order, in the context in which they were used. Neither phrase attributed a false or unavowed motive to another member or accused another member of deliberately misleading the House.

As for the reference to Standing Order 23(4), that is relevant where the Speaker is called upon to name a member of the House, which was not at issue yesterday.

The Chair appreciates that some members may not be pleased with this ruling; however, the House is a forum for political debate and not all strong words are necessarily unparliamentary.

At the same time, the Chair would remind all members that strong words have a tendency to beget strong words and members who use them may find themselves on the receiving end of similar comments in the future.

The Chair thanks all members for the attention to this ruling. This then brings us to Question Period.

### QUESTION PERIOD

#### Question re: Yukon Housing Corporation mortgage portfolio

**Mr. Mitchell:** I have questions for the Minister of Finance. His colleague, the minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation, has been in denial for months about the government's plan to sell off Yukoners' mortgages. Minutes from the Yukon Housing Corporation's meeting in August 2009 are very clear: "The Corporation does not have enough cash in its bank account to pay all of its expenditures for the fiscal year."

The corporation considered three options, including selling the mortgage portfolio to a bank in order to raise money. The minutes also proved that the Minister of Finance was part of the discussions, stating: "The current dialogue between YHC, the Department of Finance, and a bank do not appear to lead to a short-term solution."

Will the Minister of Finance tell Yukoners what role he played in this latest privatization plan? Or is he in denial just like his colleague?

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** The part that the member does not bother to read I quote again because it was blacked out in the document sent to him. I will read it again in the House: "...Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors approved a one-time offer on the removal of any prepayment penalty for Yukon Housing Corporation mortgage clients, and encourage those clients to transfer their mortgages to a bank."

What was happening is bank rates, at that point, were as low as about 1.5 percent, I believe. I know one person who was down in that range for a variable mortgage. Some of the Yukon Housing Corporation mortgages were as high as 7.9 percent. It made sense for some of these people to have the opportunity, which they asked for, to transfer their mortgages to a bank and take advantage of other bank programs, such as a line of credit that would allow them to free up some money for an education, a higher education, a new car or whatever it happened to be. That was what it was all about. For the member opposite, it has nothing to do with what amount was in the bank, as he knows — although they do conveniently somehow miss a savings account of over \$100 million and claim that it's not there — what was lacking was vote authority, which was taken care of later in the further supplementary. Of course, what he also conveniently misses is \$7.19 million in this supplementary budget. Boy, did we do a bad job of trying to sell it off.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Well, the Housing minister is quoting from the wrong document. I'm quoting from the board minutes, which he assured this House he doesn't read. Now, it's all about trust, and here's another reason Yukoners no longer trust this government. The government is in denial.

The August 6, 2009 minutes from the Yukon Housing Corporation clearly indicate the corporation was out of money. They also confirm the corporation considered the option of selling the mortgage portfolio to raise money. They also confirmed the Department of Finance was involved in these privatization discussions. Yukoners know the Minister of Finance keeps a close eye on things in his department.

Will the Finance minister tell Yukoners what role he played in these discussions, or does he expect Yukoners to believe his department was involved without his knowledge?

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** The document I'm reading from is entitled, *Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors Meeting, August 06, 2009*, which took place at the Yukon Housing Corporation boardroom. Now, again, I don't know what he thinks he's reading from. That part was certainly not blacked out; that's what was there. It was the Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors doing their good work and considering options. That's what they do. The government doesn't do that. In this case, it doesn't interfere with the board of directors. What the member opposite is saying very clearly is that, as a government, the Liberals would certainly interfere with corporate boards.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Well, it's nice to see that the Housing Corporation minister does read the minutes of his department.

Last year the Premier was secretly negotiating the sell-off of our energy future. The former chair of Yukon Energy Corporation blew the whistle on that plan and the Premier's right-hand man resigned over it. It appears the Premier learned nothing from that experience because, a few months later, he was right back at it, trying to sell off Yukoners' mortgages. It's all about trust.

The minutes we obtained under access to information confirm the Premier's involvement — quote: "The current dialogue between YHC, the Department of Finance and a bank do not appear to lead to a short-term solution."

Will the Premier admit the government considered privatizing the mortgage portfolio and that he was involved?

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** According to the Yukon *Housing Corporation Act* — or whatever the title is there — neither the Premier nor the minister sit on that board. He is obviously saying that the Liberals would expect a seat and would expect to control that.

Now again, it is the duty of the Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors, as any board, to do due diligence and make good recommendations, which they do. I'm reading from a document that was provided to me on Monday morning, after the Member for Kluane referred to a document in this House but failed to table it. I had no idea what the document was that he was reading from, so I requested a copy.

I do not get the minutes of board of directors meetings. I don't want to — they're an independent body. But what the Liberal leader has said and what the Liberal Party has said is that they would interfere with corporate boards, they would interfere with their decisions, they would expect seats on that board, I would assume, to give that control, and they somehow have missed \$7.19 million added to the mortgage portfolio, and yet they claim that this was trying to sell it off. Why would we put \$7.195 million into the account if we were trying to sell it? The member isn't even close to reality.

#### **Question re: Yukon Housing Corporation mortgage portfolio**

**Mr. Mitchell:** Let's follow up with the Finance minister who has been abnormally silent on this issue. The Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors meeting minutes for August 6, 2009 report that discussions occurred between the Yukon Housing Corporation, the Department of Finance and a bank regarding private sector financing. Finance was not only aware of discussions; they were involved in them. When asked specifically about discussions and negotiations to sell off mortgages, this government chose to deny that such discussions had occurred. Is the Finance minister now going to state he had no idea what happened in his own department? We find that hard to believe, considering he is quite involved in other ministers' departments. Will the Premier now admit that he knew of the discussions between the Yukon Housing Corporation, the Department of Finance and a private sector bank?

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** Again, for the member opposite, he mentions "bank" — gosh, the Yukon Housing Corporation talks to banks about mortgages. What an incredible piece of information the Liberal leader has stumbled into.

Yes, because when mortgages are discharged earlier, before their maturation — if the member opposite thought he had a good knowledge of mortgages, but perhaps he doesn't — there is a penalty, most often in the three-month range penalty, and there are legal fees. We asked the banks what the cost would be, what the cost of legal fees would be to change the mortgage over to the bank. We got their good advice and, when we asked for an analysis by the Management Board Secretariat — when the corporation asked for that analysis — the corporation pointed out that we would be giving up revenue, obviously, by waiving that fee.

The Yukon Housing Corporation allowed Management Board to give their good advice. Yes, there would be a loss of revenue. We didn't think it would be significant; we were willing to waive that. That has not been presented to Management Board or Cabinet for a decision. I would certainly support it; I think it's a good idea; but it has not been presented to government.

**Mr. Mitchell:** The minutes show clearly that the discussions involved selling the portfolio, or considering it, to a bank. It's not about blaming boards of directors or about blaming officials. It's about how this government's ministers operate in secrecy and are not open and accountable to Yukoners.

We're asking for the ministers in this government to be open and accountable for statements made in this House and actions taken in the departments they're responsible for. Be accountable; it is all about trust, Mr. Speaker.

Why deny the negotiations? Was it going to hit too close to home with the secret energy sell-off negotiations? Will the Premier admit the government considered privatizing the mortgage portfolio and that he was therefore involved?

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** Again, the member opposite doesn't seem to be listening or digesting what he's being told here.

In transferring the mortgage clients to banks — and I'll read from the same document — the Yukon Housing Corporation would remove deterrents and consider incentives to encourage existing mortgage clients to transfer their mortgages to a bank. For example, the three-month interest penalty could be waived for green-home mortgage clients who want to move their mortgage to a bank. Yukon Housing Corporation could also pay a contribution to the legal costs involved — and they suggested \$500 — with a transfer of a Yukon Housing Corporation mortgage to a bank, as an incentive. This would reduce Yukon Housing Corporation's mortgage portfolio in exchange for cash. It would, but it would also drop the amount of income.

These are the sorts of things the Management Board Secretariat does. What I'm shocked at is that the member opposite again tells us that a Liberal government would want to have input and control into a corporation. We don't find that acceptable. And what I'm also hearing is that he has very little respect for the Management Board Secretariat that does these analyses. They are exceptional people and give us good advice. Obviously, advice isn't high in this member's portfolio.

**Mr. Mitchell:** You know, Mr. Speaker, we know that the minister is fascinated, now that he is actually reading the minutes of a department that he is responsible for, but the minutes — if he would read all the way through them — I know he hasn't had them long, apparently — tell the real story. The minister can deny all he wants, but the minutes clearly confirm the involvement of his department and the Finance department, and therefore two ministers.

It is about trust, and Yukoners learn more and more each day that they cannot trust this government. Yukoners are tired of this government's secret negotiations and then the denials that follow. They are tired of not getting the full story from ministers when asked questions. All they hear is "Deny, deny,

deny.” They want to hear the actual facts and a real answer to questions. Will either minister come clean and tell us about their involvement in the Department of Finance’s and Yukon Housing Corporation’s discussions on selling off Yukoners’ mortgages?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Mr. Speaker, this is interesting, considering the issue of trust. You know the Liberals originally accused this government of selling Energy Corporation assets. Isn’t it interesting today they are now talking about energy future? In that context, Mr. Speaker, energy future in the Yukon is being built. One of the largest projects in the history of the Yukon Territory is underway in partnership with the Government of Canada. Mr. Speaker, that is the energy future. We’re building it.

Secondly, the member opposite, the Liberal leader is now trying to fabricate an issue of selling a mortgage portfolio —

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

### Point of order

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

**Mr. Mitchell:** In accusing another member of fabrication, the member violates Standing Order 19 — it speaks about truth. I think you know which one. I could pick several of them. It’s about accusing another member of being untruthful in this House.

### Speaker’s ruling

**Speaker:** You are right. Hon. Premier, do not use that terminology. Sit down, sir. Sit down, please.

The Hon. Premier knows more than enough not to use that kind of terminology. It goes back to the ruling that I made earlier today: harsh words will beget harsh words, and nobody wants to be called the words that each side has been using. Members, just keep that in mind.

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Inferences here are that in the responsibility of the Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors and all involved, when there’s a spending of monies that are over-vote authority, that is somehow, in the Liberal Leader’s mind, a selling of assets or a mortgage portfolio. If the member cared to look at the facts of the matter, the decisions made by government address the over-vote authority of spending by the Yukon Housing Corporation. The minister has been clear on that. The minister has been clear on all counts. This is just another one of those Liberal fantasies.

### Question re: Water quality testing

**Mr. Cardiff:** Yesterday I asked the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources several questions about this government’s management of the mining boom. It’s safe to say he was unprepared and he got flustered. We’re looking for evidence of this so-called strong regulatory regime. In response, the minister used a lot of words like “trust” and “faith”, but never answered the serious questions that we posed. Yukoners want to see some evidence that, apart from taking credit for the boom, this government is actually managing it properly. So I will ask the same question as yesterday, and I hope the minister

is prepared today, and can provide some details. Why is the Department of Environment — the department with the most experience in knowledge of water quality testing — been dispossessed of the mining file?

**Hon. Mr. Rouble:** I would encourage the member opposite to vary from his script, and to listen to the responses that are provided in this Assembly. We do have a very strong regulatory process in this territory. Look at our different vehicles we have for accessing projects, whether they’re through YE-SAA or the different legislation we have, whether it’s through the *Waters Act*, the *Quartz Mining Act*, the different regulatory processes such as the quartz mining land use permit or the mining land use permit. The member opposite, the NDP, is putting forward the idea that inspectors in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources are less professional, less responsible and follow the *Waters Act* less than other inspectors would.

Again, I’ll say for the member opposite, that is ridiculous. He should retract any statement of that nature. It’s insulting not only to me, but to the inspectors, through client services and inspection in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. They do an excellent job of following Yukon legislation, ensuring compliance, working with industry and working with the environment.

**Mr. Cardiff:** As I said yesterday, it’s not the officials or the employees we’re concerned about; we’re concerned about the minister’s leadership on this.

The second question I have deals with the court challenge around Western Copper. The Water Board said no to the water licence in this controversial project. The company said, “We’ll see you in court” — something that’s popular with this government. Important stuff.

The Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council’s report, entitled *Water Quality Protection in the Yukon River Watershed*, says this case could make or break our water regime.

We wanted to know yesterday what this government plans to do. What is its position? Instead, the minister got angry. He said the NDP was impugning officials. That’s not what we were doing. The minister said I was off-topic. He was the one who was off-topic. Let’s try again. How will the minister defend our strong regulatory regime before the Supreme Court on this action?

**Hon. Mr. Rouble:** Yes, I will get angry when officials in this government, the hard-working people who do the work that they’re entrusted to carry out, are insulted by others. I will get angry at that.

Again, the member opposite needs to clear the water on this. He needs to stop muddying it. We’re hearing a couple of different issues being brought forward here. He has talked about the Water Board; he’s talking about environmental standards. But he doesn’t seem to grasp the areas of responsibilities that all have.

I appreciate the question. Let’s try to provide a bit of clarity to this. The Government of Yukon has significant pieces of legislation and regulation on our books. These include the *Waters Act*, the placer regulations, the quartz mining regulations — we follow those. We also go through with an assessment process through YESAA, which is done through the federal

government with the involvement of the territorial government, Yukon First Nations and others. We also have the Water Board, which is a quasi-judicial body that follows its own processes. There are significant processes in place to protect Yukon's environment and to allow for reasonable development in the territory.

**Mr. Cardiff:** The minister's lack of responses to these questions leads me to believe he has some concerns that he doesn't want to share with Yukoners. Now the *Waters Act* —

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

#### Point of order

**Speaker:** Go ahead, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, on a point of order.

**Hon. Mr. Rouble:** I've sat through a lot, but to have a member impute a false or unavowed motive time and time again is extremely frustrating in this Assembly.

#### Speaker's ruling

**Speaker:** On the point of order, I understand the honourable member's frustrations and sometimes it is the nature of controversial and hard questions but, from the Chair's perspective, there is no point of order.

**Mr. Cardiff:** The *Waters Act* has been enforced since March 20, 2003, without substantive changes being made. It is high time that we look at the act and bring forward changes that would, among other things, strengthen the powers of inspectors. It just makes sense that we would constantly be looking for ways to strengthen the regulatory regime.

Yesterday I asked whether this government has been sitting on recommendations about amendments to the *Waters Act*. He didn't answer that question either, so I'll try again. Is it true that an internal review suggesting amendments that would strengthen the *Waters Act* has been gathering dust for years at the Cabinet table?

**Hon. Mr. Rouble:** Well, we know the NDP would like Yukoners to believe that inspectors in the Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources do less of a job than inspectors in other departments. That patently isn't correct. I appreciate it does get heated in here, but we do have to recognize the strong regulatory framework that we have in the territory with strong pieces of legislation. We have to respect the issue of devolution, the devolution of the *Waters Act*, and the good work of successor resource working groups, in order to provide successor legislation. These are issues that the government is currently working on.

We're responsible for not only that act, but the *Lands Act* and a number of other different pieces of successor legislation. Devolution was an important step for this territory, and it's one that this government has responded to responsibly. We will work with our inspectors, whatever department they're in, to ensure that our legislation is met, followed and enforced appropriately.

#### Question re: Yukon Housing Corporation mortgage portfolio

**Mr. McRobb:** It was only last year when this Yukon Party government tried to privatize Yukon's energy future. We all remember the Premier storming out of a news conference, leaving behind officials to answer questions. Since then, public support for this government has nose-dived and the number one issue to voters is good governance. It's all about trust, and Yukoners simply don't trust this government.

Now it turns out that, shortly after the lid blew off on the Premier's secret privatization plan, the minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation embarked on his own plan to privatize Yukoners' mortgages. Last week the minister revealed that a submission to Management Board was prepared. Will the minister, in an open and accountable way, agree to make that Management Board submission public?

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** For the member opposite, and for anyone listening, let me read again from the minutes. "In the past two years, Yukon Housing Corporation has experienced a significant increase in public demand for its loan programs. In 2008-09, the Housing Corporation issued twice as many loans as the previous year, and this had an impact of cash flow within the vote authority." At that point, I think there was still over \$200 million in the savings account, but no vote authority to spend it. It continues: "The Corporation does not have enough cash in its bank account..." The corporation didn't; government did, but the corporation did not have that vote authority to pay all of its expenditures. While YHC did receive a \$23-million cash injection in its bank account from the Canada economic stimulus initiatives, this money must be available when needed to pay for economic stimulus projects.

It was this — and I'll let the member ask another question, and I'm sure he will, and I would be happy to read the rest of that. The corporation looked at options. What I hear very strongly is the Liberal Party does not believe in corporations doing independent work; it does not support the members of the boards of directors — good Yukoners who volunteer their time and their efforts to govern these corporations. The member opposite would interfere and not let them work.

**Mr. McRobb:** This minister should try to answer the questions instead of arriving at wrong conclusions. The minister's failure to release these documents contradicts his rhetoric about being open and accountable. It is only reasonable to conclude, therefore, this evidence proves the case that, indeed, this government was secretly working to privatize Yukoners' mortgages at a discount.

Information obtained through access to information states, and I quote: "The Corporation does not have enough cash in its bank account to pay all of its expenditures for the fiscal year."

The corporation was broke and needed cash, so the minister wanted to sell the mortgage portfolio. He even had Management Board do an analysis. At the end of the day, the government backed off, just like the Premier did when his backroom deal was exposed. Will the minister provide this material or does he insist on keeping it secret?

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** Since the member opposite read part of what I had read, I'll continue: "YHC's equity position is

good, with the mortgage portfolio having a principal balance of over \$44 million. In addition, there is an interest revenue on that portfolio which can be estimated at five percent” — significantly higher, I would point out, than the banks were offering at that point — “or \$2.7 million. YHC also has property with a book value of over \$23 million. The current market value of these properties is considerably higher than the book value shown for these assets.”

The corporation did its good due diligence. It looked at options. It asked Management Board to look at options. That’s what they do, and they do an exceptionally good job on it. The member opposite has just told us the Liberals would not allow corporations to work independently. They would not allow the board of director members to act independently. Boy, if I were looking at joining a board right now under a Liberal government, I wouldn’t go near such a board, because they would be constantly harassed and interfered with. That’s the Liberal way; it’s not our way. It’s an independent corporation.

**Mr. McRobb:** Once again, this minister is not answering the questions. I asked him to make certain information available to the public and he again refused. This is the same approach this government took when it tried to privatize our energy future. It promised to be open and then refused to provide any documents. The minister told this House last week there was a decision document done by the Management Board Secretariat. He also said that the Management Board Secretariat did their good work to give advice and options.

This same minister also said he has nothing to hide, so let’s try one more time: will the minister release the work that was done by Management Board?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** The Member for Kluane wants documents, and it is all about trust and it is all about being open and accountable. Will the Member for Kluane present this House the documents that will corroborate the statements by the Liberals — and many of them were made — that the Yukon government was selling Energy Corporation assets? I challenge the member to produce those documents.

Yes, the member should be open and accountable. The member should — should — provide the evidence that backs up his statements.

The Yukon Party government, when it commits, it delivers with action. The Liberals unfortunately talk a lot, make all kinds of inferences and provide the public zero in the way of facts or evidence. That is about trust, Mr. Speaker. How could you trust a government that acts in that manner?

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

**Mr. McRobb:** Last year it was revealed that this Yukon Party government spent \$275,000 of taxpayers’ funds on four contracts for consultants to negotiate the secret sale of Yukon Energy to ATCO. More than a year has elapsed since we filed an access-to-information request for those documents — documents, I might add, that could help Yukoners better understand what they got for their \$275,000.

In April, the Premier was again asked to release the documents referring to the mandate for negotiations. Six months later, this government still hasn’t produced the documents. Releasing these documents for Yukoners to see would be the open

and accountable thing to do, so I ask the Premier: when can we expect to see these documents released?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** What is very confusing when you listen to the Member for Kluane is the member has already presented all these so-called documents that were apparently, in the member’s mind, evidence of some sale.

Let’s look at what’s happening in the Yukon. We’re not selling assets, we’re not selling energy future; we’re building it. The only way that can be done is with partners. The partnership we’ve created in this territory, on many fronts, has resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars being invested in Yukon, invested in Yukon’s future, building Yukon’s future. That is certainly not what the Liberals have done. The Liberals have made all kinds of wild accusations and statements and have failed to provide one single shred of evidence. It is a trust problem, it is about openness, it is about being accountable. The members aren’t even accountable for the limited statements they make.

#### **Question re: Yukon Housing Corporation mortgage portfolio**

**Mr. Mitchell:** Let’s return to the Finance minister’s involvement in the potential sell-off of the Yukon Housing Corporation mortgages. We’ve been here before; we went through the same routine with the Yukon Energy privatization scandal. The minutes from the board of trustees of the Housing Corporation in August 2009 are very clear. The Finance department was involved in the privatization discussions that were going on with the bank.

We have already asked the question: were Yukoners mortgages on the auction block? The evidence says, “Yes, Yukoners’ mortgages were on the auction block, just like Yukon Energy.” This government said, “No, absolutely not true.” That’s the same thing they said about Yukon Energy. What should the public believe — the minutes or the minister?

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** You know, this is kind of an interesting tack here. When Management Board does an analysis, when the Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors does an analysis involving finances, the Finance department gets involved. So what the Liberal leader has just said is that he would not want the Finance department to be involved in any financial discussions. Well, that was pretty obvious by ballooning a \$17-million transmission line — Mayo to Dawson — into a \$42-million Liberal disaster. That’s how we would do it without consulting the Finance department.

It’s very frustrating, but I do, again, have to go back into *Hansard* in 2001. The current Member for Kluane said, and I quote from *Hansard*: “... when you vote Liberal, you’re prepared to throw your values out the window; you’re prepared to forget everything you have heard, and hang on for the ride and expect darn near anything they’ll throw at you because the decisions will be made in the backroom with their backroom friends.” The member opposite researched after that and he joined the party — he wanted to be part of that.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Denial and deflection is nothing new for this minister, or this Premier, or this government. We have lots of quotes from this Premier, but we want to stick to the issue. Now, the minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation denies any knowledge of what has transpired un-

der his watch, but from the minutes, and I quote: “The committee considered the option of selling the mortgage portfolio to a private sector lending institution.”

The Premier did an end run before and tried to sell off assets within this minister’s portfolio. The Yukon Energy Corporation was almost sold to an Alberta-based, private sector corporation two years ago, and the same minister responsible claimed he didn’t know a thing about that either.

So we’ll bring this back to the Premier. Let’s not wait for the final supplementary. As I said, we’ve been here before. Was the privatization of Yukoners’ mortgages a corner-office file? Did the Premier personally handle these negotiations, as he did with Yukon Energy?

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** For the member’s information, I believe the boardroom at the Yukon Housing Corporation is in a corner, so I suppose it was done in a corner office.

He refers to the minutes and a committee. To make sure that the media and everyone listening and reading *Hansard* is clear. The committee he refers to was a finance and program review steering committee formed to examine the various approaches. It included the vice-president of operations of the Yukon Housing Corporation, the director of program delivery, the senior program advisor, the director of community and industry partnering, the acting director of finance systems and administration, and the director of policy and communications. What a shock — they consulted Finance; they consulted banks; and they looked at the financial position.

This is what boards of directors do. Normally, they do it without the input of their political masters, but the Liberals have already said that they’d interfere. They’d keep a close finger on this. They would want copies of all the minutes of every board. They would really want to know what was going on in there and control it. That is not reasonable.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Well, Mr. Speaker, this is about trust — trust in this government. This minister says he doesn’t read these minutes. Perhaps if he read them, he’d have seen the part that said, “As privatization of government assets currently has a high public profile, the public may perceive this option as the privatization or selling of a YG asset at a reduced cost.”

Now the minister who is actually responsible for the Housing Corporation claims that it’s not true, it never happened. Clearly, the evidence says otherwise. Perhaps the minister responsible just didn’t hear it. He wasn’t reading the minutes. The Premier is well known for his willingness to take personal charge of important negotiations, especially when it comes to privatization schemes. The Premier has lost one of his ministers already because he was negotiating a privatization deal behind the backs of his Cabinet. We have no evidence yet that the Premier has learned his lesson, so let’s ask the question directly one more time. Being the last supplementary, we know he’ll finally answer. When is the Premier going to stop trying to sell Yukoners public assets to private sector corporations?

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** The member opposite refers to no proof. Well, yes, that’s the problem: they have no proof. On this side, we’re responsible for what we say. On the opposition side, there is no responsibility whatsoever for what they are saying, and that is a definite problem.

The Liberal member — the man who would be king — is saying that he would expect his government to interfere with boards of directors, with corporations, with all boards, all 600 people. Boy, would I be nervous about joining a board. Volunteering my time under a Liberal government would bother me. Again, I go back to *Hansard*. October 25, 2000, on page 71, the Member for Kluane: “He is waiting for the day the Liberal government says something intelligent even. He could be waiting a long time.” We agree with him on this.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker leaves the Chair*

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Chair (Mr. Nordick):** Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 22, *Second Appropriation Act, 2010-11*. We’ll now proceed with Yukon Housing Corporation general debate. Do members wish a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

**Chair:** Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 22, *Second Appropriation Act, 2010-11*. We will now proceed with Vote 18, the Yukon Housing Corporation.

### Yukon Housing Corporation

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** Mr. Chair, it gives me great pleasure to introduce and discuss Vote 18, the Yukon Housing Corporation, in the *Supplementary Estimates No. 1, 2010-11*. There are a lot of significant and important projects currently underway at the corporation, about which I would like to update the members of the Assembly and the Yukon public.

Back in 2009, you’ll recall that the Government of Canada and Yukon partnered on a joint investment to build new housing and renovate existing affordable housing. Both levels of government officially signed an amendment to the Canada-Yukon affordable housing program agreement, resulting in a joint investment of \$60 million over the following two years. As a result, Yukon announced a series of housing projects that will benefit from this funding.

The announcement included federal funding of \$51 million over two years under Canada's economic action plan, of which \$50 million was designated for northern housing.

As well, \$1 million was announced in programs to assist seniors and persons with disabilities specifically to renovate and retrofit existing social housing. Again, these funds were available over two fiscal years.

The territory is contributing a further \$4 million for these initiatives. Since signing the agreement with Canada in May 2009, Yukon Housing Corporation has expanded and committed almost \$37 million to build new social housing and to repair and upgrade existing social housing.

I should point out that the construction of additional social housing is the first in over a decade. Other governments had not gotten that far, or had not done any of that. Through Canada's economic action plan and contributions from Yukon, almost \$60 million is budgeted during the 2009 to 2011 period for construction and repair of housing. This is in addition to the \$36.6 million already invested in seniors housing in Haines Junction and Whitehorse, and in housing for student families at Yukon College.

The fact is, since 2005 this government has invested almost \$100 million in new, affordable housing. The Yukon Housing Corporation has undertaken major housing construction projects and upgrades of affordable housing throughout the territory. I'll add here that all new construction is being built to Yukon Housing Corporation's SuperGreen energy standards which were basically invented and developed in the Yukon by staff members of the Yukon Housing Corporation. This will ensure a comfortable living environment for tenants and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and operating costs.

Let's review the status of the major projects, along with the impact they've made or are making on the local economy and on the quality of life.

For starters, with this new construction, the Yukon Housing Corporation has increased its housing portfolio by 158 units. That's 158 units more than the previous two governments did, which produced zero units. Yukon Housing Corporation operates 576 social housing units in 10 communities and new construction will add over 100 additional units.

I'd like to be more specific and break it down per project because it's important that the public knows of the good work being done by the Yukon government, and very specifically by the Yukon Housing Corporation and their board of directors.

The Whitehorse affordable family housing complex in Riverdale — I'll address first the very important 32-unit, family-focused housing project nearing completion in Riverdale. The total project cost is estimated at \$7.85 million and, based on multipliers provided by the Department of Economic Development, this project is generating just over 50 person years of direct employment and approximately 10 additional indirect person years of direct employment. The project consists of four individual buildings, each containing eight apartments and all featuring Yukon Housing Corporation's SuperGreen energy standards, of course. This complex will house single parents and their children — both single mothers and single fathers.

We worked with the Women's Directorate on this family housing project, and the demographic group of lone-parent families has been identified as having the largest need for housing. This development includes amenities that benefit the positive growth and development of families. This includes outdoor areas, suitable fencing, enhanced interior design, and a layout specific to the needs of young families.

I'd like to talk for a second about the Ingram sixplex in the new Ingram subdivision in Whitehorse. It's also aimed at families. The Yukon Housing Corporation expects completion of a new sixplex housing development in the Ingram subdivision this fall. The building features four three-bedroom units and two four-bedroom units. The project was also used as a training exercise for Kwanlin Dun First Nation citizens and provided additional value-added benefits including winter works during 2009-10, classroom and hands-on training in SuperGreen home construction methods and installation of radon mitigation systems, as well as ventilation system installation training, plus work experience for Challenge Yukon clients who participated very actively in this project, and from many perspectives, this is a great success.

Takhini duplexes in Whitehorse — the Yukon Housing Corporation purchased three lots in the Takhini subdivision, on which to build three duplexes, for a total of six units. Each unit will be approximately 1,350 square feet, with two bedrooms and, as well, will be built to Yukon Housing Corporation's SuperGreen energy standards, which rates as EnerGuide 85 or better. The corporation is working with Kwanlin Dun First Nation on the construction to provide economic benefits to Kwanlin Dun First Nation, in accordance with the Yukon asset construction agreement. This project will create employment, training, and economic benefits to the Kwanlin Dun First Nation, with much of the construction occurring during the winter months.

The Whitehorse seniors residence, or Waterfront Place — and we've been referring to this for quite some time now as the Alexander Street replacement — it's actually 22 Waterfront Place, I think, is the actual address right now — so we'll refer to it as Waterfront Place. We're working with the Department of Highways and Public Works to build that building, which will be a replacement and somewhat of an addition to the 207 Alexander Street seniors apartment building. Construction is underway on a 30-unit seniors building on the waterfront near Quartz Road. I think everyone in Whitehorse has seen that go up, and how fast it has gone up — at the north end of the city beside Earl's restaurant.

The complex has 24 one-bedroom units and six two-bedroom units. The development also helps to address an aging Yukon demographic. Research findings noted by Yukon Housing Corporation suggest a need for one-bedroom units. This was recognized by the Auditor General. Direct and indirect impacts of the project are estimated to be 56 jobs, a \$5.4-million contribution to the gross domestic product — and this has been analyzed by the Department of Economic Development's economic impact calculator. The projected total capital cost of the project is \$12 million expended over the fiscal year 2010-11. Federal project funding is \$10.8 million, and the

Yukon Housing Corporation is funding the balance of \$1.2 million for common space from the seniors housing management fund. I should explain that the federal programs are really for use of living space. Areas like common space are not part of that federal formula, so that's why we're kicking in on that. The location has close proximity to medical, shopping, food and public transportation services. The existing 13-unit Alexander Street apartment building was constructed in the 1960s and is largely comprised of bachelor suites. We will assess that building once the 22 Waterfront Place is complete. That will occur, we project, in 2011.

If we move out of Whitehorse to Dawson City social housing — the Yukon Housing Corporation is working with the Department of Highways and Public Works to replace the Korbo apartment building in Dawson City with a new 19-unit affordable housing building, making a net gain of six more social housing units. Over half the units are one-bedroom apartments, and this is again consistent with the recommendations to reprofile to meet a current need consistent with the Auditor General's comments.

The projected total capital cost of that project is \$6 million, expended over the fiscal year 2010-11. Site selection, rezoning, geotechnical testing and design were completed in 2009-10 by the Yukon Housing Corporation. Direct and indirect impacts of the project are 28 jobs and a \$2.7-million contribution to gross domestic product.

We have to look at some of the other projects too and what we just referred to as "double-wide trailers". The Yukon Housing Corporation will be building up to 16 houses to replace existing old double-wide trailers throughout the Yukon. Tenders will be issued in 2011 for a construction start in the spring.

Each single-family house will be approximately 1,200 to 1,300 square feet, with three bedrooms, and will be built to Yukon Housing Corporation SuperGreen energy standards, and its accommodating home standards for a barrier-free environment.

In Watson Lake, construction is nearing completion on the twelve-unit seniors housing project. Total project cost is \$4.5 million and, based on multipliers provided by the Department of Economic Development, this project is generating just over 25 person years of direct employment and approximately 5.5 additional indirect person years of employment.

This seniors building includes eight one-bedroom units and four two-bedroom units. It's built to Yukon Housing Corporation's accommodating home standards, and of course to the SuperGreen energy efficiency standards. The new building features include energy efficient construction, as I mentioned, barrier-free common areas, such as an exercise room, TV lounge, capacity for meal preparation, and a common dining area. There are a lot of opportunities and a lot of flexibility in this building.

If we come back toward Teslin, a new eight-unit residence is also nearing completion. This seniors building will include seven one-bedroom units, and one two-bedroom unit. The total project cost is \$2.5 million, and based on multipliers provided by the Department of Economic Development, this project is generating just over 16.5 person years of direct employment

and approximately four additional indirect person years of employment. It, too, of course, is built to Yukon Housing Corporation's SuperGreen energy standards and accommodating standards for a barrier-free environment.

To Faro — this last August, we held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Faro for a new six-unit building for seniors. Many of the town's residents were in attendance. The total project cost was \$2.2 million. Again, based on multipliers provided by the Department of Economic Development, this project is generating just over 11 person years of direct employment and approximately 2.5 additional indirect person years of employment.

Building seniors housing is important, particularly in the rural communities, because our seniors buildings are built to promote independent living and the opportunity for seniors to reside in a barrier-free environment, thus enabling seniors to remain in their community. I realize that the opposition would prefer that medical patients simply drive to Whitehorse. We want to keep people in their own community.

The five-year trend shows that all communities have grown in overall population size and that people over 50 years of age in community are forming a larger percentage of the overall demographic. If we move back into Whitehorse for some of the other projects, one that is absolutely near and dear to my heart is the Abbeyfield project.

For those who aren't familiar with Abbeyfield, Abbeyfield is a non-profit organization that accounts for about 11,000 housing units, I believe, across Canada. This will be the first one that we've built in the Yukon. We are working very closely with Health and Social Services on this project, which is a very different kind of seniors housing project.

Abbeyfield houses were first established in England in 1956 on the premise that many elderly people who are otherwise healthy, suffer from loneliness and insecurity. As a result, they need care, companionship and a practical support in their daily lives. Abbeyfield housing is designed to address these needs. We toured one of the Abbeyfields in the Vancouver area, in Burnaby, I believe. As we were getting the tour of this 12-unit facility, we heard quite a bit of screaming and yelling from the living room and, slightly alarmed, I went in there to find two women in their 90s watching a Vancouver Canucks game; one wasn't a real Canucks fan and they were having a heck of a good time. It sold me on this type of housing. Otherwise, they would be sitting in an apartment somewhere relatively alone and isolated.

There are now over 1,100 Abbeyfield houses in 14 countries — I correct myself on that, Mr. Chair — and the first Canadian Abbeyfield house was established in 1987 in Sidney, British Columbia.

The Abbeyfield concept provides seniors with a private area of their own within the companionship of a shared household. Each building provides modified independent living suites plus common areas including lounges, a dining room and kitchen, recreation areas and a laundry room, and nutritional meals are prepared by a house coordinator who may live on-site and is also responsible for looking after everyday needs of the residents.

There is no provision for acute or long-term care requirements. This is not a medical facility; it is a residential option. Our Yukon Abbeyfield will include up to 12 bed-sitting rooms, each with a private bathroom, and shared common spaces which will include, as I mentioned, the kitchen, dining room, living room, et cetera.

Land has already been selected on Fourth Avenue near the river and lot consolidation has already taken place so that we now have that single-lot set. The Yukon Housing Corporation is working with Yukon Electrical to accomplish necessary power line work on the site this fall — the power lines have to be buried — and the geotechnical work is complete and design is being undertaken over the winter so that building construction can be tendered in the spring for summer construction.

Yukon Housing Corporation plans to hold an information session later this fall to determine the interest of various non-governmental organizations in operating or helping to operate this facility.

This is a model that's done in most other Abbeyfields, and we're curious and anxious to see what we can do in that regard and perhaps build even more of these in the future.

If we come back to the children's receiving home — another collaborative project with the Department of Health and Social Services — there has been the construction of a new children's receiving home. The children's receiving home is a temporary home for children and youth who have been removed from their families and who need a period of assessment and stabilization.

We held a ribbon-cutting event this July, and staff and tenants have been occupying the home ever since. The original children's receiving home was built over 40 years ago and was definitely at the end of its life. We knew that. I won't go into any more detail. It was ready to come down. A life cycle cost benefit analysis concluded it was more cost-effective to build a new replacement home.

I'll stop there. There are other comments I would like to make but, in the interest of running out of time, I'll allow the opposition to ask questions and we'll get back to this.

**Mr. McRobb:** Just to begin on a lighter note, I would mention that, had the minister visited the Abbeyfield complex last evening, he would have seen that the Canucks fans weren't particularly having a good time, especially in the second and third periods of the game against Anaheim.

Now, I would like to thank all the officials, the employees and board members who work for and assist the Yukon Housing Corporation for all the good work they've done and the good work they continue to do. Rest assured, we in the opposition fully realize that issues of concern are related to this government's leadership or, as the case may be, lack thereof. When these people hear us raising concerns about the corporation, we want to assure them this is not an attack on officials or an attack on their work. We fully recognize how government works. That is, directions come from the top.

Now I know the minister likes to say the corporation is independent and arm's length, but there are times when that arm is pretty short. The issues of concern to the opposition today and of public interest, of course, deal with those occasions

when a minister's arm is very short. As we heard today in Question Period, it's not only the Yukon Housing Corporation minister whose arm is short, in terms of giving orders to the department. The Premier has also had a hand through the Department of Finance, and no doubt through other means, in giving instructions to the corporation. We all know how this works. We saw it when the Premier's plan to secretly privatize Yukoners' energy future — when the lid blew off that one. We heard direct testimony from the board members who resigned as a matter of public principle to make people aware of what was going on behind the scenes.

We saw in that case how the Premier had a direct hand. In some cases, this direct involvement by the Premier is without the knowledge of the minister responsible for departments or corporations. I think we see that more often than what has been proven. That's one of the driving reasons we've made several requests for information — to obtain documentation that could prove, in each instance, one way or the other.

How have we made out getting this documentation? Not very good — not very good. Our requests have been simple and clear. They've been made through questions during Question Period. We've put motions on the record. We've had motions for the production of papers, yet this government still hasn't provided the documents requested. One has to wonder why.

Yukoners want a true democracy in the territory. Yukoners want their government of the day to be open, accountable and fiscally responsible. If you look at that term — “open, accountable and fiscally responsible” — you'll find it verbatim in the Yukon Party campaign platform from the last election in 2006. You'll also find that term numerous times on the record in *Hansard*, in media transcripts and plenty of other locations.

This government will say it's open, accountable and fiscally responsible, but then it will behave in a manner that is closed and evasive and unaccountable — the exact opposite. This is something we've been dealing with for years under Yukon Party rule, and it's something the public has come to recognize as the top issue.

Of course, now I'm referring to recent polls by DataPath Systems, and the top issue of importance to Yukoners is good governance. Essentially, the people are crying out for good governance. Are they getting it? Obviously not — that is why they continue to cry out and identify good governance as a top issue.

This was the finding of not just the most recent poll, but previous polls as well. Good governance to Yukoners is more important than the environment or the economy. That is a remarkable statement. It raises all kinds of questions. What could possibly have happened to make good governance the primary issue of importance to Yukoners ahead of the economy and environment?

Well, it was only a year ago when this House was dealing in depth with the Yukon Party government's secret plan to privatize their energy future.

#### **Chair's statement**

**Chair:** Order please. Before we get too far long into the debate on Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, I'd like to remind members that in general debate on a budget bill, it's a

wide-ranging debate, but when you're in votes on a particular department, the debate is supposed to be on that department. I would encourage members to focus their debate on Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation.

**Mr. McRobb:** Well, the concern with the public currently with respect to the Yukon Housing Corporation connects the dots in the minds of Yukoners with this other example about the Premier's secret plan to privatize their energy future, and that cannot be dismissed as being an integral part of what's happening now. Yukoners deserve answers when ministers, such as this Housing minister, are asked, by us elected members in this Assembly. We've asked for documentation; the minister refuses. What do we get instead?

We get quotes from more than two governments ago about what a member said, about a government that has no members currently sitting in this House. How relevant is that? Like I said a week or two ago, we could respond in kind and bring forward similar comments from the now Premier about what he said about the Yukon Party government. Do we do that? No. No, we have not done that. This Housing minister, in terms of this supplementary budget and the questions that are today issues of importance to Yukoners — and we will be getting into these issues in detail, but at this moment, the process is general debate on this department, which accommodates some wide-ranging discussion in my preamble, before asking questions — the Housing minister has several times in this House given lengthy preambles up to the maximum time allotment of 20 minutes to simple questions, the content of which has very little to do with questions and more to do with things that may not be relevant from the long-ago past.

We would urge the minister to get with the program, get on the same page, and step to the plate in terms of the challenge to this government's lack of accountability, the challenge to this government's lack of openness, the challenge to this government's lack of fiscal responsibility. How should he do that, Mr. Chair? Well, he could start by providing the documentation that we request. How can our Assembly properly function without the proper checks and balances when only one side has the information? That is a key question. It's like a poker game when the government's side has all the cards and we're left on this side with blank pages and perhaps a box of Magic Markers to try to fill in the blanks.

That's why we on this side of the House ask the questions and that's why members on that side of the House should be answering the questions. It's very sad that it doesn't work that way. This in itself is a case for legislative reform, which, of course, is outside the parameters of today's debate, so I won't go there. I'll just say: what has happened with that initiative anyway? The answer is, nothing.

When it comes to being open, accountable and fiscally responsible, this Yukon Party doesn't walk the talk. We hear a lot of rhetoric; it's in black and white in its campaign platform; it promised it to the voters. Are they getting it? No. We on this side are the voice of the public. We've been elected in here to hold this government accountable. We've requested this docu-

mentation over and over again, and what do we get? Irrelevant quotes from yesteryear.

That fails Yukoners miserably. I think it goes a long way to explain the recent poll results. I personally hope they will go a long way to explain the results of the next election.

That pretty much concludes my preamble. I want to go to a specific documentation request. This should be fresh in the mind of the minister because I just asked for it about an hour ago. It seems the key component of this whole mortgage-privatization scheme is this Management Board submission he had prepared. In Question Period we asked for this submission repeatedly but were denied. Will the minister provide this document, and if not, why not?

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** Some interesting points, and I do appreciate the levity about the Canucks. The Bruins aren't doing too well on this, so I guess I can't go there. For the member opposite, on a few different items, he said that we had done not very good. For his edification, knowing that I don't believe he actually graduated from a Yukon school, "not very well" is the grammatically correct thing there. Just for his information.

#### Chair's statement

**Chair:** Order please. The Chair has definitely heard personal comments on both sides this afternoon. As the Chair moderating the debate, I'd like to shut the door on the personal comments right away. I do appreciate that once one side gives a personal comment, the other side comes back with another personal comment. We're kind of equal now, so let's carry on with the debate on Vote 18, please.

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** Again, for the member opposite, to correct some of his very incorrect assumptions — when he talks about government concern, and Yukon government's concern, and Yukon Party concern — it's nice, but he still attacks — and I use that word because he did — the minutes of Yukon Housing Corporation's Board of Directors. They're not government minutes. They're minutes of an independent corporation board. That's what the member opposite attacks. So to say he really isn't is simply fantasy. It's not within the realm of accuracy.

When he also talks about direction from the top, direction from the top is the president of the corporation and the chair of the board of directors, who I know listens carefully to all of these debates. That's the top. They simply report to the Legislative Assembly through a minister. When he talks about a "short arm," I tend to think that he probably means "long arm" — to be able to reach in and fiddle with this, as the Liberals have blatantly said over the last few days that they would reach in and manipulate all these boards in a minute.

I'll have to be honest with him — once I did. When the whole episode happened with 810 Wheeler, the Member for Whitehorse Centre, Mr. Todd Hardy, came to me with a suggestion that we buy that property and donate it to Habitat for Humanity. It was a brilliant idea. So the Yukon Housing Corporation bought the land — I have to give full credit to the family who owned it, because they took less than the market value as their part of the project. Yukon College brought in a

separate class of carpentry students and worked with them in SuperGreen construction and the technology for that.

We supported the use of that class to do the initial framing, as the college has done in the past with Habitat for Humanity. We paid the extra money that was involved because there is extra money up front in doing that. We assisted them with the technical expertise at every point, and we are picking up the mortgages as they are finished, in the very near future, so that the Habitat for Humanity group will have the ability to go on.

So, yes, I did make a suggestion at one point that was, unfortunately for the member opposite, the complete choice of the board of directors to go ahead with that plan. It wasn't the government. I'd love to take credit for it; I can't. Two of us in this Assembly discussed it and made the suggestion; the board ran with it.

I'd have to give credit on one thing, and I really want to stress this. It always seems kind of nice that the federal government would give you \$50 million, but the problem is that that creates an awful lot of potential problems. How fast can you get it spent?

There is a definite timeline on that. It put an incredible amount of work and pressure on Yukon Housing Corporation, on the board of directors, and very specifically, on the technical staff at Yukon Housing Corporation, who have been working absolutely non-stop since the introduction of Canada's economic action plan. They haven't stopped over there. They really still have a lot of work to do, so I extend my appreciation as much as I can and thank them for a job well done as they're an incredible group of people. They work very well within the confines of the corporation and the board of directors.

Now, the member opposite mentioned several times comments of past successes of the Liberal government and, again, stressed, like the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin, that he wasn't a member of the government at the time. He wasn't; he's right, but instead, what I hope he did — we deal with research; we deal with fact on this side of the House; we don't sit in Opposition where you can just kind of wing it as you go. I'm assuming that the member opposite researched that material carefully and saw that the idea of a Liberal minister responsible for Environment spending \$5,000 to rent a camper to tour the campsites around the Yukon was a reasonable expenditure; that the transmission line of \$17 million to \$42 million was a reasonable expenditure; that the fact that they built no housing — zero social housing — nothing — not a single one. They thought that that was pretty reasonable. The construction of a sawmill that went promptly bankrupt — they thought that was good and they sought out and joined that party because they wanted to be a part of it.

Now I have to correct another comment that the member opposite had made. He referred to a Management Board submission and I quote, "... he asked to be prepared." The minister didn't ask for that to be prepared. The Housing Corporation asked for that to be prepared, and the corporation received the information that came from that. As I mentioned before and then stated emphatically, it was never forwarded to Cabinet. It was never presented to Management Board itself. It was never forwarded on to government. We never saw that document, so

if the member opposite wants to get it, he's more than welcome to ATIPP it. He has that right. This government has added the corporations to the public bodies that are ATIPP-able. There is no problem with that. I'm not even sure if the member opposite voted for that — probably not, but anyway, that was brought down. He might have.

Again, he's creating something that makes no sense whatsoever and that unfortunately is rather sad.

As I mentioned, in addition to our own housing projects, we have been very much involved with the Habitat for Humanity, and that's a tremendously important home ownership project currently under construction in Whitehorse. It has been in the past, and I suspect I can pretty well say with surety that it will be in the future.

We partnered with the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity and Yukon College to build three affordable homes that will be ready for eligible Habitat clients very soon. Habitat for Humanity plays an important role in housing, and the Yukon Housing Corporation will continue, I'm sure, to work with this organization in a proactive manner to address the need for affordable housing.

In addition, the Yukon Housing Corporation will provide, free of charge, ongoing technical assistance to the organization and assist them to build to the SuperGreen standards.

Last year this government provided approximately \$170,000 so that land could be purchased for the project. I mentioned before that that was less than what the market value was estimated at, and we're very grateful to the family for doing that. The Yukon Housing Corporation then estimated that the cost of the building to Yukon Housing Corporation's SuperGreen energy efficiency standards would be approximately an additional \$20,000 per unit. So the Yukon government provided the necessary funding of \$60,000 so the cost of building to these energy standards does not become a financial impediment to the members of the three families who will ultimately purchase and reside in the three homes.

Compare that to the short lived Liberal government — 22 months, the shortest lived majority government in the history of the Commonwealth of Nations, worldwide. You've got to be trying in order to pull that one off.

Another \$30,000 provided for in this budget is for the training and promotion of Habitat for Humanity home ownership projects. This includes \$8,000 for equipment that will be able to monitor the performance of the building envelope and \$15,000 for industry and public technology and information transfer, which is a pictorial record — fact sheets, articles, site tours, et cetera and site seminars. Finally, there's an additional \$7,000 allocated for training and on-site instruction to Yukon College students, project workers and tradespeople. This is truly a community project, with Habitat for Humanity, the Government of Yukon, Yukon College, local businesses and many, many volunteers. Together, we're working in partnership to create more affordable housing. Again, I have to point out, that's building housing. That's more than the Liberal government did. I do have to point out, to be fair, that they were in power such a short period of time before they flamed out and

burned that they didn't have a chance, probably, to have anything going.

While the new housing construction has evidently kept us quite busy, this government has been active on several other fronts to help Yukoners address their housing needs. The Yukon Housing Corporation is helping Yukoners obtain affordable housing through a number of different initiatives, as well as helping them upgrade existing rental and owner-occupied housing. I'll speak about some of our many efforts in this regard.

Over the past year, the Yukon Housing Corporation has devoted significant resources to the upgrade and repair of existing social housing stock to extend the life of these buildings. This improves the quality of life for tenants and potentially reduces the corporation's O&M expense. I do have to sort of refer back to the Habitat for Humanity buildings, where we did not want the construction cost to be onerous on the new owners. The energy costs will be down in the range of 20 percent of normal to heat those buildings. In other words, a \$1,000 heating bill for them just became \$200. We joke that it could be heated with a cat — probably not far off.

As I mentioned, the Yukon Housing Corporation has devoted significant resources to the upgrade and repair of the existing social housing stock. As I say, this improves the quality of life for tenants and potentially reduces the corporation's O&M expenses, so there is another aspect in there to that.

Through the social housing transfer agreement with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the federal government provides \$250,000 per year for capital upgrades. This amount is supplemented this year and next with stimulus funding from Canada, so the Yukon government has approved \$3.5 million per year, under Canada's economic action plan to address the condition of the existing social housing portfolio. We are very aware that some of that is getting elderly and is in need of work. I'd like to point out another benefit of these upgrades and renovations: because each project was smaller in nature, it opened the door to smaller contractors and smaller companies to compete, and these companies are very important to a stable and vibrant Yukon economy.

When we look at helping Yukoners build and repair housing stock, since 2002-03, the Yukon Housing Corporation has loaned over \$71 million to Yukoners to help address housing needs. Almost all of this money is repayable with interest, save for a small percentage of repair loans that have subsidies to further assist applicants most in need. Another way we're helping Yukoners to combat homelessness and provide more housing is through our rental-suite program with repair and construction funding.

This program provides preferred interest-rate loans to homeowners who have an accessory suite in their home. Funding can be for full modernization or to upgrade health and safety items to allow the suite to conform to bylaw requirements. In times of low vacancy rates, or for dedicated renters or in-law suites, funding can be used to construct a new suite. Yukon Housing Corporation's technical officers will conduct site visits and provide technical advice through the repair or construction process.

We also help with our rental rehabilitation program which provides funding for rental property upgrades. This program provides preferred interest rate loans to owners of rental accommodations. These may be single-family rental units or multi-unit residential complexes, and the use of funds for upgrading energy efficiency and barrier-free accessibility is encouraged. A full range of technical expertise is available from the Yukon Housing Corporation. Health and safety upgrades must be addressed on all projects, and that's only reasonable.

We've also made changes to Yukon Housing Corporation's social housing program that help us to identify applicants with the greatest housing need and serve them more efficiently. These people could be, for example, victims of violence or people who require medical relocations.

We recognize there is an urgency to finding safe, stable accommodations for victims of violence and our policy addresses this. Applicants who are victims of violence receive higher point scores than other applicants, which increase their likelihood of being housed more quickly. Based on numerous consultations with stakeholders and women's groups between 2004 and 2006, Yukon Housing Corporation determined that this group was in highest need, followed by seniors in rural Yukon who need to relocate due to medical reasons. In the near future, Yukon Housing Corporation plans to issue tenders for an Abbeyfield seniors building, the replacement of double-wide modular houses in rural Yukon and multiple tenders for the upgrading of the existing buildings.

Now I do have some details for the member opposite that I can go through. We have time and I'm sure he's very interested in knowing everything that this government considers essential, since the former Liberal government didn't do anything.

The family-focused housing in Whitehorse in Riverdale — we are constructing 32 new different units and all 32 are obviously added to the portfolio. For Watson Lake seniors, the same thing — 12 units with 12 units added to the portfolio. The number in Teslin — we are constructing eight. We will only be adding four there; the other four come out of existing stock.

In Faro, we're constructing six units and six are added to the portfolio. The so-called attached family housing, or the Ingram subdivision: six units, three- and four-bedroom homes — that's an additional six units to the portfolio. For seniors housing in Whitehorse, particularly the waterfront — the replacement of Alexander Street — we are constructing 30 units. That will add 17 units to what's available.

In Dawson City, we are constructing the Korbo replacement, which is 19 units, which will add six to the portfolio. The Abbeyfield, once constructed, will add an additional 12. The duplexes that we're planning to build here will add another six. So, the anticipated benefit of the economic stimulus projects specifically: 131 units constructed, 101 added to the portfolio. If we take that on to what we have also done more recently — the Haines Junction seniors building was completed in 2008 with nine new units; the Whitehorse seniors — what's affectionately known as the athletes village — was 48 new units. The Yukon College affordable student family housing — which is managed by Yukon College, I should point out — is 24 constructed units, so we can't really put that into our stock.

But if you put that all together, we have constructed 212 new units; we've added 158 to the portfolio, not including the 24 affordable student family housing, which allows students coming from communities to come into Yukon College, to come into Whitehorse for training, to bring their families — we think that's a marvellous idea.

In total, 212 constructed, 158 added to the portfolio — 30 percent of the portfolio is new and newly constructed, and that compares to the previous Liberal and NDP governments producing zero.

**Mr. McRobb:** So much for this government's openness and accountability. We've heard it again — the Housing minister has refused to provide the document requested. That raises a number of questions. Does the Housing minister really expect us to believe he hasn't seen the document we requested? Is that what he wants us to believe?

Does the Housing minister really expect us to believe this government had nothing to do with the secret privatization of Yukoners' mortgages? Is that what he expects us to believe? And does he really expect us to believe that Yukon Housing Corporation employees, its board members, people on Management Board, et cetera, all acted on this secret privatization of Yukoners' mortgages without at least getting a thumbs-up from the minister or the Premier? Is that what he expects us to believe?

This minister likes to cast aspersions on members across the way, especially those who are tasked with the responsibility of trying to hold him accountable. One of his frequent aspersions is trying to ridicule me for my history of being elected, which is in excess of 14 years now, and never being involved in government. Well, this is another example of how the minister is wrong.

For the minister's awareness, the first three and a half years of my history in here were spent on the government side. It was very interesting, in those three and a half years, serving under the Piers McDonald government. I began to learn how things work. I began to see how certain things go down. I'm not accusing that government of any wrongdoing — certainly not that. But I saw opportunity for the rules to be bent, and I'll stand by that statement. I saw the opportunity. I guess the ultimate question is: did the Yukon Party bend those rules? That's what we're trying to determine here. The minister is keeping all the cards in the game to himself. He refuses to deal us any cards. Just a box of black Magic Markers and blank pages — that's it — no cards, no Management Board submission.

Back to my first experience in government — I was privy to several conversations, the upshot and essence of which was simply that Management Board does not go off on its own without a signal from the political level of government. Mr. Chair, underline that statement because it is important, it cuts through the smoke and mirrors and gets to the bottom of this whole matter. The minister can stand up and deny it until the cows come home, but we know how it works.

We also know how access to information works, and the other day the minister accused me of blaming the officials, and it was all up to the officials for blanking out certain documentation. Well, there is another opportunity there. I have seen where

the Deputy Minister of Executive Council Office comes into the executive offices with an ATIPP request and asks for political guidance about which sections should be blanked out and which sections returned. Does the minister expect us to believe that didn't happen in this case? Well, we didn't just fall off the turnip truck last night.

We know how this government operates. We saw it with the ATCO scandal; we saw how this government took the course where it would deny, deflect, deny, deflect and try to push the issue away and then extend the next election, hoping Yukoners would forget. There were all kinds of promises and undertakings made that have not turned out. There were promises of documents that would be released publicly that we still haven't seen more than a year later — reference question 5 in today's Question Period.

We heard promises of other processes to investigate this matter. As a matter of fact, the Premier used it to deflect a call for a judicial inquiry. Did it ever happen? No. There's a case in point, Mr. Chair.

This minister continues to deny everything. We're in a position where we need certain documentation to prove our case, yet this government refuses to provide it.

In the past, I've compared this to other forums. These other forums are far more accountable than this forum. For instance, if this were a hearing, especially before a quasi-judicial board — in the past I've been a participant in a couple of Yukon quasi-judicial board processes. If this were ever to happen, the government would have been ordered to produce that information — pronto. But in here, this system lacks the tools that force that. There is no requirement. That is why we are forced to be repetitious in questions asking for material when it's not provided. It's either that or just let the issue go away. But we're hearing from Yukoners — they want us to continue to ask the hard questions. There are lots of hard questions about this Management Board submission and this whole can of worms about how this government worked in secret to privatize Yukoners' mortgages and then denied it in this House.

Then when we finally get information through the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy office, we see evidence that contradicts the minister's denial. It's in black and white. Then when we ask him — when we confront the minister with the evidence and the context of how he previously emphatically denied any privatization was ever occurring — what do we get? Well, not much; just a bunch of old *Hansard* quotes that are no longer relevant. The minister might think he is somehow getting the public onside when he does that, but when we in the opposition hear that, we know it's a sign the government has nothing of substance to say. So that tells the story.

Again, this is the government that campaigned on being open, accountable, and fiscally responsible. Well, so much for open and accountable. We'll get to fiscally responsible a little later because on the desk in front of me we have the Auditor General's report, and there are several aspects relating to fiscal responsibility that this government needs to have some flame brought to its toes.

If you roll all this up, it really tells a rather disparaging story, and I'm sorry Yukoners have to endure this type of a situation because most would prefer that we live in a democracy with the proper checks and balances. What I'm saying here today is that those proper checks and balances don't exist in our political system. We don't have the tools to get information requested. There is no higher being in this Assembly — we can look at the Speaker, but this is beyond the Speaker's jurisdiction. There's no Chair of this Assembly who can order information be produced. There's nothing. At the end of the day, it all comes down to the next election. That's what it comes down to.

As mentioned earlier, I certainly hope that Yukoners don't forget these examples when they cast their ballots in the next election, whenever that might be. Yukoners demand accountability from their government. They demand openness, and they aren't getting it. This government promised those things but hasn't delivered.

Again, is there some chair of this Assembly, or some higher being who can make it happen? The answer is no. Simply, and again, the answer is, the next election. This government will have lots to be held accountable for in the next election. We know the plan is to further mortgage Yukoners' future with all kinds of spending announcements for money it doesn't have — perhaps for money it hopes to get at some future point in time. As mentioned the other day, money can't buy trust. The government's past record is what can buy trust.

There are plenty of instances that speak to the character of this government, that simply have led Yukoners to believe they can't trust this government. That's why Yukoners are crying out for good governance.

Mr. Chair, I know you're about to remind me to return to the topic at hand. I think at this point both the minister and I have had sufficient preambles where we might express on record our views about the bigger picture. I would urge us both to focus on the issues at hand and bring the minister back to the questions I asked at the outset about this whole initiative, about what he really expects us to believe versus what really happened. I'll be listening intently to his response and hopefully he'll answer the questions.

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** That was a marvelous election speech. I almost felt like standing up and applauding him. I'm sure that both people who were listening were very impressed with it. Let's see what the member opposite has done in his last comments. He claims that he has seen — I believe that was the comment — the Deputy Minister of Executive Council Office going into the Premier's office to commit illegal acts, which is tampering with an ATIPP request. I didn't rise on a point of order, but he has said that the Deputy Minister of Executive Council Office has committed an illegal act and that the Premier — no, on a political level, we do not see the ATIPP requests. I didn't see some of these documents until Monday or Tuesday, when the member stood up and referred to them. Of course, he didn't table them. He didn't put them out. He didn't give us access to that. When I finally got them, it was kind of an eye-opener to see how far that information was from reality.

He, again, has been very, very clear that the Liberals, if they were to come to government, would clearly interfere with corporate boards of directors. They would interfere with other boards, which are 50 or 60 boards and over 600 people.

They have made it clear that they would interfere with the Peel management plan; they've already come to conclusions. They don't want to see the process go. They don't want to see an agreed-upon process that is within chapter 11. They don't want to see that finished. They want to insert their fingers and do it their way. They've wanted to interfere with the Water Board. They have come up with theories on interfering with land claims. We can't go that way. We have agreements and we have procedures. This government will follow those procedures, but the Liberals have been very clear in this House in previous days, and they have been very clear today — they will interfere. Now, I think a lot of Yukoners have to realize that when you volunteer — and it is volunteering by application — for a board, it brings some perks. It might bring perhaps, depending on the level of the board, a per diem, but it also brings in a great responsibility and a legal liability. How can you be liable for the board's decisions and responsible for the board's decisions if a Liberal member is going to put his finger into it and change it around? We can't do it that way, so I'd like him to say how he would recruit people for boards and committees. It wouldn't, simply, be possible.

He refers to Yukoners crying out. Well, I have to say, I don't hear a lot of crying out. People are too busy working. They're too busy raising their kids, getting them into good schools, with good teachers, enjoying clean water and a safe environment.

Now, he keeps referring to the application to the Management Board. Again, it was done by the Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors, and I will read this: "...Yukon Housing Corporation is seeking approval to remove any prepayment penalties on the Yukon Housing Corporation home-owned mortgage loans and so encourage this group of clients to transfer their loans to the banks and pay out their debt to Yukon Housing Corporation. The Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors has already approved this course of action." That was the request. It had nothing to do with selling off loans. Now, the member opposite keeps referring to that. He keeps commenting that this is some nefarious plot, but I have to point out that, as the member sort of bumbles along — and to use an allegory, in his Inspector Clouseau style — and tries to look at these things —

#### Chair's statement

**Chair:** Order please.

I think attributing a member's comments as "bumbles along" was probably ruled out of order in the past. If it hasn't been, I will say right now that that it is not a term that we should be using. Mr. Kenyon, could you please steer away from using those personal comments. Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** I apologize, Mr. Chair, but I do have to still use the allegory, which has been approved in this House as being in order, that there is some similarity to Inspector Clouseau trying to collect this information.

A Management Board submission that is seeking approval to remove the prepayment penalties — that has been discussed and it has been approved by the board of directors independently. I don't have the ATIPP request. I don't have what was provided to the opposition, but I do know that the recommendation to submit it is signed by the deputy minister, who in this case is the president of Yukon Housing Corporation and approved by the minister. Yes, I approve that that be forwarded to Management Board.

It has nothing to do with privatizing or selling off, as the member has come up with other times in this House. It has nothing to do with selling off assets. It has nothing to do with selling off futures. It doesn't even have anything to do with selling off pickup trucks, which was one of his last escapades in this House, claiming that we were selling off pickup trucks.

I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, do I have the floor or would the member opposite have the decency to say his comments on —

### Chair's statement

**Chair:** Order please. Mr. Kenyon does have the floor. I would encourage all members to direct their comments through the Chair, but I would also encourage all members to focus on the debate at hand and try to refrain from personalizing the debate.

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** Saying that, let's take a look at that same Management Board's submission and let's take a look at a section called "planned results and significant implications". "This reduction will," — and I read, "This reduction will involve the transfer of the lower risk loans to the banks," — in other words, allowing people to switch voluntarily their mortgages to potentially lower interest rates, or, more likely — and again, when this was done, the interest rates on a variable mortgage were down around 1.5 percent. I know one person who had a very variable at 1.5 percent. So, it made sense, because some our mortgages are as high as 7.9, I believe, in going back to those years — 7.9 percent.

It's not only a financial benefit to the individual applicant, but the applicant may want to — even doing it at the same interest rate — utilize plans for banks, such as lines of credit, which would allow them to put money into their child's education, their own education, buy vehicles or buy cabins — whatever they want to do with it, that's their business. Yukon Housing Corporation does not allow that, so it gives more flexibility.

If we go back to my reading here: "This then leaves the higher-risk and lower-value loans in the portfolio, which will increase the percentage of discount rate applied to the portfolio if it is to be sold as a unit through securitization. Yukon Housing Corporation will return to Management Board by 1 July 2010 with a plan of how the portfolio will be managed, in combination with program changes that align with requirement for any further reductions in the size of the portfolio. The cash obtained from the transfer of mortgages to the banks could mitigate any cash flow concerns," — could — "and reducing of the existing mortgage portfolio will reduce the annual interest income and, depending on how much can be used for repayment of long-term debt," — and it goes back to mortgages — "this could result in Yukon Housing Corporation requiring an

increase in the operating grant from Yukon government. While the Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors does have the authority to remove the prepayment penalties, the board is seeking government support of this initiative before proceeding."

As I mentioned, the corporate board of directors has that ability anyway. They were simply asking Management Board before coming to government with what they were going to do, to ask for an analysis. That's what they did. What we hear from the Liberal members is that they wouldn't ask for an analysis or they wouldn't pay any attention to the analysis. They would simply put their finger into the board of directors and stir it up a little bit.

I should be specific here that home ownership clients can refinance any time — any time that they want — and they've done that for years and years. This is all about eliminating the payout penalty. It had nothing to do with the mortgage per se; anybody with a mortgage can pay it out. This Management Board submission was to eliminate that three-month, I think was the average — or three months was the way it was done — penalty which, for some people, could be a very significant chunk of cash. We want to work with clients. We want to work with people to allow this to give them flexibility in their lives.

The Liberals are now telling us that they wouldn't do that. They wouldn't do that. Mortgages are mortgages; let them stand. In fact, the Leader of the Liberal Party has stated many times that he doesn't believe in mortgages, which is frightening — to me, anyway. Basically, what he has said in the House is we should be living any way we can and saving up our money until we get the average price of a house and then we can go out and buy it with cash.

Mortgages are useful — properly controlled and maintained — and that is what this program really looks at.

Again I have to express my surprise, concern, everything else, that when we look at the budget that we are supposedly discussing, debating — whatever word you want to use for it — what the member opposite has completely missed, what the Liberal Party has completely missed, is that we've added money into the mortgage portfolio.

How does he rationalize an organization that — a government that puts money into the corporation, allows the board of directors the flexibility to go further — \$7.195 million added to the budget, yet this Liberal Member for Kluane stands up and says that proves they're trying to privatize it. Good Lord, what a conclusion to come to on that.

Maybe he came to that conclusion on one of his walks with the spruce grouse, but I just can't imagine where this is coming from. I mean, did we do such a horrible job of trying to sell something off that, instead, we put in an additional \$6 million for mortgage financing loans and another \$1.14 million for the owner-builder loans mortgages? The supplementary budget, which I would ask to drag the member opposite back to, adds an additional \$14,000 on mortgage financing loans and an additional \$130,000, so that brings us up to \$7.284 million. I bring his attention to page 17-3 of the *Supplementary Estimates No. 1, 2010-11*; he obviously hasn't read them because he's still complaining and claiming that we're trying to sell a portfolio

off. Did we do such a poor job that we did that by putting in over \$7 million? That makes no sense at all.

But if we go back and look at some of the things we have been doing and how we have been spending our time, as I've already mentioned, we've increased the inventory of affordable housing to seniors and elders with the completion of everything from the athletes village to a nine-unit seniors building in Haines Junction. I mean, I can go on and on through Watson Lake and Teslin and Faro. If he didn't notice the budget, maybe I should go back to that and go through those details again for him.

We completed — which I didn't mention before — the construction of two staff housing units in Watson Lake and those were to the corporation's new SuperGreen energy standards. I think the heating bill for one of those houses was something like \$117 for one month. It was somewhere in that range. It shocked even the people who built it and expected it to be dramatic. It was beyond dramatic.

The seniors building in Watson Lake is under construction; we're getting close. Any project like that always has a few deficiencies and has to be looked at, so all of these projects were waiting for good inspection and actually to be told to go ahead on that, and that as well, as I mentioned before, is to green home and accommodating home standards.

It is all obviously done to promote the ability of seniors and elders to stay in that community, to be supported by their family and not, as the Liberals have said several times in the House, that for medical problems, they should simply drive to Whitehorse.

We are building a hospital there, both for the residents of Watson Lake and the surrounding area, but also for those who use the road. But the Liberal leader said that he's used to this from Atlin, you just have to drive. Again, it's a good insight into a potential Liberal government. For everybody outside of Whitehorse, get a good car because, if the Liberals come in, you're going to be driving.

The eight-unit Teslin seniors building — again, it promotes independent living; it's an opportunity for seniors to reside in that barrier-free environment. They stay in their own community. It's being done by Thomas Contracting of Teslin. We're very close to having that complete and dealing with the inevitable small deficiencies — we're good to go.

The six-unit Faro seniors building also promotes independent living and keeps people in their community. We did have a grand opening there. It was held on August 31, 2010. Over 50 local residents were in attendance. The interesting one on what we've been doing here is the so-called YACA agreement — or the Yukon asset construction agreement — with Kwanlin Dun in recognition of the Whitehorse affordable family housing project, the Riverdale project, because we are required to allow participation by the Kwanlin Dun First Nation.

We felt that it probably wasn't going to accomplish a lot, to give small projects, or small parts of that, so instead, we went for the construction of a six-unit building, four three-bedrooms and two four-bedrooms, or something like that. The completion is very close. When they come out of that, and they come out into some other projects that we are talking about,

Kwanlin Dun will have a good contracting company to build housing; they'll have a good understanding of SuperGreen technology and barrier-free technology. It's a win-win-win situation. With the involved challenge and some of the people down there, it was just an incredible success.

Some of the other things that we got involved in, of course, was the 2009 flood relief program and the flooding in 2009, primarily in Rock Creek and Zircon Lane — we can't forget that. So we have had a flood relief program on that; it's well underway; in fact I think it's pretty close to concluded, but there are still a few outstanding issues. We institute a requirement whereby clients accessing loan funding for new home ownership construction are required to build to Yukon Housing Corporation's energy efficiency standards.

This is a little smattering of some of the things that we have done to meet our commitment to achieve a better quality of life. We've built all of these additional units and we've renovated lots more. Again, compared to previous governments in the last several governments, zero — absolutely nothing. So to get up in the House and be critical of what we've done — I'll agree that there's always the possibility and you'd like to do more. We've done a heck of a lot more than the previous governments and I put that on the table. Again, ask the members opposite: how in the world do you take a \$7-million investment and try to claim that doesn't exist? What'll be interesting, too, is how do you claim secrecy over a document when I'm sitting here reading from it. Maybe the member opposite will curl up tonight with a copy of the Blues and enjoy that.

**Mr. McRobb:** Money can't buy trust. I'll say it again. The minister likes to repeat how the government has spent \$7 million and somehow that should remove any allegation that it was trying to privatize these mortgages. Well, the Yukon Party government might have viewed that mechanism as a patch to this whole thing. It goes back to my opening comment — case closed.

The minister went on to make a number of incorrect conclusions, as he frequently does. I need to stand on this floor and re-enter this political debate we're having, even though I challenged him to refocus on the issues. By the way, Mr. Chair, none of the questions I asked were answered.

The issue I want to counter is this whole perception he has created that a Liberal government would somehow interfere with officials and board members, and everybody should be very concerned. Nothing could be further from — I'll choose the word carefully, because I know the "T" word is not allowed in here, so I'll just say — reality.

#### **Chair's statement**

**Chair:** Order please. Although ingenious and funny, implying something is the same thing as saying it. You can't say that you can't use the "T" word because you just did. I'm glad you agree with me. So please don't imply something and then say, "I won't use the implied word," because by implying it and then saying it, you do use the word.

**Mr. McRobb:** This whole notion the minister continually projects about how this phantom, big, bad, Liberal government would somehow deprive officials of their anonymity

or independence to do their jobs and try to politically manipulate everything is completely incorrect. It is a completely wrong assumption by this minister.

We can look at what this Yukon Party government has done and arrive at many conclusions that lead us to believe that is exactly what has happened under Yukon Party rule, and I've alluded to that already this afternoon. We challenged the minister to provide the documentation. He refuses. I asked him if he has ever even seen the document, and he refuses to answer that.

Well, again, Mr. Chair, there's lots wrong with the process we use in here, and that is why Yukoners do want to see this Legislature improved, and that is why an all-party motion was passed regarding the need for legislative reform. But the Yukon Party government hasn't even appointed a member to that committee or even called a meeting. We on this side had our members appointed before the spring sitting even started, so this is another case in point.

I'll get back to the Yukon Housing Corporation issues. The minister went on to say that at the very top of the command chain is the president and chair. Well, I will agree insofar as that's the way it should be, but, as put on record earlier this afternoon, there are other opportunities that exist for someone else to be that top person and that someone else is either the minister or the Premier.

We're getting back into the short arm's-length relationship. The minister denies ever giving an instruction to the independent corporation, with one exception and, Mr. Chair, I won't go there. The minister would like to use that example and try to create —

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

**Mr. McRobb:** — and wrap himself in it, as suggested by the Member for Copperbelt, but we won't do that. We'll do our best to keep our discussion on a higher level.

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

**Mr. McRobb:** I notice some members find that amusing, Mr. Chair, but I think the record speaks for itself. The record is a public document. The people can see that document. They can't see the Management Board submission or other documents from the Yukon Energy Corporation privatization scandal because this government refuses to provide them.

I also note that it's my understanding that this corporation hasn't been called for debate in two and a half years in this Assembly and I think that is worth some discussion. I think Yukoners need to know why. Before the minister gives up and repeats an answer I've heard before, I think I'll put some information on the record, especially for those who are unfamiliar with how our procedures in this Assembly work.

The order of debate in the afternoon is 100 percent at the call of the government in power. The opposition has zero input into which departments or corporations are called for debate. The opposition House leaders are informed at about 10:00 in the morning which departments and corporations are called for debate during the afternoon following Question Period. That's when we learned it would be Yukon Housing Corporation — at 10:00 this morning.

In previous sittings we've asked specifically for the Yukon Housing Corporation to be called for debate, but the Yukon Party government did not oblige that request.

Those requests were asked several times, starting at the House leaders level. They graduated to the floor of the Assembly through notices of motion and so on, yet the government denied those requests. Is that being accountable to go two and a half years without allowing a debate on this corporation? I'll take a leap of faith and say that I would expect Yukoners to say no to that question. Yukoners expect all departments and corporations to be scrutinized at least on an annual basis, given the fact we have two sittings in the Assembly each year, for a total of 60 sitting days. That didn't happen. There was a similar case last year when officials from Yukon Energy Corporation/Yukon Development Corporation were not permitted to attend before members of this Assembly. In the 2009 calendar year, those corporations escaped accountability in this Assembly. There are all kinds of examples there.

When the minister stands up and we hear the accolades of how this Yukon Party government is open, accountable, and fiscally responsible, and so on and so forth, we know those words ring rather hollow in terms of what, in fact, has actually transpired. These are some of the comments the minister made that I wanted to rebut. I'll just conclude that by saying he wrongly concluded that somehow we in the opposition are attacking the officials when we ask questions about minutes from board meetings, about this government's involvement in something. A reasonable person would fail to draw the connection.

The Yukon Housing Corporation minutes are part of the material we have at our disposal. The questions we have asked are based on parts of those documents and the questions are pointed to the minister who is responsible. In this case, the minister has denied things that were going on in the corporation, but the documentation proves otherwise. Now, we've heard the minister say that he wasn't — he point-blank denied that the privatization was occurring; he did not even go so far as to say he was unaware. He just point-blank denied it. Now, I recall a level of scrutiny that was upheld by certain other governments in this Assembly in the past, where the ministers were fully expected to be aware of what was happening in the departments and corporations for which they're responsible, and there is an automatic connection.

Should anybody in those departments or corporations be undertaking anything that could be an issue to Yukoners, it was simply fair to ask the minister responsible about those undertakings. That is simply what we've been doing. The Yukon Party did it when it was in opposition prior to September 1996. The other parties have done that, yet this government somehow doesn't live up to the obligation of previous governments to accept responsibility for what the ministers are responsible for. It goes back to some of the unanswered questions that remain on the floor of this Assembly today. I'll have to ask them again and maybe we can get an answer this time.

Does the minister really expect us to believe he hasn't seen the Management Board submission? That is question one. Question two: does the minister really expect us to believe this

government had nothing to do with this secret privatization of Yukoners' mortgages?

Does he really expect us to believe that all the officials and board members working for the Yukon Housing Corporation, other government board members, including Management Board members, all acted on their own without any direction from this government, without even a thumbs-up? Does this minister expect us to believe that? I've just got a train of thought from something I was saying earlier — to finish it off — and that is that one of the things I recall from being in government in the first term was when a body like Management Board, which is an important committee — predominantly focused on financial matters of the government — expends the amount of resource required to develop a submission, such as on this whole issue of privatizing Yukoners' mortgages, that in fact that simply does not happen without a signal from the political level of government.

It simply does not happen. The government itself would be outraged if such a high-order committee within this government embarked on something it did not politically support. The Yukon Party would be outraged. Have there been any expressions of outrage at what happened from the government? No, not toward the committee, and I think the reason why is obvious. The committee received its instructions from this very government. The only outrage from this Yukon Party government about this whole matter is to us in opposition, who have been asking the questions. Well, to coin an old phrase: "Don't shoot the messenger." We're here, speaking on behalf of the public.

As I mentioned before, sometimes that can be a difficult job — asking hard questions and often getting ridiculed in the process. But we knew that part of the job — at least I did — when I ran again, so I fully expect it to be in my job description to do that.

I think the story is starting to come together; people are connecting the dots about what has transpired. I think one of the main things people are thinking about right now is how could this Yukon Party government possibly do this on the heels of the whole ATCO scandal? Didn't it learn? Didn't it pay attention to the public outrage? Yet just a few months later, after that whole thing blew up, the Housing minister embarked on his own secret privatization plan. Well, that is absolutely incredible. And the minister attacks us for asking the question.

We know these hard-working officials and board members didn't embark on this whole process without political direction. I've asked the minister two or three times now a straightforward question and he has avoided it, each and every time.

So I'll ask him one more time: will he 'fess up to these questions?

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

*Recess*

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 22, *Second*

*Appropriation Act, 2010-11*. We will now continue with Vote 18, general debate on the Yukon Housing Corporation.

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** It's good coming back from the recess, so to speak. I suppose the bad news is I've completely forgotten what the member opposite was asking. But the good news is that it has been the same question over and over and over, so I'll repeat the answer again, in case he missed that part.

The Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors, doing their good work and diligence, reviewed what was happening potentially with the mortgage portfolio and the fact that some of the mortgage portfolio was as high as 7.9 percent. People were coming and asking that they wanted to perhaps dump their mortgage but they would owe us our three-month penalty — not reasonable. I thought about when I wanted to do that many years ago, back in my 20 years that I did in Toronto, escaping during the Rae regime. It made sense to the board of directors, and I think they did their good work by saying that they wanted to look at that. So they passed a motion, and it was recommended at that point that the board of directors approve a one-time offer of the removal of any prepayment penalties for Yukon Housing Corporation mortgage clients and encourage those clients to transfer their mortgage to a bank.

They then passed that on to Management Board, which is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations — and not only reviewing, but their job is basically to give pros and cons — what happens if this, what happens if that? — going back to the old George Carlin album: what if we cross the international date line? They look at all of these things and sometimes they go into incredible detail. It takes time — sometimes frustrating if you're trying to get something done — and Management Board Secretariat wants to look at it more carefully, but it is certainly worthwhile for them to do it, and we desperately and greatly appreciate their good work.

The Liberals, of course, have basically said that they wouldn't do that; they would simply go ahead. They've said that on a number of things. They have come to conclusions on the Peel watershed things, completely ignoring the fact that there's chapter 11 of the *Umbrella Final Agreement*. But they wouldn't wait for that; they'd simply go ahead and do it. They've looked at that and a number of other things that make no sense. They have criticized the Water Board. They have looked at land claims. They have done all of these various things. There is process, and the process in this case was followed well.

Now, for the member opposite to come to that ad hominem argument of allowing a home-ownership client flexibility with payout provisions — that's not privatization. It has nothing to do with privatization. If a client or a person or a Yukoner has a mortgage with any bank, they have the ability to go to the bank and say, "Gee, we'd like to pay it out." Anything from an inheritance, to a bit of money, or where it's getting down to where our savings account is pretty close to what's owed, to "Gee, there's a better rate down the road."

For whatever reason, banks would say, no, you've signed a contract and, in this case, yes, they've signed a contract. The Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors was willing to

allow that penalty to be waived within the contract and, again, allowing that flexibility to a homeowner with a pay-out provision is good management; it's good government; it is not privatization. The member opposite with his ad hominem arguments is simply portraying that in a light that just makes no sense, as many things do, of course.

Now, the member opposite — the Liberal opposition — has said that, gee, the Yukon Housing Corporation hasn't been in here for a long period of time. I do draw his attention to the Office of the Auditor General of Canada's performance audit, among other things. Yukon Housing Corporation, February 2010, the implementation plan — this is available and tabled to the Public Accounts Committee, as well as the Yukon Housing Corporation — February 2010, complete report by the Office of the Auditor General of Canada.

These were tabled in the Public Accounts Committee, or PAC. They would be readily available to the member opposite should he choose to read this although, since he didn't read the budget, I guess maybe he is not going to read this. So I will read parts of the conclusion into the record, and I quote: "The corporation has adequately managed its social housing and staff housing programs, but we found areas in these programs that need attention" — this was expected — "Social and staff housing units are generally well-maintained and the waitlists are short, other than for social housing in Whitehorse." In a later section, "The corporation has adequately managed its lending programs as it has a good collection record and few defaults on its loans." I draw the member's attention to that. Again, it's available. It has been tabled through the Public Accounts Committee. I believe PAC is chaired by a Liberal member who, of course, tried to resign until he found out he couldn't resign. So he quickly resigned his resignation, I guess, and now basically says that it was a misunderstanding. The information is available there.

In terms of calling departments, I think if the opposition asked reasonable questions and not so many ad hominem questions, the debate would go further and they would get much better information. They are not looking for information; they're looking for something else. It's rather scary that there is that little concern for the process that allows a time like this — a question period — to get information and to have these discussions.

He made the comment a few minutes ago that he would not interfere, or the Liberals would not interfere, and I'm glad to hear that. We don't either — we haven't — but everything he's saying claims that's a good thing. So I have to say that maybe that isn't a completely accurate statement. The Liberals have been very clear that they would interfere. They would stick their arm — whether it's a short or long arm — into the pot and stir it and give absolute direction to corporations' boards of directors. I don't care if it's the Advisory Council on Women's Issues, the member opposite is saying they would insert themselves and would give direction to those advisory councils.

Would that include local area planning councils? Would he involve himself with the *Municipal Act* and start interfering under the *Municipal Act* and with some of the municipal coun-

cils and try to give them direction? We don't know. He's not being forthcoming on that. It's very easy to throw accusations out. Again, to use an allegory, that was a great technique used by the great Inspector Clouseau, but we have to deal with facts on this side. We can't go any other way and sort of wing it as we go and hope that something falls out of the trees. I won't even go there. Let's drop that one because it is unparliamentary.

It is just quite amazing how the member opposite can look at the budget, Vote 18, voted to date \$15,578,000. We're requesting additional money for operation and maintenance of \$143,000, bringing it up to \$15,721,000, and under capital votes, \$48,877,000. We're asking for under this appropriation \$8.818 million, to a total of \$57,695,000. Again, so much of that — which we could get into if anyone wanted to; we could discuss the budget and we could get into the details of what's there. When you look at home ownership, mortgage-financing loans, an additional \$14,000 and owner-build loans with an additional \$130,000, leaving this year in the budget — and this is all after the member opposite claims that he has stumbled into this great document, which he is not accurately quoting — that brings us to \$7.294 million.

It's just over \$7 million that we've put into the mortgage portfolio. For anyone to somehow claim and to think that that is trying to sell the portfolio is certainly simply outside of my belief.

Let's go back and look at some of the long-term things that we've done. Since all of the Liberal critics seem to be asking the same question over and over — I think there's a very good definition of someone who keeps doing something and keeps thinking that they're going to get different answers, but we won't go there either. We did make changes to the Yukon Housing Corporation — or they did, I should say — social housing program that help us identify applicants with the greatest housing needs and to serve them more efficiently. These people could be, for example, victims of violence or people who require medical relocations. We recognize there is urgency to finding safe, stable accommodation for victims of violence and the Yukon Housing Corporation policy addresses this.

Applicants who are victims of violence receive a higher point score than other applicants, which increase their likelihood of being housed more quickly. Based on numerous consultations with stakeholders and women's groups between 2004 and 2006, the Yukon Housing Corporation determined that the group that was really in the highest need was victims of violence, followed by seniors in rural Yukon who needed to relocate due to medical reasons. That's based on numerous consultations. Again, the Liberals come to a conclusion on so many items, like the Peel watershed. They don't want to negotiate; they don't want to listen; they don't want to consult; they don't want to follow procedure. They're just going to wave that magic wand. Again, we don't have one over here. I'm glad the Member for Kluane does have a magic wand. I wish sometimes he would use it.

In May 2009 the governments of Canada and Yukon partnered on a joint investment to build new housing and renovate existing affordable housing. Both levels of government offi-

cially signed an amendment to the Canada-Yukon affordable housing program agreement, resulting in a joint investment of \$60 million over the following two years. As a result, Yukon announced a series of housing projects that will benefit from this funding.

I should point out that we had anticipated this. The government had anticipated it; the Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors had anticipated it; so we were all set to go.

We were all set to start tendering out some of these things and work quickly. We were able to allow the Housing Corporation to upgrade social housing units throughout the Yukon using Yukon Housing Corporation funding alone, with significant economic stimulus funding from Canada's economic action plan. Over 278 tenders have been issued since April 2009. Work will continue throughout 2010-11, and tendering for additional projects will also continue this year. Upgrading includes many different types of work; for example, interior or exterior retrofits, roofing repairs, flooring replacement, various upgrades, boilers, siding, trim, and air barrier upgrades, elevator upgrades in some cases, wheelchair lifts, bathroom and kitchen renovations, painting, furnace and appliance replacements — the list goes on.

Let's look at some of the details of where that money went. In the community of Carcross, federal funding was \$162,895. Yukon put in \$2 million — I'm sorry, I'm misreading that, \$2,895 — for a total of \$165,790.

In Carmacks, \$101,187 came from the federal government. Yukon Housing Corporation put in an additional \$17,507, for a total of \$118,694. In Dawson City, we were able to utilize federal funding totally — \$724,305. Yukon government didn't have to put any money into that, but we certainly are putting it into other projects up there such as the Korbo replacement, et cetera. In Haines Junction, there is \$189,215 from federal funding. Yukon put in a further \$13,125, for a total of \$202,340.

In Mayo, there is \$236,807. Yukon put in a further \$52,500, and that gave a grand total of \$289,307. In Ross River, like Dawson, the corporation was able to utilize all federal funding — \$231,795 — and it wasn't necessary for any further addition. In the community of Teslin, there is \$311,179. Yukon Housing Corporation put in an additional \$30,000, and that totals \$341,179.

Watson Lake showed the federal government putting in \$758,482. Yukon Housing Corporation put in \$30,000, for a total of \$788,482. Whitehorse, the bulk of this — just logistics and the number of people — federal funding component was \$3,465,013. Yukon Housing Corporation put in an additional \$598,973, for a two-year funding target of \$4,063,986.

Yukon-wide in non-incorporated communities, et cetera, federal funding was \$359,780. Yukon topped that up with an additional \$115,000, and the total two-year funding for both the federal government and the Yukon Housing Corporation was \$474,780. To sum that all up — and I'm putting this into the record so the member opposite doesn't have to read it, since he doesn't seem to read so many of the other documents we send over — federal funding total was \$6,540,658; Yukon Housing Corporation funding was a further \$860,000, so the total two-year funding totalled \$7,400,658.

That gives everyone a pretty good overview of what happened. If we look at one individual project as an example: Yukon Housing Corporation awarded a contract to Weitzel's Construction Limited in the amount of \$1,839,000. Currently in Faro, seniors housing is provided in four bungalows that do not have accommodating design features that make them senior-friendly. When the new seniors residence is built, it is proposed that the bungalows would be reallocated to social housing needs other than for seniors and this would help satisfy the Faro housing association's request for additional social housing.

The Faro housing association is a subset of the Yukon Housing Corporation. It looks at local issues. Their location is on the website, should the Member for Kluane call them and get his finger into that. I would suggest that he allow the boards and committees to do their good work and not interfere with them. The overall allocation of seniors housing in Faro would increase from four existing units to six new senior-friendly units. The Faro demographics show that currently, Faro's population in categories of 50 plus and 60 plus is higher than other Yukon communities, as well as higher than the Yukon average.

The 2003 data showed Haines Junction leading in the percentage of population over 50, with Faro very close behind. I have to point out, if the Member for Kluane has missed it, we have built a nine-unit facility in Haines Junction.

The five-year trend shows that all communities have grown in overall population size, and the people over 50 years of age in each community are forming a larger percentage of the overall demographic. The seniors demographic in Faro has grown by a greater proportion in the last five years than any other community, and that's why I picked that out. I have to point out again that 90 percent of the recoverable funds from Canada are through the economic action plan.

So with those bits of information, I'll allow the Member for Kluane to stand and again ask the same questions over again.

**Mr. McRobb:** We just heard the minister give another 20-minute speech that did everything but answer the questions that were posed to him for about a third time. He ridicules the questions and somehow feels he's not compelled to answer them and that somehow I should feel insulted by asking these questions. Well, I've already put on the record that I'm prepared to step up to the plate and deliver, in terms of fulfilling my job responsibilities, and I would encourage the minister to do the same.

There are quite a few things he put on the record during his 20-minute speech, some of which I'll respond to and some of which I'll just ignore. One of his favourite aspects we've heard about a few times now is how these mortgages were not privatization. An example he gave in detail was how a client coming to the corporation, after discussion, was steered to a private sector lending institution. He went on to explain how that's not privatization.

I agree with the minister in that instance, but that's not what we're talking about, is it, Mr. Chair? We're talking about something much bigger. We're talking about the privatization

of all existing mortgages — the complete portfolio, some \$40 million.

These are not new mortgage applications; these are existing mortgages.

One might wonder why the government would embark on such an initiative. Keeping it secret is another question, of course. Well, after we obtain results from the access-to-information request, we obtained certain documentation. Within those documents, the following quote can be found: “The corporation does not have enough cash in its bank account to pay all of its expenditures for the fiscal year.” So, rather than assist the corporation, the minister had the corporation — at least, there’s evidence to indicate so — embark on this secret privatization initiative.

The minister even had Management Board do the analysis, which he won’t answer for, which he refuses to provide to us, which he declines to take any responsibility for. What did we hear instead? Numerous times now, he has mentioned how much money he has put into the mortgages on behalf of the government — and I’ve already spoken to that — how that occurred after this privatization initiative was attempted; it didn’t occur before, it occurred after. So the government saw it as a way to patch this whole issue and hopefully it would go away, from its perspective. Well, it’s not going away because it’s very important that we establish for the record what indeed happened here. Some might ask, why is it important? Well, there are several answers. Yukoners with mortgages are very concerned about what transpired behind the scenes. Others are concerned that the minister denied it on record and then later we find out the opposite was happening. Other Yukoners are concerned that this Yukon Party government will embark on a second privatization scheme on the tails of the whole Yukon Energy Corporation privatization scheme that backfired — very concerned.

What does this all speak to? It speaks to trust of government. We already know how Yukoners feel about this government, following the whole privatization scandal surrounding the Energy Corporation. We can presume they’ll feel similarly when they discover what really transpired here.

Part of the reason for this is the Premier came out and boldly declared all sorts of things to the Yukon public at the time. One of them was he promised to try to make government better. He promised to provide more information in the Assembly. He promised to try to make this Assembly work better. He even gave a qualified apology for the whole Yukon Energy Corporation scandal. What I mean by that is that he did not apologize for trying to privatize the Yukon Energy Corporation without Yukoners’ knowledge. Instead, he apologized for not properly communicating it. That’s a qualified apology.

Nevertheless, we’re not taking up that issue today. It connects to what’s happening here because, again, it’s all about trust. That equates to good governance, which happens to be the top issue of importance to Yukoners, according to recent polls. That is why we’re taking the time to ask this minister and this government about what happened here.

That is why we ask questions over, to try to get to the bottom of the matter, because that’s what Yukoners expect us to do. That is why we’ve requested the documentation.

I could invert these arguments and ask them rhetorically: for instance, why isn’t the government providing this documentation? What is it trying to hide? If the government wasn’t trying to hide something, shouldn’t it provide the opposition members with the documentation requested? Exactly — that hits the nail on the head.

As a matter of fact, looking at the bigger picture, this government is now in its fifth year of this term, the longest ever term in the history of any Yukon government, without an election — it’s in the fifth year. Even a political neophyte could reasonably predict that any government in such a circumstance would be extremely sensitive about any emerging scandals, and would scurry to hose down any brush fires before they got out of control. Well, that brings us to the issue before us.

This issue emerged last Thursday, so the brush — if you will — was set afire last Thursday. What did the government do to put out the fire? Did it table documents? Has it answered these questions? No. Is it reasonable to conclude, if the government was innocent of all these allegations, that it would have sent the fire truck to hose down the brush fire with the material and the answers to the questions asked in order to extinguish the flames? Of course; it would be reasonable to expect that result. Why hasn’t it happened? Well, obviously where there’s smoke, there’s fire.

Certainly there seems to be a lot of smoke and mirrors on this issue. We asked the questions — the pointed questions, as the Premier likes to refer to them — the heat-seeking questions. But did we get anything in return? No. We get instead rhetoric about what some previous member said to previous government, eons ago, which is no longer relevant. That’s the kind of response we get from this government. Well, isn’t that interesting. It’s too bad voters in the last election, when the government was unveiling its new campaign platform on being open, accountable and fiscally responsible, couldn’t fast-forward to this point in time to see how it would all play out. The Yukon public would be well-served to connect those dots. That’s why this government has lost the trust of the people it serves. That’s why according to recent public opinion polls, its popularity has plummeted.

Also it should be mentioned that this has happened amidst record budgets and a reviving economy, thanks largely to rebounding global commodity prices and the Yukon starting to realize its economic future. Despite those opportunities, advantages and fortunate events, all this bad news has developed. It’s because what we’re talking about here is the very character of a government. For the minister to get up and berate us on this side of the House for asking questions of substance or to refuse to provide documentation is speaking to the bigger picture. He’s speaking to the whole trust factor — is what he’s doing. He may not realize it, but the voters do. He’s speaking to the character of the government. He’s giving the people out there further clues and further information about how this government is behaving, and about the very core of its nature.

That's what he's doing, and that's why I refuse to engage in these discussions about quoting members, going back years now — these irrelevant comments. But we realize the government is in denial. The minister has nothing better to say. He can't give me answers to the questions. He can't table the documents because he's under orders not to.

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

#### Point of order

**Chair:** Ms. Horne, on a point of order.

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** Standing Order 19(h), uttering a deliberate falsehood.

#### Chair's ruling

**Chair:** On the point of order, there is no point of order; it's just a dispute among members.

**Mr. McRobb:** Well, I can understand how members opposite are feeling sensitive about all of this, because Yukoners are beginning to see the bigger picture. They have had four years now to connect the dots.

It's going to be very difficult to fool anybody next time around, and these members know it. The orders have come from the corner office. In case the minister doesn't understand, the corner office is the corner office in this building: the Premier's office. And, to some degree, I can sympathize with this minister because I know, deep down, he probably does want to answer the questions; he probably does want to table the information, but he can't. He can't because the Premier has ordered him not to.

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

#### Point of order

**Chair:** The Hon. Ms. Horne, on a point of order.

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** Standing Orders 19(g) imputes false or unavowed motives to another member.

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

**Mr. Inverarity:** I don't believe that 19(g) qualifies here; I don't think there is a point of order.

**Chair:** Before I rule on the point of order, when members stand up on a point of order, could members please give me input on the point of order. Don't stand up and tell me what to rule.

#### Chair's ruling

**Chair:** On this point of order, the Chair believes it is also just a dispute among members.

**Mr. McRobb:** Well, it's too bad these ministers across the way can't stand up to the orders. They're good at standing up on these points of order in here, but they don't stand up to the Premier when he gives the orders. We saw it on the ATCO scandal. We saw it on the irate phone call to Environment officials, when the Premier interfered in the whole Peel commission's hard work. We've seen it on countless other examples. But, for some reason, these members only have the gumption to stand up in here and object to what we're saying for the purpose of holding them accountable. It's too bad. Obviously, they are all in it together.

The minister started to rattle off numbers from the budget

— **Some Hon. Member:** (Inaudible)

#### Point of order

**Chair:** Hon. Ms. Taylor, on a point of order.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Earlier today, I believe that the term "bumbling" was ruled out of order, and yet "rattling on" — I would assume that would be ruled out of order also.

**Chair:** Mr. McRobb on the point of order.

**Mr. McRobb:** I would argue there is a distinct difference between quote, "bumbling along", unquote, and, quote, "rattling off", in terms of numbers, unquote.

#### Chair's ruling

**Chair:** With regard to the point of order, the Chair did rule earlier about personalizing the debate, and accusing a member of "bumbling on" was personalizing the debate. Telling or accusing a member of "rattling off" could also be interpreted as personalizing the debate. In this case, throughout the entire day, each member from both sides has been personalizing the debate and throwing unique comments back and forth, to say it in a very diplomatic way. I would encourage both members to not personalize the debate. I would also ask members to leave the Chair to make my own rulings and to remain quiet while I deliver those rulings.

**Mr. McRobb:** All right, thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm sure there are people in the *Hansard* office who would be pleased to discover that there are unique aspects occurring on the floor this afternoon in terms of what has been said.

#### Chair's statement

**Chair:** Order please. When the Chair makes rulings and tries to be uniformly fair from all sides, then to have the rulings critiqued is not appreciated, and for one, it's not in order.

Mr. McRobb, you have about a minute and a half left, could you please focus on Vote 18, the Yukon Housing Corporation?

**Mr. McRobb:** Yes, Mr. Chair. Well, before I pass the floor over to the minister, there are some questions, as mentioned, that would be repeated because there are no answers. I see the Premier and he looks like he's prepared to stand up and answer. Well, isn't that something — isn't that something. You know, here's another opportunity where we probably won't get a chance to respond to what he says today, because the proceeding time will have elapsed. So everybody be on guard for some big challenges from the Premier for me to get up and respond to, but unfortunately perhaps we can continue it on some other day.

Anyway, does the minister really expect us to believe he hasn't seen the document requested? Secondly, does he really expect us to believe this government had nothing to do with the secret privatization of Yukoners' mortgages? Thirdly, does he really expect us to believe that all these officials and board

members all acted independently, without as little as a thumbs-up from him or the Premier?

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** Certainly a thumbs-down on the question would be in order on that one.

If I can bring it to the member's attention, he keeps asking me to table documents that he already has. I find that humorous, at best. He already has them; he's welcome to read them, if he took the time, but he has already proven that he didn't read the budget — \$7-million point-something into the budget to bolster the mortgage portfolio. He didn't mention that; he didn't notice that. He has referred to a few things in there that again make little sense.

There is a Management Board submission; I understand he has a copy of that. I didn't see it in its final form until recently, although, yes, it was approved to go through, coming directly from the Yukon Housing Corporation. That's what they do. We have to look at a variety of different aspects on this. Again, the member has the document. He's not reading, so I'll read it — I think this is the third or fourth time.

"...Yukon Housing Corporation is seeking approval to remove any pre-payment penalties on the Yukon Housing Corporation home owned mortgage loans, and so encourages this group of clients to transfer their loans to the banks and pay out their debt to Yukon Housing Corporation."

The Yukon Housing Corporation board of directors has already approved this course of action. The board is an independent corporate board. They made a decision. They asked the government in the form of the Management Board Secretariat to review that, to give options, which is what they do — everything is always option one, two, three, four — and to look at the various ramifications of what would happen. That's what was approved to go through there; however, when that was actually done, it never came back to Management Board, it never came back to Cabinet, and government never considered it.

Again, the member opposite is trying to claim that allowing a home-ownership client flexibility with the payout provisions is privatization. That is simply beyond comprehension. His comment a moment ago — which, actually, I find somewhat humorous: he says that a member's past statements are not relevant. Are today's statements relevant? Is he saying that they aren't relevant? I'd agree with him, frankly, but that's perhaps another story. I still have to go back to that famous statesman Samuel Adams, and I quote: "It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen to set brush fires in people's minds."

I really do invite the Member for Kluane to join in serving Yukoners — not setting brush fires around them — and deal with the documents that he has in front of him. The submission was to look at what would happen if we waived the penalty payouts — the three-month penalty payments — if people wanted to move their mortgage to a bank. It gives flexibility.

It allows people to move to banks — banks or anything — that would be at a lower interest rate, and it would give them the ability to get into a line of credit that would allow them to pay for education, their own or their children's. It would allow toys, cabins, and snowmobiles — whatever. These are things

that the Yukon Housing Corporation does not do. Especially in a time when we had interest rates as high as 7.9 percent and banks were as low as 1.5 percent, people were coming in and saying, "We would like to pay this out; what's going to happen?" How many people read exactly the fine print on the mortgage? How many real estate agents would go over that with them?

According to the Leader of the Liberal Party, he doesn't believe in mortgages, so let's assume that that isn't in his purview. We have to go back and look at this, and here is the member who is demanding, publicly, that we table a document that he already has in his hand. I do have to go back to *Hansard*, and I quote from November 7, 2001, from this same member: "... when you vote Liberal, you're prepared to throw your values out the window; you're prepared to forget everything you have heard, and hang on for the ride and expect darn near anything they'll throw at you, because the decisions will be made in the backroom with their backroom friends."

I tend to agree, but maybe the member opposite is right when he says past statements aren't relevant, but it does raise the question again: are the statements today relevant? I am not really sure that he wants to go there, but if he wants to, I guess that's part of it.

Again, the continuing demands for documents that he has, the continuing comments — I can't use that one — here we listen to his election speeches; he seems to be early on that, but he has some difficulties. The one thing that I do find interesting though is he referred moments ago to the longest serving government, and that's true — it is the longest serving government. We do have a five-year term, but I would remind him that it was the Liberal Party, in their very short-lived time — shortest lived majority government in the history of the Commonwealth of Nations; I mean, that takes some skill — as a Liberal government, they were the ones who approved a five-year term while they were in power. The act came into effect in April 2003, and that's what we live with today — a five-year term, but it was the Liberals who put it there.

So, again, maybe the member should get out more and read some of his own literature and try to understand some of the things that are going on.

So, again, maybe the member should get our more and read some of his own literature and try to understand some of the things that are going on. The member opposite has so far insulted the bureaucracy; he has insulted some of our great staff; he has insulted a deputy minister. The Liberals have basically said they would interfere with the board, they would interfere with the Water Board and with the Yukon Housing Corporation Board. They would not honour chapter 11 in the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, because they would interfere with the process. These are all very set, stable, agreed-upon processes.

On the government side, we are required to live with those processes — the Liberal opposition, not so much. They can sort of wing it as they go. It just simply makes no sense to me — some of the comments that have come through here.

Even going back, this member and others have made the comment that they weren't part of the Liberal government when that happened. They weren't, but they researched all of

this and came to the conclusion that they wanted to be a part of it. I just find it amazing that a \$17-million project, which ballooned into a \$42-million project, took me \$3 million to get out of the court cases. Does the Member for Kluane consider this good government? We didn't.

He researched all of that and very much went out of his way and specifically sought that party out.

We really at the time didn't think that the investment in the sawmill in Watson Lake was a very bright idea. Amazingly, the Supreme Court of Canada didn't either, and that's still in the courts, so we won't really go there. Again, that was a decision of previous governments. The ability of the Minister of Environment — Liberal Minister of Environment — to spend \$5,000 plus all of the gas and everything else — we've never put that on the table, but over \$5,000, probably closer to six — to tour all the campgrounds in the Yukon. Didn't he have officers to do that? Didn't he have staff to do that? Was this a good use of government funds? Was this something that really made sense?

Again, the Member from Kluane looked at that, he looked that over, thought it was a pretty good idea and he joined the Liberal Party. He thought that was something that he really should get into. There's a whole background of questions that he should be asking, things that he should be going into —

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

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** No — another thing that we can't get into here. The thing that I still find the most amazing is that in the budget — and what we're supposed to be debating today, or at least discussing is seven point something million dollars in the budget to add to the mortgage portfolio — this member thinks that that's trying to hide it. It's tabled. That's what we're supposed to be debating, if he ever got around to it. Instead he comes up with a litany of ad hominem arguments that simply make precious little sense and questions that are really not relevant, I think, to the whole matter. But I do save my discussion because of time to get into the questions that he should be asking and seems to completely miss. With that, I'll save those arguments and discussions until later, and I move that we report progress.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Kenyon 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. 22, *Second Appropriation Act, 2010-11*, and directed me to report progress.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** Disagreed.

**Speaker:** I declare the report carried.

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

*The House adjourned at 5:30 p.m.*