

**Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Thursday, February 10, 2011 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

**DAILY ROUTINE**

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

Are there any tributes?

**TRIBUTES**

**In recognition of Eating Disorder Awareness Week**

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Assembly, I rise to pay tribute to Eating Disorder Awareness Week, February 6 to 12. The National Eating Disorder Information Centre has picked the theme “Celebrating our natural sizes” for the week.

The purpose of this week is to raise awareness of how social pressures and unrealistic media portrayals can contribute to unhealthy self-images. Women, especially young women, are particularly prone to eating disorders, but men suffer from them too.

According to the National Eating Disorder Information Centre, people with eating disorders can feel powerless. They seek to gain a sense of control over their lives by manipulating their eating. This behaviour is a way of coping with life’s problems, but it often leads to much more serious problems.

Like many health issues, prevention of the problem is much better than trying to cure it. We can all take part in preventing eating disorders by not glorifying unrealistic body shapes, whether in film or in print, or by talking about what it means to have a healthy body size and shape.

Let’s inform ourselves about eating disorders and how to prevent them so that they can become a thing of the past. Our bodies want to stay at their natural, healthy weight. We should strive for that, rather than allow societal pressures to dictate what we should look like.

Günilschish.

**In recognition of White Cane Week**

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** I rise on behalf of the House in honour of White Cane Week. This week is set aside to raise awareness about the abilities of the visually impaired in our society.

According to the Canadian Council of the Blind, the early years of White Cane Week focused on obtaining good rehabilitation and blindness prevention. Organizers now emphasize the equal capabilities and talents of people who are blind and vision impaired.

Visually impaired people are part of our everyday lives. They earn a living, participate on boards and committees, and enjoy the benefits of a full life. While losing your eyesight is not easy, it does not condemn you to a life of solitude.

A number of organizations provide services and advocacy for the visually impaired. The Canadian National Institute for the Blind is one of the largest not-for-profit agencies in the world and has been working for over 90 years to equip the blind or partially-sighted with the skills and opportunities to fully participate in society.

Every year, Canadians become blind due to accidents, diseases or other degenerative conditions. In 2005, a clinical study by *Eye*, the official journal of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, estimates that 94.8 per 110,000 Canadians suffer from low vision and blindness. In Quebec alone, one in seven people live with a common eye condition, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and cataracts.

According to medical experts, the number of people with vision loss will double by 2030. Sometimes vision loss cannot be prevented. That said, many eye conditions can be prevented with regular eye checkups. In closing, I would like to encourage everyone to make an eye checkup part of their regular health routine.

Günilschish.

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

Introduction of visitors.

Returns or documents for tabling.

**TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS**

**Mr. Elias:** I have for tabling today a letter dated October 12, 2010, directed to me by the Minister of Education, and it’s regarding the policy review with the regard to Old Crow students, who attend high school in Whitehorse, travelling home for Easter and Thanksgiving.

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

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Bill No. 113: Introduction and First Reading**

**Ms. Hanson:** Mr. Speaker, I move that a bill, entitled *Acutely Intoxicated Persons (Care and Protection Act)*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Leader of the Third Party that a bill, entitled *Acutely Intoxicated Persons (Care and Protection) Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 113 agreed to*

**Speaker:** Are there further bills for introduction?

Hearing none, are there notices of motion?

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to ensure that Yukon remains one of the best jurisdictions in the

world in which to invest by continuing to implement competitive taxation and royalty regimes in order to maintain or reduce industry's cost of doing business in the territory.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to promptly review the Auditor General's report on the Department of Health and Social Services acknowledging the importance of independent and reliable information on government performance so that the government and the Yukon public may be informed about:

- (1) financial priorities and decisions within the department;
- (2) progress toward departmental goals and objectives;
- (3) areas of concern with respect to activities and processes;
- (4) the effectiveness of the department's expenditures on programs, operations and capital projects; and
- (5) opportunities for further improvement.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to table in this Assembly all recent studies done on wind generation in the territory within the past five years and to do so before representatives from the Yukon Energy Corporation appear for questioning on February 17, 2011.

**Ms. Hanson:** I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House applauds the remarks from the Governor General regarding the importance of sustainable development and the value of multi-sectoral, consensus-driven bodies like the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy; and

THAT, in honour of His Excellency's comments, this House encourages the Government of Yukon to reinstate our own Yukon round table, the Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment established under the *Environment Act*.

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to ensure that the Mayo to Keno City portion of the Silver Trail is adequately upgraded and maintained to accommodate the increased volume of motor vehicle traffic and to ensure the safety of the travelling public.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to recognize the historic importance of recent RCMP announcements by offering congratulations to:

(1) Chief Superintendent Brenda Butterworth-Carr, originally from Dawson City, who is the new Chief Superintendent in charge of the National Aboriginal Policing Services in Ottawa; and to

(2) Chief Superintendent Russell Mirasty, the first person of First Nation ancestry to head an RCMP division in Canada

when he became the commanding officer of Saskatchewan's F Division.

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

Is there a statement by a minister?

Hearing none, that brings us to Question Period.

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: Homeless shelter

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, on October 25, 2010, the Member for Klondike put forward a motion urging the government, "to develop a homeless shelter in downtown Whitehorse."

The Liberal caucus spent a great deal of time last fall advocating for a homeless shelter, so when this government brought forward this motion, it provided a glimmer of hope that it might actually start taking the issue of homelessness seriously. But as a homeless shelter hasn't even been included in this government's long-term budget plans, it demonstrates just how seriously it takes this issue.

The Yukon Party government made a commitment to build this homeless shelter in downtown Whitehorse just two weeks before calling the by-election for this riding. Does the Member for Klondike think that it's fair to promise something to downtown voters before an election and then not put it in the budget?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** We had a task force that went out, and its mandate was to advise the Minister of Health and Social Services on options and suggested priority areas for action and for appropriate and effective ways to deal with people at risk of harming themselves or others, or intoxicated persons. The Yukon government has received the task force report and is now working with partners and stakeholders to build an implementation plan to address those recommendations. I do here express my sincere appreciation for the work that was done by this task force — Dr. Beaton and Chief James Allen — along with all the contributions made by individuals, organizations and governments to the work of this task force.

The task force recommendations are now being examined and acted upon, taking into consideration other related areas of work. This is a work in progress, Mr. Speaker. This is being handled.

**Mr. Mitchell:** It may be of interest to the minister opposite that not all homeless people in Yukon are intoxicated persons at risk.

Last fall the Member for Klondike said, "We know the lack of safe, affordable, acceptable housing can affect a person's physical and mental health and their sense of connection to the community."

Yukoners have been led to believe that this government understands that the issue of homelessness is a serious one, but actions speak louder than words, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, while this government has no problem talking the talk, it is not actually supporting that statement with meaningful action by budgeting for a shelter.

We amended the Member for Klondike's motion to ensure that when a shelter was built in Whitehorse, it would be done right. These amendments were supported and the motion was passed unanimously in this House, so why is this Yukon Party

government once again going back on a commitment that it made to Yukoners?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** Mr. Speaker, we do deliver. We talk the talk and we deliver. As I just said, the government is actively reviewing housing needs for those who need housing, those who are most vulnerable, from emergency shelter to long-term, supportive housing.

The recently released Whitehorse housing adequacy study involved a number of organizations and individuals. The housing study findings will help us identify priorities and develop programs and services to help those wanting to make better lives for themselves. The Department of Health and Social Services is working closely with Yukon Housing Corporation and NGOs to develop options for housing across the spectrum of needs. We were criticized yesterday because we don't work as a team. We have worked as a team. We are looking at this problem and we will deliver.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Well, I'll go halfway with this minister — they do talk the talk.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'll once again underline the fact that there is nothing in this Yukon Party government's five-year capital plan about funding for a homeless shelter. Yukoners trusted this government to take this issue seriously, but it is clear that this government can't be trusted and has no plans to fund a shelter by 2015.

When we debated this motion in the House last fall, the Minister of Health acknowledged that this government is, and I quote: "...aware there are individuals in our community who are truly homeless" and that "a shelter is needed." He went on to say that, "we want a society where all are included and where all have a safe place to lay their heads at night."

These are passionate statements. They are statements that underline the need for a homeless shelter. So will the Premier explain to us why there is no money in the long-term plan to support this passion?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** The explanation is in the documents of the budget. The member knows full well there is still a remaining balance for affordable housing for this territory of some \$17 million. Let's get to the crux of the situation.

For the Liberal leader to stand in this House and somehow now be the champion of those who are in need of housing in this territory is, quite frankly, an affront. Let me point out a few things.

First off, millions of dollars dedicated by this Yukon Party government resulted in a 40-percent increase in making social housing available for Yukoners who need housing. We also committed millions of dollars more for affordable housing needs for single-parent families. Are they any less eligible? Millions more for affordable housing for seniors across this territory — are our seniors any less eligible? Are they not afforded the opportunity to have that very safe place to lay their heads?

These are just some of the examples of the delivery by the Yukon Party government already on the ground in this territory — every nickel of that investment voted against by the Liberals. They opposed them.

### Question re: Whistle-blower legislation

**Mr. Inverarity:** The minister responsible for the Public Service Commission spoke of her commitment to develop whistle-blower legislation a few days ago. We would really like to believe the minister's promise in this regard, but that is proving a bit difficult, and here's why.

When asked about the delay in bringing forward legislation, the minister said, and I quote: "There are provisions within our collective agreements that were negotiated by the parties that provide a variety of dispute resolution mechanisms that are available to each and every employee." The minister was factually correct in her statement. There are a variety of dispute resolution mechanisms in place. Unfortunately, there is no protection for whistle-blowers.

Does the minister believe that there is a real need for whistle-blower legislation in the Yukon?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Thank you to the member opposite for raising this question again.

I will reiterate on the floor of the Legislature that the government is and remains committed to developing whistle-blower legislation. As I mentioned earlier, it is before a select committee comprising representatives of all parties housed within the Legislative Assembly. That work is underway and has been for some time. So I look forward to the outcome — the recommendations put forth by the select committee — and moving forward as to whether or not legislation is required by the committee and, if so, what does that look like.

**Mr. Inverarity:** Just to clarify things, the mandate of the select committee does not include the development of legislation. In an effort to be constructive, I would remind the minister that she needs to also be careful about the messages that she is sending. When previously asked about the need for whistle-blower protection, the minister said, and again I quote: "for fear of being called out of order, I would like to bring the members' opposite attention that there is public sector legislation," end quote. My concern here is that the minister is sending the message that whistle-blower protection is already in place when, in fact, it is not. We tabled the legislation this week that would protect employees who choose to disclose government wrongdoings. We brought forward this legislation because no such protection currently exists. Will the minister support the implementation of whistle-blower legislation in the Yukon?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Mr. Speaker, I will repeat for the member opposite that that is in fact why the select committee, comprised of all respective parties in the Legislature, is overseeing this very matter. Yes, I am very knowledgeable as to the terms of reference — the very mandate of the select committee. It is not to come up with legislation, but rather it is to gather the views and opinions of Yukoners as to whether or not legislation is required and if in fact legislation is required, what that legislation should actually look like.

Mr. Speaker, in the meantime, there are a number of dispute resolutions housed throughout a number of pieces of Yukon statutes — the *Public Service Act*, the *Environment Act*, the *Ombudsman Act*, *Yukon Human Rights Act*, and the list goes on.

There are also provisions housed within their respective collective agreements that oversee processes surrounding grievances and if so, adjudications. So, again, for the member opposite, this government does remain committed to developing legislation.

**Mr. Inverarity:** Mr. Speaker, we tabled legislation this week that would specifically protect employees who disclose wrongdoings. We believe that there is a need for this kind of protection, and we believe that it needs to be enshrined in its own legislation.

The *Disclosure Protection Act*, as tabled, has three distinct components. The first component calls for a clearly defined process for making disclosures. The second identifies the Ombudsman as the appropriate authority to investigate disclosures of wrongdoing. Thirdly, it places responsibility for protecting employees against reprisals into their respective public service unions. We believe that this is a good place to start to address the need for whistle-blower protection. All these recommendations were suggested on the website for the whistle-blower act.

Will the minister support our efforts to move this bill forward?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** We on this side of the House are not going to fly with a piece of legislation that has not been fully scrutinized by the public. That is why the select committee has chosen to take on the very important task of overseeing whistle-blower protection. Again, the government is doing its part. We certainly encourage the committee to conclude its work, at which time we look forward to seeing the recommendations. The Public Service Commission is providing input and has provided input to that select committee. There are many others that ought to be recognized as well. We look forward to the conclusion of that work and moving forward with whistle-blower protection.

#### **Question re: Acutely intoxicated persons at risk**

**Ms. Hanson:** The report of the Task Force on Acutely Intoxicated Persons at Risk says we need to change public attitudes around public intoxication. The model we are using to manage acutely intoxicated persons at risk currently functions entirely within the domain of law enforcement. That model, which treats the acutely intoxicated as a public nuisance — a pariah — is no longer morally, legally or ethically justifiable. Does the Justice minister agree the old model is broken and we need to do much more to de-stigmatize acute intoxication and much more to assist the acutely intoxicated?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** You know, I think there is some confusion. First I would like to clarify to the members opposite that we are not building a sobering centre at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. It has been referred to many times as a “sobering centre”. We are, in fact, building a secure assessment centre, which is very different. It is still the intent of the government to explore the creation of a sobering centre in the downtown core, as recommended by the task force on the acutely intoxicated, which was done by Dr. Bruce Beaton and Chief James Allen.

The secure assessment centre will replace the cells at the RCMP station. The drunk tank is a thing of the past. We will now have the secure assessment centre at the new Correctional

Centre. At the secure assessment centre, an individual’s intoxication level and health will be assessed by those who are secure in their medical training, and they will be taken care of as they should be.

**Ms. Hanson:** I think at some future date we’ll come back to the issues of the other recommendations that Dr. Beaton and Chief Allen made. What I am specifically focusing on here are the recommendations with respect to the legislation.

So the Yukon *Liquor Act* says that a person can be detained for being intoxicated in a public place. It does not seem to matter much whether they are being a public menace or a public nuisance. If they are in an intoxicated condition in a public place, they can be taken into custody.

The task force suggested either changing or replacing sections 91 and 92 of the *Liquor Act*. It says we need to define more precisely under what circumstances an acutely intoxicated person can be detained, what services will be provided to that person, and what conditions must be met to cease their detention.

Does the minister agree that we need to change the legislation to better reflect these concerns raised by the Task Force on Acutely Intoxicated Persons at Risk?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** I remind the member opposite that we just got this report and we are indeed working on it. We are working through all the recommendations. We moved very quickly on the safe assessment centre. We realized that was an emergency, therefore we moved quickly, and we are working on the recommendations in the report. We just received this report about a month ago — if a month ago — and we are actively exploring those recommendations. I just said that we are looking at different areas downtown and it will be taken care of.

**Ms. Hanson:** In fact, the recommendations of the Task Force on Acutely Intoxicated Persons did not recommend putting any sort of facility at the jail. I am asking a question that has to do with a legislative base for how we treat these people who are finding themselves in this state.

The task force suggests Yukon consider passing stand-alone legislation to deal with the detention of the acutely intoxicated in a more respectful, humane and compassionate way. Today the New Democratic Party tabled a private member’s bill. It is titled, “Acutely Intoxicated Persons Care and Protection Act” and it is modelled on legislation that has existed in Manitoba for many years to assist intoxicated people.

This legislation is not unique to Manitoba; it exists in British Columbia and elsewhere. In Manitoba, though, community outreach workers, paramedics and other caregivers have the authority to detain acutely intoxicated people and take them to a safe and secure environment, such as a sobering centre. This approach is not only saving lives, it is also saving taxpayers —

**Speaker:** Ask the question, please.

**Ms. Hanson:** If the Justice minister wants to do more than just pay lip service to social inclusion, when will she reduce the law and increase the —

**Speaker:** Thank you.

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** I don’t know if the Leader of the Third Party has been listening. This is exactly what we’re do-

ing. I notice the member opposite keeps referring to “jail”. This is a secure assessment centre. We said from the beginning that this was a multi-purpose facility. Because the people are taken to this facility does not mean that they’re being charged with any offence. This is a safe assessment centre, and we are exploring the other options. We have studied other options across Canada, to which the member is referring.

**Question re: Capital project cost overruns**

**Mr. Cardiff:** Yesterday a government-friendly motion turned into an exposé of this government’s mismanagement of capital projects, but we didn’t get a lot of details from the government.

I have heard a lot of comments from Yukoners — some who work in the construction industry — about problems with the construction at the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre. The government wanted to get this project done quickly so they fast-tracked it. “Fast-tracking” refers to beginning construction before the design and engineering work has been completed, and I am hearing there have been lots of change orders as a result, and change orders, Mr. Speaker, usually lead to extra costs.

To date, can the minister tell us how many change orders there have been on the Correctional Centre project and what costs have been incurred because of these change orders?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I would address the member opposite’s question referring to the new correctional building that the government is building. It is at this time on time — it is ahead of time schedule and it is on budget at this moment. So it is a good-news story for the Yukon.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Well, the minister didn’t agree to tell us how many change orders there were or what the costs were. Now it is well known in the construction industry — maybe not to members on that side of the House — that there are very many pitfalls with fast-tracking projects.

Construction workers are paid by the hour, so they’re not all that concerned about change orders and, as I said yesterday, it’s one of those things where you install it, you take it out, you install it again, you take it out again, you move it over here, sometimes you take it downtown and have it reworked and then you bring it back up and you install it again.

Fast-tracking may be good for employees who are working by the hour, but it’s not very cost-effective for the taxpayers who are footing the bill for this project. Why was the Correctional Centre project fast-tracked, despite all we know about the problems with this approach to building?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I’d like to correct the member opposite: we went through four years of review of our *Corrections Act* to see just exactly what kind of facility should be built for the renewal of the existing Whitehorse Correctional Centre. Four years of work went into planning of the new building and went from there to the Kwanlin Dun and Dominion Construction, building the building we see today.

I’d like to remind Yukoners the building is ahead of schedule, regardless of what the member opposite says, and it’s on budget, so it’s a good-news story for us in the Yukon and was a lot of hard work by the department, whether it was Highways and Public Works or Justice, as well as Health and

Social Services. There was a combination of input from the general public and a four-year review of the act and also of the building that was needed. So when the members talk about fast-tracking, I’m not sure that was fast-tracked.

**Mr. Cardiff:** If this minister is in charge of that, then why, after four years of planning, did they start the building without all the design work and engineering in place? It doesn’t make sense. The government is saying it’s on time and on budget, but that’s not what I’m hearing. I’m hearing there are going to be huge cost overruns. This project originated way back when; it was about a \$30-million project, but then the plans changed; this government changed the plans and decided to build off the existing footprint that was there. Now we’re up to about \$63 million and the costs are escalating daily.

Watson Lake hospital is the same story: a \$5-million project to a \$25-million project. That’s what we have now. This government has a major credibility problem. It says that things are on time and on budget but, without the evidence on the table, the public’s not buying it. If the minister is going to stick to his claims that the project is on time and on budget, will he table the documentation from contractors and Highways and Public Works to back up his words?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Speaking of tabling evidence, I would challenge the member of the Third Party to table the evidence that the government changed any plans whatsoever. The fact of the matter is that the government was astute enough to throw away the plans that the Liberal government was going to proceed with, to build another warehouse — to warehouse Yukoners — individuals, those who commit crimes — those who have to be incarcerated, Mr. Speaker. We didn’t change plans; we threw bad plans away. Then we embarked on a process of correctional reform. I would remind the member of the Third Party that correctional reform included a very strategic emphasis on trying to address the recidivism rate — that’s the real cost to taxpayers, not this opinion and conjecture that we are hearing from members opposite.

The fact of the matter is that much has been done over the course of a number of years to change course in this territory when it comes to corrections and incarceration of people, including the type of facility that we should build. We have even — in this new facility — changed the model of supervision. I invite all members of this House to look thoroughly at correctional reform and the overall plan for this territory for incarceration.

**Question re: Old Crow student travel**

**Mr. Elias:** I would like to follow up with the Minister of Education on an important issue I raised last fall.

High school students from Old Crow must leave their families every September to attend high school in Whitehorse. This year there are 16 students from Old Crow attending high schools in our capital city. Old Crow students spend a total of nine and a half months away from home during one school year. This is a substantial amount of time for a teenager to be away from home.

In October of last year, the minister committed by letter to review the policy and get back to me. Has the government reviewed the policy, and what can I tell the parents who are rais-

ing this issue with me, as they try to plan for this upcoming Easter break?

**Hon. Mr. Rouble:** The Government of Yukon takes seriously the education of all Yukon students throughout the territory. That's why we have embarked on construction projects regarding education throughout the territory, whether it's Carmacks or the new F.H. Collins school project that the government has committed to building. Also on that one, part of the reason for doing that is because it's next to Gadzoosdaa Residence, which is a residence that does provide additional support to out-of-town students.

I've looked into the issue the member opposite has raised with me and found that, in addition to the flights that we do provide to students from Old Crow — it has been regular practice for students to be provided plane tickets home in the event of a death in their family, which has certainly been utilized quite a bit in this — it has also started to create a discussion with the Department of Education about how we increase the opportunities for Old Crow students and what is the best method to do that.

Is it indeed the best to fly them more often, or how can we look at providing additional secondary-school programs in the community? We have been working with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and with the federal government on the land-based, experiential education program in that community. Now with the opportunities that we have in technology, we are going to look at additional ways.

**Mr. Elias:** The Auditor General of Canada pointed out that only 40 percent of Yukon First Nation kids graduate from high school, and I am sure that the Environment minister, when he travelled to Cancun, Mexico, considered it an investment; and I'm sure the Minister of Environment, when he travelled to London, England last month, considered it an investment. I'm sure the Economic Development minister considers it an investment when he goes to China. I, too, consider it an investment.

Will the minister commit today on the floor of the House to support the students, their families and the community of Old Crow to ensure their students get home for Thanksgiving and Easter?

**Hon. Mr. Rouble:** The Government of Yukon does support students from rural Yukon. We do support students who come in from outside of Whitehorse. I have an obligation not just to provide specific opportunities for students in Old Crow. I appreciate the member opposite has an obligation to lobby for that area, but we as a government have a responsibility to provide equity and education throughout the territory and will continue to look at ways of increasing the educational outcomes of people of First Nation ancestry.

When one takes a look at the annual report that was tabled in this Assembly, one sees some of those measures. There's still a continuing relationship with the Council of Yukon First Nations and with specific First Nations about how we can increase those educational outcomes for students of First Nation ancestry. We are strongly committed to doing that; we are making changes in our education system, in the delivery of educa-

tion, and we are expecting to see significant increases in the opportunities for Yukon students.

#### **Question re: Destruction Bay septic facility**

**Mr. McRobb:** As members know, the Kluane region is home to an outstanding showcase of the territory's natural features, such as majestic mountains, great glaciers, pristine rivers and lakes. It's also rich in culture and character, making it a great place to visit and live.

In the centre of the region is the community of Destruction Bay, known for its spectacular viewscapes, pristine wilderness and community spirit. But a problem there with the Yukon government's septic field has degraded the quality of life within the community. For some time now, sewage has been backing up and pouring out on the streets and flowing toward the town's health centre.

The Minister of Community Services promised residents two years ago he would look after it. Why hasn't he kept that promise?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** We certainly have been concerned about the sewer system that the gentleman opposite has been talking about. I see in our budget this year there are some resources to mitigate that. It has been an issue for many, many, many years. It is a system that was put in many, many years ago. Of course, with the shrinking population and the use of the system, we have to invest some money to put a proper system in place. I see in the budget we're going to do just that.

**Mr. McRobb:** Mr. Speaker, this minister told several local residents — he promised them two years ago — he would look after this. "I'll look after it," he said, quelling the concerns of local residents. Well, it's two years later, yet the problem is now worse than ever. In fact, the septic field is clogged up and sewage has been spilling onto the streets. The minister has been busy lately sending in the pumping crew and the front-end loader to clear the streets of sewage. The cost to taxpayers for this minister's band-aid solution is in the thousands of dollars this year alone.

When can local residents finally expect this minister to fulfill his promise?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** We're doing just that. We've done the engineering work. There is some extensive work to be done. In the past, we have worked with the locals on a steaming process and other investments in mitigating the issue. The issue is that it has to be taken out and replaced. That's exactly what this government is intending to do.

**Mr. McRobb:** It's no wonder why Yukoners have lost their trust in this government. This government has made promises to people and then doesn't live up to them. The fact in this case is the Minister of Community Services promised local residents he would look after it, and because he didn't, sewage has been pouring onto the streets.

Residents are very concerned about what this will do to their community in the spring. This government promised that water and sewage issues would be a priority, and this minister promised people he would look after it. Tell that to the residents in Destruction Bay.

Now, the minister says there is an item in the budget that will look after this, but he has not stated definitively this matter

will be corrected this coming summer. There are other items in budgets that lapse, so I'm looking for a guarantee from this minister this will be remedied this summer.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** This issue in Destruction Bay has been an ongoing issue. We have worked with the community; we have worked with the local individuals, also the Highways department. We've worked with the issue regarding flow of the system, which was a problem. The main problem with the system is the number of people who are on the system. It's too big a system to maintain the volume that's going through it, so we have to downsize the system and we have to invest in the ground to make sure that's done. And that's what this government is proceeding to do.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### GOVERNMENT BILLS

#### Bill No. 24: Second Reading — *First Appropriation Act, 2011-12* — adjourned debate

**Clerk:** Second reading, Bill No. 24, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Fentie; adjourned debate, the Hon. Mr. Rouble.

**Speaker:** Minister of Education, you have 13 minutes, 16 seconds.

**Hon. Mr. Rouble:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it's an honour and pleasure to rise again and debate, to continue the discussion about the very positive budget that's before us. It has been a very interesting debate so far. We have certainly heard a lot about the good things in the budget: it's a balanced budget, it's one that increases the savings account, it creates significant investments, it's responsive to the needs of Yukoners. There are no tax increases and no layoffs.

What we haven't heard, though, is an alternative. The opposition comments have been confusing at best. It has been confusing about what's in or what isn't. We've had curious statements like demanding to see more money spent on lot development — and I should add there is three times the normal budget spent on lot development in this budget — and frustration about seeing increases in money spent on new housing opportunities. Then yesterday we heard complaints that there were increases in the budget.

What we haven't heard is the alternative or a plan. We have not heard a plan proposed by the opposition. The Liberal leader said he was going to table a plan, and here we are, day 5 in this Assembly, and no plan, no reasonable, responsible alternative.

Yesterday we had a discussion about the five-year capital plan that was tabled. Do the Liberals or the NDP agree with it or not? Mr. Speaker, you can't tell from the debate we heard yesterday. Did the Liberals or the NDP commit to going ahead with the projects identified in the plan? No, they didn't. Did the Liberals or the NDP indicate what they would take out? No,

they did not. Did the Liberals or NDP indicate what they would add to the plan? No, they didn't. Do they have a plan? Clearly, they don't.

We have heard some positive things about how the labour force in the territory has grown from 17,000 people to about 18,600. Then, yesterday, we heard complaints about how this means more people immigrating to the territory, like that was a bad thing, and her disparaging remarks about the Yukon nominee program, or the temporary foreign worker program. One has to ask, what is their agenda on that front? We have heard the statements that when there is more work, more opportunities and higher wages, that there is, of course, an increase in drug and alcohol abuse. What do these people think? Do they think that Yukoners are better off not working? Do they believe that Yukoners are better off living in some kind of welfare state? Is that their plan? To reduce opportunities, to reduce the population, to stifle the quality of life that Yukoners have come to enjoy? We don't know; they haven't tabled their plan, but we do know history and we do know that that's exactly what happened when the opposition was in government. We'd like to believe they have a plan, but they haven't shared it.

Also, there have been some interesting statements made about things like raising the cost of doing business in the territory, adding regulatory complexity. The Liberals now seem to have seen the light on the problems of the devolution transfer agreement — that's the one that the territorial Liberals negotiated with the federal Liberals.

They now seem to be saying that, "We got a bad deal and now we need to renegotiate it." How? They don't say. Again, they don't have a plan. Look at the track record we have with the federal government. What has it resulted in? More financial support across the board — more housing, more health care, more roads and look at the budget to see how the positive relationship and going there with an identified plan has resulted in benefits.

Mr. Speaker, the Yukon I believe in is one that's a contributing member of Canada, not some part that sits on the fringes and whines about our entitlement.

The Yukon that I believe in is one of opportunity, one of picking up our socks, working hard, playing hard and planning for our future — living up to our responsibilities and our opportunities, not just cashing in on our entitlements.

Now, we have established a pretty good relationship with the federal government — not without our difficulties, of course, but a pretty good one. We have always gone to them with a plan, with a "help us to help you" attitude. Opposition has complained that growth has caused problems for us — again, no solutions offered. But, we have — with the support of officials, agencies, First Nations and Yukoners — made the case to Ottawa that they need to contribute more for Yukon to succeed. We have gone to them with plans about increasing energy in the territory. Mayo B is a perfect example. We've gone to them with a business case about increasing housing opportunities — again, a perfect example with the housing we have seen created for seniors, students and single-parent families — pretty good priorities. When we have gone to them with issues about seeing increases for training for First Nation peo-

ple, the federal government has contributed to organizations such as the Yukon Mine Training Association. We have gone over pages and pages of such examples. That's a good theme to start touching on.

If you're going to benefit from your rights in society, you have to live up to your responsibilities and that's something, unfortunately, the opposition members don't always do.

They want to take credit for the actions of government, but they don't want to take responsibility for it. That means voting for the budget; that means putting money where your mouth is. The opposition has an opportunity — they can either present a viable option or they can continue on their own current course.

The Yukon is on a positive path. We have a plan. We have a budget that makes investments in things that Yukoners need — one that helps prepare us for opportunities; one that provides for protection and conservation; one that helps the disadvantaged. This is a budget that will help Yukon live up to its potential. It's a budget that I commend to the House. I look forward to debating the budget with members of the opposition and meeting Yukoners on the street and explaining it to them.

I look forward to discussing the plan before us on Education, on Energy, Mines and Resources. This is a go-forward plan; it's a positive one. It's a budget that meets the needs of Yukoners and lives up to the fiscal reality we're in. It's one that plans for the future and plans for the Yukon. It is a budget that I would commend all to support.

**Mr. McRobb:** For many of us this will be the final time we speak to a main budget in this Legislature. While some members won't be running for re-election, it would be presumptuous to assume all those who do will be returned by the voters. I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation to the voters in the Kluane riding for their support in the past four elections and for bestowing upon me the honour of representing them in this Assembly. Serving my constituents has truly been a tremendous learning experience in many, many respects. If the election does occur next fall, as indicated in the budget speech, this experience will be a full 15 years, and in those terms has already exceeded the time served by my distinguished predecessor, the Hon. Bill Brewster.

I wish to now turn to discuss the budget and respond to some of the comments that members put on the record, especially the comments from members on the government side. Let's talk about this government's record of service, which is a different kettle of fish altogether. There is an old saying that when you outstay your welcome, the fish has gone bad. In terms of this government's day, the fish certainly has gone bad.

The Premier's Budget Address stated Yukoners will have a clear choice to make this fall. According to recent public opinion polls, the people's choice is clearly not to return the ruling Yukon Party, which continues to trail all parties represented in this Legislature.

So if the general election indeed occurs next fall, the Yukon Party will have been in power for a full nine years. Not only will that mark the longest governing streak by any party, it will also mark the longest term served by any government at five years.

This will mean that voters will have had to wait a full five years before they can exercise their democratic right to elect a government. The longest any previous government made the voters wait was four years, while the average wait is closer to three years. But with the recent change in the *Elections Act* allowing a five-year term, the Yukon Party has chosen to cling on to power until the bitter end of its unprecedented, lengthy mandate. Is that good governance or is it political opportunism?

Many of us believe future political historians will determine it is the latter option. Why is that? Well, I'm sure the Justice minister will be interested to know of the rationale, so I'll explain for her and others. This is a government that has gone out of its way to cling to power. We all know how it has refused calls for an election for the past two years mainly.

This all started with the Yukon Party government's bad investments into the asset-backed commercial paper — the ABCPs. It continued when the Premier's secret, parallel negotiating process with a private company from Alberta to sell out Yukoners' energy future was exposed and became public. There were several people calling for an election at that time, but what did the government do? Did it give voters an opportunity to elect a government it can trust? No. This Yukon Party government went into bunker mode and refused to allow people to vote in a new government — one they could trust.

A lot can be said on that matter and I could return to it later. I want to respond to a more specific matter the Minister of Economic Development put on the record when he declared that certain groups were telling him they have no reason to vote for anybody else because they have gotten all of the funding they ever could dream of.

Well, if that's true, why then do Yukoners keep identifying good governance as their top issue? What I'm speaking of are recent public opinion polls done by DataPath, surveys in which it was reported the top issue of concern to Yukoners was good governance. This included other common issues, such as the economy, which in previous surveys was frequently the top issue identified by Yukoners but, for the past year and half to two years, the top issue to Yukoners polled, as reported, has been good governance.

Why is that? Well, Yukoners did not approve of this government's bad investments — the \$36.5 million into ABCPs. The public concern was amplified when this government's secret plan to privatize our energy future was exposed. A big part of both of those issues was the way in which this government dealt with them to the Yukon public.

The government simply was in denial mode; it would not admit that it was engaged in these negotiations. The government side tried to divert the issues away from what was happening. Still to this day, this government denies the very evidence that has been tabled in this House which proved it was involved in negotiating these assets and resources with a private company from Alberta.

It goes beyond energy, Mr. Speaker. These documents, which have been tabled as evidence in this House, also indicate this government was negotiating our water resources and our housing possibilities in the territory to this Outside company —



but the government has denied all this, despite the hard evidence.

Now, any government can only pull the wool over Yukoners' eyes for so long. For this government, the gig is up; people realize when they're being told one thing, while they believe another.

It's all about government trust and, for the Yukon Party government, it has lost the trust of the voters. If this isn't the case, why does this government seem to go out of its way to emphasize that it is good government? There is a section in the budget document itself under the label "good government". If this government didn't realize that the loss of public trust was not a major issue with the voters, it wouldn't have such a section in the budget document, it wouldn't be trying to address this weakness, but we all know this is an established problem.

As the former chair of the Yukon Energy Corporation said, "We're all Yukoners. Why can't we be fair with each other and speak honestly?" That's what I am trying to do here: why can't we admit to the evidence stated in the documents and go from there? That's why I firmly believe this government will not be returned in the next election. It is because Yukoners are smart enough to realize that nine years of a government that, at the end of the day, turned out not to be trustworthy, does not deserve a third mandate.

Another area I want to touch on is this government's spending habits. We all see how the government has been on a spending rampage, if you will, for the past few years — the largest ever budgets, all in excess of \$1 billion. But it goes further than that. This government has mortgaged our future. It has mortgaged our future through expenditures, through the corporations — the Yukon Hospital Corporation, the Yukon Energy Corporation — to the tune of \$270 million. That is a sizable, sizable amount. In the first years when I was elected to this Legislature, that amount would have represented more than half of the entire main budget that was put before the House.

That's a sizable amount. With the assets that will be constructed with those funds, being two rural hospitals and an expansion of an existing hydro site — a small expansion, I'll add — one has to ask: are those projects the panacea that will resolve our energy issues or our health care issues for decades to come in the territory? The answer is no. Those projects will only begin to address those needs, yet our future is mortgaged.

What will this mean to Yukoners and successive Yukon governments? It will serve to hamstring their ability to provide budgets for all Yukoners because their finances will be restricted. If there is a matter that does come up that requires a sizable amount of funds, its borrowing powers will have been exhausted through these projects that the Yukon Party has already agreed to.

Another aspect, and one I've raised before, is: what mandate did the Yukon Party government have before it mortgaged Yukoners' future? Did it ask the people — Yukoners, I'm speaking about — if this is the approach they wanted their government to take? The answer, Mr. Speaker, is a flat out — no. Were elected members who represent all Yukoners in this Assembly asked before these huge mortgage decisions were made? The answer again is a flat out — no. The Yukon Party

made these decisions on its own, without consulting anyone. Yet these decisions may not be the best decisions for the territory, as we have already heard from many people, including those in the health care sector. We've heard from doctors, nurses, staff, patients — serious questions about the shortcomings of what this government decided would be best for Yukoners for decades to come.

These are all issues of great import to voters, and when Judgment Day at the polls comes — if indeed it does next fall — I would expect the feeling of Yukoners and their assessment of the track record of this government will be reflected in how they vote.

So this goes way beyond what any group of people feels in respect to funds they receive from this government. That's not a top issue of importance to Yukoners. Yet this government has chosen to highlight this relatively obscure issue and emphasize it, amplify it and bring it to the floor of this Assembly during the budget speech, and conclude that this will be the motivating factor in how people vote. Well, I disagree and I know the majority of Yukoners disagree. It has been said in this Assembly frequently for the past few years: money can't buy trust.

The two issues of how the government spends money and how it funds certain organizations and groups should never be associated with trust in government and certainly trust at the polls on election day. I believe I heard another message this week, something to the effect that money can't buy votes; this is also something that has resonated with Yukoners for several elections, both at the territorial level and the civic level, as well as the federal level. A government trying to buy votes with taxpayers' own money has been determined not to work in this territory. The reason it doesn't work is people are smart enough to realize a government they can't trust is trying to buy their vote with their own money, yet this seems to be the underlying principle in the statement we heard.

Mr. Speaker, I realize my time is running out, and there is one other area I want to touch on in terms of the huge spending pattern of this Yukon Party government. It's at a higher level than just mortgaging our future and having the billion-dollar budgets and so on. It's about affordability and good budgeting.

Now, we heard the Premier in his speech say something to the effect of, "If this isn't good financial management, I don't know what is." Well, perhaps he's right. Perhaps the Premier doesn't know what good financial management is. But there was a point in time, about a decade ago, when he did.

Back on February 22, 2000, when he spoke in his budget reply speech to the McDonald government, part of what he said was, and I quote: "It is with pride today that I rise to speak in support of the budget before us. It is, again, another example of our commitment to the Yukon public, upon taking office, of budgeting in a pay-as-you-go manner, of budgets that take the sustainable, stable spending approach and do not contribute to the boom-and-bust cycles that this territory has faced for so long."

Well, Mr. Speaker, "pay-as-you-go" versus "mortgage our future" — are they the same? Absolutely not. If anything, they're completely opposite. What else did the Premier say

back then? I quote again: “On the other hand, the Yukon Party would have us back in the Dark Ages...”

Something happened to the Premier in the past 10 years that caused this diametric shift in his budgeting philosophy from “pay-as-you-go” to “mortgage our future.” I wonder what it was. Maybe it was hanging around with those who he believed were in the Dark Ages. Maybe he can respond to this and shed some light on the Dark Ages in his budget wrap-up.

So there are lots of issues this government deserves to be held accountable for. In terms of accountability, there is a litany of examples of how this Yukon Party government has avoided and escaped accountability over the past eight and one-half years. It all started with its first piece of legislation tabled in this Assembly back in the spring of 2003. It was entitled *Act to Repeal the Government Accountability Act*. The first act of this Yukon Party government was to repeal the accountability act. Well, it was all downhill from there, with a litany of examples. The most recent one, I might add, is the Yukon Party government’s refusal to have the Auditor General appear in this Assembly for questioning while she is in town right after she tables her report on health care in the territory.

This government will leave a legacy of lack of accountability and mortgaging the future and I would probably include the secret negotiations as the third item. That will be the legacy of this Yukon Party government. It’s too bad it had to come to this and I guess we’ll all find out in the next election what Yukoners think about that sad legacy, because it could have been so much better. You know, the campaign slogans — like “Imagine tomorrow” and something about doing better together. We all had a chance to work together in this Assembly, but it didn’t work out that way. We weren’t asked about mortgaging the territory’s future; a lot of initiatives brought forward by the Official Opposition were shot down right from the get-go. This government was not interested in working with both opposition parties. This government was interested in its own approach, an approach that has been commonly referenced as “My way or the highway”.

That term occurred to me again today when I thought about the Yukon Party’s refusal to have the Auditor General appear in this Assembly, and how the Yukon Party is using its majority to block this opportunity for accountability in this Assembly by all other members who represent all other Yukoners. The Yukon Party is essentially saying, “Our way or the highway.” Well, Yukoners will have their day, when it finally comes — the longest wait ever — to finally elect a government they can trust.

Now, many other members spoke about their ridings, critic portfolios and so on. I’ve done this on several previous occasions, Mr. Speaker, but I note my time has almost elapsed.

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

**Mr. McRobb:** Okay, great. I’ve been extended — granted a reprieve, so I will have time to speak about some of these other issues, and that’s good.

Let’s start with a few good things in the budget. Excuse me, I’m trying to come up with something positive to say. I think the cultural centre in Haines Junction is definitely a positive project. Of course, the Yukon government’s portion is a

minority portion, and the majority is comprised from other governments, including the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. I think that’s quite a positive project. The construction has already started. It’s taking shape. Anybody who travels to Haines Junction will, I’m sure, be quite impressed with the profile of the building as it emerges. Certainly, anyone who attended the public meetings about the services the building will offer will also be impressed. I would like to thank the various stakeholders, primarily the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Kluane National Park, for the public meetings held, where they gathered input from the public on the design and services and the very layout of this building — very well done.

I’m hard-pressed to recall much else off the top for the riding. Certainly, there is some allocation toward the Shakwak highway reconstruction project, but that is really just a transfer from the United States, and the usual amount of \$25 million has been reduced to \$18 million in this year’s budget. Despite what some previous members of the Yukon Party have stated, this is not Yukon government money. This is a result of a tripartite agreement dating back to — I believe it was 1987 — somewhere in the past decades. In the near future it will be expiring. Just on that matter, I have raised this issue several times with this government. What’s the strategy to replace the jobs lost once the Shakwak project expires? To date, the government has not provided any workable solutions for those workers who will soon be displaced.

Now, there are some things missing from this budget, not only across the Yukon but certainly in the Kluane riding. One of them, Mr. Speaker, is a relatively small capital project I’ve been raising for the past decade, and that is the need for a fire hall in the community of Beaver Creek. There are issues with the current building that constrain the community’s ability to respond to emergencies, including fire. There are also issues with storage of the emergency response vehicle, which should be stored in a new facility, as it is in other communities, but this government has rejected these calls for a fire hall, even though these matters have been brought up continuously over the years during the Premier’s budget tour in that community.

Across the territory, people have heard the Premier state, “You know, the objective of these tours is to collect input from people in the communities and then integrate that input into our budgeting process,” and so on. But in this case, the Yukon Party failed to do that and has failed to do that for nine consecutive years.

There are other issues in that community, but moving down the road to Burwash Landing — what about a school for the people of Burwash Landing? Some of us recall the saga of how a previous Education minister announced there would be funding for this project in a previous budget. Then he was overruled by the Premier and a short time thereafter, that member quit the Yukon Party caucus to sit as an Independent. Apparently this was a primary reason and we haven’t heard too much about this matter since. Certainly, it has been missing from any Yukon Party government budget since. As a matter of fact, the last we heard about it was this past summer when both candidates running for election for chief of the Kluane First Nation

indicated they supported a school, and the incumbent chief at the time indicated there were some negotiations with the Yukon Party government about a school. Well, why then is there not a school in the budget? Why then is there not a school in the long-term capital plan? This capital plan looks forward a few years, yet there's no line item for this project. So, what's going on? The Education minister announced it. As it turned out, the government was in negotiations but there is nothing in the budgets. You know this is another example of how people just can't trust the Yukon Party government.

The current Education minister said something earlier about the opposition's plan. Well, he'll find out when he sees what the opposition party — I'll speak for my own party, the Yukon Liberal Party — plans to put in its campaign platform, which will be provided to the voters in terms of seeking a mandate. If our party is given a mandate to govern, that will be the plan — simple as that. The member will have to wait a little while to see the plan. Does that stop us from advocating for certain aspects of what will be in that plan? Definitely not, Mr. Speaker. We stand in this Assembly on a daily basis and advocate for projects and services that are consistent with what we will be standing for at election time. We won't make a promise to the voters and then do something completely different like the Yukon Party has done on so many of these other examples already put on the record.

We won't do that because we realize, now more than ever, that what Yukoners want most is a government they can trust, and that means ensuring you act consistently with what you say. In street language, you can say it's called "walking the talk". On the other hand, as we heard the Justice minister put on the record today, the Yukon Party "talks the talk". The difference is just saying something, and then doing what you say. There is a huge difference between the two.

I pointed out another issue in Question Period today. Two years ago, in the community of Destruction Bay, the Community Services minister said, in response to concerns about the sewage problem, "Don't worry, I'll look after it." He said, "I'll look after it." Well, right now the problem is worse than ever. I don't need to return to the issue — I made it quite clear — but people are very concerned about what will happen in that community this spring, unless this situation is resolved quickly.

There are countless other issues too. Another one the Minister of Economic Development said — he went on to talk about the Internet connection and the bandwidth issue. He talked about the reliability of service issue. He went on and on, speaking in general terms.

Well, my question is: where is this in the budget? There is nothing in the budget to expand Yukon's bandwidth — to get it away from a narrow bandwidth, single channel to the Outside. There is nothing in this budget to increase the reliability of that service, yet that minister stood up and spoke glowingly about the Internet and how all this should be done. Is the proof in the pudding, Mr. Speaker? Is there anything in this government's budget to back up that rhetoric? Is it "walking the talk" or is it "talking the talk"? Again, this is something future Yukon political historians will clearly determine is the latter option. As a consequence — and I will just wrap up with these words — in

the fall, voters will have a clear choice, and it's clear that choice will not be the Yukon Party. Thank you.

**Mr. Nordick:** It gives me great pleasure to speak in support of this balanced, surplus budget today. This is the fifth budget that I've been involved with since being elected in 2006 by the citizens of Klondike, and the ninth budget of this Yukon Party government. I truly enjoy representing Dawson City and the Klondike. I look forward to representing my community for years to come. Thanks to my friends and — most of all, thanks to my wife Tracy — for their support. Thanks to my constituents for giving me this great opportunity to positively effect change for our community in the Klondike.

When the Yukon Party took office in 2002, the population of the Yukon was decreasing and the Yukon had experienced seven years of economic recession. Yukon's unemployment rate — that was double-digit in 2002.

Today our population has experienced steady growth and Yukon's unemployment rate is the lowest in Canada. When we speak about the economy and the health of our communities, Dawson City, for one, was bankrupt when the Yukon Party took office. Dawson City was guided into bankruptcy under the former Liberal government's leadership. When we speak about track records, that is quite the track record. How things have changed since our government took office. Our government fixed the former Liberal government's failures. You may ask how we have fixed the former Liberal government's failures. We utilized budgets to help stimulate Yukon's private sector economy, an economy built on diversity ranging from tourism to mining. We also utilized our budgets and policies to promote a positive social environment for citizens of the Yukon. We practice good governance. We protected the environment. We built a vibrant arts culture community. Mining exploration and development was less than \$10 million in 2002. Mining and exploration was \$410 million in 2010. Exploration alone in 2011 is expected to be in the \$200-million range. In April of this year there will be three operating mines in the Yukon: Capstone's copper mine at Minto; Alexco's Bellekeno's silver, lead, zinc mine at Keno and Yukon Zinc Corporation's zinc silver Wolverine Mine near Ross River.

I know the Leader of the Third Party mentioned that there are no Yukoners working at these mines. I would encourage her and her colleagues to go to the mines and tell me that they do not recognize the faces at the mines; tell me that when they go to Pelly's camp at Minto mine that they do not recognize the faces there. I recognize the faces at these mines — they are Yukoners — Yukoners benefiting from our policies and our practices.

Mr. Speaker, we also know that there are more mines in the permitting stage, and we all know the discoveries near Dawson City such as the White Gold property and the impact that discovery has had on our territory and our communities. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the many individuals involved in the exploration and mining industry, particularly Sean Ryan and Cathy Wood for their hard work and determination and the results that we all are very much aware of today.

June 2010 marked the seventh consecutive June which recorded an increase in population. As I stated earlier, our unemployment rate as of December 2010 was the lowest in the country. Tourism — to date, figures for border crossings show an increase of 10 percent, marking 11 consecutive months of growth in border crossings. The tourism industry is important to my community and the Yukon. This Yukon Party government supports this industry. I could list the many initiatives that we have undertaken to support and build tourism in the Yukon, but it would take me all day, and I only have a short period of time today.

I will list a few examples — an example like expanding the airports in Dawson City, Old Crow and expansion here in Whitehorse at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport. We built visitor centres at Tombstone in partnership with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. We're working on cultural centres throughout the territory in partnerships with the Yukon First Nations. We have had a significant increase in marketing. Those are just a few; the list goes on and on.

I would like to now focus on how our Yukon Party government's vision has improved my community. The City of Dawson is now on sound financial ground.

This Yukon Party government supported the City of Dawson with millions of dollars toward a financial bailout package. We also supported all the communities throughout the territory by increasing the comprehensive municipal operating grants in 2007 and 2008, totalling \$12.538 million. In 2008 our government approved annual increments of \$888,000 until 2012-13.

In Dawson, our vision and our planning has accomplished a lot of things in conjunction with the citizens of Dawson City. We paved Front Street. That created jobs in my community. That investment in beautifying our community had a local Yukon construction firm spending hotel nights in the community, employing local contractors, and employing local youth. That was an investment that this Yukon Party government did in my community. This Yukon Party government also built a visitor centre at Tombstone. This Yukon Party government also, in partnership with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, signed the Tombstone management plan. I ought to remind members that the Tombstone visitor centre was built by Han Construction, a local company in Dawson City, part of the development corporation of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in — employment directly for my community.

As we speak, we are building an apartment building in Dawson City to replace Korbo. Currently and throughout the winter — maybe not currently, but throughout the winter, eight Dawson individuals were employed at that construction site. All but one subcontractor were Yukon-based businesses. I know the Third Party said that all the stimulus money is going out of the territory, but I'd like her to explain to Dawson and to the territory how the money of all but one subcontractor gets invested outside the territory — money being spent in the territory in my community.

We replaced a playground in Dawson City to replace the decrepit, dangerous playground the new hospital is being built on. That playground was built by a local contractor — more employment for the citizens of Dawson City.

We are also fixing the waste-water problem in Dawson City. We have a signed contract with a company to solve the waste-water treatment issue in Dawson City, and the subcontractors on the project stayed in Dawson City throughout the summer drilling the holes for the mechanical plant. Significant money was spent at hotels, restaurants, and local contractors working on that project — money being invested in this territory's people.

We are also creating a district heating system that will create local jobs in my community. In the long term — local jobs; in the short term, it's creating local jobs through construction, through excavation.

We expanded the airport buttons in Dawson City to allow the landing of a larger plane by Air North — done by local contractors.

We invested in a new search and rescue boat for Dawson City.

In 2002 — I just want a couple of people to think back — could you make a cellphone call in Dawson City? No. No cellphone service in 2002 in Dawson City. This Yukon Party government put cellphone service in 17 communities. That is quite an accomplishment. Not only did we do that, we have also expanded cellphone service. Today, you can receive a cellphone call at the airport in Dawson City. The individuals who live at Rock Creek can use a cellphone now. We are investing in our communities.

With regard to education, we are building an expansion of education in our community with Yukon College — that's a \$2.6-million expansion, built by locals, managed by locals, and the benefit is for Yukoners.

This Yukon Party government built the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture. This Yukon Party government fully funds that endeavour. We — this government — under the leadership of the Tourism minister, created a thriving arts community in Dawson City. What I would like to do is give a couple examples of how things have changed just in arts and culture in Dawson City. Under the former Liberal government leadership, arts and culture mustn't have been a very big priority, because they spent in their budget \$250,000 total on arts and culture for Dawson City. This year, we have spent over \$1 million on arts and culture in Dawson City alone. Think about that. We spend that much in all the jurisdictions in the Yukon. We have a strong emphasis on arts and culture in this territory.

What else are we doing for the healthiness and the economy of my community? We are building a hospital. Before I get into much detail on the hospital, I do want to make sure Yukoners and the citizens of Dawson City remember what the Liberal Party's philosophy is on health care needs for Yukoners. On September 22, 2010, in this very Assembly, the Leader of the Official Opposition was critical of the government's plan to build a hospital in Dawson. He said, in part, that there is a good governance model of health care delivery used across Canada and the United States, and that is to concentrate resources in the greater population centre. The Official Opposition truly believes that if you choose to live in rural Yukon, you should be expected to travel for services. The Leader of the Official Opposition went on to say, on the very next day — so

it wasn't just a random thought one day — but the next day he added to that by saying that that's just the way it works. You make certain decisions when you live in communities. This Yukon Party government and I believe all Yukoners, whether rural or urban, deserve the same level of health care as many Canadians receive in southern Canada. This Yukon Party government supports rural Yukon. We are building a new hospital in Dawson City and Watson Lake. Our government, this Yukon Party government, believes that Dawson City and rural Yukon deserve these services. We believe in providing stabilization, observation, and monitoring should you need it. You shouldn't have to go to Whitehorse.

We believe in providing convalescent care. We believe in providing respite care in communities like Dawson City and Watson Lake. We believe in providing palliative care, acute medical detoxification, acute mental health intervention, First Nation health programming, laboratory work, medical imaging, and diabetic consultation. We believe in providing increases in services in the communities. Building a hospital in Dawson City and Watson Lake was a decision for the betterment of communities. I know the Official Opposition does not believe in that approach. They would rather see community members travel to Whitehorse. I would like the members opposite to explain that to northern Yukon — Mayo, Stewart Crossing, Old Crow, Dawson — they deserve a hospital. I know the Official Opposition would not do that. I live for the day when the Official Opposition stands up and says, "We were mistaken. We made a mistake."

You know the third party hasn't been much better with regard to health care opportunities for rural Yukon. Last session, or maybe the second-last session, they accused this government of going in an insane direction with regard to building a hospital in Dawson City — an insane direction. I would encourage the members of the Third Party to travel to Dawson City, sit down, call a public meeting and tell each one of those members who come to that public meeting that they need to travel to Whitehorse, and see if they think it's an insane decision then.

Mr. Speaker, a new hospital in Dawson City will provide emergency services 24/7, outpatient services such as outpatient clinics, IV, antibiotics, et cetera, and in-patient beds. There will be six rooms providing the following services: stabilization, observation and monitoring, convalescent care, respite care when McDonald Lodge is unable to do so, palliative care when not available in the community, acute medical detoxification, acute mental health intervention, other medical care as required.

In this new facility, there are other services and programs — a First Nation health program, laboratory with new lab X-ray technician to provide services, medical imaging, in-patient pharmacy, dietetic counselling and therapies. This is against the belief of the Liberal Party. They believe you should travel to Whitehorse. It's against the belief of the Third Party's approach, calling this an "insane direction."

The design of the building supports community health, partnerships and includes space for community nursing, a community mental health coordinator, emergency medical services, Dawson medical clinic — this building includes a medi-

cal clinic — a retail pharmacy and space for visiting specialists and professionals. This new building — the physical adjacency to McDonald Lodge, which will be the second phase, allows the following — McDonald Lodge will provide meal services to the hospital. Some building services will be shared, and the hospital will provide shared space such as teaching rooms and the use of therapy rooms and the ability to transport patients and individuals from McDonald Lodge to the hospital easier and with less stress on the patients for diagnostic and medical needs such as X-rays. They're right beside a hospital, so if a doctor can make some personal rounds through McDonald Lodge, so much the better. If the nurses from the hospital can make personal rounds through McDonald Lodge, so much the better. The medical clinic is being replaced with a new hospital.

Not only have we invested in health care needs for our communities, we have also committed and invested in the community development fund. I'll list some of the initiatives that the community development fund has accomplished in my community. There is the dike and development of the water front revitalization plan with Dawson City. There is the vertical lift at the Dawson City Arts Society to allow seniors to get to the second floor of the Oddfellows Hall, which — if anybody hasn't been paying attention — is funded by this government. The Dawson City Ski Association, along with a couple of other organizations, is building a multi-storage and maintenance shop at the ski hill. The Klondyke Centennial Society has built a discovery trail system at Discovery Claim, which is helping boost tourism.

The Klondike Active Trails & Transport Society is upgrading walking trails. We have invested a significant number of dollars in this organization, which puts youth and local individuals to work building walking and hiking trails that are used by locals and tourists — a very well-deserved asset.

The Dawson City Museum received some funding for mannequins, which highlighted distinctive individuals who have invested a lot of their time and their life into the community, and now their memories are captured in the museum for many generations to see.

The Dawson City firefighters built a cold-storage facility to store all their artifacts that they have been using throughout the last number of years to display their history. I'd like to thank the volunteer fire department for the investment they personally put into this project. Not very often do organizations put their own cash toward a project to the extent that this organization did.

The City of Dawson also built a new anchoring system, thanks to this government, for boats on the Yukon River. The list goes on and on and on.

The CDF projects that we have — I just spoke about — people wonder, how do those benefit the community? Well, there was \$4.2-million worth of investment in the local economy in Dawson City alone. That's around 50,000 hours of employment directly in my community. Not only have we built the economy through the community development fund, we have invested over \$75 million in recent and current capital investments in Dawson City, which created jobs and is currently and will continue to provide significant benefits to the

citizens of the Klondike. On a side note, the number of government employees has increased in the last number of years with new infrastructure like the hospital and a new McDonald Lodge, so we will see increases in year-round government jobs.

Mr. Speaker, what do I see Dawson's future to be? I see Dawson's future to be a beautiful, growing dynamic community where our friends and our family are able to get medical treatment closer to home, at a new hospital and at a new medical clinic. I see a community where seniors are able to reside at a new McDonald Lodge, living in the comfort they deserve. I see their grandchildren playing in a new playground and in a new recreation centre.

I would like to thank the Minister of Community Services and this government for the work that they've done, and we've done, with the City of Dawson in improving the recreational facilities in Dawson City. I'd like to see a partnership with the City of Dawson, the Yukon government and the First Nation to expand on the recreation facility and infrastructure we have. I, personally, would like to see the completion of a new facility and I think the City of Dawson is currently working on where that new facility would be. I think one of the locations that they've chosen is lot 1058-1059, but I don't want to choose that for them — that's for them to bring forward.

Mr. Speaker, I see our children receiving quality education in our community with the option to receive additional education in the new art school or the new Yukon College. I see a paleontologist's presence in Dawson City, where science and industry work together to promote their archaeology finds of the Klondike.

I see the City of Dawson's water and waste-water problems solved with it benefiting our citizens by providing affordable water and waste-water rates, thanks to the new waste-water treatment plant and district heating system. I see potential to heat the swimming pool year-round with the district heating system. I see our community being more physically active on the walking trails that have been built, thanks to this government's community development fund.

I see a continuing, vibrant arts community because of the investment of this Yukon Party government. We are investing over \$1.6 million in the arts and culture in Dawson City this year alone. An example of this investment is DCAS which, when I took office and when this party took office four years ago for the second mandate, was receiving \$150,000 a year of core funding. Today, DCAS and SOVA receive over \$1 million a year of core funding. This Yukon Party government supports the arts.

I support this budget and I am proud to work with each and every one of this Yukon Party team. The Liberal Party, a couple of days ago, mentioned they don't see anybody standing up and saying we support the leader or our colleagues. Well, I support the Minister of Tourism. I support the Premier. I support the Minister of Health and Social Services. I support the Minister of Economic Development. I support the Minister of Education. I support the Minister of Community Services. I support the Minister of Justice, and I also support the Minister of Environment.

The members opposite think that just because we don't stand up and say publicly we support each other — because they're not used to working as a team. They don't understand that "team" doesn't mean we jump up and down and we say we support each other, but if the members opposite want me to, I could jump up and down, because I do support this team. The reason why I support the team is because of the vision and the policies that they have put forth. I'm proud to have been part of a government that has improved our economy, our lifestyle and our overall well-being and will continue to do that for years to come.

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

**Mr. Cathers:** I'll be very brief in my remarks at second reading. I look forward to discussing the budget further during the sitting. I want to make a few notes on the budget.

I'm pleased to see continued investment in infrastructure in my riding and around the Yukon. I'm pleased to see continued strong funding for health and for other services and programs important to Yukoners' quality of life, including the continuation of the health and resource strategy with incentive programs to attract physicians to the Yukon and the bursaries for Yukon students being educated as doctors, nurses and other health professionals, which I had the honour of implementing when I was minister responsible.

I'm pleased to see in the budget another \$600,000 for continuation of the rural well program, which has helped over 140 families, including my constituents, install a well and water system for their home. I thank the Minister of Community Services for his indication yesterday that he and the Department of Community Services remain interested in reaching an arrangement with the City of Whitehorse to allow the program to be made available to my constituents and other residents within city limits.

I'm also pleased to see continued investment in the amount announced last year under the Building Canada fund for the construction of a Deep Creek community well, and pleased that project is continuing to move forward. I also welcome the continued support for agriculture through Growing Forward and hope to see it used effectively this fiscal year to invest in infrastructure priorities of farmers in keeping with the Agriculture branch program objective added when I was minister; namely, to support development of infrastructure that encourages increased local food production and improves food safety and security.

Another area I am pleased to see in the budget is the \$3.2 million allocated —

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I would like to introduce a friend of the Yukon, Dave Laxton, a hard worker for the Legion and other organizations in the territory. Let us make him welcome.

*Applause*

**Mr. Cathers:** I am pleased to see \$3.2 million in the budget for a second ambulance station. Looking at developing such a station was a key election announcement in 2006, and I commend the minister and the government for making this investment. The creation of the second ambulance station will improve response time for Whitehorse and nearby areas served by the Whitehorse Emergency Medical Services including, of course, my riding of Lake Laberge. There is no doubt that that improved response time will save lives.

I am also pleased to see the continued support for rural mental health positions I announced in 2007, and I congratulate the minister and the department for finding money to ensure that these programs funded under the territorial health access fund will not end when that fund ends.

I am also pleased to see the government respond to the recommendations that I made after a review this year related to the creation of a sobering centre and recognize that it is a need that will in fact ensure that people who are intoxicated and taken into custody by the police are dealt with in an appropriate manner, without putting an unnecessary burden on the emergency room staff.

I also want to — in rising on the budget — thank the government for several projects that were completed last summer. Three intersection projects, including the Mayo Road, Alaska Highway corner; the Deep Creek intersection with the Mayo Road and the turning lanes there; and the same at Shallow Bay — the turning lanes where it meets with the Mayo Road or, for those using the official name, the north Klondike Highway.

Also, I am pleased with the rapid response that the Minister of Highways and Public Works gave in response to my report of constituents' concerns related to the safety of the Flat Creek bridge. They responded within a manner of mere weeks in addressing that problem and I thank them for doing that. Last summer also saw investment in continuing to repave and resurface the Mayo Road north from kilometre 223 where the previous year's project had terminated, and again a very welcomed investment as well as continued investment in the Hot Springs Road project engineering that was included in last year's fiscal year and again continued in this year's budget.

The functional plan, of course, was released in 2009 and contains the main improvements and actions that my constituents asked for: widening the road, the creation of cyclist lanes, the creation of trails for both motorized and non-motorized use and, of course, improving the surface, which is reaching the end of its lifespan.

There are a number of other areas within the budget that I could address but in the interest of time and getting into details further on in this session, I will simply conclude my remarks there.

I again thank my constituents in what is presumably the last legislative sitting of this, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Legislature — the last sitting before the next election. I want to thank them again for the honour it has been to serve them over the past eight and a half years, roughly speaking, and look forward to seeing their continued support this fall. I again, Mr. Speaker, want to thank you, the Assembly staff — both in the Legislative Assembly

office and in *Hansard* — for their support over the years. I will be supporting this budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Let me begin by extending our appreciation from the government side of the House and, indeed, as Minister of Finance, my appreciation to all members of the House for their responses to what is another record budget for the Yukon. I must say, however, that there is some disappointment. I will get to that disappointment momentarily. We have tabled in this House, another billion-dollar budget for Yukoners — a budget that shows a multi-year fiscal plan for this territory, which is something that is critical for being able to manage the finances of any jurisdiction. What's proving out here is that that approach to fiscal management with multi-year fiscal planning has served us well, and the budget estimates clearly show that our fiscal capacity, especially our savings account, will continue to grow. A great deal of credit is due to all departments and the officials within those departments who are responsible for managing each budget envelope, as provided, and doing their best, to the extent possible, to meet the targets, as provided through the call letters and the direction, as given by Management Board and the Management Board Secretariat.

A special thanks to the Finance officials, who are instrumental in oversight and ensuring that we are proceeding according to the overall fiscal plan, as brought forward by the government — a plan that began upon taking office some eight and a half, going into nine, years ago.

To the disappointment — this was the golden opportunity for the opposition members of this House to clearly articulate and lay out before the Yukon public the plan for the future they would present to Yukoners in what is soon to be another general election. In fact, as recently as January 20 of this year, those comments were very much the comments that were coming from the opposition parties by way of their leaders — that the opposition parties will use the upcoming sitting of the Legislature to lay out their visions for the territory.

So, of course, the government side has listened intently to the responses to the budget, because, of course, the budget — the fiscal plan for the Yukon — has a great deal to do with the future of the Yukon Territory and the direction it will go. The Leader of the Official Opposition, the Liberal leader, had unlimited time to clearly lay out a plan for the Yukon. The disappointment is that nothing of the sort was provided to the House or to Yukoners.

There was a great deal of dissertation around reconstructing history, but I would remind the Liberal leader that history is the past and the territory has come a long way, and we must now move on into the future. No vision, no plan expressed — and that is quite disturbing. There was no indication on where the Liberals stand on many, many matters. In fact, it even became more confusing. For anyone so close to this — as we are — being confused by what the Liberals would provide this territory and its people and the direction they would lead this territory in the future — if it can't even be understood right

here, when we are sitting across from those members while they are expressing what they're expressing, can you imagine what the Yukon public must think?

So it's disappointing that the Official Opposition and the Liberal leader were either unable or unwilling to present to Yukoners a clear vision and a clear plan for the future of this territory.

Unfortunately it even got a little worse when you consider the interaction by the Liberal members on matters like the Peel. We know the Liberal Party, its leader and its members clearly have accepted a draft plan. They have stated so in the House, and they have stated so publicly — averting due process. There's quite a distance to go on that. The government side will continue on with the process until its conclusion. I would remind the Liberal leader that the Liberals have endorsed a draft plan. There's still a step where the final draft of the Peel watershed plan must still go before the Yukon public for further consultation. The Liberals, unfortunately, would ignore that very important step of engagement with the public.

But what is worse? Recently at the Roundup, it became quite evident that the representatives of the Liberal Party present at the Roundup were saying something quite inconsistent with their position as taken in this House and made public in the Yukon. What is striking — even though the government side had brought to the Roundup its Minister of Environment to clearly articulate the Yukon government's balanced approach by way of policy, regulatory assessment, environmental assessment and so on — a balance expressing an integrated approach to resource development — the Liberal Party and the Liberal leader chose not to even bring their environment critic. Maybe I have a reason why. The statements being made at the Roundup being so inconsistent with the position taken here in the Yukon would be very, very unacceptable to the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin, the Liberal critic for the Environment. I think that in itself is somewhat of a concern, because we are going to the polls. Obviously the Liberals will be in that general election and this is something that Yukoners will never benefit from — inconsistency and this approach to matters of great importance to Yukon today and into the future. This approach will not be beneficial, and I would encourage the Liberal leader to please make it clear on these matters exactly what the Liberal position is — and on many others.

As far as the finances of the territory, there is not much point in debating with the Liberal leader what those finances are. The Liberal leader does not agree with all the information before this House by way of the budget documents. He does not believe that that is the actual fiscal position for Yukon, and I would encourage the Liberal leader then to tell Yukoners what the Liberals believe the fiscal position to be.

Further to that, another disappointing fact is the third party — and I know the Leader of the Third Party is relatively new, and that is understandable — but there is some confusion on the fiscal relationship with Yukon and the federal government, with our royalties regime with how that is shared with First Nations, what instruments are applied — whether it be the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, whether it be YOGA, whether it be the devolution transfer agreement, so on and so forth. So, I won't

speak for the third party or any of the members opposite, but what I will say, when it comes to the cost of doing business in the Yukon, when it comes to royalties and taxation regimes, the Yukon Party government will not raise taxes — in fact, quite the contrary, we've been very diligent in ensuring we can find ways to reduce the tax burden on Yukoners and Yukon business. We are not going to raise the cost to industry. We are going to remain competitive, as we are today, because that has bode well for the Yukon. We are one of the most attractive places in the world today for investment. So, we will stand firm on that.

I would hope that the members opposite will recognize the importance of investment in Yukon and what that means to our future. What we will do, however — which we've already begun as far back as September of 2010 — is work in partnership with First Nations to develop a joint position — a business case to go before the federal government to do such things as raise the cap on resources revenues, but not to raise the cost to industry.

I could delve into a whole bunch of rebuttal to comments made here on the floor of the House, but I think I'll sum all of the rebuttal up by saying, I'm sure as Yukoners are disappointed, so too are we that the opposition parties failed miserably to provide us any indication of where they would take this territory into its future.

Let me just give a few reasons why the budget is so critical to the future of any jurisdiction and, of course, in Yukon that principle holds true. This budget targets a number of areas: it targets through strategic investment practising good government; it targets through strategic investment protecting and preserving our environment and, of course, our wildlife; and it targets strategically achieving a better quality of life and, most importantly, it will keep us on the pathway to prosperity.

That's what the budget is doing today. That's what our budgeting practices have done in the past and that's exactly what this budget, as tabled before the House today in all its detail, will continue to do into the future and, in fact, by way of the documents before this House, as far out as the year 2015.

In that regard, let me speak a little bit of our fiscal position. That's important because maintaining that fiscal position is certainly a major part of the direction the Yukon is going.

Our finances, to a large degree, are made up by own-source revenue and our fiscal relationship with Canada. When we budget, the first and most critical component of that is to determine, through all the available information and, in doing so, calculating with all that available information before us, what we estimate our revenues to be going forward. I can tell this House that we are conservative in our estimates and our revenues. We have and will continue, as the budget documents presented show, to show a revenue growth in the two to three percent range. That is critical because that also translates into what kind of growth of expenditure we are providing in the fiscal plan for Yukon. Our growth in expenditure, by way of estimate, as any member of the House can see by looking into the detail of the budget documents themselves, is that we are staying within that range. That essentially means we are paying our way.



There are going to be anomalies; there are going to be variances during the course of any fiscal year. It happens all the time.

Here's another essential point about the Yukon Party government's fiscal management. In conjunction with estimating our revenue growth — revenue streams — and with estimating our growth in expenditure — cost to government, and most of that is delivery of programs and services to Yukon people — we also continue to maintain an emphasis strategically on a savings account.

So when we went through the last couple of years, where the world experienced an unprecedented meltdown in the financial sector, a global economic downturn unseen before save and except possibly the Depression of the 1930s, the Yukon government was very fortunate to have had the savings account that was the result of financial planning the Yukon Party government brought to office.

We were able to use that savings account. That savings account allowed us to meet emerging needs — for example, health care for Yukoners; the results of collective bargaining agreements for employees; addressing solvency issues for pension funds like the Yukon Hospital and Yukon College, acceleration of capital projects because of sound capital planning and very solid construction methods — and probably a lot of pride in the construction itself — and a long list of other needs were met because we had a savings account. Surely we have spent that savings account down; that's the point of having one.

However, the fiscal plan also shows clearly that we are rebuilding that savings account; that we continue to invest in these areas that I mentioned moments ago. Continually investing strategically in infrastructure, building Yukon's future — that's what the Yukon Party's fiscal plan is and that is the foundation for the Yukon Party government's plan for the future. At least we can go before the public with tangible points, plans and visions for this territory. At least we put that down in documents that are public documents and we'll continue to do that. That's the emphasis we put on the public interest here in Yukon.

I would encourage the opposition to recognize that because the Yukon Party government would want nothing better than a constructive, general election where all Yukoners can be the recipients of clear messaging and planning on what the parties of this territory would do for Yukon long into the future.

I think it is fair that I should also lay out some challenges before us, and it is important that building the financial framework that we have, we are going to be better able to meet those challenges. Challenge number one: we do not know over the long term what the federal government might do in regard to addressing the federal deficit. We do know that the federal government has been very clear publicly that by the year 2015-16 they will have erased the deficit. We also know by way of public comment that the federal government will not, unlike the former federal Liberal government in the mid-90s, which addressed the deficit on the backs of the provinces and territories simply by offloading the national deficit on to other jurisdictions, we know that the Harper government, the Conservative

Government of Canada, has said clearly this is what they will not do.

Most recently, the individual responsible for the Treasury Board has reiterated that very point. So we know they're not going to offload the federal deficit on to the provincial and territorial governments, but we must be very vigilant and diligent in our financial management practices and the budget that we have laid out accomplishes exactly that, should there be situations that arise that we must address — and, therein again, the savings account.

On that point, you know, it is really tiring to keep hearing about unprecedented amounts of federal transfer and all these statements being made. I would wonder what the opposition members of this House really think about Yukoners' right to comparable services — measured by comparable levels of taxation. That is a principle of this country. It's a foundation of the Canadian fabric we share. So, those statements are really quite irresponsible when you consider what Canada is all about and the role and the position that the Yukon plays in this great federation.

Furthermore, when you consider that fact, I think there's a direct confusion between what provinces receive from the federal government and how that's measured and what the territories receive from the federal government and how that's measured and I'll be very brief and simple on this point.

In Canada, all provinces have the constitutional right to access the fiscal resources through the equalization program should they be eligible to receive equalization payments. The equalization program itself is driven by revenue so if any province does not meet the threshold of revenue that is set by the national standard, the gap between what their own-source revenues are and that standard, that national standard as set for revenue, that gap is filled with equalization.

Here in the territories — in Yukon — we do not have equalization — we are not a province — so our territorial funding formula is the instrument — and all its mechanisms in the formula — that fills the gaps required, except there's one distinct difference. The territorial funding formula is not revenue driven; it's program driven. Therein comes the principle of comparable services measured on comparable levels of taxation.

So to raise the fear that we are going to experience reductions in all these things that are going to be a major problem for the Yukon public going forward is really irresponsible because, in making those statements, it does not provide any evidence on how the reversal of those principles entrenched in our territorial funding formula are going to be reversed. Surely the members opposite would provide that kind of evidence.

So we are confident that, going forward, the budget before this House, its estimates of revenue and expenditure, are as solid as estimates can be, based on all available information and the necessary calculations done not only by our accounting people and officials and experts in the field, but also our confidence in presenting the Yukon government's books to the Auditor General each and every year.

Financially, we are in good shape. The Yukon government is one of only two jurisdictions that does not have net debt.

Only Alberta can say that. Yukon and Alberta have no net debt. In short, we the Yukon have the fiscal resources available to finance future government operations and that is exactly what is in the budget before us. Any other province and territory cannot do that. They do not have the fiscal resources available today to finance future government operations of tomorrow.

So it is quite an achievement. We certainly do not concern ourselves with empty criticism. There is really nothing to that, but there has been a lot of work by many to get the Yukon to the fiscal position that it is in. That will surely contribute greatly to the positive future that we the Yukon Party see for the Yukon Territory and its people.

Another challenge is energy. Energy, because of our growth and development, is going to be a critical challenge to be met. The Yukon Party is up for the challenge.

We have presented by way of policy framework the Yukon energy strategy, and our corporation has presented its 20-year resource plan. These are the instruments that we will use and apply to go forward and meet the challenges in the future in addressing our energy needs. Our purpose is to continue to provide reliable, affordable energy for Yukoners. That includes access to energy to further provide incentive for industry to invest and establish here in the Yukon Territory. As far as the labour market issues and the challenges we face there, a lot of that can be attributed to the exodus of our population — our young people, our skilled workers — back in those terrible, dark days of Liberal and NDP leadership — or maybe the good point is lack of leadership for this territory. But it really created a significant gap in the Yukon, and I'm pleased to say that that's turning around. More importantly, I'm very pleased to see Yukon children coming back to this territory, getting gainful employment, and establishing themselves here once again. They are taxpayers now, contributing to the Yukon and its future and raising families. Our population growth is critical — more taxpayers coming to the Yukon and contributing to Yukon's fortunes and future. That was certainly an essential part of the Yukon Party's plan as we commenced taking office in 2002.

It's producing results, but there is more — much more. So attracting immigrants and others to this territory to work and benefit and share in the prosperity of this territory is certainly a position the Yukon takes. We don't agree with the NDP that immigrants are bad — they shouldn't be here. We don't agree with the NDP who, obviously, absolutely oppose internal trade and labour mobility for this country. We don't agree with that. We agree with labour mobility and internal trade and immigration. In fact, we encourage it, Mr. Speaker. We want, not just Canada, but the world to experience and participate in the prosperity and the future of our territory. But, in doing that, we want them to commit to also contribute to that future in building Yukon into a place that it should rightly be.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know the NDP has an aversion to industry and to profit and to free enterprise. You know, there's another problem here. It's getting very hard to distinguish between the NDP and the Liberals in that regard.

In fact, it appears more and more every day in this House, and in past sittings, that both the Liberals and NDP believe in a

doctrine — in an ideology — where we should all be equally poor.

Well, not the Yukon Party government. We believe in free enterprise; we believe in entrepreneurship; we believe in profit; we believe in providing incentive to the corporations and to small businesses and to all to come and invest in our territory and make a profit.

In doing so, we take a balanced approach to responsible, sustainable development and protecting our environment and our pristine wilderness — and there's more. We have dramatically strengthened the social safety net. We will continue to do that. We have significantly invested in health care and education. The budget shows we continue to do that. Yes, much has been done over these last eight years plus that has taken the territory from a devastated situation to the pathway of prosperity. We the Yukon Party government are going to continue leading the Yukon Territory down that pathway to prosperity.

The budget before us is the instrument and the tools financially for us to do exactly that. All we can ascertain from what we have heard today with this so-called relaying the plan for the future by the opposition parties for Yukon is that they are both on the bus going backward to nowhere.

I commend this budget to the House for the passage and for the benefit of Yukoners. In closing, I must thank the constituents of Watson Lake for some 15 years of support, but all Yukoners indeed for recognizing and trusting in the Yukon Party government that our plan was the right one.

**Speaker:** Are you prepared for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** Division.

#### Division

**Speaker:** Division has been called.

#### Bells

**Speaker:** Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Rouble:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Edzerza:** Agree.

**Mr. Nordick:** Agree.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Disagree.

**Mr. McRobb:** Disagree.

**Mr. Fairclough:** Disagree.

**Mr. Inverarity:** Disagree.

**Ms. Hanson:** Disagree.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Disagree.

**Mr. Cathers:** Agree.

**Clerk:** Mr. Speaker, the results are nine yeas, six nays.

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

*Motion for second reading of Bill No. 24 agreed to*

**GOVERNMENT MOTIONS****Motion No. 1273**

**Clerk:** Motion No. 1273, standing in the name of the Hon. Ms. Taylor.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Government House Leader

THAT Craig Tuton, chair of the Yukon Hospital Corporation, Joe MacGillivray, chief executive officer of the Yukon Hospital Corporation, and Kelly Steele, chief financial officer of the Yukon Hospital Corporation, appear as witnesses before Committee of the Whole from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15, 2011, to discuss matters relating to the Yukon Hospital Corporation.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Mr. Speaker, my remarks will be very brief. The motion before us is relatively straightforward. It is very much so in recognition of the importance of the Yukon Hospital Corporation and their contributions to the social benefit of the territory. This is requesting unanimous consent of members for the chief executive officer of the Yukon Hospital Corporation, the chair, as well as the chief financial officer to appear as witnesses next Tuesday, February 15, for a wholesome discussion to be sure among members.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Well, we certainly do appreciate the motion from the Member for Whitehorse West to bring the chair, the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer of the Yukon Hospital Corporation before this House. In the past, it was like pulling teeth to get a response from the Government House Leader as to when or if we would have chairs of corporations and CEOs of corporations appearing before this House. In fact, we went some time — quite a long time — before we ever heard from the chair of the Yukon Hospital Corporation or the CEO of the corporation before. It was indeed enlightening when they were here last time, although there isn't a whole lot of time there between 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. for the amount of information that we need to elicit.

Of course, it is important to hear from the Hospital Corporation chair and CEO; perhaps even more so than in the past, based on the fact that now responsibility for management and construction of two additional hospitals — the facility in Watson Lake and the facility in Dawson City — is under the auspices of the Yukon Hospital Corporation whereas it used to be in the Department of Health and Social Services.

We do look forward to questioning those witnesses. I think I'll take this opportunity to again —

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

**Mr. Mitchell:** Excuse me; the Premier has comments to make. Mr. Speaker, is this a back and forth? Well, I was wondering. Never mind.

It's interesting to those of us on this side to be continuously told that we don't support health care for all citizens of Yukon and that we don't think that citizens in every community in Yukon have an equal right to access to health care, but I would have to correct the members on the other side. We heard it most recently from the Member for Klondike, and it's an incorrect assumption and a misunderstanding of what we re-

peatedly said, which is that not all services can be replicated and duplicated in every community. By the logic of what the Member for Klondike and the Premier keep saying, we should build a hospital in Burwash. We should build a hospital in Teslin. We should build a hospital in Keno. We should build a hospital in Faro. We should build a hospital in Haines Junction. We should build a hospital in Destruction Bay. Why are we stopping at three?

Clearly, the side opposite — the government — has come to the conclusion, contrary to all evidence and all expert advice, contrary to accepted practices across this country, contrary to any rhyme or reason of how one provides medical service, we should be providing the exact same services in every community. We should have 16 or 17 MRIs, once we get one in Whitehorse, because it would be a terrible thing for anyone in Dawson or Teslin to come to Whitehorse to have an MRI done. It's only going to benefit people in Whitehorse. We should have 15 or 16 CAT scanners. So, that's the model that they are suggesting. Then, of course, we would have to staff it. We would have to have all the experts in every community. As opposed to saying, there are some things that we can do on-site in each community, depending on its size.

There are others that we centralized because it's the only way we can afford to do them. But you know, there is more to the provision of health care than what can be provided in terms of information only by the Hospital Corporation, because they can only provide us with a partial picture of the delivery of medical services within Yukon. Yukon's hospitals operate in a complex environment of health and social service programs and initiatives; programs that are provided in many different ways as, we have said, across this territory — provided in many communities, by community nurses, provided in health stations.

Collaborative and cooperative health care links acute care with other social services and healthy living programs that are housed in the Department of Health and Social Services. In fact we have seen, even with the new health care facilities that started out being multi-level health care facilities some five years ago in Watson Lake and Dawson — announced as two \$5-million programs or \$5.2 million programs at the time — we have seen over five years this being under the control of the Department of Highways and Public Works. We've seen it under the Department of Health and Social Services; we've seen it under three different health ministers; we've seen it move now to the Hospital Corporation. It's very difficult to get a complete picture of just how hospital care even will be provided in Yukon, based on how the hospitals have evolved and been under so much different responsibility. Hospital Corporation activities are most usefully considered in light of other Health and Social Services activities.

There is an opportunity to get a better and more complete picture of how this government provides medical services. For example, the Auditor General of Canada has recently completed a very thorough review of the Department of Health and Social Services, and her findings will no doubt shed light on a range of topics, such as financial priorities and decisions made within the department, progress toward departmental goals and

objectives, areas of concern with respect to activities and processes, the effectiveness of the department's expenditures on programs, operations and capital projects and opportunities for further improvement.

In fact, the Auditor General will be in Whitehorse next week to present her findings. Members of this Assembly will receive an in camera briefing next Tuesday morning. It's not what was originally planned before the sitting date was established. In fact, what had been planned would have been to hold public hearings, but that is not currently scheduled. So members of this Assembly and the Yukon public would have a rare opportunity to hear directly from the Auditor General about the results of her extensive review.

The Hospital Corporation's appearance can only be enhanced if this Assembly first gets the larger context from the Auditor General. So, accordingly, in order to facilitate this and to make sure that we have all the possible information at hand prior to receiving the CEO and the chair of the corporation, which we do look forward to, we would propose an amendment to the government's motion, which we believe will improve and enhance the Hospital Corporation's appearance by first inviting the Auditor General to appear. I will now read that amendment into the record.

*Amendment proposed*

**Mr. Mitchell:** I move

THAT Motion No. 1273 be amended by deleting everything after the word "on" and replacing it with the following: "Tuesday, February 22, 2011, to discuss matters relating to the Yukon Hospital Corporation."

**Speaker:** Leader of the Official Opposition to speak to the amendment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** It's a very simple amendment as the Premier has noted. It simply changes the date and moves it forward one week. We think that there's value in doing that because this is a very important report that will be coming forward on the very morning of the day in which the Yukon Party government has proposed we hear from the Hospital Corporation chair and CEO in the afternoon.

It certainly wouldn't leave members very much time to study that report, which should be comprehensive. We don't know what's in it. We have no foreknowledge, of course. However, we do know that the Auditor General and her staff have spent the last year auditing, examining and looking very carefully through — we don't know which — certainly many, of the responsibilities that are undertaken by the Department of Health and Social Services. Since this government, through the Department of Health and Social Services, provides millions of dollars of funding every year to the Yukon Hospital Corporation, provides funding for the physician services, for the nurses, for much of what goes on in the Hospital Corporation — and certainly in the past has provided funding directly through that department for the beginning of the construction of the facility in Watson Lake. We think that there would be great merit in seeing if the Auditor General has had comments to make, sug-

gestions on how to improve, has indicated where money has been well spent and perhaps where it could have been better spent.

We should benefit from that report and have had an opportunity to digest it before we look at the narrower scope of the information that's available directly through the chair and the CEO of the Hospital Corporation. It can only benefit Yukoners to have this information, because there's a shortcoming with the Yukon Party way; there is a shortcoming with the idea that we should be holding the one opportunity we will get, likely in the next 12 months, to hear testimony from the chair and the CEO of the Hospital Corporation before we've had an opportunity, if not fully then at least partially, digest the information in that report. But you know, Mr. Speaker, there's even an additional opportunity here — if the government members are interested in doing so — for all Yukoners to hear directly, within Committee of the Whole from the Auditor General herself. It's not impossible for that to happen. The planned method, of course, was that the Public Accounts Committee was to hold public hearings on that afternoon. That was the plan.

Of course, contrary to the Premier's belief that the date had long been set — the Premier knew the date when he called the sitting. Of course as soon as he called the sitting, the chair of the Public Accounts Committee communicated with the committee to see whether there was still a way to hold the hearing. It would have required unanimous consent of all parties to recess for a day in order to accommodate the long-held schedule of the Auditor General. Alternatively, we could have held the public hearing on a non-sitting day, being the very next Friday. We might have been able to have the Auditor General's staff there, not likely the Auditor General. She is not simply available at our beck and call. I did receive communication very quickly from the NDP member on that committee indicating that his preference was to move forward as originally scheduled to the 15<sup>th</sup>. I heard back from the Member for Porter Creek South shortly afterward in a similar fashion. Unfortunately, it may shock the Premier, who indicates that one should do one's job — and one should do one's job — that the chair didn't hear any further communication for the next several weeks from any other members.

It required a second notice that the Auditor General's office was saying we need to know sooner rather than later if we are to move forward, to learn that the other members were too busy with the budget in order to do this at this time. But there still could be an opportunity, as the Premier knows. It would be unusual; it would not be the past practice, but there is an opportunity still to support a motion similar to the motion that came from the Third Party, that this House receives the Auditor General of Canada and she could address the entire Assembly. It would be covered in *Hansard*. It would broadcast over the radio at 93.5 FM. People could sit in the gallery if they chose. It would be open to the media. We would all learn and hear publicly — not in an in-camera sitting or in-camera session — what the Auditor General has to say.

So when the Premier says he would look forward to hearing those questions — I think I just heard him say "questions" — they would be good questions, no doubt, that members pre-

sent from all sides would ask of the Auditor General to learn more about what it is that she found in her examination. Let's be clear. We think that there will be lots of good news in the report. We know that we have many dedicated health care professionals in the Yukon. We have doctors, nurses, radiologists and other technicians. We know that we're provided with very good health care in this territory, thanks to many dedicated people — many dedicated people within the Department of Health and Social Services, as well as within the Yukon Hospital Corporation.

So the question is not whether or not we receive good health care. I think any of us who have had to call upon our health care system know we receive good health care. The question is, in a performance audit, whether our money is being spent to its best advantage, whether the expenditures on construction of buildings has been done in a most effective and efficient manner. We know that the Auditor General, several years ago in her report on the Department of Highways and Public Works — Transportation Capital Program and Property Management — in 2007 was critical of some of the planning and methods that were used, some of the difficulties in sticking to a budget, some of the lack of an overall plan — even including facilities like the Watson Lake facility.

So we think there is an opportunity here, and we should not fail to avail ourselves of it. More important, we should make this opportunity available to all Yukoners by doing it in this House during the last visit to this territory by Madam Fraser, Auditor General of Canada.

So these are our reasons for amending this motion to simply move the date one week forward for the appearance by the Yukon Hospital Corporation chair and CEO. We think, as I have said, that we will all be better informed by then, having received this other important report. We think all Yukoners will be better informed, and we believe that it still provides us with a small window of opportunity to have an open opportunity next Tuesday afternoon, while the Auditor General and her team are here in Yukon, to have a good question-and-answer session in this Assembly, in front of all Yukoners, bringing out in greater detail an understanding for all Yukoners of what has been done well and where we can improve, so that we can move forward together to accomplish this.

As the Member for Kluane says, "What are they afraid of?" What is anybody to be afraid of in having such expert testimony in this House? There is nothing but benefit to be obtained by doing so.

So I would encourage all members to support this amendment. We will still have an opportunity to hear from the chair and the CEO. They will have more time to prepare and, in fairness to them, they too will have the benefit of having read the Auditor General's report and not finding themselves asked questions that might pertain to this report — that they may not have even read and then having to tell us that they will provide answers, as the Member for Kluane mentions, "some time in the future."

Again, I do think this is a positive amendment that improves the original motion, and I'm sure other members would want to speak to it and would agree.

**Mr. Cardiff:** I'm rising today to speak in favour of the proposed amendment and there are many reasons to do that. It seems like just a few short days ago that we heard the Premier in this House talk about the Public Accounts Committee needing to do its job. Well, the Public Accounts Committee is attempting to do its job, but it requires the full cooperation of all members of the Public Accounts Committee and that includes responding in a timely manner and working cooperatively so that the Public Accounts Committee can move forward with the schedule.

I think that there are a lot of reasons I look forward to, and I think all members look forward to, the appearance of the chair and the CEO and the chief financial officer of the Yukon Hospital Corporation. There are a lot of questions that remain to be answered; there are questions that remain to be answered from last year, that still haven't been answered and we'd like to get to those as well.

But one of the complications of this, as the Leader of the Official Opposition has pointed out, is that we're compressing things into a very, very short time frame. It's too bad the Premier wasn't a little more interested in this discussion. He should really listen to what's being said and pay attention.

The reality of the matter is that we want to hear from the Hospital Corporation. There's no doubt in our mind we want to do that. We also want to work cooperatively and collaboratively to ensure that the Auditor General's report receives a fair hearing and that Members of the Legislative Assembly, members of the media and members of the public can be fully informed about what's in the report. Questions can be asked of the Auditor General about what's in the report. I think that that's important and I don't understand, in the interest of openness, transparency and accountability, which the Premier likes to brag about, that we can't do that and that accommodations can't be made.

For the record, on October 13, 2010, at precisely 3:38 p.m., we received an e-mail informing us about the schedule of the Auditor General. It was received by the chair of the Public Accounts Committee. It was received by me, received by the Member for Porter Creek South, received by the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin, the Member for Southern Lakes, and the Member for Klondike. It informed us that the Auditor General's report on Health and Social Services, which we have all known has been coming — just in case anybody in the Legislative Assembly or in the public doesn't understand how this works, there was a schedule of performance audits to be done by the Auditor General of various government departments. We've seen some of those performance audits. Some of them have been heard by the Public Accounts Committee. They have been reviewed by the Public Accounts Committee. Recommendations and officials have appeared. The Auditor General and her staff have participated in all of that.

We've seen reports on the Department of Education, Yukon Housing, Highways and Public Works — to name a few. This was all part of the plan. We knew years ago that this was going to happen.

So on October 13, we were informed that the Auditor General was proposing to transmit the report to you, Mr. Speaker, to be released first to MLAs and then to the media and the public on February 10 — that would be today. So the government knew — the government members knew; at least three of them did and hopefully they talked to the Premier and to the Deputy Premier, the Government House Leader so that, in consultation, some of this could all happen.

It was proposed that there could be meetings on February 14 to discuss the report among the committee members and that we could come up with a plan and that the Auditor General would arrive on February 15 and that we could hold hearings, possibly. That was the plan.

The government chose to call the Legislative Assembly back early, knowing full well that there were plans afoot to receive the Auditor General in the Public Accounts Committee. I heard the Premier the other day, off-microphone, say that there are other times the Public Accounts Committee can meet besides between 1:00 and 5:00. Well, he's absolutely right, but right at the beginning of the sitting — just for the benefit of members opposite and the general public — when the Legislature begins sitting, we receive a budget speech with a billion dollars in it. We receive a briefing on a billion-dollar budget. The government schedules briefings on every department that we, as members of the Assembly, are expected to attend in order to review what's in the billion-dollar budget and see the details of the government's spending plans. That usually takes up all the time between 10:00 and noon.

I don't know what the government members are doing between 8:00 and 10:00, but, on this side of the House, we are engaged in meetings with our caucuses, with our staff, with other individuals of the public, getting ready to come in here and prepare for the day's business. I am not sure what they are doing over there, but they sure weren't reading their e-mails. Now they all knew that this was a possibility and this is what needed to happen in order to accommodate the schedule of the Auditor General.

By the way, the Auditor General, for the benefit of members on the opposite side of the House, does not just review the financial accounts of the Yukon and do performance audits on government departments. It does Yukon College; it does Yukon Hospital Corporation. It is the Auditor General of Canada — this is a huge organization and we should feel privileged that the person who leads that organization comes here to the Yukon to meet with us and to provide the information directly to us. We should feel privileged that she comes to appear before us here in the Legislative Assembly, brief us, and is willing to participate in the public accounts hearings. You would think that the government would support that in the interest of openness, transparency and accountability and would show some respect to the Office of the Auditor General, and not have her come here and not be able to actively participate in the hearings when she has scheduled her time previously to come do that. You know, I heard something earlier today; I heard the Minister of Justice say, "We talk the talk." Well, this is an opportunity for them to walk the walk when it comes to openness, transparency and accountability.

In the interest of that, the Third Party Leader proposed a motion on the opening day of the House that we adjourn into Committee of the Whole and that the Auditor General appear here when she was available to do that.

Now, I'm sure that if we'd had an opportunity to debate that motion, we could have had this conversation — or, conversely, if members on that side of the House, knowing full well back in October — and when they received the letter from the chair of the Public Accounts Committee two or three weeks ago about this — what was going to happen — that maybe we could have scheduled something. It appears to me that the government does not want to work openly and accountably and show that respect and be transparent. There's a lot of information contained in the Auditor General's report. We don't know what it is.

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

**Mr. Cardiff:** The Premier says that we'll soon find out. He's right. When we find out what the information is in the report, it's our job to ask questions of the Auditor General. It's the Public Accounts Committee's job to review it.

You know, if the government were really open, transparent and accountable, they wouldn't be obstructionists on the Public Accounts Committee. They would be more willing to meet and you wouldn't get — okay, we're going to go there. I see members on the other side of the House shaking their head. We wouldn't receive an e-mail, Mr. Speaker, at 10:07 a.m. on February 3, 2011, that says, "Hello, everyone. The number one priority of the government caucus is the sitting we are currently in and the budget that will be tabled later today. PAC members will need to work together with the Auditor General's staff to find an alternative date and time for a public hearing." But there was no suggestion — did the members suggest a time or did they approach anybody about trying to work cooperatively? When we presented a motion, they didn't. They denied the opportunity to even discuss it. So there is a lot of information and I think it would be beneficial to have a little bit more time to digest what is going to be in the Auditor General's report.

I believe there should be an opportunity and, if members of the Public Accounts Committee on that side of the House would respond to e-mails in a timely manner and work cooperatively and give priority to the business of all members of this House, then we could actually achieve something. It could be something that is good. I am sure that there are some good things in that report. There are a lot of dedicated health care professionals and social service workers. When you look at the budgets and the supplementary budgets — I'm looking at the supplementary budgets right now. The one that was tabled last fall and the one that was tabled just recently, there are significant expenditures that have been made in this year, and additions to both expenditures and recoveries, so obviously there is a lot going on there and there's a lot to be discussed.

I think it would be advantageous to learn what is in the Auditor General's report more than four hours before the Hospital Corporation is sitting in those two chairs there. So, I don't think that it's a stretch or it's unreasonable. I think that it is a very reasonable request that the date be moved to the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Not only does it provide an opportunity to receive the Auditor Gen-

eral's report and for us to digest it, it allows the CEO and the chair to actually digest what's in that report as well and be able to respond to questions, because they won't have had the report for very long either.

The Government House Leader talked about having a wholesome discussion, and I'm sure that the discussion will be wholesome when it does take place. I would hope that the Government House Leader would be open to having that wholesome discussion as well with the Auditor General and her staff here in this Legislative Assembly to allow people out in the public to hear what questions might be asked.

If we can make some sort of an arrangement — if the Premier would be willing to sit down and make some sort of an arrangement whereby the Public Accounts Committee can get together, I am sure we can all find time in our busy schedule to work this out, especially if the e-mail communications are responded to in a timely manner. Or we could all get together in a room and talk about it, which is what we are trying to do now. The Member for Southern Lakes is shaking his head and making faces. I'm in favour of the amendment. Maybe the Member for Southern Lakes will rise —

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

#### Point of order

**Speaker:** On a point of order, go ahead, Member of Southern Lakes.

**Hon. Mr. Rouble:** Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is making comments regarding me. He should note, though, that he has just recommended what was recommended by the Member for Klondike in the letter that the Member for Mount Lorne has quoted. It's unfortunate that the member at the time didn't respond to the letter and instead is now seizing on that as his own recommendation.

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

#### Speaker's ruling

**Speaker:** From the Chair's perspective, there is no point of order. However, I would caution members on each side of the House here against ascribing motives to other members while they're not speaking. It's a very slippery slope, so honourable members, just be careful of that.

You have the floor, Member for Mount Lorne, and you have two minutes left.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Southern Lakes could take a little initiative himself and maybe propose or could have proposed or got together and proposed a meeting to work a schedule out as well. They could take a little initiative. They were the ones who said they didn't have time to meet, basically, that they were too busy — basically is the way the e-mail reads to me. That has been the response. This is not a new response from the Member for Klondike. We have received this response many times when trying to meet.

What we have heard before, we heard from the Member for Lake Laberge when he was a member of the government — basically the Premier's orders were to go in and blow it up, and

these guys just don't want to be part of the Public Accounts Committee. They don't want to work cooperatively and I find that actually disappointing.

We will support the motion. This is actually not just an opportunity to talk the talk, but they could actually walk the walk.

**Speaker:** Is there any further comment on the amendment?

**Mr. McRobb:** Well, this is quite an interesting situation developing here. I'm glad the Premier agrees that it is interesting and accordingly it is quite surprising that neither he nor any of his colleagues have cared to even speak on this amendment. Instead, we know what's coming. The Yukon Party will use its majority to again vote down anything from the opposition, so we know that's coming.

Now, in listening to the two previous speakers, the Member for Mount Lorne and the Member for Copperbelt, I have learned quite a bit about this whole issue, and there's quite a bit of history and developments leading up to this situation we're trying to deal with here today.

As a consequence, I can't help but feel managed. Allow me to explain.

I can't help but feel managed by this Yukon Party government. This institution should not be managed by any one party. This is supposed to be a democracy. We've heard the Premier speak in such terms publicly. Now it's time for him to walk the talk and show that he earnestly believes that this is a democracy in here and listen to all the members.

Instead, it appears we have another situation where the Yukon Party says, "My way or the highway. We're going to use our majority votes to defeat you." That's the essential message.

Now, in terms of managing, I've just learned about some of the timelines involved leading up to this situation, and it's clear that some of the known factors involved were, number one, the Auditor General's report would be tabled on February 15. Number two, the Auditor General herself will be delivering the report. Three, Yukon Hospital Corporation officials must appear by the end of this sitting. The end date of this sitting is still unknown — perhaps we will know on Monday — but it's approximately the end of March. So let's look at the timing of this.

The Auditor General's report is provided in the morning — mid to late morning of February 15. Then we have Question Period and other proceedings, and then the Yukon Hospital Corporation officials appear. As a matter of fact, the document isn't even made public until it's tabled, presumably late or following the briefing that very day. So what does this do? Does it prevent the opposition members from devising the best questions possible after reviewing what is expected to be a detailed report? Well, the answer is of course it impedes the ability of opposition members to do that, and that was my first assumption about the coincidence of timing between the Hospital Corporation officials appearing and the Auditor General's report.

I thought that was it, until I listened to the two previous speakers and I realized officials from the Hospital Corporation cannot be expected to answer questions on the Auditor General's report. How reasonable is that? To expect them to respond in detail to the Auditor General's report that was only made public an hour or two before — how reasonable is that? How many times have we heard officials say, "We'll have to take that under advisement and get back to the member," or "Sorry, I'll have to get back to you on that"? In a lot of the cases, that's fair. It's fair because we cannot expect the officials to have all the answers to questions at the tips of their fingers — especially when a report has only come out an hour or two in advance. Those officials need to meet with their other board members, with their other staff — they actually need time to sit down and read the report. How can they put a position on record in the Legislative Assembly on important matters without knowing the matters of which they speak? They can't do it. These are officials. They're not members of the Yukon Party; they're officials. What they say and hear on the record could put their corporations in a position of being libelous on such matters.

So, Mr. Speaker, there is a little bit more to this than what first met the eye. Not only will this Yukon Party timing reduce the effectiveness of questions asked by opposition members, it will reduce the effectiveness of answers from officials themselves — a double whammy. Who would have thunk it? Well, it's no coincidence. This Yukon Party government had a lot of time — a lot of time — to move the pieces of this puzzle around until it fit in the most political advantageous way possible and that is what this is.

Contrast that with this government's promises of being open, accountable and transparent and what do you have, Mr. Speaker? You have a serious contrast in what is being said and what is being done. Once again, the Yukon Party does not walk the talk. Like the Justice minister said today on record: "It talks the talk." We can agree with her in that respect. This government will say anything that is politically expedient. Does it back up these grandiose words and statements — that it believes in democracy; it has respect for the institution; it is fully open and accountable; it is fully transparent; table the evidence and everything else; and, all the "Step outside and say that"?

I'm glad the opposition parties today are taking a stand on this because enough is enough. I'm glad to see the members of the opposition side know what is right and know what's wrong, and this type of treatment is wrong. I was beginning to get worried. The opposition members were becoming complacent from being treated in this way for nine years almost.

But today, it's like a ray of sunshine. It has reminded me of the approach we should take — and that is to take the approach that is best in the public interest, that allows us to do our jobs on behalf of the taxpayers, and try to hold this government accountable in the best way we can. There is only one way we can achieve that, and that's if we can ask the best questions possible, based on what is in the Auditor General's report and receive the same in the way of answers from the officials representing the Hospital Corporation.

We should not be managed and nor should the officials. How many times have we heard the Premier and other members of this government lambaste opposition members for attacking officials when the questions at hand were dealing with the political policies and actions of this Yukon Party government? As the former Yukon Party member and now Independent/Yukon Party member from Lake Laberge has stated, this government is using officials as human shields. That is what is happening with this government's managed approach.

It is foisting the whole accountability process on to these officials, who are not in a position to answer detailed questions on a report they haven't read, in order to evade the accountability to all Yukoners, which is its responsibility.

I realize these are pretty lofty words and principles I'm reciting, but we have heard them before. We have heard them from the Premier himself when he speaks of this Assembly and its importance. He calls upon the opposition members to do their job, yet what is really happening behind the scenes? He's managing this process. He's essentially knee-capping the ability of the opposition members to do their jobs.

#### **Speaker's statement**

**Speaker:** Order please. The honourable member now is getting into the realm of the personal, and you're imputing a false or unavowed motive to another member. I would ask the honourable member not to do that. The general discussion on politics is absolutely fine, but just stay away from individual members. You have the floor.

**Mr. McRobb:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I think I have made my point clear. I think I've conveyed the sense of outrage I feel and there's a lot more that could be said. A few moments ago, when the Leader of the Official Opposition pointed out the glaring hole in that the Auditor General's in town herself and yet this government is blocking her from attending this Assembly, I heard the Premier make an off-microphone comment: "Well, they should invite her then". Mr. Speaker — we should invite her then — consider that. The opposition parties invite her to attend the Assembly without an opportunity being available. Do you think the Auditor General is going to participate in a charade like that? Not a chance. This Assembly is not owned by one party or two parties. This Assembly — we should all feel honoured to be in here, representing our constituents and all Yukoners, and realize that no one party owns this Assembly. If there's going to be a guest or visitor speak in this Assembly, it is up to this Assembly to invite that person. The Premier knows this. Yet we hear, "Well, they should invite her then." Well, another quip that might satisfy the concerns of some of his colleagues but another case where this government's approach simply doesn't hold water; it doesn't meet the requirements of the opposition parties to do their jobs.

I'll just conclude by saying I'm very relieved this is probably the last sitting before an election, because this is probably sitting number 17 or 18 under this Yukon Party government, and there have been countless incidents like this in the past. I am hoping that from now to next election we can count these types of incidents — speaking about this government's propen-



sity to manage the opposition, manage this Assembly and not allow us to have our proper voice in here. That's what I am speaking of. I am hoping that now, because this government's mandate is nearing an end, we can count future incidents on maybe one hand. That is the relief that keeps me going as I know this government is past its best-before date. It is now stale-dated. No other government has had a term that has lasted this long.

Yes, some of the members have spoken rather endearingly about that, like it's a feather in their hat. They should go tell Yukoners, because here's what they'd hear in return — we want an election and you won't give us one. We want a government we can trust. You're bunkered down, you're clinging on to power and that's not right. Now, we're all being managed. Mr. Speaker, I rest my case.

**Mr. Inverarity:** On the amendment to Motion No. 1273, I'll be brief. I guess I'm going to start by saying that most of the comments that have been made here this afternoon have been valid. I feel that the rhetoric that has come from the government side over the course of the discussions we've had in the past week regarding the Auditor General have been shameful. I think it's time that we look at this motion as trying to save everybody in here.

If you look at this motion as a solid motion, it will be very straightforward that what's happening here is you cannot have the Yukon Hospital Corporation appear here without first receiving the Auditor General's report. We need to be able to stand up and say that we're proud to have the Auditor General come here before this House. For the past five years I have been sitting on the Public Accounts Committee and it has been an honour to sit in this House where she comes and presents her reports and allows us to talk, allows us to ask questions and allows us to query the departments that we have had.

Have we done it to all of the reports? No, some may not have needed it. But those that do and those we have questions on — for the most part, we have been able to do that.

I think the member for the third party articulated it very, very succinctly when he said that we should feel privileged to be able to have the Auditor General here. But what do we get? Well, we know the Independent/Yukon Party Member for Lake Laberge has stood up and said, "The Premier has blown up PAC. Go blow it up." Well, I have seen it and I have seen those actions on behalf of the members on the other side. I have to say that, to a large degree, I have been ashamed of being a PAC member because of the actions that we have seen from the members on the opposite side.

Therefore, I don't think I'm going to reiterate or go into a lot of detail regarding the amendment to the motion. It stands on its own. It puts forward to the next week the Yukon Hospital Corporation; yes, we need to have them in here. We all need to be informed and we need to have the Auditor General's report here so that we can all look at it in a timely fashion. Therefore, I support this amendment to the motion and look forward to it passing this House, which it should.

**Mr. Fairclough:** I'll also be very brief in discussion today on the amendment as brought forward by the Member for Copperbelt, and I would like to thank him for bringing it forward and also just to point out — it's kind of noisy in the House from the other side, Mr. Speaker — also to point out that the Yukon Party government has asked for input from the Official Opposition and the Third Party. They constantly ask for direction on their budget and want to hear it before an election. Perhaps they need help because the last time they put their platform together it just happened to be after everybody else had their ideas out there.

They asked for help. Here's one where I can't even see the Yukon Party even voting against this amendment. Why would they vote against this amendment? This is helping them out of a tight spot that they find themselves in, in wanting to be inclusive and having the Auditor General appear in this House. It's an answer to our questions and help for the Yukon Party in bringing forward the Auditor General.

It is simply by delaying the chair of the Hospital Corporation for a week. That's the simple answer. This amendment speaks to that and is very clear. I'm hoping that the Yukon Party members on that side of the House — the other side of the House — will think clearly about their vote on this amendment. It answers their question, it helps them out. It also answers the question that the general public has been saying to us. They want to hear from the Auditor General. They want to have questions asked of the Auditor General in regard to the report. Why not? I think the government side can simply do this, very easily.

This is an answer to their problems and to the situation that we face so early in this sitting. I thank the Member for Copperbelt for bringing that forward. I think we can go on and on about that, but I want to keep it simple and I think that all members on the government side could show their support to this amendment and let's get it done.

You want to work together? This is working together. Just delay for a week — it doesn't harm us at all and it probably helps out the Hospital Corporation by having another week to prepare even more for our questions here, and it answers the question and problem on the government side.

I look forward to the support of government side as being cooperative. This is an opportunity to show it today. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Are you prepared with a question on the amendment?

**Some Hon. Members:** Division.

#### Division

**Speaker:** Division has been called.

#### Bells

**Speaker:** Mr. Clerk, please poll the House on the amendment.

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Disagree.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Disagree.

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** Disagree.

**Hon. Mr. Rouble:** Disagree.  
**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Disagree.  
**Hon. Ms. Horne:** Disagree.  
**Hon. Mr. Edzerza:** Disagree.  
**Mr. Nordick:** Disagree.  
**Mr. Mitchell:** Agree.  
**Mr. McRobb:** Agree.  
**Mr. Fairclough:** Agree.  
**Mr. Inverarity:** Agree.  
**Ms. Hanson:** Agree.  
**Mr. Cardiff:** Agree.

**Clerk:** Mr. Speaker, the results are six yea, eight nay.

**Speaker:** The nays have it. I declare the motion negatived.

*Amendment to Motion No. 1273 negatived*

**Speaker:** Is there any further debate on the main motion? If the honourable member speaks, she will close debate. Does any other member wish to be heard?

**Mr. McRobb:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will just say a few words. First of all, obviously, the government got its way.

It used its majority to defeat an amendment from the opposition side. It used the majority of its members in this Assembly to get its own way. So —

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

#### Point of order

**Speaker:** Point of order, Member for Porter Creek North.

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** I have to point out and ask for the Speaker's opinion on Standing Order 19(k), "... that, in the opinion of the Speaker ...", the member opposite is making statements that offend the "... practices and precedents of the Assembly". This Assembly is a democracy. Using a majority in a democracy is hardly out of order.

**Mr. McRobb:** On the point of order.

**Speaker:** Go ahead.

**Mr. McRobb:** On the point of order, where the member goes wrong is he's assuming I'm trying to change those rules. To the contrary, I've accepted those rules. I'm merely explaining that the government has used its majority to defeat an opposition initiative.

#### Speaker's ruling

**Speaker:** So, from the Chair's reading of Standing Order 19(k) — "introduces any matter in debate that, in the opinion of the Speaker, offends the practices and precedents of the Assembly" — it was 19(k) the honourable member was quoting? From the Chair's perspective, it's a dispute between members. I think the Member for Kluane had the floor.

**Mr. McRobb:** Thank you. Well, as I was saying: as predicted, the Yukon Party used its majority to defeat this initiative from the opposition side.

The proposed amendment was democratic, it was what the opposition side felt it needed to make this motion better, but

that was defeated. I refer everybody to comments that were previously stated. I feel I don't need to repeat them at this time.

So we on the opposition side are now forced to vote for the motion as it stands without any amendment. Well, Mr. Speaker, that puts us in another dilemma. Do we support this type of management by the Yukon Party — with all the shortcomings, knowing we can't do our jobs and knowing the officials can't do theirs — or do we vote against it and defeat the motion? Here's the dilemma we face, Mr. Speaker, and I'm going to speak very honestly here. If we vote against this motion, we know what's coming. Officials won't be appearing for this sitting. The Yukon Party will deliver a message to the public that opposition members aren't prepared to question witnesses and we'll just be told that the officials from the Hospital Corporation won't be coming — end of story.

So then we lose out on this opportunity to question the officials. So we're being pushed between a rock and a hard place. We're being forced to vote for a motion none of us can support. We're being forced to vote for it because if we don't, we'll get nothing. So this is the democracy the Premier and his colleagues speak so glowingly about? How they uphold the principles of the Legislature and democracy and all work collaboratively and co-operatively together? Is this it? Is this what it has come down to? A rock and a hard place. Hello, so we are going to be forced to vote for this motion. I don't like it. Personally, I don't like it. It's either the government's way or the highway. That is what it is. That is the choice we have, and it's a very unfortunate choice. There is no changing this Yukon Party's attitude for change in this Assembly.

We won't look to this government; we won't look to legislative reform, because this government won't get that car started either. There is only one solution to this problem and it's in the voters' hands. The voters will have a clear choice in the next election. They won't be between a rock and a hard place. They will refuse to be managed. They will be there to express their democratic right.

**Mr. Fairclough:** I also will be brief in speaking to the main motion, as it is not amended. We on this side of the House gave the government an opportunity to get out of the tough spot that they found themselves in early this sitting. It was a solution that we brought forward that I could not understand why the government side would not even come forward and support. I'm quite surprised at it. The Yukon Party says, "Let us work cooperatively and suggest some improvements where it's simple," and so on. We have done it here.

We want to be able to question officials from the Yukon Hospital Corporation, so of course we will be doing that; same with the Yukon Development Corporation. We will be doing that. They have to appear in this House, but they don't have to appear in this House on the dates that the government side mentioned in their motion.

We brought forward a solution and I was hoping that the government side would see that. It doesn't mean that they have to vote down friendly amendments like this, as brought forward by the opposition, at all. This was a solution for them and for everyone. It's too bad that we have gone down this road. There

was a simple answer to it. We will definitely be questioning officials when they come into this House. I look forward to that — all the questioning that will take place.

I do thank the Government House Leader for bringing this forward. It gives us an opportunity to express ourselves in opposition and perhaps even give solutions to the government side. They were seeking it; they keep asking for it with regard to the budget; they are anxious to see what we have to say. We made one, so it's too bad it got voted down, but I think we just need to move on and we'll have questions for the officials once they do appear in this House.

**Speaker:** If the honourable member speaks, she shall close debate. Does any other member wish to be heard?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I would like to thank all members opposite for their questions and for their comments and for their views. A lot of interesting comments being were presented today. I just wanted to respond, oh so very briefly, to a couple of things. First off, I just wanted to thank all of the members for their support for this motion. I very much appreciate it. I think that it is a show of collaboration — all-party collaboration — and very much just want to put that on the record.

In terms of the Auditor General's report, as members are fully aware, the report will in fact be distributed to all Members of the Legislative Assembly on the morning of February 15.

So, in fact, a report will be distributed. There will be a briefing held later that morning. I believe it's at 10:00 a.m. here in the Chamber, and it will be held by the Auditor General of Canada for members' information and for the opportunity to pose questions.

I also understand there will be a briefing made available for the media later on. That is in keeping with past practice.

There is also an opportunity, and it is the role of the Public Accounts Committee. I just want to refer to Standing Order 45(3). I'll just quote — it's one sentence. It says: "At the commencement of the first Session of each Legislature a Standing Committee on Public Accounts shall be appointed and the Public Accounts and all Reports of the Auditor General shall stand referred automatically and permanently to the said Committee as they become available."

So it will be tabled and it will be the obligation of the Public Accounts Committee to take forward that report and hold their hearing. There are members of the Public Accounts Committee, comprised of all parties, as represented.

It will be their job to organize that public hearing. I want to thank members opposite for pointing out, by way of e-mail correspondence, there is acknowledgement that, in fact, there is an offer — from the government side, that is — to very much work in collaboration with the other members belonging to the Public Accounts Committee, to hold a public hearing — at an alternative time and/or date.

So, in fact, I just want to thank the members opposite for acknowledging that. I also wanted to say that there will be briefings, of course. It has been duly noted that departmental briefings are being adjusted accordingly. The Department of

Health and Social Services, as you know — the government is making briefings available for each and every department pertinent to the budget that we are currently discussing and debating on the floor of the Legislature. The briefing for the Department of Health and Social Services will be made available on the Monday, instead of the Tuesday, in order to accommodate members.

Now, also, I believe the Department of Highways and Public Works briefing will also be moved to a later date to accommodate the Auditor General making an appearance before members, as per past practice — so we're not deviating from the past practice. I just wanted to make that known.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions of the minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services during Committee of the Whole, during debate on the budget. There will be great discussion that will take place, as has been held each and every sitting. The minister will be ready for those questions and the department will be ready. There will be an opportunity to ask questions of the Yukon Hospital Corporation and that is in fact why we are debating the motion we are debating: to ask for members' consent to have them appear before the Assembly to discuss matters pertinent to the Yukon Hospital Corporation.

Now, I see that members opposite — perhaps they're not supporting the motion. I guess we'll see when the vote is actually taken.

In terms of the actual debate on the report that will be tabled by the Auditor General of Canada, there will be an opportunity to debate that within Public Accounts Committee when, in fact, a public hearing is scheduled to be held. That is really up to the members to decide when that should take place — the time and the date.

I also just wanted to bring clarity that when it comes to public accounts and when we talk about this particular report that is being tabled by the Auditor General of Canada, it is pertinent to the Department of Health and Social Services but it's not pertinent to the Yukon Hospital Corporation. I just wanted to be very clear and make that differentiation.

I just wanted to say that, again, when it comes to the department, there will be full, ample opportunity to respond, to raise questions, raise views and so forth with the minister during budget debate. That is not being taken away from the members opposite.

When it comes to actually tabling the report, there will be opportunity I'm sure for a response from the minister. Of course the report is pertinent to the department. Of course the report itself will also be subject to the public accounts hearing.

Just for the sake of being repetitive — I just wanted to make that known for the members opposite and thank them again for their support of the motion put forward. I want to thank the officials of the Hospital Corporation for coming to the Assembly, if in fact this motion should be approved by all members. I thank them for their very hard work — the officials and the board of directors — for the great responsibility that they have taken on over the years and certainly going forward, as we go forward delivering the greater health care needs of Yukoners.

So again, thank you for the opportunity to bring forth the motion and we look forward to support being provided.

**Speaker:** Are you prepared for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** Division.

#### Division

**Speaker:** Division has been called.

#### Bells

**Speaker:** Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Rouble:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Edzerza:** Agree.

**Mr. Nordick:** Agree.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Agree.

**Mr. McRobb:** Agree.

**Mr. Fairclough:** Agree.

**Mr. Inverarity:** Agree.

**Ms. Hanson:** D'accord.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Agree.

**Mr. Cathers:** Agree.

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

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

*Motion No. 1273 agreed to*

#### Motion No. 1274

**Clerk:** Motion No. 1274, standing in the name of the Hon. Ms. Taylor.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Government House Leader

THAT Ray Hayes, chair of the Yukon Development Corporation Board of Directors, Piers McDonald, chair of the Yukon Energy Corporation, and Dave Morrison, chief executive officer of the Yukon Development Corporation and president and chief executive officer of the Yukon Energy Corporation, appear as witnesses before Committee of the Whole from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 17, 2011, to discuss matters relating to the Yukon Development Corporation and the Yukon Energy Corporation.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Again, Mr. Speaker, my comments will be brief. This motion forthwith is very straightforward. It is requesting that the chair of the Yukon Development Corporation, the chair of the Yukon Energy Corporation, and the chief executive officer of the Yukon Development Corporation, as well as the president and chief executive officer of Yukon Energy Corporation appear as witnesses before the Legislature on February 17. Again, we look forward to members' support. Hopefully it will be a swift move of the motion before us, so

that we can ensure that the witnesses do appear before the Assembly.

**Mr. McRobb:** We will be supporting this motion, but I would be remiss if I didn't point out some concerns on the record.

The government side has frequently stated, as an example of its openness and accountability to the public, that it brings these officials in on an annual basis. That is not always the case. We saw an instance one and one-quarter years ago, in the fall sitting of 2009, where the government side saw fit to postpone the appearance by these officials simply because a new chair had been appointed to the corporation.

Well, in our response to that, we assured the government side that all of our questions would be directed at the president, thereby avoiding the situation of a new chair having to answer questions.

But that didn't satisfy the Yukon Party government, and the whole schedule for the corporation to appear in that fall sitting was deferred to the next spring sitting. Well, how convenient for the government, because there were some rather hotly debated issues of the day that were postponed along with that appearance by those officials — how convenient. So the officials were here last spring.

Well, in order to readjust the timetable to ensure that officials appeared annually, we would have to have had them in last fall to get them back on track to appear annually. So we raised the question last fall to this Yukon Party government, but were refused. The excuse the Yukon Party government gave us at the time was that the officials were just here in the spring sitting. It's only eight months later — the fall sitting. You'll have to wait until next spring in order to question the officials.

Consequently, Mr. Speaker, a year has fallen through the cracks, just like it usually does in an election year, which was another year when the scheduled, supposedly annual, appearance never occurred under this Yukon Party regime.

So, obviously this government doesn't feel obligated to try to set the appearances back on track and is content to postpone them if it's politically convenient. For those on the opposition side, once again, "It's my way or the highway," says the government. As I mentioned at the outset, we will be supporting this motion, but once again we have some issues that I feel should be put on the record.

**Mr. Cardiff:** I will be even briefer. We will support the motion. We look forward to the appearance of the officials of both the Yukon Energy Corporation and the Yukon Development Corporation. I have lots of questions for them; if only there was a little more time, they probably would all get answered, but we will support the motion.

**Speaker:** Are you prepared for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** Division.

#### Division

**Speaker:** Division has been called.

*Bells*

**Speaker:** Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Rouble:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Edzerza:** Agree.

**Mr. Nordick:** Agree.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Agree.

**Mr. McRobb:** Agree.

**Mr. Fairclough:** Agree.

**Mr. Inverarity:** Agree.

**Ms. Hanson:** Agree.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Agree.

**Mr. Cathers:** Agree.

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

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

*Motion No. 1274 agreed to*

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

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

*The House adjourned at 5:25 p.m.*

**The following document was filed February 10, 2011:**

11-1-169

Travel during school breaks for Old Crow students attending school in Whitehorse: letter (dated October 12, 2010) to Darius Elias, MLA, Vuntut Gwitchin, from Hon. Patrick Rouble, Minister of Education (Elias)