

Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Tuesday, March 8, 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.

Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of International Women's Day

Hon. Ms. Horne: International Women's Day, the 8th of March, is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. International Women's Day honours the work of the suffragettes who campaigned for women's rights to vote, celebrates women's success and reminds of inequities still to be redressed.

International Women's Day, as an event, was first celebrated in 1911, and 2011 is the global centenary year.

More than one million women and men attended the International Women's Day rallies, campaigning for women's rights to work, vote, be trained, to hold public office and end discrimination. However, less than a week later, on the 25th of March, the tragic "triangle fire" in New York City took the lives of more than 140 working women, most of them Italian and Jewish immigrants. This disastrous event drew significant attention to working conditions and labour legislation that became a focus of subsequent International Women's Day events.

International Women's Day has grown to become a global day of recognition and celebration across developed and developing countries alike. For many years, the United Nations has held an annual International Women's Day conference to coordinate international efforts for women's rights and participation in social, political and economic processes. The new millennium has witnessed a significant change and attitudinal shift in both women's and society's thoughts about women's equality and emancipation.

Many from a younger generation feel that all the battles have been won for women, while many feminists from the 1970s know only too well the longevity and ingrained complexity of patriarchy. With more women in the boardroom, greater equality in legislative rights and an increased critical mass of women's visibility as impressive role models in every aspect of life, one would think that women have gained true equality.

The unfortunate fact is that women are still not paid equally to that of their male counterparts. Women are still not present in equal numbers in business or politics, and globally, women's education, health and the violence against them is worse than that of men. However, great improvements have been made.

We do now have female astronauts and prime ministers. School girls are welcomed into university. Women can work and have a family. Women have real choices. So the tone and nature of International Women's Day has, for the past few years, moved from being a reminder about the negatives to a celebration of the positives.

Annually, on March 8, thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate achievements. A global web of rich and diverse local activity connects women from all around the world, ranging from political rallies, business conferences, government activities and networking events, through to local women craft markets, theatrical performances and much more.

Among many Yukon events and activities is a month-long display at Yukon Archives and at the public library showcasing books by women writers. Women of the past and the present, "100 years of changes", is the theme of an exhibit at L'Association franco-yukonnaise. The exhibit will be on from March 3 to May 6. A fundraising dinner for Les EssentiElles with a show of francophone women artists will be held at the francophone centre on March 11. The Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre and the Yukon Status of Women Council will be hosting an open house. Several events are also taking place in Dawson City and through the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre in Whitehorse.

I encourage everyone to attend these events and do your bit to ensure that the future for girls is bright, equal, safe and rewarding. Günilschish.

Mr. Elias: I rise today on behalf of the Official Opposition to pay tribute to International Women's Day on its 100th anniversary. Happy International Women's Day. Let us emphasize the positive and let us celebrate progress, equality, and let us stand strong and salute all women for their achievements, irrespective of who they are.

In 1908 in New York, women garment makers were demanding better working conditions. Women were working in extremely poor conditions, dying too early from work-related health problems and earning half the wages men were. Women were campaigning for their right to vote in their struggle to obtain social equality. In 1910, an international conference of women determined that each year, a day should be set aside to press for women's demands.

International Women's Day stands for equality between women and men and is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. The first International Women's Day event was held in 1911. In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution, calling on member states to proclaim a day for women's rights and international peace. Canada then chose March 8 as International Women's Day. 2011 sees 100 years of International Women's Day being celebrated around the world.

International Women's Day is remembering women's long-fought battles to build a society that is fair to all its members, a society in which diversity, tolerance, safety, social justice and social equality between men and women exists. Although women have made many great strides toward equality

since 1911, there is still a great deal to be achieved on many fronts. Women still earn less than men and are expected to shoulder many interruptions in their career because of child-bearing and care-giving.

Many women work in non-standard, poorly paid jobs that offer little hope for a decent pension. Just today a survey of 290 organizations in Canada found the overwhelming majority — 82 percent — had no clear strategy for encouraging women to enter leadership positions. Women work hard and, at the end of a lifetime of hard work, paid and unpaid, women deserve to retire in dignity and security.

The theme for this year's International Women's Day and Week is "Girls' Rights Matter". The focus is on the importance of equality and access to opportunity for all girls and women throughout their lives. This theme encourages us to reflect on the situation of girls in Canada and to look beyond women's privilege domestically to the international context. The theme also connects to the United Nations' theme for International Women's Day in 2011, which is, "Equal access to education, training, science and technology: pathway to decent work for women".

A girl who enjoys equality has a greater likelihood of being self-confident and aware of her own potential and of being empowered to access the education, training and career opportunities that will contribute to her success in life. Each year at this time, Canadians celebrate progress toward equality for women and their full participation. It is a time to reflect on the challenges and barriers that remain and consider steps to achieving equality for all women, in all aspects of their lives.

As we celebrate this International Women's Day, let us stand strong with women to build bridges of peace across the world and take time to honour our mothers, our grandmothers, and our great-grandmothers who took such a strong stand for women's equality over the last 100 years. Let us celebrate their achievements. On this International Women's Day, let us celebrate in our territory by telling others the stories of the incredible women in our lives and speak of their accomplishments, their challenges when doors were slammed shut, and their legacies that live on through our precious children and our communities.

Again, we salute all women for their achievements, irrespective of who they are. To all our territory's women's organizations that are celebrating today and work tirelessly in the effort for the equality and safety of women, we thank you.

Ms. Hanson: I rise on this centenary of International Women's Day on behalf of the New Democratic caucus. International Women's Day has its roots over 100 years ago in the Socialist Party of America, which fought for better working conditions for women, and the Socialist International, which supported universal suffrage for women. By World War I, they became a focus for rallies for world peace. This is indeed a day for celebration. In fact in many countries, March 8 is a national holiday.

Women have accomplished much in the last 100 years, from voting rights, the right to choose, supportive family law and pensions. Feminist women and men have some reason to

believe that equality between the sexes has been achieved, at least in North America — but you know, that's not really the case. There is much below the surface of our society that belies the myth of women's equality. Women still suffer extreme violence and murder simply for being women.

When we have the courage to take an assaulting man to court, we are faced with doubts about our intention or appearance. Single women, especially older women, are the poorest in the country. The number of women free to be actively involved in politics is a small percentage of those who are capable, mostly because it's still women's work to raise children. Most shocking of all is something not so well hidden. Women still earn a percentage of what men earn and are not promoted to better positions of work at the same rate.

My colleagues, the Minister of Justice and the MLA for Vuntut Gwitchin, have spoken about the circumstances leading to the establishment of women's day in 1911. Do you know what happened the year after that tragic fire in New York? 20,000 migrant workers of a dozen nationalities shut down textile mills in Lawrence, Massachusetts for three months and came away with substantial raises and better working conditions. Their victory is captured in the poem and song called "Bread and Roses". "Bread and Roses" symbolizes the feminist movement like no other theme, and it is still relevant today. It says, "Hearts starve as well as bodies; give us bread, but give us roses." It is not a cry only for equal pay for equal work, but for social supports as well. It goes on to say, "As we go marching, marching, we bring the greater days; the rising of the women means the rising of the race." It asks for a sharing of life's glories: bread and roses, bread and roses.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a significant change and attitudinal shift in gender equality issues, but in the past few years we have been at risk to lose much of what has been gained. The current Harper government has eliminated funding for women's advocacy groups. It has indicated its distaste for women's right to choose by refusing international funding to respected organizations and allowing the erosion of women's gains against poverty. It ignores the possibility of universal child care and blocks women working outside the home.

It has refused funding for research into violence against aboriginal women. There was a vast, untapped potential and opportunity for the dignity of the human race in responding to the feminist movement, not only in Canada but around the world.

I will end with a quote from a poem I read recently:

"Femmes vous êtes un tout, vous êtes des moitiés.

Femmes torturées ou battues ou humiliées

Femmes pour personne

mais Femme chez les Hommes

Femmes, ce mot qui résonne

dans notre âme, en somme...."

Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to International Women's Day, March 8, 2011. Each year, Canadians celebrate progress toward equality for women and their full participation, reflect on challenges and barriers that remain,

and consider future steps to achieving equality for all women in all aspects of their life on this day.

This day gives us the opportunity to acknowledge and support women living around the world, be it close or far, in poverty or wealth, women from all continents segregated by linguistic, cultural, ethnic, financial and political distinctions and continue to work toward equality.

In 1977, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution calling on member states to proclaim a day for women's rights and international peace. Following the UN lead, Canada chose March 8 as International Women's Day. Here in Whitehorse, Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, located at 503 Hanson Street, is hosting an International Women's Day open house from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Activities will include films, snacks and workshops.

International Women's Day is not just a time to celebrate the achievements of women worldwide, but to raise questions about discrimination, equality and basic human rights. There are women in the world today living under governments that do not allow them the right to ignore or celebrate this day. They do not have that choice. It is more than not having the freedom to choose just on this day; for them, it is every day. I think that is important for us all to remember as we focus on removing remaining barriers to equality in our own society.

In recognition of Social Work Week

Hon. Mr. Hart: On behalf of the House, I rise to pay tribute to Social Work Week in Canada. As Minister of Health and Social Services, I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight the work of Yukon social workers.

The theme of the week this year is "Social Workers are There For You". It was chosen to mark the important role that social workers play in our community.

La Semaine nationale du travail social 2011 a pour thème: « Les travailleuses et travailleurs sociaux sont là pour vous ». Ce thème a été choisi pour souligner le rôle important que jouent les travailleuses et les travailleurs sociaux dans nos collectivités.

They provide services to people of all ages and from every socio-economic background. They work through many venues, from clinics to schools, and have many roles, from the hands-on counsellors, mediators and on-the-ground workers to the behind-the-scenes work of the policy analysts, researchers and advocates.

Whatever position they hold, whether in government or in non-profit agencies, they have one goal: to improve the lives of Yukoners. They advocate for those members of society who can't speak for themselves and strive to develop a more just society for everyone.

To achieve these goals, they need years of education and training, a sense of compassion and natural justice, and a desire to do the right thing, no matter how difficult.

Pour y arriver, les travailleurs sociaux doivent être formés pendant plusieurs années. Ils doivent aussi savoir faire preuve de compassion, avoir le sens de la justice et un désir inné de vouloir faire pour le mieux, même dans les situations les plus difficiles.

No social worker chooses this profession because it's easy. They choose it out of idealism and the desire to make society a better place for everyone. It's hard work, and often thankless. That's why I want to say thank you to every social worker in the Yukon. You matter more than you will ever know.

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

Speaker: Are there any further tributes?

Introduction of visitors.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Ms. Horne: It gives me great honour to introduce Simone Arnold, who heads the Department of Justice with Council of Yukon First Nations.

Applause

Speaker: Is there any further introduction of visitors?

Returns or documents for tabling.

Reports of committees.

Are there any petitions?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motion?

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to explain how it is following the "letter of the law" when it is not in compliance with:

(1) the *Education Act*, section 205, "Review of the Act", as no review of the act has been completed;

(2) the *Financial Administration Act*, section 39(1), as the investment of over \$36 million of Yukoners' money into asset-backed commercial paper was in contravention of the act, according to the 2008 February report of the Auditor General of Canada, *Government of Yukon's Investment in Asset-backed Commercial Paper, Department of Finance*;

(3) the *Financial Administration Act*, as the Health and Social Services department was found to have overspent in 2008-09 and 2009-10, according to the 2011 February report of the Auditor General of Canada, *Yukon Health Services and Programs — 2011, Department of Health and Social Services*;

(4) the *Environment Act*, section 48(1), as there is no up-to-date Yukon state of the environment report; and

(5) the *Cooperation in Governance Act*, section 5, as there have been no reported meetings of the Yukon Forum for over a year.

Ms. Hanson: I give notice of the following motions:

THAT it is the opinion of this House that on this International Women's Day, the Yukon government show its support for women by:

(1) objecting to the Harper government's refusal to recognize international programs for women's health that may provide access to abortion;

(2) promoting women's work in the private sector through regulating equal pay for work of equal value, pension security and other benefits;

(3) recognizing the financial burden of grandmothers caring for grandchildren with supportive funding at the same level as foster parenting;

(4) training police, judges and lawyers about the impact of their attitudes toward violence against women;

(5) expanding childcare support so that part-time and evening women workers can have secure childcare; and

(6) supporting the proposal from Kaushee's Place in Whitehorse for second-stage housing.

I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Harper regime to demonstrate its willingness to work with the opposition parties for the greater common good by supporting the following proposals put forward by the Leader of the federal New Democratic Party for inclusion in the 2011-12 federal budget to be tabled later this month:

(1) taking the federal sales tax off skyrocketing home heating bills and restoring the ecoENERGY retrofit program;

(2) helping our most vulnerable seniors with an affordable increase to their guaranteed income supplement;

(3) ensuring that Canadians can count on their pension when they need it by strengthening the Canada Pension Plan; and

(4) taking immediate action to ensure that five million Canadians no longer have to go without a family doctor.

Speaker: Any there any further notices of motion?
Is there a statement by a minister?

This then brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Health care professionals, recruitment and retention

Mr. McRobb: On Sunday past, I had the pleasure to revisit Canada's most westerly community. Soon after arriving, I was approached by several residents who expressed extreme concerns about losing their only nurse. Of course, I too was concerned and later discussed this matter directly with the nurse stationed in Beaver Creek. The nurse stated she could no longer reside in the nurse residence because of its substandard conditions and related health risks. As both the Health minister and Housing minister should know, sewage has been accumulating in the crawlspace beneath the mobile home for some time now. I assume it won't be necessary to elaborate on the associated health risks or the unpleasantness of living in such poor conditions. What will this government do to resolve this problem in time to save the community's nurse from leaving?

Hon. Mr. Hart: We will check into the matter the member opposite has brought to the attention of the House here today and will look into assuring the matter is rectified.

Mr. McRobb: This situation should never have been allowed to deteriorate to this point. Concerns about this unit have been expressed repeatedly to this government, but the problem was allowed to persist and now it's causing the inevitable loss of the community's only nurse.

The government should realize it's not easy to find qualified health care professionals to work in our remote communities and, therefore, it's important to retain valuable employees whenever possible. The community of Beaver Creek strongly supports retaining this nurse, whose qualifications and familiarity with the health needs of the community are a main thread in the social fabric that holds the community together.

When can we expect this government to bring forward a solution to this urgent matter?

Hon. Mr. Hart: As I stated earlier, we will look into this matter and rectify the situation as soon as possible. We are also fully aware that Beaver Creek is in a job-sharing situation with regard to that facility. It has worked out very well in the past several years and we will endeavour to ensure that we can provide service to the citizens of Beaver Creek.

Mr. McRobb: It is again really unfortunate to see a situation like this develop in today's Yukon. This government has been aware of this particular problem for years, yet has done nothing to resolve it. Now the whole community is upset because the government has, once again, neglected its needs. In fact, last week I asked the Housing minister about budgeting for more housing in Beaver Creek and he spoke about the unavailability of land. There's no lot shortage in Beaver Creek. The only shortage is the lack of will on the part of this government to do the right thing.

It's a good thing this nurse had the courage to do the right thing and speak out for her community, especially in the absence of whistle-blower protection. Now it's time for this government to step up to the plate and respond in kind. So what specific assurances will this government now provide to the community of Beaver Creek?

Hon. Mr. Hart: As I stated, we will look into the situation the member opposite brought up with regard to the nurse and the housing situation. We will investigate in conjunction with Yukon Housing Corporation, review and take the necessary steps to alleviate any position that has been brought forth by the nurse. We will also be in direct contact with the nurse in that community.

Question re: Education report by Fraser Institute

Mr. Fairclough: The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources often refers to the Fraser Institute's positive review of mining in the Yukon, but the Fraser Institute also reviewed the education in the territory this past June, which showed a drop in the quality of secondary education in the Yukon under this minister's watch. Here are some of the stats from the Fraser Institute report on education: Porter Creek Secondary School in the past five years placed 233rd in Yukon and B.C. on average; it's now ranked 240th. Vanier Secondary School in the past five years placed 106th in B.C. and Yukon on average; now it's ranked 155th. F.H. Collins Secondary School grad rates went from 97 percent in 2008 to 84.2 percent in 2009. In the past five years, the school placed 192nd in B.C. and Yukon on average; it's now ranked 255th.

Will the Minister of Education accept responsibility for the poor numbers reflected in the Fraser Institute report on Yukon's education system?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: It's a pleasure to respond to the member opposite in regard to the performance of Yukon's education system. I know our teachers, students, parents and officials within the education system are working very hard to increase the outcomes in all aspects of education and not just those that can be measured on a test, as the member opposite has referenced.

We have a wide range of responsibility within the Department of Education, not only to increase the levels of literacy and numeracy, but also to develop 21st century skills and also to educate people about the culture that we live in and the issues that are important to Yukon. We will continue to address issues throughout our education system. Members opposite are aware of the changes that have been made in recent years to increase the amount of community involvement, to change the curriculum, to reinforce the educational tools that are at the disposal of our educators, to increase professional development opportunities for our educators, such as the Master of Education program at Yukon College. We have a plan as to how to address the education needs throughout the territory, and we'll be working very hard with all Yukoners to accomplish this to increase the educational outcomes of all Yukon students.

Mr. Fairclough: Yukon's teachers, administrators and officials at the Department of Education work hard to provide quality education for our youth, so I hope the minister won't try to blame them instead of taking responsibility. Good governance depends on good leadership and Yukoners have learned that this government does not know how to lead. It provides short-term solutions to long-term challenges; it throws money at problems with no clear vision as to how or even if it will follow through.

This government says that it has Yukon on a pathway to prosperity. Well, how prosperous will Yukon be now that our graduation rates have fallen and our secondary schools rank even lower than they have been in previous years? So will the minister take responsibility for his poor report card from the Fraser Institute? Will he take responsibility?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: The Government of Yukon has certainly laid out a vision and a strategic path to follow for increasing the educational outcomes for Yukon students. Since taking office, we've increased the number of teachers in Yukon's education system. We've increased the number of educational assistants in Yukon's education system. We've worked with the community to develop curriculum based on local practices, local culture and local areas of importance. We've gone to work with the community to design educational facilities that will meet the needs of Yukon students now and into the future. I look forward to an opportunity to debate this in the budget with the member opposite.

I hope that we can veer away from the traditional Liberal subjects in the Department of Education budget — that being the placement of plywood, whether vertical or horizontal, the size of letters on schools, the colours of the walls or whether indeed the plans on building a school were turned upside-down and backwards. There are important issues in education and together we are all responsible for facing them.

Mr. Fairclough: The Fraser Institute gave this minister a poor report card, and in May 2008 the Minister of Education said, and I quote: "We recognize that there are challenges in the system."

I am interested to know exactly what the challenges were that the minister was referring to. I would like to know what the minister has done to address these challenges since he made those comments some two and a half years ago. Based on the numbers compiled from the organization that this minister respects, it is obvious that this minister has done nothing to address the challenges — quite the opposite, based on the numbers, Mr. Speaker.

Why hasn't the government addressed the challenges the Education minister referred to in 2008?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: If the Member for Mayo-Tatchun is not aware of the challenges facing Yukon's educators, I would encourage the member opposite to spend some more time talking with teachers, parents and students, and become more aware of the realities we face in the Yukon. Not only do we have a small population over tremendous geographic distances — those are some of our challenges — we also recognize that we have different situations throughout the territory.

The Government of Yukon, whether through the Department of Education, Health and Social Services, the Women's Directorate or Community Services, will work together to address the issues facing Yukoners today. Education is a key important area, one that we have worked on with considerable effort with the involvement of Yukon stakeholders and our partners in education.

We do have another education summit coming up next month, which will be an opportunity to provide information to Yukoners on the status of education reform initiatives and to work cooperatively with others in order to provide solutions to meet the changing needs throughout our education system.

Question re: Housing for abused women

Mr. Cardiff: It's unfortunate that it's necessary to go back to an issue I have been asking about now for several years, but on this International Women's Day it is important to bring this to the attention of the government yet again.

This government has often said they will respond to demonstrated needs. You don't have to look very far to see this need being demonstrated. Kaushee's women's shelter continues to be full and overflowing. Women and their children fleeing violence need and want to change their lives and they're given a limited time at the main shelter. Then they go on to second-stage supportive housing that allows them to bridge the gap between the violence in their lives and secure employment and housing away from violence. But there's no room there either.

What is the government's response to the proposal that was given to them in June 2009 for second-stage housing for abused women?

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: I am pleased to let the member opposite know that the Yukon Housing Corporation has been working on this. I understand that such a facility is even in design phase. I invite the member opposite to stay tuned. I think he will be pleased with the results.

Mr. Cardiff: Well, that's maybe a little bit of good news, but the wait-list for women and children for second-stage housing only gets longer and longer as they wait for this minister to make an announcement.

A long time ago, the Minister of Justice claimed the project was coming along and they were working very actively on it. She said it wasn't easy to find a building site. I offered to help look for a building site. The report, *A Home for Everyone: A Housing Action Plan for Whitehorse*, from the Anti-Poverty Coalition, says that Kaushee's second-stage housing project should immediately be implemented. Does this government support that recommendation and where is the RFP for the building?

Hon. Ms. Horne: I'd like to remind the member opposite that I did meet with him after he said he would assist me in finding a location and told him that we had already looked at the site that he had in mind. I also remind the member opposite, this was just answered by my colleague, the minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation. This government is continuing to work with Kaushee's Place on the proposal to expand second-stage housing in Whitehorse.

Officials from Yukon Housing Corporation, Health and Social Services and the Women's Directorate have been working very closely with Kaushee's to fully develop the proposal on a 10-unit building in Whitehorse. We have already built what was brought to our attention by women's groups as the highest priority: housing for single-parent families. We have a 30-unit complex in Riverdale to meet this demand.

I would like to also thank Yukon Housing Corporation for the work it has done in implementing a priority social housing policy for individuals fleeing violent relationships. I would envision a day when we don't have to address emergency housing. We must end violence against women in Yukon in our society, in all ways, every day.

Mr. Cardiff: The Minister of Justice wants to talk about the units for single-parent families in Riverdale. We had that discussion when we were going through that building. Those buildings don't meet the security standards for second-stage housing. I'll say it again: the wait-list for women and children for second-stage housing only gets longer and longer as they wait. That's why what we saw last year and previously is where women who couldn't get into the second-stage housing were being put up in insecure facilities like hotels around Whitehorse.

The Minister of Housing says that there is a project about to be announced and the Minister of Justice said they were still looking for a place to put it, so where's the money in the budget, where's the location and when will the project be announced?

Hon. Ms. Horne: I just answered that question. I said we were working on a 10-unit second-stage housing with Kaushee's Place. As the minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation said: stay tuned and get the final plans.

Question re: Housing for abused women

Mr. Cathers: Today is International Women's Day and I think it's an appropriate time to shine the spotlight on assisting women who are dealing with domestic violence. The

Yukon has three women's shelters — Kaushee's Place in Whitehorse, the Dawson City Women's Shelter, and Help and Hope for Families Society in Watson Lake. Staff and volunteers at these shelters provide a vital service to women and children fleeing abusive home situations. The Yukon government, through Health and Social Services, provides funding to the three shelters. When I was Minister of Health and Social Services, we increased total funding to the three NGOs by over \$236,000 from the level it was at under the Liberal government, for a combined total of over \$1.2 million in annual funding.

What is the current level of funding for Kaushee's Place, Help and Hope and the Dawson City Women's Shelter?

Hon. Ms. Horne: I thank the member opposite for bringing this question forward today. I appreciate the opportunity to share with this Assembly the progress we've made on this front. Since 2001-02, in Kaushee's Place we've increased the funding by 42 percent. This is an increase of \$420,000 over the 2001 level, in addition to the 15 new beds we've supplied for second-stage housing. In Watson Lake, we have more than doubled the fund — to 53 percent more than the funding in 2001-02. In Dawson City, we've increased the funding there for their three-bed shelter by nine percent.

Over the past three years, this government has increased support to shelters in Yukon by bringing the government's total commitment to women's shelters to over \$1,661,000 for this year.

Mr. Cathers: I thank the minister for that answer. One of the major challenges faced by women's shelters, social workers and others helping women escaping domestic violence is a shortage of housing space at the shelters and challenges of accessing second-stage housing. The government has taken some steps to improve housing supports. For example, when I was Minister of Health and Social Services, we provided funding to Help and Hope for Families Society to help expand their ability to house women and children fleeing domestic violence. But it is clear that more needs to be done in this area. What is being done now to provide housing for women fleeing domestic violence and improve the ability to safely house women and children in need of this support?

Hon. Ms. Horne: In addition to the \$430,000 which I just mentioned to operate Help and Hope for Families Society, the government has provided \$276,313 to the Help and Hope for Families Society of Watson Lake in order to construct four new second-stage housing units. The units are attached to the existing transition home.

I would also like to note that we constructed the Whitehorse affordable family housing complex, which has provided housing to 30 families and taken them off the waiting list of Yukon Housing Corporation. I do appreciate building this complex and the partnership between Canada and the Yukon to make this facility a reality and to help our Yukon women.

My colleague, the minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation, has shared with me that we have added 162 units — that's 162 new units — a 35-percent increase to the housing stock in Yukon. Many of these units provide housing for women and their children. Thank you.

Mr. Cathers: When women are dealing with or escaping abusive home situations, services and support provided by NGOs such as the three women shelters are vital to them and to their children, but the response by government and the RCMP is also critical to ensuring that our system provides effective support to victims of domestic violence and takes appropriate action in dealing with those responsible for that abuse.

What steps is the Yukon government taking to improve how government and the RCMP respond to domestic violence and assist victims in both dealing with the problem and moving on with their lives?

Hon. Ms. Horne: As I said earlier, the most important thing here is that we have to end violence against women and this is how I'd like to respond to this. We, as a society, have to change the way we treat women. We have days we set aside, like today, to honour women, but we must stop violence against women. We must respect women and girls each and every day of the year. That is a way we can support women. We have made many changes in the government to support women fleeing domestic abuse, but we can put all the money in the world against it, but it won't make a difference until we, as individuals, as a society, make a change in our lives to not allow abuse against women in any form. That's the way we can end violence against women.

I thank the member opposite for that question, and this is something I'm very passionate about. We must end violence against women and girls.

Question re: Committee on Abuse in Residential Schools Society

Mr. Mitchell: It's time to get back to basics on whether or not this government actually supports the work of the Committee on Abuse in Residential Schools. CAIRS provides essential services to Yukoners, but its federal funding has run out, and it's very near to closing its doors. There are many Yukoners who rely on CAIRS and the Health minister should be advocating for them in Ottawa. Instead, he's silent.

It's a simple question for the Health minister: why is he not advocating for CAIRS and the Yukoners it serves?

Hon. Mr. Hart: As I stated previously on this discussion, we have been working with CAIRS Society on looking at getting additional funding for them. This government recognizes that CAIRS makes an important contribution to the well-being of a segment of our population. Unfortunately, we are not in control of the funding from the federal government. This is a federal government program that had a finite date on it. I would also state that CAIRS was well aware of this issue.

I would also like to say that not only did we correspond with the federal government, the Premier raised the issue with the federal minister in meetings late last year with regard to funding for the CAIRS Society, in addition to meeting with the federal government earlier this year and bringing up issues of how the federal government is going to deal with those people from the residential schools.

Mr. Mitchell: One of the Yukon Party's best lobbyists is now sitting on this side of the House. He's the former Health and Social Services minister. His Reform Party roots

opened a lot of doors in Ottawa. His colleagues used to be able to send him there to bring home the funding Yukoners needed, but the Premier's bad behaviour forced him to cross the floor.

Harper government funding for CAIRS has dried up. The current Health minister says he forwards letters to the federal government, but the CAIRS executive director says he doesn't respond to hers. Does the Health minister think he has done enough to keep CAIRS Society's doors open beyond forwarding some letters?

Hon. Ms. Horne: As I said in this House earlier, I was one of those individuals who attended residential school. As I've also said previously, I cannot truly express the harm that was done to us as children. Entire families have felt the effect of residential schools, from the grandmothers to the parents who lost their children to residential schools. We are left with deeply embedded memories of emotional turmoil from attending residential school. This government is deeply concerned with the residual effect of residential school. I spoke to our federal counterparts, as well, about continuing the funding. We have funding in our programming at Whitehorse Correctional Centre to address residential school issues. Our counsellors provide programming for those who have left residential school, and we continue to work with it. We will not have healthy communities and healthy families if we do not address this problem. The Women's Directorate assisted the law society of Watson Lake in getting their funding readdressed, and they do have funding to continue their programming. We are concerned. We are addressing it.

Mr. Mitchell: The Justice minister reinforces our point. These programs are crucial. Now, CAIRS just raised \$9,000 to keep its doors open a little longer. That demonstrated that individual Yukoners support the good work that CAIRS is doing. Now, it's up to the Premier and his colleagues to bring their case for long-term funding to Ottawa and to do so effectively. It's not enough for the Justice minister to voice support in a motion a year ago and it's not enough for the Health minister to murmur support yesterday and not take effective action.

So will the Premier take CAIRS' case to his federal Conservative friends and get the funding that this essential organization needs?

Hon. Mr. Hart: Fortunately, we are grateful that the resolution health support program funding has continued to respond to Yukon communities through the provision of counselling and increased professional counsellors available who are registered with Health Canada. Currently there are 17 Health Canada registered professional counsellors, including psychologists, social workers and clinical counsellors in the Yukon. However, we are mainly concerned that there are still some gaps, despite the work by the Yukon groups, as well as the government and our local social workers. We will continue to counsel and work with Ottawa to ensure that we can try to obtain funding for the CAIRS program to allow them to continue with their good work.

Question re: Government accountability

Mr. Inverarity: Yukoners have seen this government involved in high profile court cases over the last few years. The Minister of Justice has admitted to Yukoners that she is spend-

ing millions of dollars each year directing these lawsuits. However, there are several examples of where Yukon laws are not being followed and the minister has failed to act.

In 2007, the Auditor General of Canada said that this government was not in compliance with the *Financial Administration Act* over its \$36-million investment in asset-backed commercial paper. The Tourism minister said yesterday in this House, “We’re following the letter of the law.” However, I believe the Auditor General disagrees.

Why did the Minister of Justice not take action over these bad investments?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Mr. Speaker, I see the Liberals are staking out their platform on a regular basis, and it’s all about a \$36-million investment that has now earned the Yukon treasury over \$1.8 million. That said, Mr. Speaker, we all know the circumstance and the facts of the matter. These investments had gone on for years — literally years. The first government that acted when the Auditor General provided her opinion in regard to these types of investment was the Yukon Party government. We made sure, by way of direction, that this kind of investment could not continue. The Liberal government didn’t act when they were making these investments. Why didn’t the then Liberal Minister of Justice act accordingly?

The NDP government didn’t respond when they were in office. They kept making these investments.

The only government that has acted, and acted in accordance with how we must, is the Yukon Party government.

Mr. Inverarity: This is the only government that has managed to lose \$36.5 million on its investments.

In 2007 the government was not in compliance with the *Financial Administration Act*. Also in 2007, the government was not in compliance with the *Environment Act*. In 2008 it was the *Financial Administration Act* again and, in 2009, once again this government was cited by the highest auditor in the country for not being in compliance with the *Financial Administration Act*.

This government is now a repeat offender. It’s the pattern of behaviour and one of the main reasons Yukoners no longer trust this government. The Minister of Justice has had lots of time to take legal action against other Yukoners but can’t be bothered to respond when the government is involved. Why not?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Once again, the Liberals really enjoy quoting things and presenting them to the Yukon public in a manner that they were not intended. Let me read a quote: “I conducted my audit in accordance with the Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.”

It goes on to say, “An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the Government, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.”

You know who wrote that, Mr. Speaker? The Auditor General of Canada.

Mr. Inverarity: The answers that I’m getting to these questions are a prime example of why we consistently vote against this government. The government refuses to be accountable for its actions and it cannot be trusted. We have no confidence in this government. Let’s look at this: 2007, broke the FAA; 2007, again the *Environment Act*; 2008, the FAA again; and in 2009, the FAA. They have done it before and they will do it again. This government has been cited year after year after year for non-compliance with the laws that they’re supposed to uphold and the Minister of Justice takes no action.

Did the minister decide on her own not to investigate these incidents or was she directed by the Premier to take no action?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: The Member for Porter Creek South is referring to opinions by the Auditor General. Let me read another quote. “Further, in my opinion, the transactions of the government and those of organizations listed in Note 2(a),” which would be corporations, “to the consolidated financial statements that have come to my notice during my audit of the consolidated financial statements have, in all significant respects, been in accordance with the government’s powers under the *Yukon Act*, the *Financial Administration Act* and regulations and legislative authorities and by-laws governing the organizations listed in Note 2(a).”

Do you know what Yukoners can’t trust? The Liberals.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

Notice of government private members’ business

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(7), I would like to identify the items standing in the name of the government private member to be called on Wednesday, March 9, 2011. They are Motion No. 1340, standing in the name of the Member for Klondike, and Motion No. 1341, standing in the name of the Member for Klondike.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chair (Mr. Nordick): Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 24, *First Appropriation Act, 2011-12*. Do members wish a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

Bill No. 24: *First Appropriation Act, 2011-12* — continued

Chair: The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 24, *First Appropriation Act, 2011-12*. We will now resume general debate in Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture.

Department of Tourism and Culture — continued

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I am very pleased to be able to continue to speak to the 2011-12 operation and maintenance and capital budgets for the Department of Tourism and Culture. As I was stating in my remarks yesterday, Yukon government very much recognizes the importance of this department, Tourism and Culture, to Yukon's economic as well as social well-being of our territory and is very proud of the level of investment we've made over the last number of years to grow both sectors in the territory.

One of the first things this government did upon being elected in 2002 was that of re-establishing the Department of Tourism and Culture as a stand-alone entity, in recognition of the importance of the sectors to Yukoners' quality of life and economic well-being.

When it comes to tourism, almost every Yukoner is touched in some way, whether working directly in the industry or involved when visitors are here in the territory. Since being elected, this government has taken the initiative to work on addressing priorities when it comes to tourism marketing in the territory. We have introduced programs, such as the tourism cooperative marketing fund. We have introduced programs throughout the Department of Economic Development, the enterprise trade fund, strategic industries development fund and the tourism product development partnership program. These are but a few of the examples that have been developed by this government to assist with business development and marketing Yukon tourism products here in the Yukon and elsewhere.

We continue to work in partnership with Yukon's tourism industry in the development, implementation and evaluation of all of the Yukon's tourism marketing, product development and research strategies to grow tourism revenues in the territory.

Through the Department of Education, we are investing in community training initiatives, expanded education opportunities through Yukon College and a new labour market framework with a wide range of industry partners to meet the needs of growth in many of our sectors.

We are working to provide a positive investment climate through favourable taxation and the delivery of tax incentives, such as the Yukon small business investment tax credit. We are continuing to invest in infrastructure, whether it is airports — the expansion of the Whitehorse International Airport — our highway infrastructure, communications and the delivery of affordable green energy, all of which are conducive to the growth of industry.

As I outlined yesterday, this budget builds upon investments that we have made over the years, one of which includes Destination: Yukon. Last year, we were able to increase this program, this marketing initiative, in annual, ongoing funding increases of approximately \$500,000.

Building upon this expenditure, we were also very pleased to be able to announce, alongside the federal government, an additional expenditure of \$3.4 million announced by CanNor for Canada's North marketing campaign, targeting our key market segments within the gateway cities of Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto and Montreal over the next four years. As I mentioned, the campaign builds upon the success of our previous marketing initiatives, whether it was the Look Up North campaign in 2007 or whether it was the 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympics marketing initiative held in Vancouver last year.

As with these previous initiatives, the Canada's North marketing campaign will also focus on advertisements, whether they be television, on-line or print advertisements, with the majority of these marketing initiatives being geared toward our gateway cities, as identified by the three northern territories. As I referenced yesterday, we are very pleased to be able to begin airing our advertisements, commencing March 18 for a period of three weeks. The campaign will ultimately drive consumers to our respective websites, where visitors will be able to obtain information directly from the three territories.

Of course, this also builds upon the strategic investment that was also announced through the Government of Canada, in partnership with Yukon government, and that was to enhance international overseas marketing by approximately \$2 million, adding on to our annual contribution of approximately \$1 million-plus in annual expenditures — again, for carrying out four-year marketing and awareness initiatives to promote Yukon as a travel destination in our key target markets that have been identified by industry. Of course, the overall aim is to enhance the awareness of and travel to Yukon by extending and enhancing our overseas marketing initiatives in these markets for the benefit of our tourism industry, our suppliers and ultimately our economic well-being. Through further investments in these efforts, as has been identified through the Government of Canada, Yukon Tourism and its industry partners will be able to build on Yukon's position as a growing international tourism destination.

We look forward to and intend to take full advantage of the tourism growth opportunities through the travel trade internationally, through our media and consumer channels, in keeping with our marketing plans. Activities over the next four years include expanding our visiting journalist program, in partnership with the Canadian Tourism Commission; expanding upon programs we have identified with our Yukon suppliers and experiences; increasing targeted print and on-line marketing campaigns; and taking advantage and working with Canadian Tourism Commission and other territories and provinces to capitalize on key overseas markets.

Last month alone, we were able to announce an increase in marketing that will be in support of Canada's north by over \$5.5 million. That does not include the expenditures made by

the Government of Yukon which, with this funding increase, will now make it very close to \$6 million in annual expenditures in support of marketing Yukon, showing the importance of this sector.

As I mentioned yesterday, investing in culture is also key to the success of the territory. It builds upon promoting the Yukon as a travel destination, but it also contributes to the well-being of our communities. In fact, it makes us a very attractive choice when making a decision to work or to live or to invest in the territory.

Our commitment to culture is supported with over \$9 million toward the various entities housed under the cultural banner. I'll just touch upon a few of the points that I wasn't able to actually go into yesterday for a lack of time. This includes \$866,000 in support of archeology, palaeontology, geographical place names and licensing of scientific research. The archeology program has been working with Kwanlin Dun First Nation on a salvage project at McIntyre Creek and an inventory of sites on the M'Clintock River basin.

In December of last year there was a very unique discovery of human remains near the historic Fort Herchmer at the North-West Mounted Police compound in Dawson City.

This discovery brought not only the community of Dawson City together, but also many people from across the territory and Outside, who followed this initiative with much interest. The work was done by the many community volunteers working alongside the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Susan Mooney, physical anthropologist and heritage manager for Carcross-Tagish First Nation; Greg Hare, the department's special projects archaeologist; the RCMP; City of Dawson officials and contractors working with the waste-water treatment plant and others were outstanding, to say the least.

Not only were the remains treated most respectfully, but the coverage garnered around the discovery treated Yukon, the Klondike, Dawson City, its people, the community and the First Nation with respect. It's a powerful and positive story that resonated with people across the country and reflected well on the community, whose collective efforts came together during what could have been a very difficult time, given the adverse weather conditions.

The discoveries of the palaeontology unit also support programming at the Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre, which includes approximately \$332,000 for annual operations. With its exhibits and educational, fun and creative outreach programs, the centre very much appeals to Yukon families, students and visitors. As part of the Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada, Beringia Centre is involved in national programming with museums across Canada. The centre also works with a number of organizations, as well as First Nation governments, museums and Yukon government departments on training initiatives in a variety of programs. It has also become an important venue for other community organizations and is an ideal space for film screenings, presentations, receptions and other events.

Yukon Archives will receive approximately \$1.3 million in 2011, which will ensure that Yukon's documentary history is acquired and preserved according to standards that ensure its

accessibility for future generations of Yukoners. Yukon Archives interprets archival sources and presents Yukon's history through exhibits and other outreach activities. In 2010, public programming included the James Quong photography exhibit and the Rolf Hougen photo exhibit, *Life in Whitehorse*, both of which highlight recent donations to the archives of the works of pioneering Yukon photographers.

Another facet of heritage that makes up Yukon's rich cultural fabric is the built heritage — the historic sites that reveal how people once lived, how they travelled and how communities were built.

Over \$900,000 is being allocated for the research, preservation, management, development and interpretation of Yukon's unique and irreplaceable historic sites and roots. Like other heritage features in Yukon, our historic sites garner national and international recognition. The shipwrecked *A.J. Goddard* was National Geographic's pick for the top archeological find in 2009. As with all Yukon historic sites, a significant part of our heritage will be protected for its historical significance and made accessible to Yukoners and visitors as tangible evidence of a bygone era.

We were also very pleased to be able to formerly designate, alongside Selkirk First Nation, Fort Selkirk as a Yukon historic site under Yukon's *Historic Resources Act*. We're very pleased to be a long-standing partner with Selkirk First Nation over the last number of years, being able to work on this co-owned and co-managed historic site in preserving this irreplaceable part of our shared heritage that has been nationally recognized as Yukon's top outdoor attraction.

This budget contains \$160,000 in core funding for site management and development pursuant to the *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement*, the *Fort Selkirk Management Plan* and preservation and interpretation plans.

This budget also contains expenditures for other historic sites, including Rampart House, Fortymile, and many others. As I referred to before, we also have approximately \$1.5 million in direct support of the operation and maintenance of the museums and First Nation cultural centres.

I see my time has nearly expired, so I will conclude. I am very pleased to be able to provide a few comments in support of Yukon heritage.

Mr. Fairclough: When we left off, I asked the minister a fairly simple question about her position and her department's position in regard to the Peel, and this is the answer I got. I would still like the minister to think about this again because this is an important issue, not only to the general public but I'm sure to government, to industry and Yukoners in general. Industry has made their position clear in regard to the Peel.

I haven't heard anything from the Minister of Tourism and Culture. I'm hoping that she is able to express her opinion and positions when it comes to the Peel. We know that the Environment minister is not allowed to speak on this matter in this House and it is taken on by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The minister referenced that perhaps this is not a monopoly by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in regard to the Peel, but the general public is feeling that because

we're not hearing from the minister responsible for the Environment or the Minister of Tourism and Culture. It's pretty important stuff. I know that government has to give their direction.

The Department of Environment has a position submitted — their thoughts in regard to the draft plan. The Premier took some offence to that. The industry and the tourism industry has supported the plans to develop the Peel area as a protected area and the minister hasn't said anything but passed the buck to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

When are we ever going to get a word from the minister responsible for Tourism and Culture in regard to the Peel and the draft plan? We know we have to follow processes and we're doing that, but obviously the department does have something to say. It is the minister responsible who is the spokesperson in this House for the department, so I'm anxious to hear in detail the thoughts the minister has put forward to the ministers of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources in pushing the whole issue of the Peel forward.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I will just repeat for the member opposite, and I'll continue to try to elaborate on the process that has been set under chapter 11 of the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and the respective affected First Nation final agreements.

When it comes to land use planning, as I believe I said yesterday, the lead department it is officially housed under is the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. It is something that has been in place since devolution.

I just might add that, since taking over this respective area, it is this government that actually did work alongside the Vuntut Gwitchin government and others to approve and sign off the final land use plan for the north Yukon. That was the first-ever plan in Yukon's history. So it can be done. The Government of Yukon does remain very committed to meeting its obligations pursuant to the provisions that are spoken throughout the collective final agreements. As I mentioned yesterday, that process has yet to conclude. There was a letter of understanding that was signed off by the affected First Nations as well as by the Yukon government earlier this year, which outlines timelines. It outlines the process in place for concluding that plan. We look forward to receiving the final plan as it is before the commission.

Comments have been provided to the commission from both the affected First Nations governments as well as the Yukon government. We very much appreciate and commend the work that has been done by the commission to date. But, as has already been articulated by the chair of the commission, that work has yet to conclude. It involves receiving the work received — or the final plan received from the commission — at which time there will be additional consultation held throughout the communities, as is outlined in the letter of understanding that was signed earlier this year. Again, that will help the parties through the final stages of the planning process, which is intended to be concluded this year.

In terms of this government's commitment to maintain and enhance the quality of our own natural environment, we have been, over the last eight years plus, focusing on meeting our legal obligations — not only under chapter 11, when it comes

to the Peel watershed, not only when it comes to the north Yukon and others; there are many to be done. We have also been focusing on our obligations for special management areas as identified in chapter 10 of the Yukon First Nation final agreements.

We've been working to complete management plans for new parks and implementing existing management plans for established parks and protected areas. In collaboration with First Nation governments, we have made significant progress in this regard, including putting in place management plans for Old Crow Flats, for example, the Lhutsaw Wetland Habitat Protection Area and others.

Work is also underway to develop management plans for a number of other areas, including the Lewes Marsh, Tagish River and others. There are also new planning processes that are underway, as is articulated under the Department of Environment. The Department of Tourism and Culture also contributes to those park planning processes, as we contribute to environmental assessments through the use of YESAA, as we contribute to land use planning — as does the Department of Environment, the Executive Council Office and other affected departments.

There is a lot of planning going on right now and we very much are continuing to meet our obligations, whether it is toward the implementation of final agreements, special management agreements — all of which make a significant contribution to Yukoners' quality of life and economic well-being.

Again, as I talked about yesterday, the Department of Tourism and Culture works very closely with the many departments. I just spoke of Energy, Mines and Resources on land use planning; I spoke of Department of Environment when it comes to protected areas and park planning. We also work with the Department of Environment when it comes to a wildlife viewing strategy, making enhancements, and I spoke at great length yesterday about investments that this government has made in interpretive signage and pullouts, and the list goes on.

We are also working with the Department of Education on a new labour market framework. I applaud the many multitudes of stakeholders who have contributed to that process as well. We have worked and we continue to work with the Department of Economic Development.

Of course, contrary to the members opposite, the Department of Economic Development has contributed millions of dollars in support of the growth of the tourism industry through the community development fund — a fund that was disbanded by the previous Liberal government, just like the Department of Tourism and Culture was, just like the Women's Directorate was and the Department of Economic Development was.

We are working with Economic Development and we appreciate the level of investment that they continue to provide in support of tourism, whether it is the enterprise trade fund, strategic industries development program, or many other services. We are working with Community Services on sport tourism and on waterfront development initiatives — whether it is Carcross or Whitehorse waterfront initiatives. There has been over \$23 million in support of initiatives, thanks to the Government of Canada and the Yukon government and other contributions

over the last number of years. We have seen a complete transformation of the Whitehorse waterfront and very much so in Carcross. We have seen cultural venues such as the Guild Hall renovations that were recently completed, thanks to the Government of Canada working in collaboration with the Government of Yukon. It is another example of how the Department of Tourism and Culture works in collaboration with other governments and other departments.

We're very pleased to be able to work with the Department of Highways and Public Works on airport improvements. As I mentioned, there was a lot of discussion and concern raised by the Leader of the Liberal Party about the expansion, that it was a waste of time and money. Unfortunately, the members opposite may not get the very importance of tourism and how integral air access is to the growth of the tourism sector. That's exactly why this government took the steps to work with industry and the governments of Canada and the United States to ensure that Yukon can continue to receive international flights, thanks to the \$16 million that has gone toward the expansion of the airport's international building, in particular the terminal building.

We have also been working with Community Services on the cultural centre for the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Kwanlin Dun First Nation. We're very proud of those investments.

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation cultural centre will also be combined with a new Whitehorse Public Library. It's a great investment that will drive traffic to both institutions and will very much result in an anchor, an icon presence on the waterfront that will help tell the stories of the Kwanlin Dun and showcase the living cultural legacy of the Kwanlin Dun. It will also become a very attractive public place. Libraries are as public as they come in terms of public infrastructure. We are very pleased to be able to work with them on that. Likewise, the combination of the visitor information centre that is being coupled with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations — again, it's another great collaboration between not only those two governments, but the Government of Canada through Parks Canada's contributions to this very area.

Yukon Tourism and Culture: I commend all the officials for their hard work, for their expertise, for providing their technical expertise, for making available information for working with stakeholders and certainly contributing to many different processes and many different strategic corporate initiatives. I've just listed but a few through a number of interdepartmental cooperative initiatives.

I just outlined for the member opposite that we have also made investments in historic sites. That's another collaborative initiative that this government has undertaken, in collaboration with First Nations — Selkirk First Nation on Fort Selkirk and going to work with them on designating this particular historic site under the Yukon *Historic Resources Act*.

We have gone to work with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation on the repair and upgrading of the access road to Fortymile historic site — again, utilizing dollars allotted through the northern strategy and the community adjustment fund. We have gone to work through the Yukon College and the Vuntut

Gwitchin government on the heritage certificate program, which is now underway with Yukon College. It's a great initiative that will be running until the end of this year with further evaluation.

We have also been very pleased to work with communities on the community heritage resource manual — another example of how we are working together with municipalities.

Through the Arts branch, under the cultural sector, we have been able to enhance the level of funding available to arts organizations, to various arts events and to individual advanced artists in support of their artistic development projects. Again, thanks to the good, hard work and technical expertise of the Department of Tourism and Culture, we have made great strides with organizations such as the Dawson City Arts Society, as well as the Yukon Arts Centre, which this government has worked with for a resulting increase to their contribution agreement from just under \$500,000 to just under \$760,000.

Likewise, we have been working with Dawson City Arts Society in their establishment — another great collaboration that we have gone to work with, which we have contributed to. It is housed within the Department of Education. Again, it is an initiative that is just one more example in the litany of examples of how Tourism and Culture officials have contributed to these processes over the years.

We were very pleased to be able to also enhance initiatives such as the Artist in the School program, up to \$100,000 from where it was many years ago when it was at \$25,000. It has enabled us to work with the educators in the schools and the artists. Working through the Department of Education, we have been able to enhance the level of arts instruction and delivery of arts curriculum in all our schools. Before, because of the limited dollars, we were somewhat limited in how much arts programming we were able to deliver, but because of this enhancement, we are now doing a much better job. We are enhancing that because of the level of interest expressed by the communities in the delivery of many programs.

We also have been able to go to work with the arts community. We were able to increase the number of dollars allotted to arts organizations for longer term, stable, ongoing core funding. We were able to add, I believe it was almost \$200,000 to the arts operating fund. That really has made a big difference; a very large, instrumental difference in the territory. It has enabled groups such as the All City Band Society, for example — one of many, many, many organizations throughout the territory who do such an amazing job in terms of enriching the lives of young musical minds throughout the territory.

We have gone to work with many stakeholders and, as I just tried to outline for the member opposite, we have gone to work on a whole host of planning exercises and initiatives. We do remain committed to meeting our obligations, contrary to what the members opposite may believe. We are making progress and I commend the Government of Yukon for being able to report progress on various initiatives throughout each and every department.

As I expressed before, Tourism and Culture resonates within every department and we endeavour to work with all departments in reflecting the priorities and interests of the sec-

tor and going to work on items — whether it is tourism marketing, whether it's infrastructure, whether it's land use planning, whether it is protected areas planning — all of which are housed within obligations that are outlined within the final agreements and the *Umbrella Final Agreement*. I very much commend them on that.

We have gone to work with the tourism sector on a number of priorities over the years in the department in support of a new, enhanced www.travel yukon.com website. The lion's share of our visiting population goes there as the source for obtaining information about the Yukon and making informed decisions about booking with the tour operators.

We have made investments like the tourism cooperative marketing fund. That is another fund that the members opposite have taken issue with. I suppose, if elected, they would remove that fund.

It's unfortunate because industry has spoken nothing but accolades for the fund. Unfortunately, the members opposite don't agree with the eligibility criteria. They don't agree with the protocols associated with familiarization and media tours. It's unfortunate that those would go by the wayside if they were perhaps elected to government. As with the tourism brand strategy, I suppose it would go out the window. Thankfully, the airport expansion has already been completed, so that would be a little difficult to disband, although I suppose the level of investment for tourism marketing, whether it's overseas or domestic, could be diminished as a result of other priorities.

I suppose the level of investment could also be taken away in assets such as photography and high-definition video for enhancing our marketing campaigns.

I just throw out a few examples of how we are working in collaboration throughout the government.

Mr. Fairclough: One thing this government promised to do was improve decorum in this House. I think perhaps the rest of the government side forgot to tell the Minister of Tourism and Culture about this improvement that they promised to make in the House.

They also said they were going to be open and accountable. Guess what was the first thing the Government of Yukon did in this House. It repealed the *Government Accountability Act*. I'm sure that the Minister of Tourism and Culture is proud of that one. We've heard the minister talk for 20 minutes, giving us the same information that she did the day before to different members on this side of the House. She feels compelled to say it over and over and over again but avoids the question. She avoided the question. Obviously, we're not going to get any answers out of this minister; same with the Minister of Environment. We're going to hear from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources when it comes to the Peel, because he does have a monopoly on it. The Minister of Tourism referred to that and said it's not, but I think maybe, perhaps, giving the rest of the members a heads-up that this is in fact the way it is.

Thank goodness for final agreements, because our government has to follow up on the final agreements. So what happens if they don't go through these and follow up on the final agreements?

If they don't go through these and follow up on the final agreements, the First Nation will probably just be able to deal with the federal government on these matters — if the Yukon government doesn't get involved. They have to do it. Has the government done anything new on their own? No, it's following up on the final agreements. I haven't heard the minister or any members on that side say things have changed dramatically in the way government conducts business day to day, forever, and that's a result of final agreements.

The minister gave a long list of what the department does. Well, this might be news to the minister, but the department has been doing this type of work before the minister was responsible for this portfolio and have been doing it for years. Members opposite say between 2000-02 there was a tourism industry here, and the department did run the Tourism department, whether it was housed in another place — I mean, not to totally disagree with the members opposite about bringing this forward on its own — the Tourism department and Economic Development.

But the members opposite would like to paint a rosy picture of themselves when, in fact, the department does a tremendous amount of work, and I give them credit for being able to handle the large workload put upon them through the final agreements and coming up with something unique for the territory. It's the final agreements that really drive this.

I want to ask the minister another question and see if she can avoid a 20-minute answer and perhaps concentrate on the question a bit, and not repeat and read her notes over and over again.

This is about what the Minister of Health and Social Services had to say — this is in regard to wilderness and taxing on the wilderness and the Peel, in particular. He said this on September 28, 2010: “Well, if you're going to have a value for that pristine environment, then the people who use that pristine environment will have to be taxed accordingly...” Does the Minister of Tourism and Culture agree with that?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Thanks for the opportunity and thank you for the questions and the statements made by the member opposite. It provides me the opportunity to outline the difference between the previous Liberal government and where we are today and what investments we have made in support of the tourism and cultural sectors.

I know that the member opposite may not wish to hear it, or listen to it, but when the questions are raised and statements are made in the Legislature, I do feel compelled to provide an outline for the member opposite, hoping that perhaps members will learn.

I certainly commend industry's work in collaboration with the Department of Tourism and Culture and the many individuals who work day in and day out in support of industry.

Speaking of taxation, it was this government that has worked to reduce the level of taxation imposed upon small businesses. So, if anything, the government has no intention of imposing a tourism tax or imposing a specific tax on any industry. The government, in fact, has a track record of being able to reduce taxes, and that has been reflected in consequential

amendments over the last eight and some years in this Legislature.

So in terms of other things that the Department of Tourism and Culture and this government have worked in collaboration with industry on — well, first of all, let's just go back to 2002.

When we did take office one of the big differences is there wasn't a Department of Tourism and Culture, there wasn't a Department of Economic Development, and there wasn't a Women's Directorate. I'll leave it at that, but this government made a promise to re-establish a Department of Tourism and Culture, just like the Department of Economic Development and the Women's Directorate.

We just spent a good share of the day thus far speaking about women's equality. It is International Women's Day, and I want to say happy international day to all Yukon women and women throughout the world. It's this government that has taken the initiative to reinstate the Women's Directorate. Not only did we do that, but we have worked in collaboration with many organizations — many women's entities throughout the territory, First Nation governments, and many, many other agencies, whether it's through the Government of Canada or the Government of Yukon.

Again, striving to advance women's equality does not just rest solely on the shoulders of the Women's Directorate. It works collaboratively, just like the Department of Tourism and Culture does every day with many departments. I commend the Women's Directorate for their job well done. I don't have the opportunity to do that on many occasions, but there has been much progress on that front — resources being made available to more women's organizations than ever before. We have created a women's equality fund. We've created a violence prevention fund specifically for aboriginal women — for them to design and for them to implement programs specifically for the communities. I commend them for that. There have been many other initiatives undertaken by the Women's Directorate, one of which was the housing initiative in collaboration with Yukon Housing Corporation.

One thing that wasn't mentioned earlier today was the second-stage housing that was implemented in collaboration among the Department of Economic Development, Women's Directorate and the Help and Hope for Families women's shelter in Watson Lake. You know, that was the first time second-stage housing was ever dedicated to a rural community other than the City of Whitehorse and I commend the Women's Directorate and I commend Help and Hope for Families women's shelter. As was asked by the Member for Lake Laberge earlier today, it was this government that enhanced and provided a three-year funding agreement for organizations such as Kaushee's Place, the women's transition society, as well as the Help and Hope for Families women's shelter and the Dawson City women's shelter. We've provided them with three-year funding and have enhanced the funding.

Further to that, we have also advanced initiatives when it comes to long-term sustainable housing. Second-stage housing, emergency housing, are all part of a continuum of housing options. But long-term housing of course is very important, and it's this government that has gone to work in addressing the

root causes of crime and poverty in the territory by raising the housing stock by some 35 or 40 percent, unlike the previous governments.

When it comes to the Department of Tourism and Culture, we have gone to work. Another key difference that wasn't there with the previous government was the tourism cooperative marketing fund. This was identified early on, and I believe it was in 2004 that we were able to initiate the fund. It has grown from \$500,000 to \$700,000. It has been an absolute success. It is very much supported by industry and has been utilized by well over 500 tourism operators and agencies over the last number of years.

Not only has it helped to enhance the awareness of Yukon here in the territory but also outside of our borders, whether it's Canada, United States or overseas.

It has helped leverage millions of dollars over the last number of years because, for every dollar that is put forward by an operator or an individual — and provided it meets the criteria that was established in consultation with industry, that it is met by \$1. That has helped leverage millions of dollars, which has helped enhance the awareness of Yukon.

It is initiatives such as the tourism cooperative marketing fund just like, for the first time ever — unlike previous governments, it is this government that has gone to work on a pan-northern marketing initiative. It wasn't long ago that the previous government was in a bitter battle with the other territories over other initiatives. This government has chosen to go to work on a number of priorities. Tourism marketing has been identified as one of those priorities.

I'm very proud of the work that has been done by the Department of Tourism and Culture and the other two northern territories. It is something that perhaps many thought could or would not work but, as research has shown, when individuals are driven to — they are interested by Nunavut, they also express interest in coming to the Yukon, as well as the Northwest Territories. It is working. The Look Up North campaign that was first initiated in 2007 has garnered great success. You know, working alongside industry — whether it is our local air carrier, whether it is the tour operators or the many organizations in support of tourism — we have been able to increase consumer awareness, which was identified early on and remains an identified priority by industry.

Likewise, another strategic priority that was identified by industry was the identification of a new enhanced website for Travel Yukon. Hence, www.travel Yukon.com emerged. As I mentioned, it has become the primary source for driving individuals to obtain information about the Yukon and to help motivate those decisions when it comes to coming to the Yukon. I believe we continue to work to enhance those investments as is reflected in the budget that we are currently discussing.

Likewise, a new Yukon tourism brand strategy was also identified early on by industry — again, something that was not in place before. It was this government that put in the dollars, and it was significant resources. I know at the time that it received much digression, much disagreement in the opposite benches. Again, we went to work with the tourism industry and put in the necessary resources, did the research, did the home-

work, conducted many focus groups across the country and also built upon investments that were made through other campaigns previously to determine what the new brand was going to achieve. Hence, a new Yukon tourism brand industry unfolded.

Another investment that wasn't around back in the former days is the level of investment for photography and high-definition video, B-roll, as I mentioned, for enhancing our marketing campaigns. This was not made possible because, in the past, we haven't had the financial resources available to be able to be present on television frequently, or be strongly represented in print or on-line advertising.

It's this government that went to work to enhance the tourism marketing, in collaboration with the Government of Canada, for the first time ever. I can't recall those kinds of dollars being made available since the days of the former economic development agreement, and that was many years ago.

Thanks to the investment of over \$5.5 million that was just announced by the federal government in support of overseas marketing, as well as pan-north marketing initiatives, this builds upon our budget, which brings it to a total of almost \$6 million in annual expenditures for tourism marketing. That's a huge feat. Those expenditures have grown by being able to enhance our investment in programs such as Destination: Yukon, working in collaboration with industry, our airline carriers, to really leverage the marketing reach for Yukon tourism, and it is working.

We were able to earn a 10-percent increase in visitation last year alone, despite the many challenges that have faced the tourism industry over the years. Over the last decade, there has been a litany of challenges, but thanks to the work, the hard work and the expertise of industry and that which is housed within the Department of Tourism and Culture, we have put a lens that is more strategic and more integrated in how we develop, implement and evaluate our programs, as is reflected in our annual tourism implementation plan that's posted for anyone to view.

We have been able to invest in new dollars for media relations and I know that's something else that the members opposite take issue with because we've heard them time and time again say that's a waste of dollars as well. You know, for the tourism industry that is a key investment in familiarization tours.

I referenced the GoMedia marketplace initiative that will be coming to the Yukon for the first time ever — the first time ever to be held north of 60. It will bring up to 300 travel journalists and other representatives from the trade, who will come together to discuss and see first-hand all we have to offer as a travel destination — year-round, I might add. It enables communities and industry to be able to present all we have to offer. The unpaid, media-equivalent advertising that will be generated by having those individuals here will be huge.

It is this strategic use of dollars that has given us the ability to compete with other jurisdictions, but it has made us a very unique destination. I commend the work of the individuals in the Tourism branch for working and generating those partner-

ships and long-standing relationships with the travel trade over the years.

As I mentioned — and I won't go over all these expenditures — other things that were not here, but are now — a new Tombstone interpretive centre.

That is something that this government has invested in, and it is a beautiful facility — in collaboration with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation. Likewise, the two cultural centres that are currently under construction in Whitehorse and Haines Junction — combining new public facilities, such as a new public community library and a new visitor information centre. Those initiatives weren't here under the previous government. We have expanded the waterfront initiatives — around \$23-million worth of investments in Whitehorse and Carcross. That is helping to make us an even more attractive destination. Providing that infrastructure leverages further growth in the tourism sector. We have been able to work alongside the cultural sector and made investments in many of our programs that we have provided. We have enriched and we have invested in new initiatives. Culture Quest and the touring artist fund are just a couple of examples of new initiatives this government went to work on and saw fit to invest in — again, something that was not around the previous Liberal government.

We have invested new monies in museums, in our cultural centres, and new operating funds for those heritage institutions.

We have also, through the Department of Economic Development, made available funding mechanisms, such as the community development fund, which has helped support many capital initiatives over the last number of years, which are in support of the tourism industry. We applaud the community development fund. It is something that wasn't around. It is something that was removed under the previous government.

We have new funding mechanisms to help support operators in business planning: the strategic industries development fund, the enterprise trade fund and the list goes on, Mr. Chair.

I thank the member opposite for raising the question and putting that on the record, because it does provide us with the opportunity to provide a few examples of what this government has done and continues to do.

Mr. Fairclough: It took the minister 20 minutes to answer that again and it's obvious that she's assigned to chew up time in this Legislature and produce pages and pages of *Hansard*. It is the government's plan and I guess this minister is going to follow plan. It's unfortunate, but that's the way it is. I really feel for a lot of the department people who have been working on many of these initiatives for a long time and this Yukon Party government seems to take and make claim to them.

I have two more questions and we'll see if the minister can keep her answer short. It's a challenge for the minister to be able to do this. One of them: can she produce the number of visitors to the Yukon for last year? That should be a very short answer; it's just a number. Also, with this heavy snowfall that we are having this year, I asked the government about this before and I heard the minister say that they're doing a lot to preserve Yukon's heritage. I asked the minister in the past about

the *SS Evelyn* and the fact that it is ready to fall into itself and whether government is going to be putting money to ensure that this structure continues to stand and be visited by our many river travellers on the Yukon and Teslin rivers.

I think the minister can answer that in a short answer. It's a challenge, but let's see if the minister can do this.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I disagree with the member opposite. I know the member opposite may take issue with that; he may refer to it as "chewing up time" but I refer to it as just being able to inform members opposite of exactly what is going on in the Department of Tourism and Culture and throughout the Government of Yukon in support of tourism and culture. I take great pride in being able to articulate the work of the officials of the Department of Tourism and Culture and this government.

When it comes to visitation — and I'm very pleased the member opposite has raised this — it wasn't long ago that the previous critic for Tourism took issue with all the investments being made in tourism marketing. This is before we even increased our tourism investments with Government of Canada — whether its overseas, pan-north or in-house for domestic Yukon, Destination: Yukon.

It's unfortunate I don't have the *Hansard* from before, but we thought it was a waste of time and effort by the department because we weren't getting the numbers. We weren't getting the numbers we used to. I just go back over about 10 years ago ever since 9/11 occurred, this industry has been hit with a multitude of different events — some global and some local.

Whether it has been wars overseas, fluctuation in fuel prices or exchange rates, whether it has been — I know one year it was a SARS outbreak — not to mention economic global recession, every industry had been hard hit. I should say every jurisdiction in the country, as well as worldwide. You know, that has helped — it just points to the very importance of the need to be strategic.

Maybe the member opposite would like to answer his phone first; maybe I should just sit down and wait, but I will take the — nevertheless, while the member opposite speaks on the phone, I'll take the opportunity to talk about tourism.

Going back over the years, it has been an up-and-down time for the tourism industry. It has taught us to become more integrated and more efficient and more effective in the way we deliver marketing programs and services and how we're able to be flexible and resilient. It has taught industry to become very resilient. This is not to say that all the challenges and hurdles are out of the way; in fact, there will always be something, as I'm reminded by officials within the Department of Tourism and Culture. There may be something, there may be flooding, there may be forest fires, there may be ongoing of course, the rise in price of fuel, as we're seeing today. The higher Canadian dollar also has an impact. There will always be something.

The thing that very much heartens my confidence is the ability for industry to work with the Department of Tourism and Culture in doing their due diligence, providing the information and doing their homework to ensure that, wherever we do choose to invest, the return on investment — those are the

places we need to ensure we will get a good return on investment.

Whether that is in TCMF, in our website, the brand strategy, whether it's in tourism marketing, everything — all of our research programs are evaluated at the end of every year by industry and we very much appreciate and value that because it is very critical. Everything that we do is toward the growth of the tourism sector. Despite all the challenges that we have seen — the economic challenges over the years — the Department of Tourism and Culture, working with industry, has been able to see an increase in visitation. Last year alone, we did see a 10-percent increase in visitation. That included increases in private vehicles as well as the motorcoach market segment. We saw increases in overseas visitation by some 16 percent, speaking to the importance of the Yukon as a destination of choice to our key target markets overseas. German-speaking Europe makes up our biggest market within overseas. That is not to say the other markets such as the U.K. and the Netherlands and France and others do not bode well. In fact, they do. They are growing and continue to grow.

We also saw an increase in U.S. visitation, which was also good news for the sector. I attribute that to growth in the cruise market. They are coming back on their way to Alaska. Individuals are also seeing a return. They're increasing their travel by utilizing the cruise travel excursions, which is also great news for us. The numbers we received in 2010 — there was a total of 311,542 visitors, which reflects about a 10-percent increase. That was significant compared to other jurisdictions in the country. We did outperform many other jurisdictions in the country and we're very pleased with the results.

That's not to say there isn't more work to be done. There's always more work to be done.

One of the key strategic priorities that has been identified by industry is to raise consumer awareness. That is why I'm quite pleased with the new investments made through the Government of Canada for overseas funding, \$2 million for four years for Yukon Tourism, as well as the new dollars allotted for the pan-north partnership with our two sister territories over the next four years. That is a significant boost. As I mentioned, that campaign will be soon launched. On March 18, you'll see the first television ads running and we're really excited about that. To be able to take the same look and feel of the Look Up North campaign and carry on the strengths of the 2010 marketing consortium initiative from the Olympics, is very good news for the north, not just Yukon but Canada's north. That is a very good thing, because in today's age where tourism is becoming increasingly competitive worldwide, there are new destinations coming on-line all the time and new products being made available as well. Yukon holds very unique attributes that are very attractive and continue to attract increased visitation from around the world.

Mr. Chair, in terms of our investments in heritage, one of the things that the Government of Yukon did early on was enhance investments in the historic properties assistance program, I believe is. At that time it was around \$25,000. We've enhanced it to \$100,000. It goes toward private investments, investments made by organizations in support of restoration his-

toric buildings. That is something that we have done, and it has been put to great use. It has helped leverage thousands and thousands of dollars over the years in terms of making dollars available for heritage restoration.

That is something I think I have mentioned before. It is available for initiatives such as the *SS Evelyn*. I know there has been considerable work done in the past when it comes to other heritage assets in the area — the Wernecke House in the Silver Trail region has received funding from the historic resources fund that we were able to bring to fruition, as well as this program that I just alluded to.

Of course, we're very pleased to have a great deal of expertise and long-standing corporate knowledge housed within the Cultural Services branch when it comes to completing work in support of heritage in the territory. It builds upon investments made in support of management of historic sites, as alluded to earlier — whether it's Fort Selkirk, Fortymile — I referenced, I believe, the road access to Fortymile site just outside of Dawson City — and Rampart House management — I know that the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin is probably always interested in seeing what we're doing in that regard — Hootalinqua, Herschel Island — the list goes on. We have done a significant amount of work. I won't go into every aspect of it, other than to say that it's another area where we work very closely with the self-governing First Nations in meeting our obligations, but also have had long-standing relationships between the two entities. It all bodes well for the value of heritage.

When it comes to interpretation and signage, I referenced new resources being made available for interpretation when it comes to telling the story and advancing the stories of the territory. I'm not going to go through the list of sites we've identified this year. We continue with the archaeology program and the palaeontology program. We work on geographical names through the board, through the Yukon Heritage Resources Board, both of which are mandated under land claims agreements. We applaud their hard work over the last number of years for advancing the interest of the heritage community throughout the territory.

Through the museums unit, as I mentioned, there have been new investments made over the last number of years in support of museums and cultural centres, all of which help tell the stories.

There are thousands and thousands of stories to be told throughout the Yukon. The Yukon has a very rich, cultural landscape. It is very diverse and by making resources available through these institutions through the Yukon Archives or the arts unit, we are very much doing our part to initiate and to enhance the delivery of heritage programming throughout the territory. The *SS Evelyn*, which the member opposite made reference to before, I do not have that specific information at my fingertips, but I will endeavour to see what I can find. I will inquire with the Department of Tourism and Culture in regard to this particular initiative. I believe that work has been done, and I believe that I reported as such in the last sitting, if I am not mistaken.

Mr. Fairclough: That's all that we needed to hear from the minister. The minister likes to talk and talk and talk and fill up pages of *Hansard* and chew up time in this Legislature. I am not interested in hearing much more from the minister. I appreciate all the work that the department people do in the Department of Tourism and Culture. It does reflect in the communities. I'd like to move on and pass it on to the Third Party, if they have any more questions. If not, then I'd like to clear the department.

Chair: Is there any further general debate?

Seeing none, we'll proceed line by line in Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Corporate Services

On Deputy Minister's Office

Deputy Minister's Office in the amount of \$496,000 agreed to

On Directorate

Directorate in the amount of \$193,000 agreed to

On Human Resources

Human Resources in the amount of \$187,000 agreed to

On Finance and Administration

Finance and Administration in the amount of \$432,000 agreed to

On Information Management

Information Management in the amount of \$189,000 agreed to

Mr. Fairclough: Mr. Chair, I don't believe I have any questions on any of the remaining line items in this department. I don't think the Third Party does either, so I would request unanimous consent to deem all remaining lines in the Department of Tourism and Culture cleared or carried, as required.

Unanimous consent re deeming all remaining lines in Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, cleared or carried

Chair: Mr. Fairclough has requested the unanimous consent of the Committee to deem all lines in Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, cleared or carried, as required. Are you agreed?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: Unanimous consent has been granted.

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$20,194,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$1,841,000 agreed to

Department of Tourism and Culture agreed to

Chair: Committee of the Whole will now proceed to the Women's Directorate.

Do members wish a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

Chair: Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 24, *First Appropriation Act, 2011-12*, Vote 11, Women's Directorate.

Women's Directorate

Hon. Ms. Horne: I rise today to speak to the main estimates for the 2011-12 budget for the Women's Directorate. In 2006, we campaigned on a commitment to provide Yukoners with a clear vision for a bright future. We committed to help Yukoners achieve a better quality of life. We committed to protect and manage Yukon's environment. We committed to continue to grow and build our economy. We committed to practise good governance. We committed and we did deliver.

The budget before us is only one more important example of how our government is delivering on our commitments. I'd like to talk about how this budget fits with and supports our main estimates. When I think about where we were in 2002 and where we are today, I am very pleased with the progress we have made. We have doubled our fiscal capacity in the territory. We have come through one of the most difficult economic periods in recent history with flying colours. We have managed to create an investment context in which people feel comfortable investing in Yukon. I compare that to the Liberal years where U-Hauls were the most popular vehicle accessory. Our budget for this year is \$1,089,000,000. Let me mention just a few of the highlights.

Previously, the members opposite have asked about alcohol abuse in Yukon. We know that by far, the largest driver of crime in Yukon is substance abuse. If we are going to create a better quality of life we simply must address substance abuse and the substance most abused: alcohol. Four years ago we committed to Yukoners to implement the *Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan* through initiatives related to four strategic directions: harm reduction, prevention and education, treatment, and enforcement. Speaking at the minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, I would like to say that the biggest way we can help improve the lives of our families and reduce the ramifications of crime in our communities is to address substance abuse, and that is just what we are doing.

The *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*, or SCAN, has had a positive impact on the lives of Yukoners. There have been over 350 complaints received since the inception of this legislation. As a result of those investigations, our SCAN unit has issued warnings to tenants engaged in illegal activity and many evictions have taken place with the consent and support of the landlord. I would be happy to say more about the SCAN unit during our Justice budget debate.

Improving the living conditions of Yukon families is a significant contributor to improving the lives of Yukoners. Building on the success of the three-year pilot project, the street crime reduction team will now be permanently embedded into the operations of M Division as part of an integrated crime reduction strategy.

Reducing substance abuse improves the quality of life and safety of Yukon women. We have the specialized program for children who witness violence, Our Way of Living Safely, or

OWLS. This is to break the generational cycle of violence. We have the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court, which is designed to help —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

Chair: Ms. Hanson, on a point of order.

Ms. Hanson: Yes, I believe that under Standing Order 19(b)(i) during the debate, the member opposite is speaking to matters other than the question under discussion. I understood that the question under discussion this afternoon was Vote 11, the Women's Directorate. I would request that we could focus on the Women's Directorate.

Chair's ruling

Chair: There is no point of order. It is difficult for the Chair to determine when we're discussing general debate on a vote what is relevant and what is not. It is really up to the members to make sure it is on topic with regard to the vote that we're debating today.

Hon. Ms. Horne: You know, I really honestly feel that women's issues are very, very important to the mains. We are protecting women and children in Yukon. I overheard a comment earlier that we were wasting time and taxpayers' money. We are not wasting taxpayers' money. We are improving the lives of Yukon women and children. That is our aim and that is what we are delivering. The importance of women and children in Yukon to the Women's Directorate is paramount. Let's not forget that. That is not a waste of taxpayers' money.

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

Chair: Ms. Hanson, on a point of order.

Ms. Hanson: The member opposite has imputed a false or unavowed motive by hearsay. She has indicated that we were speaking about taxpayers' waste of money. The taxpayers' waste of money that was referred to was the repetitious —

Chair's ruling

Chair: Order please. When a member rises on a point of order, please state the point of order and, when you stand on a point of order, you mention the Standing Order that the individual is breaking, and then you explain to the Chair your logic of why you believe that is a point of order. You don't enter into debate on a political level during the point of order. A point of order is to bring to the Chair's attention what Standing Order is being broken, not to make a statement against one side or the other.

On the point of order, it is just a dispute between members. Ms. Horne, you have the floor.

Hon. Ms. Horne: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

We have the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court, which is designed to help families deal with domestic violence on a therapeutic, rather than adversarial basis.

In addressing one of the largest gaps in housing that currently exist, we completed this project in partnership with

Yukon Housing Corporation, the Women's Directorate and the Government of Canada with an investment of over \$7 million. Single parents are a group that faces extreme challenges and lack of support in finding adequate housing. These are, many times, young mothers without sufficient support. They sometimes face challenges to develop skills, education, awareness, confidence and social support to better their lives to be able to support their children.

In 2008-09, we signed three-year agreements with Yukon women's shelters so that they have some budget certainty. We supported increasing funding over a three-year period for Kauchee's Place in Whitehorse and Help and Hope for Families Society in Watson Lake. We also supported development and opening of the women's annex at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

Recognizing that northern women are more likely to be victims of violent crime, we have undertaken a violence prevention and victims of crime strategy. We launched the victims of crime strategy in August 2009 with the Department of Justice. The Women's Directorate provided gender-inclusive analysis and advice in the development of the victims of crime strategy, and they are working closely with the Department of Justice on the implementation.

The Women's Directorate is working with key partners on a social marketing campaign to support the prevention of violence against women. Building on the work we accomplished through the Circles of Respect and Equality — or CORE — campaign, Justice and Women's Directorate are working on implementing the social marketing campaign. Published and distributed in 2007 for the ninth time by the Women's Directorate, the *Yukon Family Violence Resource Directory*, in English and French, is a comprehensive directory of all front-line service providers in Yukon by community. In 2009, the Women's Directorate doubled the prevention of violence against aboriginal women's fund from \$100,000 to \$200,000 annually. Since 2004, the prevention of violence against aboriginal women's fund has provided a cumulative total of approximately \$900,000 in funding for projects developed by and for aboriginal women.

In 2008-09, six community-based projects received support from this fund. In 2009-10, four community-based projects receiving funding for one-year projects. In 2010-11, three projects received funding for two-year projects. Let me talk about the other violence prevention initiatives.

We have the Protect Yourself, Protect Your Drink campaign, also known as the "coaster campaign", to highlight the dangers of date-rape drugs. The Bare Essentials campaign runs annually from mid-November to early December and is coordinated by the Women's Directorate. It directly benefits Yukon women's and children's shelters. We created the women's equality fund in 2006-07; approximately \$500,000 over three years was provided to women's organizations throughout the Yukon to enhance women's equality.

The Women's Directorate, in conjunction with Health and Social Services and Justice, formed an interdepartmental working group to examine and respond to addiction and substance abuse issues for women in the Yukon. We published the report,

Improving Treatment and Support for Yukon Girls and Women with Substance Abuse Problems and Addictions, in 2009. The report provided 12 recommendations that we are continuing to work on.

We know that economic security is a major concern for Yukon women. The Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues annual women's forum in October 2009 was, *Smart Cookies and their Dough*, a forum on money, business and careers for women. From this forum the informal women's business network has been reactivated, providing linkages, support and information to women business owners throughout the Yukon. I was excited about Young Women Exploring Trades, which is an annual day-long forum for grades 8 and 9 girls from throughout Yukon communities to participate in a full-day workshop creating things that teach them skills in up to nine different trade areas.

Every year that I attend this, I find myself so intrigued by the different career options. Just last week, Minister Taylor and I were at the Discover Your Future conference. I was watching the girls try their hand at different things like butterfly —

Chair's statement

Chair: Order please. The Chair would like to remind members to not to refer to members by name. When we're in Committee of the Whole, you have to refer to ministers by their department and members by the riding they represent.

Hon. Ms. Horne: Sorry, I've lost my place here. I was watching the girls try their hand at different things, like butterfly identification. By the way, it's a great book that they publish, which I really found fascinating. I never realized how many butterflies were indigenous to Yukon. We also watched them do woodworking and geology sampling. I'm sorry I missed the GPS demonstration. These are grade 8 and grade 9 girls that got a chance to explore careers and trades, science and technology fields. Some of the girls were quite reserved and quiet when they first came until they realized what was in store for them during the day.

This is the third such conference for girls. There were more than 60 Yukon students from Dawson City, Mayo, Teslin, Watson Lake, Haines Junction and Whitehorse. One of the objectives was to show the girls that they can do the same as their male counterparts. These are very lucrative, viable trades.

Betty Irwin is one of the founders of the Yukon Women in Trades and Technology, or YWITT, the organization responsible for the conference. We had the good fortune to meet Betty here in the House on Thursday, March 3. Betty is a remarkable woman, who goes above and beyond to encourage fair and equitable treatment of women and girls. Betty is also one of the members of the Women's Directorate, whose mandate is to pass on recommendations to me, as the minister responsible. I count on Betty's advice to ensure we are on the right path.

Our vision is a world, where one's unique identity, shaped by gender, race, culture and economic status is valued and ceases to be a barrier to equality.

My point is that these girls have more career options opening up for them and that does excite me. We are continuing to promote equality for First Nations women.

The Women's Directorate, in partnership with equality-seeking aboriginal women's organizations, commenced a series of projects with funds from the northern strategy trust and Yukon Forum in the amount of \$450,000 to implement recommendations from the Yukon aboriginal women's summits. The approved northern strategy funding for the YAWS implementation projects began in the 2010-11 fiscal year and will be delivered over three years. The northern strategy trust monies will flow through the Women's Directorate directly to Yukon's aboriginal women's organizations. These include seven projects in the areas of public education and leadership development. These projects have been developed in strong partnership with aboriginal women's organizations and Yukon First Nations, and will be delivered at a community level by aboriginal women's organizations.

The Women's Directorate takes a leadership role in training and educating policy, program and communications officers in gender and diversity analysis. The Women's Directorate is working in collaboration with other departments to develop a response to the 2008 CEDAW recommendations and preparation of Canada's report on the United Nations convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. I just wanted to highlight these items that were before us today, and we will get into the budget highlights as we go through.

Chair: Order please. Committee of the Whole will recess for 10 minutes.

Recess

Chair: Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 24, *First Appropriation Act, 2011-12*. We will now continue with general debate in Vote 11, Women's Directorate.

Mr. Elias: It's a pleasure to rise today in debate in the Women's Directorate under Vote 11 for the 2011-12 budget. I do have a couple of questions for the minister, but again, as always, I'd like to thank all the officials for their work over the years in preparing the budget and especially the briefings for the opposition. It's always very much appreciated, and I thank each and every one of you for that.

As well, I'd like to thank the officials from their important work in advancing the objectives of the Women's Directorate, ensuring Yukon government policies reflect gender considerations, undertaking public education of women's equality, health and violence prevention and funding outside groups that also advance women's issues.

These are important goals, and I commend the officials in the Women's Directorate for their hard work in pursuing those goals. The importance of those goals is why it is so essential that we are all able to examine and determine the effectiveness of Women's Directorate programs. That is leading up to my first question today.

It is not enough for us to just work on advancing women's equality, safety and opportunities in the Yukon. We have to know which initiatives are working, which are not having the desired effects and where we can make improvements. To me, we have to know what activities are the most useful so that we

can be sure that the government is using Yukoners' money most usefully in pursuing these useful objectives.

I guess the question for the minister is: can the minister tell us what performance measures or metrics are in place within the Women's Directorate to assess the effectiveness of the programs? The minister mentioned many of them today. Is she keeping any statistics with regard to how these programs are doing — cost-benefit analysis — and how often is she taking these statistics? She mentioned a lot of programs, from Young Women Exploring Trades to prevention against violence against women fund, social marketing campaign, the women's equality fund, Protect Yourself, Protect Your Drink, Bare Essentials campaign, the *Victims of Crime Strategy*.

Last August, the minister announced some grants that were designed to bolster women's equality, in the amount of \$900,000, many over three years, to a bunch of organizations, including the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society, which received \$60,000; the Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle, which received \$60,000; Les EssentiElles was given \$105,000 over three years; the Yukon Women in Trades and Technology was given \$150,000; the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre was given \$149,885; the Yukon Status of Women Council received \$60,000; the Elizabeth Fry Society was granted \$120,000 over three years to increase public awareness and promotion of decarceration of women and reduce the number of women who are criminalized and imprisoned in the territory. The Yukon Association for Community Living received \$140,000 plus, and the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council was given \$45,000.

So these are some of the initiatives to bolster women's equality. A few weeks later, the minister made an announcement — last fall — with projects targeted toward violence against aboriginal women. That list — there are about five organizations and First Nations that receive money, from \$25,000 to what looks like about \$50,000. So, I guess my first question is: does the minister have any performance measures? She said today on the floor of the House several times that the most important thing is to stop violence against women and girls. It's a paramount issue for her government. So, with all of this good work that's being done, how does the minister know that a program she's funding is working? How do we know where we can improve? How do we know what's not working to reach the ultimate goal and the objectives within the department and to curb the statistics in our territory with regard to violence against women and violence against aboriginal women?

I think this is an important aspect, because I'm not clear on how much of this money has been allocated and to whom and when, and how do we know that this investment is making the positive effects that they were designed to achieve. That's my first question, Mr. Chair, thank you.

Hon. Ms. Horne: First of all, I'd like to reiterate and remind the members opposite that the Women's Directorate is the central agency, not a line department. Perhaps the members opposite may recognize the difference. The Women's Directorate is integrated throughout each department's budget of our government. During the Liberal regime, the Women's Directorate was sitting in the background like the janitorial depart-

ment. We moved it to the forefront. The Women's Directorate now participates in the formal processes of our corporate structure. We've raised the status and empowered the Women's Directorate.

The mandate of the Women's Directorate is gender and diversity: an analytical lens on policy development and public education. We advance the economic, legal and social equality of women in Yukon in partnership with other government departments, NGOs and First Nation communities.

We strive to ensure responsible and effective equality-promoting strategies that enhance Yukon women and girls' health, economic security and leadership. We have program delivery, public education, and program and policy development. Our vision, as I said earlier, is a world in which one's unique identity, shaped by the intersection of gender, race, culture and economic status, is valued and celebrated, while ceasing to be a barrier to equality. Our strategic goals: to provide leadership in policy research and development to ensure gender-equitable outcomes in government legislation policy and programs; to promote women and girls' equality; to support community-based initiatives that enhance women and girls' equality.

I know I've heard several times criticism from the members opposite, saying that we should work together in each department. Well, the Women's Directorate, as I just said, is integrated throughout the government. They have a say in every department throughout the government. The member opposite's question — he was reading the amounts that we provided during the briefing of the funding that did go out to all the groups. I don't know if he wants to re-read them or look at that listing that he was provided. That is the funding that was provided from the Women's Directorate.

We receive reports on all the funding we give out quarterly. That is one of the stipulations of giving the funding. It is reported on quarterly throughout the funding periods. We run for three-year periods, as I stated in my opening remarks. Then we evaluate what our next steps are. The strategy on violence is a long-term strategy that involves regular evaluation of all our work. It is an ongoing process. As far as we can see, they are positive. We are seeing results. It is not going to be a situation that corrects itself overnight; it is a long-term strategy.

Mr. Elias: Well, it's not really worth my time to react to the minister's provocation in this election year. What I do with the words that are a burden and a blessing remains to be seen.

The reason I bring things like this up is because, just the other day, a representative from the Elizabeth Fry Society was worried about meeting their mandate. Yet last fall, the Elizabeth Fry Society was given \$120,000 to achieve their mandate. That's why I'm asking for clarity about whether or not all these organizations were given the maximum amount. Or is it spread out over three years? Have they reported back on what they have achieved with the public money that was given to them? That's why I asked that question.

Some of the organizations that were given money were also in relation to the Sisters in Spirit campaign, which was from a national perspective. It was an initiative guided through

the Native Women's Association of Canada and a coalition of aboriginal women's organizations from across the country.

My understanding is that program has now been cut. They provided a lot of valuable information over their time, including identifying that there are disproportionate cases of missing aboriginal women being solved in the rest of the country, yet in our own territory they're being referenced in the money that's being given to some of the organizations in our territory. Last March 2010, the federal Conservatives promised \$10 million to address missing aboriginal women, but no further specific details were released — that I can find anyway. That's the reason why I ask these types of specific questions because the statistics in our territory continue to be going the wrong way. Trying to fine-tune the way that we do our analysis of what we're doing with our public funds is a worthy exercise to me. Again, it's not worth my time reacting to the minister's provocation, but I have a lot of specific issues here. If she could answer those, that would help the debate today.

Hon. Ms. Horne: I would tell the member opposite that I'm certainly not trying to provoke any member in this House. I'm trying to get the information across here.

I've stated twice now that these programs run over a three-year period. The funds are given out once every three years. He did read the amounts. Elizabeth Fry Society — I believe he read the amount is \$40,000 per annum. The Sisters in Spirit — as the member opposite said, this project is designed to include the voices of missing and murdered aboriginal women's families and communities and will work to develop and support ongoing relationships based on trust.

The Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council, the Yukon's Sisters in Spirit coordinator, has been working directly with families and communities to research the circumstances and events of missing and murdered aboriginal women in Yukon. The Native Women's Association of Canada, or NWAC, currently has six Yukon cases listed in the national database. This project will work with NWAC to ensure Yukon's numbers are accurately reflected in the national database.

The project was originally designed to run from April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011; however — listen carefully members opposite: the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council and the Women's Directorate have recognized the need for increased timelines and resources for the project. Due to the unexpected number of missing and murdered aboriginal women in Yukon, the project has been extended and will now run from April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2012. This is one of the reasons — I am not trying to provoke the members opposite — I want to get the word out what we are doing. It was not known that this had been extended. We are supporting Yukon Aboriginal Women's Circle projects with NWAC support. Yukon Sisters in Spirit is a Yukon project about Yukon women. I hope that does explain it somewhat and makes it more clear to the member opposite.

Mr. Elias: The Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle launched their website last month.

Did the minister provide any financial contributions to this exciting initiative?

Hon. Ms. Horne: Yes, we certainly did, and I attended the unveiling of the website, which was indeed an excit-

ing moment for Sisters in Spirit. Yes, we are working with them and we totally support them.

Mr. Elias: I look forward to going line by line, but I don't really have very many more questions for the minister. I just wanted to again thank the officials for their years of hard work and dedication to advancing the objectives within the directorate. I would like to say it has been very educational for me to be advocate and critic within this directorate. I appreciate everybody's time and effort in working toward making our territory a better place. I look forward to working with many of the groups that are tackling many of the serious issues and concerns around our territory.

I'll turn it over to the Third Party. Mahsi' cho.

Hon. Ms. Horne: I would also like to say to the member opposite that, as minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, as I have stated many times, I am very passionate about the issues of violence against women. I try to get it out to all Yukoners — what we are doing — to get their participation. As I said earlier, we as a society have to change the way we treat women — each and every one of us. We have days we set aside to honour women but, as I said, we have to do that every day. We have to learn to recognize violence when it happens. Any form of violence is not acceptable. Physical assault, verbal or lateral assault, humour, degradation of the spirit of women, the self-worth of women — we must learn to recognize violence in any form it is presented in our society. Our society's silence is encouragement for abuse. We have to set a positive example of respect for women, challenge sexist jokes, homophobia, and degrading language.

Don't support any company that portrays women in a negative light or a sexual nature. Learn to identify and oppose sexual harassment and violence anywhere you see it. Teach your sons their responsibility in preventing violence against women. Encourage equality and healthy relationships at home and in your neighbourhood. Abuse and disrespect of women is not a sign of being a man, but of being a bully and an abuser. Pay attention to those close to you, and be there as support for your friends and family. Blaming women only allows violence to continue.

Women are normally targeted as being the cause. Women are too often seen as the offender instead of the victim. We tend to ostracize women who report their offender to the police. We must not hide this any longer or sweep it under the carpet. That hidden pile of debris is too large to contain under that carpet any longer.

Until we as a society see this deadly serious issue as serious as it is, we will continue to have the third highest rate of violence against women in Canada. That, my friends opposite, is nothing to be proud of.

Ms. Hanson: I am pleased to be able to speak this afternoon to the budget debate on the Women's Directorate. First of all, I would like to thank the officials for the briefing they provided in anticipation of this debate. I would also like to say that I was delighted to be able to participate in the 25th anniversary of the Women's Directorate just this past winter. It was a delight to go there and reflect upon the importance of this directorate, which was in fact established by a New Democrat

government 25 years ago, and to see — actually, I went back and read the *Hansard* with the throne speech that spoke to the establishment of the Women's Directorate and to see that the program objectives as established over 25 years ago have endured. The importance of this work providing that lens, as the minister spoke about, is very important in all aspects of all government policies and development of programs.

Now, the minister spoke about the directorate playing the role of a central agency. I think all members present understand the difference between a central agency and a line department.

I think the member preceding me was raising some questions that I think are valid with respect to the aspect of evaluation and assessment criteria. I'd like to delve into that a little bit with the minister, because, in fact, in addition to providing the central agency function, which is, as I would understand it — my experience would be that all government initiatives coming forward would be subjected to the lens of the program objectives of the Women's Directorate in terms of ensuring that gender equity and all the key initiatives or key components of the Women's Directorate's mandate are reflected in any program initiatives that this government or any minister would be bringing forward for Cabinet approval.

In addition to that central agency function, the Women's Directorate clearly has a funding function, so it performs both a central agency function and a line department function. I would like to focus first of all on the central agency function that the Women's Directorate performs. Over the course of the last 25 years plus, what assessment criteria has the Women's Directorate developed as it reviews government programs against the program objectives that are set out for the Women's Directorate?

Hon. Ms. Horne: I would like to reiterate again what I said earlier: we give out our funds and we receive quarterly reports from the agencies that we fund. These are given for three-year periods. The strategy on violence is, I would like to emphasize, a long-term strategy that involves regular evaluations of all our work. We survey participants and check statistical information provided by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics and Statistics Canada and continue to raise public awareness using a variety of tools developed by this accountability framework. We have developed this framework over the past nine years. We do have baseline data but this is a very difficult area to measure. It involves so many different departments.

We have the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court, from which I earlier said we have graduates. It's all integrated throughout each department, through Justice, through Health and Social Services and Yukon Housing Corporation. It is difficult for us to measure. Statistics say that assaults across Canada are going down. I know we had it going up the last couple of years, but that was because people were coming forward to do more reporting. From all of our evidence, we are improving the lives of women in Yukon. The statistics and the baseline data show that we are making an improvement.

Ms. Hanson: I'll move away from — apparently, it's difficult for the minister to articulate the assessment criteria for the functions performed by the Women's Directorate as a central agency. Perhaps what we could do is talk about the opera-

tional side then as a line department. I just want to clarify then that for the funding that is provided directly by the Women's Directorate to a variety of women's groups — I believe I understood the minister to say that these are largely funded on a tri-annual basis with quarterly reporting requirements.

For those funds, are there any that rolled over beyond the three-year term and what evaluation criteria are established to determine, for example, if you have a program receiving funds for three years, that they merit continuation into the second and third year?

Hon. Ms. Horne: I do not have the criteria for the different programs for funding here at my fingertips. No, we do not have any funding that goes beyond the three years.

Ms. Hanson: Yes, I understand not having the fingertip access to particular programs and that. It's more the issue of an evaluation framework for funding that has a duration beyond one year. So, if it's a three-year time frame, within that three-year time frame, is there any evaluation framework to ascertain whether or not you want to continue the funding or if it merits continuation?

Hon. Ms. Horne: As I said earlier, we get reports quarterly on the funding and how it's being used and as to the effectiveness of the program. I believe there was a question earlier in the initial question: if somebody doesn't meet all the criteria laid out, no, they do not receive the funding.

Ms. Hanson: I think we have just a bit of a misunderstanding with respect to compliance with funding criteria and evaluation frameworks. Perhaps the minister might be able to provide that at a later date, rather than belabour the point here. There is a distinction between compliance with actual requirements under the FAA or whatever. It's also one thing for a program applicant to tell you what they're doing, but that's quite a different thing in terms of you, as the funding agency, being able to assess whether or not they're meeting the program objectives that you've set for provision of that funding. That's why I raise the question of program evaluation criteria.

Perhaps we could move then to just a bit of information from the minister with respect to O&M. Could the minister inform the members of the number of FTEs that are currently employed by the Women's Directorate? In providing that, could the minister break them into the program areas — program delivery, public education policy, research and development?

Hon. Ms. Horne: We have 7.6 full-time employees: 1.6 policy analyst; one social marketing analyst; one manager of finance; one administrative assistant; one program and policy analyst; and one director. As part of the proposal, proponents are to provide workplans with identified deliverables.

We also do things during the funding period. We do periodic site visits to check on the programming that is being carried out.

Ms. Hanson: I have no further questions. I would just note that it appears to add to 6.6, but I'm not going to quibble over one FTE. That would be the end of my questions.

Hon. Ms. Horne: I did read off what I was given here: 1.6 policy analyst; one social marketing analyst; one communications coordinator; one manager of finance; one ad-

ministrative assistant; one program and policy analyst; and one director — 7.6.

Ms. Hanson: Thank you very much. What we had there was a breakdown in communication. Communication was missing. Thank you very much.

Chair: Any further general debate? Seeing none, we'll proceed to line-by-line in Vote 11, Women's Directorate.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Policy and Program Development

On Program Delivery

Mr. Elias: Can I get breakdown, Mr. Chair?

Hon. Ms. Horne: The program delivery — an increase of \$7,000; an increase of \$9,000 in personnel, which includes a decrease of \$27,000 for one-time funding for a 0.6 policy analyst for 4.5 months — that was a return from leave without pay — an increase of \$34,000 for a collective agreement and manager market increases; an increase of \$11,000 for a one-time funding in 2011-12 for backfill for the director; and a decrease of \$9,000 for one-time funding from 2010-11 for backfill for the director; decrease of \$5,000 for 2010-11; one-time funding for lease costs for December 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011; and an increase of \$2,000 for increased communications costs.

Program Delivery in the amount \$862,000 agreed to
On Public Education

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

Hon. Ms. Horne: An overall decrease of \$6,000; a decrease of \$11,000 for revote for prevention of violence against aboriginal women's fund from 2010-11; an increase of \$4,000 in in-territory travel for an employee to work with health promotion on sexual health in the communities; an increase of \$1,000 for printing of publications; no change in funding for victims of crime strategy at \$100,000.

Public Education in the amount of \$638,000 agreed to

On Policy, Research and Development

Policy, Research and Development in the amount of \$259,000 agreed to

Policy and Program Development in the amount of \$1,759,000 agreed to

On Transfer Payments

Transfer Payments agreed to

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$1,759,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Policy and Program Development

On Office Furniture and Equipment

Office Furniture and Equipment in the amount of \$4,000 agreed to

On Information Technology Equipment and Systems

Information Technology Equipment and Systems in the amount of \$14,000 agreed to

Policy and Program Development in the amount of \$18,000 agreed to

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$18,000 agreed to

Women's Directorate agreed to

Chair: Committee of the Whole will now proceed to Community Services, Vote 51. Do members wish for a very brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

Chair: Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 24, *First Appropriation Act, 2011-12*. We'll now proceed with general debate in Vote 51, Department of Community Services.

Department of Community Services

Hon. Mr. Lang: I'd like to open the discussion this afternoon on Community Services to compliment the staff of Community Services and thank them for the hard work, not only to put the budget together but, over the years, carrying out the budget. Both tasks are daunting when you look at our budgets in the years past and moving forward.

As minister, I'm pleased to introduce a budget for the Department of Community Services that supports vibrant, healthy and sustainable Yukon communities. It includes \$67.976 million in operation and maintenance expenditures and \$119.46, just under \$120 million, in capital investments here in the territory.

As we have done throughout our mandate, this government continues to invest strategically to bring a better quality of life for all Yukoners. We continue to promote a strong and diversified economy with programs that will help to protect our environment. We continue to foster positive government-to-government relationships and support local governance across Yukon.

It is a privilege to represent the people of Yukon. I am once again proud to present a budget that will bring widespread benefits to Yukon citizens and, of course, our great communities.

Community Services is investing in community infrastructure in a significant way. In 2011-12, more than \$56.13 million is identified for drinking water systems, waste-water infrastructure, road and street improvements and modern solid-waste management. We have worked hard to revitalize the historic waterfront in Whitehorse and Carcross and we remain committed to these projects.

Nearly \$7.4 million of the Canadian strategic infrastructure funds are budgeted to complete construction of the Kwanlin Dun cultural centre, complete roadwork and base infrastructure improvements in Carcross and develop a parking lot and improve trails on the Whitehorse waterfront. This government is particularly proud of the Whitehorse wharf project that will be constructed this spring. The wharf ties the work along the waterfront together from Shipyards Park to Rotary Park. The wharf's deck will have seating for outdoor performances and will offer tremendous potential and appeal as a tourist attraction located right at the end of our Main Street.

The waterfront is a vital and important feature of our capital city. I am proud of our commitment to transform it into a community space for all Yukoners to enjoy.

Mr. Chair, seeing the time, I move that we report progress.

Chair: It has been moved by Minister Lang that we report progress.

Motion agreed to

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

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

Chair's report

Mr. Nordick: Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 24, *First Appropriation Act, 2011-12* and directed me to report progress on it.

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried. The time being 5:30 p.m., this House now stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. tomorrow.

The House adjourned at 5:30 p.m.