

**Yukon Legislative Assembly**  
**Whitehorse, Yukon**  
**Wednesday, December 14, 2011 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

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

**DAILY ROUTINE**

**Speaker:** Are there any tributes?  
 Introduction of visitors.  
 Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

**TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS**

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I have for tabling the *Yukon Child Care Board Annual Report*, required under the *Child Care Act*, section 4(1).

I also have for tabling this afternoon an update of a previous comprehensive report of *Health and health-related behaviours among young people in Yukon*, required under the *Health Act*, section 6(1).

I also have for tabling this afternoon the *Yukon Hospital Corporation Annual Report*, required under the *Hospital Act*, section 13(3).

I also have for tabling under the *Hospital Insurance Services Act* the annual report respecting the administration of the plan.

Finally, I have *Yukon Health and Social Services Council 2010-11 Annual Report*.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I have for tabling today the *Yukon Housing Corporation Annual Report* for the year ending March 31, 2011.

I also have for tabling the *Yukon Liquor Corporation Annual Report*, April 1, 2010-March 31, 2011. Finally, I have for tabling the *Yukon Lottery Commission Annual Report* for 2009-2010.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I have for tabling this afternoon the *Yukon Geographical Place Names Board 2010-2011 Annual Report*.

Mr. Speaker, I also have for tabling this afternoon *Crime Prevention and Victim Services trust fund annual report 2010/2011*. I also have for tabling this afternoon *Yukon Heritage Resources Board Annual Report 2010-2011*. Finally, I have for tabling *Yukon Arts Centre 2010/2011 Annual Report*.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have for tabling the *Yukon Public Service Labour Relations Board Annual Report 2010-2011*, as well as I have the *Yukon Teachers Labour Relations Board. Annual Report 2010-2011*.

**Speaker:** Are there any reports of committees?  
 Are there any petitions?

Are there any bills to be introduced?  
 Are there any notices of motion?

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to establish an independent commission to review all processes and procedures regarding the appointments to government boards and committees, including the major government boards and committees listed in Standing Order 45(3.2), including processes for Yukon government appointments to committees, established under the *Umbrella Final Agreement*;

THAT the commission report its findings and recommendations to the House no later than the end of the fall 2012 sitting of the Legislative Assembly;

THAT the review includes, but is not limited in scope to, the processes for:

- (1) soliciting, receiving and reviewing nominations;
  - (2) reducing patronage appointments and making merit-based appointments;
  - (3) setting honoraria and other rates of remuneration;
  - (4) setting the terms of appointments;
  - (5) determining reappointments;
  - (6) reducing the potential for conflicts of interest;
  - (7) determining the need for new boards and committees to address new issues and concerns;
  - (8) disbanding boards and committees that no longer serve any widely recognized public function or purpose; and
- THAT in doing so this House affirms the important role that government boards and committees play in the participation of members of the public in the political, social, cultural, environmental and economic spheres of Yukon.

**Mr. Barr:** I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to follow through on its promise to provide safe, accessible shelter for Yukon youth who are homeless by:

- (1) committing funds to the operation of a permanent youth emergency shelter;
- (2) ensuring youth emergency shelter is accessible to all youth, including those under 16 years of age;
- (3) ensuring such a shelter is barrier-free in terms of location and admittance; and,

THAT the planning, design, construction, staffing complements and programming of such a youth shelter reflect best practices found in other parts of the country through organizations like Covenant House.

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to work with the private sector to improve and expand community cell-phone service, including areas without service that are expected to see significant population growth.

**Mr. Hassard:** I rise to give notice of the following motions:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to continue to support the rural electrification program.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to research and investigate solutions for the effect of permafrost on transportation infrastructure.

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

THAT this House urges the Minister of Education to renew the government's literacy strategy so that it responds to literacy needs across the territory, by:

- (1) providing for a Yukon-wide statistical analysis;
- (2) assuring programs are community-based;
- (3) establishing tangible, measurable goals;
- (4) providing for a central coordinating body; and
- (5) has ensured long-term funding attached.

**Speaker:** Is there a statement by a minister?

#### Speaker's ruling

**Speaker:** Yesterday during Question Period, the Government House Leader raised a point of order regarding questions posed by the Member for Copperbelt South. The Government House Leader stated, "Supplementary questions are supposed to be relevant to the first question, and I believe the member's question is a new question".

In response, the Member for Copperbelt South said, "I think the programming in the Correctional Centre is relevant to the cost of the facility and the nature of the planning that the government has done on this facility — or the lack of planning that the government has done on the facility."

In reviewing yesterday's Blues, the Chair notes that the main and first supplementary questions of the Member for Copperbelt South addressed capital cost overruns at the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre and the final supplementary question addressed programming at the Correctional Centre.

The issue for the Chair, then, is whether it is in order for supplementary questions to be on a different subject matter than the main question. *House of Commons Procedure and Practices* says a supplementary question "is meant to flow from or be based upon the information given to the House in the response of the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary to the initial or preceding question." Such questions are to be constructed as "a follow-up device flowing from the response and ought to be a precise question put directly and immediately to the Minister, without any further statement."

This Assembly has never followed such a restrictive practice regarding supplementary questions. Nonetheless, this statement provides some direction regarding the nature of a supplementary question.

This Assembly's Guidelines for Oral Question Period say a question ought to address a matter of public importance or a matter within the administrative responsibility of the Government of Yukon. Therefore, so should supplementary questions.

If we look at the actual conduct of Question Period, it is clear that the practice of this House is that main and supplementary questions are on the same matter or subject. The form of questioning pursued by the Member for Copperbelt South was not in keeping with this practice.

It is the Chair's ruling, therefore, that members should continue to follow the practice of this House: their questions should be linked to the subject matter.

In making this ruling the Chair is trying to balance two things. On one hand, the Chair wants to ensure that members can exercise their freedom of speech in the House, including the right to question ministers during Question Period. However, the Chair is concerned that supplementary questions may become supplementary in name only and come to bear little resemblance to the main question. The Chair does not believe that would be in keeping with the nature of a supplementary question, the intent of the Guidelines for Oral Question Period, or the practice of this House.

We will now proceed with Question Period.

#### QUESTION PERIOD

##### Question re: Political party cooperation

**Ms. Hanson:** My question, as I started to say, is for the Premier. I am really interested in talking with him and asking him questions about working cooperatively with members of this House. The Yukon Party's election platform contained a promise to promote consensus-building, collaboration and compromise, rather than confrontation. These buzzwords were spoken repeatedly during the election campaign, but they seemed to vanish from the Premier's vocabulary once the votes were tallied. Neither the Speech from the Throne nor the Premier's response contained the words "consensus", "collaboration" or "compromise". The throne speech did speak to working constructively with all members of the House to improve the operation of its committees and proceedings in the Legislature. Over the first two weeks of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Assembly we have seen this government take an increasingly adversarial approach.

Will the Premier please tell this House why he has reneged on his election promise to work cooperatively with all members of the Legislative Assembly?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I think that what the Leader of the Official Opposition has stated is exactly what we're doing. I think the tone within the context of this House has been very amicable and there has been a collegial cooperation to work together. The Official Opposition is fulfilling their role, in terms of representing the Queen as the Official Opposition, and this government will continue to move forward with the mandate they were given by the people of Yukon to deliver for Yukoners.

**Ms. Hanson:** I guess it's a difference of perception here, because clearly that's not the atmosphere that we've heard being reflected and being spoken to us from people outside of this Legislature. The words are easily spoken, but putting them into practice is really another matter altogether.

Trust is built upon mutual respect, and it must be earned. So far this session, the government has refused to provide a

budget briefing to all MLAs. The Premier has not responded to verbal and written opposition suggestions to move the whistle-blower protection file forward, and only yesterday, the government presented the opposition with a list of appointees to the Human Rights Panel of Adjudicators that it plans to push through this House without any prior explanation, discussion or scrutiny. The proof is in the pudding.

The Premier said one thing during the election about consensus, collaboration and compromise, and now he's doing another. Will the Premier please explain why collaboration on fiscal transparency, compromise on whistle-blower protection and consensus-building on panel appointments are not on his list of priorities?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I think I'll just say that we are following through with what our role is, and I admire the Official Opposition for following through with the role that they have. In terms of cooperation, another example is just this very morning. At the Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees, there was a consensus reached by everybody on all appointments, so I think that's another example of working together.

**Ms. Hanson:** In fact, there was consensus reached this morning, because the members of that committee were provided the information in advance and allowed to review it and have their own discussion. That was not the case yesterday.

It's a sad reality that public cynicism toward politics is high, and that kind of denial increases that cynicism. Saying one thing during an election and doing another in office only serves to increase public doubt and mistrust. We as elected representatives must work hard to restore public faith in government. It's not something one party can do alone.

The majority of members in this House are new to the job. In the spirit of cooperation, I'm willing to accept the government's refusal to provide a budget briefing, its silence on suggestions for moving whistle-blower protection forward, and its attempt to steamroll the human rights panel appointments as rookie mistakes. Will the Premier take responsibility for these mistakes and commit to ensuring they're not repeated, and that this is not going to be the course of action for this government?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I would want to start by saying that the Leader of the Official Opposition is trying to lead and create this atmosphere of mistrust that exists within the Yukon. Again, I have to remind you, Mr. Speaker, on October 11, there was a clear message stated by the people of Yukon, and that was a record-breaking third consecutive majority government for the Yukon Party.

I want to just say that, during the Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees this morning, we had consensus from everybody, in terms of the names that were brought forward. When it comes to committees, we're still waiting for the name from the Official Opposition, in terms of who their member for the whistle-blower committee will be. We have not received that at this time.

I think in the last comment, in terms of atmosphere, we have to really ask where this is coming from. We've heard such statements as "stunned bunnies" and "sheep" — I think the other one was — that have come from the Official Opposition.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that we have not heard descriptions or name-calling as such from this side. Thank you.

#### **Question re: Capital project construction process**

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I have some questions for the minister about the Yukon Party's fast-track-design-while-building policy for construction projects. In this case, it would seem "fast-tracking" means beginning construction before design and engineering work has been completed. Such a policy means cost overruns, design changes midway through the construction project, and uncertainty. Can the minister tell us if this process is a good use of taxpayers' money?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I would like to thank the member opposite for Copperbelt South for the question, and I will continue on from my answers from yesterday. When it comes to building infrastructure, when you create a new design and you build with a design and construction sort of at the same time, sometimes you fast-track. Things pop up during construction that you didn't realize, so you have to adapt for it, and that's the idea with fast-tracking.

When you look at a building — a state-of-the-art, top-of-the-line building like this, Mr. Speaker, you're going to have some of these issues. I'm quite confident, like I said yesterday, that this facility is going to be sought after by all Canadians when they look at how it works and how it comes in on schedule and with the cost to build it.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** As the member just said, one example of fast-track design while building is the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre. This project has seen design changes throughout its four-year budget life.

According to all of the budget material, the project is now running at \$73 million, a massive cost overrun. The supplementary budget for 2011-12, four years after the project began, includes a further \$2.5 million for changes in design. These delays cost money — for example, the \$3 million spent to repair the aging Whitehorse Correctional Centre because the new jail wasn't ready.

Will the minister agree that a prudent approach would be to design first, based on use and function, rather than this ad hoc process to construction?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** In addressing the member opposite, we should absolutely build a structure with design done first. We are committed to building on the good work that has been done. We look at some of our platform mandate, going forward on new infrastructure that we have built, that we design in a different manner.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Perhaps we might do it differently next time. Another example of a Yukon Party fast-track design-while-build project is the new Watson Lake Hospital, or rather it has been a slow-track design-while-build. The first attempt at a new Watson Lake health facility was an extension to the existing nursing station. It was left to deteriorate for over a year while the Yukon Party government came up with a new idea. Since then, this project has gone over budget, is behind schedule, and has had its design and purpose changed repeatedly.

How can the public trust this government to manage its tax dollars properly when it cannot even figure out how to design and build public facilities?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I am hearing contradiction in some of the things maybe said back on December 5. But we're committed; our government is committed to projects being done in the future — when we design — being built on time and on budget. We're working forward; we're not looking back at the past. My department itself, through looking at clean energy and some of the new things that I committed to in my response to the Speech from the Throne — we look at development of our projects to be managed better, I guess I could say.

**Question re: Liquefied natural gas**

**Mr. Silver:** Last week, Western Copper mining company announced it was moving ahead on new feasibility studies for its Casino project. Their news release said, and I quote: "It is expected that the feasibility study will commence in early 2012 and is on track to be completed by the end of 2012. One of the major feasibility study focus areas is defining the liquefied natural gas supply for the Casino project."

The company said that its best option for LNG is to truck it from Fort Nelson. One reason the company must go to Fort Nelson is that Yukon has no policy framework in place to allow the development of a liquefied natural gas processing plant. It was identified as a priority in 2009, but it never materialized.

What work has been done to date on this priority?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Again, what I would point out to the member opposite, as he knows very well, is he is borrowing from what we said in the Yukon Party election platform and the commitments we have made — including press releases in the election campaign — to create new regulations and improve our ability to both manage Yukon's own natural gas supply and production and to allow for import where necessary. As the member is well aware, as we have said in the past, the preference long term is to responsibly develop our own resources but, in the mid-term and until those resources are proven, companies such as the one the Member for Klondike referenced are proceeding with planning to use imported natural gas because the Yukon's reserves aren't yet in production.

**Mr. Silver:** The Yukon has its own natural gas resources and this government should be promoting the development of this resource. If mines are looking for more power, we could be supplying it from right here in the Yukon instead of getting jobs out of territory and going to Fort Nelson.

Developing LNG is better for the environment than diesel; it is good for our business community; it would bring new investment into the Yukon and one day could grow to rival mining as our biggest resource sector. None of this will happen if the Government of Yukon does not get its policy and regulatory house in order.

The 2009 energy strategy identified a liquefied natural gas processing plant as a priority item. That promise was repeated, as the minister stated, in 2011, because nothing has been accomplished in the last two years. When will this government complete the policy work it says is necessary for this industry to move forward?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Since being appointed Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and sworn into Cabinet on November 5, I'd like to point out to the member that I have been

working diligently on this file, as with many others. Of course, in the election on October 5, we released a press release — in the Yukon Party platform, or complementing the Yukon Party platform, I should say — that committed to our steps and our vision for meeting the territory's energy needs, including in the medium-term the use of natural gas for power production and taking additional steps, including an independent power production policy and net metering policy, putting these steps in place to add new renewable sources of energy on to the grid, while also taking these steps in the much longer term to see the vision for the future and developing future hydro potential and ultimately, at some point in the future, connecting to the B.C. grid.

As we indicated then and will again, that's long-term work and we are setting the vision going forward. As the member knows, staff of Energy, Mines and Resources are working very diligently on the additional regulatory structure that's necessary to facilitate the use of natural gas for energy production.

**Mr. Silver:** The development of our oil and gas industry and the accompanying liquefied natural gas industry would provide a huge boost to our economy. As major mines prepare for production, one of the main factors in their decision is the high cost of energy. Currently those options are limited to diesel and possibly electricity, but with demands for electricity continuing to increase, that may not be an option either.

That brings us back to the potential for natural gas. There is a great deal of work being done in the Eagle Plains area to develop this resource and we wish them well in their explorations. It is the government's job to ensure its regulatory house is in order to help industry to succeed. When will this government complete the policy work it says is necessary for this industry to move forward?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** It's refreshing to hear from the Member for Klondike. From the Liberal Party in the past, we've heard the Liberals opposed to development. It's nice to hear that the member is supporting what we've outlined in the Yukon Party platform and is borrowing from our commitments to ask us to implement the commitments that we said we would do, and will do.

I thank the member for that question and it's certainly in stark contrast to what we've heard from the NDP with their policy of "put a moratorium on everything".

**Question re: Young worker safety**

**Mr. Barr:** I have a few issues regarding employment standards that I wish to ask about.

In 2008, the NDP tabled a bill calling for protection of young workers in the Yukon. In 2009 and in 2010, following a government motion and consultations, this government made a commitment to address the protection of young workers. This year, the *Employment Standards Act* was supposed to have been amended to address issues like minimum age restrictions. That has not happened. What is the minister doing in terms of the long overdue commitments to protect young workers by bringing in minimum age restrictions for certain sectors?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** As I made reference to the other day in general debate on Community Services, the Employment Standards Board and the Yukon Workers' Compensation

Health and Safety Board continue to work together on the very important issue of young workers. As the member opposite just alluded, there was consultation undertaken as a result of the proposed bill that was brought forward.

In fact, the consultation, as the member opposite may or may not be aware, did not reveal any clear consensus on developing an overall minimum working age in the territory. In fact, subsequent to that consultation, there was a subsequent motion that was brought forward by the minister responsible of the day, which spoke to the need to move forward with regulations. In fact, that is what is transpiring. We look forward to the regulations and moving this issue forward.

**Mr. Barr:** Injuries to young workers in the Yukon have skyrocketed over the past several years. It is clear from the CEO of Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board that they are ready and want to move forward on young worker protection. In fact, Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board has not received any response from the Employment Standards Board on what they planning and doing to protect young workers.

Will the minister do the right thing — protect young workers — and bring forward legislative amendments for this spring?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Well, I will just repeat for the member opposite that indeed the Government of Yukon does take this matter very seriously and has undertaken consultations through the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board as well as the Employment Standards board.

In fact, a comprehensive consultation did take place regarding young worker protection. As a result of that consultation, regulations are and will be forthcoming in the months to come as was alluded to by, I believe, the representatives of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board. There wasn't a clear consensus with respect to developing an overall minimum working age in the Yukon. However, through the regulatory regime, there will be standards that are put forward, industry by industry. So in fact, work is proceeding in this regard and we certainly look forward to it coming through to Cabinet very soon.

**Mr. Barr:** I am aware that there are situations in place that allow for young workers in different areas to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday we heard that the Government of Canada is concerned about Yukon's compliance with the International Labour Organization's standard on young worker minimum ages. Not only has this government dragged its feet, but we are now receiving national and international pressure to protect young workers.

When will this government show it cares about young workers' health, safety and protection?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Again, a great deal of work is ongoing, has been undertaken and will be undertaken. As I mentioned, our regulations will soon be forthcoming; that which was in the works by the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board and is conducive, as a result of the work that was undertaken in consultation, as well, with the Employment Standards Board. We are working to appropriately address the

areas of general consensus that came out of those consultations. We will continue to ensure adequate training, orientation and supervision of young workers. We are committed to receiving those proposed regulations and implementing those regulations on an industry-by-industry standard.

#### **Question re: English language learners**

**Mr. Tredger:** My question is for the Minister of Education. There are increasing numbers of students in our system who are learning English as a second language. A more precise term better explains those students who may be learning a third or even a fourth language — the term is “English as a learned language”, or ELL. ELL students now make up 20 to 30 percent of some schools' population.

The numbers are increasing. What are the present and projected numbers of students who require ELL — English as a learned language — programming in the Yukon?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I may not have all the numbers the member opposite is looking for when responding to his question, but I can give him the total number of ELL students in the Yukon as of November 17 of this current year. According to the notes I have in front of me, that was 157, the majority of whom are concentrated at Christ the King, followed by F.H. Collins and Selkirk, and then scattered throughout other schools, mostly located in the Whitehorse area.

**Mr. Tredger:** Thank you for that answer. It's especially important to recognize and support teachers and plan for new students. The first few days of school are a critical time for these students. I would hope the Department of Education is working with employers and the Department of Immigration to emphasize the importance of planning arrivals to coincide with the school year. Where this is not possible, I would ask the minister this: are there plans in place to help families, students and teachers have the student successfully integrated into the school system in mid-year?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Some of the medium- and long-term solutions that the department and I, as Minister of Education, will oversee — the department has developed a list of translators to work with immigrant families to increase the communication between the parents and the teachers at the schools. There has also been work undertaken with the multicultural centre here in Whitehorse. We were advised by school administrators that some of the immigrant families were having difficulty communicating with the schools, so those are some of the medium- and long-term solutions that we are undertaking to integrate and make it the best learning experience possible for these young students who are coming to our country — most of which are coming in under the nominee program.

**Mr. Tredger:** The staffing formula makes no mention and does not account for increased numbers of ELL students. Our teachers and schools have been doing a fine job of coping with the challenges, but we need to ensure that they have the support to do their job. So far the onus has been on teachers to develop programming and to make the necessary accommodations. A coordinated response must be developed to meet the needs of these new Canadian children. Assessment tools and materials for teaching must be readily available.

Will the department adjust school-based staffing allocations and identify funds to ensure support and training programs are in place?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** What the department is doing — again, I mentioned the medium- and long-term solutions. This is something that I'm sure members opposite, as well as members on this side of the House, heard during the election campaign, especially when it comes to the Catholic schools as there is a high percentage of people in the labour market programs who are of the Catholic faith. It's something that we'll continue to work toward and address this situation.

Again, I did hear it personally throughout the campaign as did a number of my colleagues on this side of the House and some of the candidates who weren't successful, so it did come up during the campaign.

**Question re: Violence against aboriginal women — policing contract**

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The government has announced that we now have a 20-year policing agreement that sets out the terms of the contract between Canada, Yukon and the RCMP.

During the 2010 review of Yukon's police force, women brought forward their concerns about the high numbers of missing and murdered aboriginal women — 29 cases in Yukon — and about improving police response in dealing with Yukon's high rates of crimes of violence against women, particularly aboriginal women.

Now the United Nations is investigating the tragedy of the murders and disappearances of aboriginal women in Canada because governments and the police have failed to do so. What provisions are found in the new Yukon policing contract that deal with improving police investigations into crimes of violence against aboriginal women?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Unsolved homicides and major crimes in the Yukon, such as those involving violence against women, remain a grave concern to us all. Our officials meet regularly with the RCMP to ensure that police resources and funding are in place to solve these crimes.

Presently M Division Major Crime Unit consists of six members, with the primary responsibility to conduct criminal investigations into all suspicious human deaths. We are confident the RCMP is diligently pursuing these investigations to the best of their ability so the perpetrators can be brought to justice and the families who lost their loved ones can find closure.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council, the Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle and Liard Aboriginal Women's Society recognize the challenges that many RCMP members face in policing in our communities and the need to work with the RCMP to ensure they provide services to achieve public safety.

They want the RCMP to work cooperatively with them; however, a respect for human rights and dignity of the person is essential in ensuring the safety of our communities. These women's' groups made several clear and achievable recommendations and I would like to ask the minister if these have been addressed. Again, my question is about the police contract. What does the new police contract have to say about im-

plementing a community-based policing structure that is prevention focused and community driven?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Again I thank the member opposite for her question. Major investigations vary in complexity depending on the crime, the number of suspects, the number of witnesses, and the quantity, quality and type of physical evidence available. These variables all dictate the direction of an investigation and the overall demand on human and financial resources.

In 2009-2010, the Department of Justice provided supplemental funding through the Territorial Police Service Agreement in the amount of \$263,000 in order to ensure that the RCMP has sufficient resources to carry out serious investigations of this nature. A request for supplemental funding in the amount of \$235,000 for the major investigations unit has been made in the current fiscal year, as well as requests to increase RCMP membership for the 2012-13 year.

Both requests are presently being considered through our budget process.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I think we're all aware that there are many variables involved in investigations. In every community of the Yukon, people brought forward recommendations that could have an immediate impact on how policing services are carried out here. Increasing the recruitment of aboriginal female police officers in Yukon communities and increasing the numbers of First Nations and women recruits into the RCMP generally could help make the changes that would strengthen relations between the police and community members. Another recommendation was that the RCMP and Department of Justice look at establishing a specific sexual assault response team. In order to ensure that the recommendations made by Yukon women to the police review are implemented under the terms of the new policing contract, we'd like to see if there are provisions in it. Would the minister table a copy of the contract?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite, again, for the question. It seems to me that the member is asking if this is a good agreement for Yukon. Yes, this new agreement signals a new era in the relationship between the Yukon and the RCMP M Division, built on accountability, trust and a strong partnership with the RCMP.

The new agreement will also give the Yukon government greater ability to establish priorities as well as be involved in setting the annual strategic direction for M Division. Thank you for the question.

**Speaker:** Time for Question Period has elapsed. I will now proceed with Orders of the Day.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### OPPOSITION PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

### MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

**Speaker:** Opposition private members' business, motions other than government motions.

**Motion No. 11**

**Clerk:** Motion No. 11, standing in the name of Ms. White.

**Speaker:** It is moved by the Member for Takhini-Kopper King

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to work with all governments, including First Nations governments, as well as non-profit and private housing providers to develop a Yukon housing strategy and policy framework that will:

- (1) include all Yukon communities;
- (2) have performance and risk-management measures;
- (3) be comprehensive, innovative, practical and achievable;
- (4) increase the housing supply;
- (5) improve housing affordability; and
- (6) support individuals and families in greatest housing need.

**Ms. White:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak in support of this motion today on behalf of the NDP Official Opposition. As a born and raised Yukoner, I have witnessed the rise and fall of housing prices and rental costs over the years. I've watched land availability dwindle, and as housing demands have increased, new home construction and rental stock has failed to keep pace.

Yukon's housing crisis has grown on the Yukon Party's watch. Vacancy rates have remained low and land for residential development has remained in scarce supply. Housing prices have doubled. Rental rates have skyrocketed and more than 100 people in Whitehorse are homeless or tenuously housed. Housing challenges exist in almost every community in the territory.

In Takhini-Kopper King, I have three trailer parks. Those pad rentals, on average, are \$350 and they continue to go up. Every time they go up, there are promises that they'll get new services — that the parks will be paved, snow removal will happen — and nothing ever comes of it.

Over the past number of years, the issue has been studied endlessly, but the government has failed to act on most of the recommendations made in various reports. Government has failed to listen to housing advocacy organizations. The government has sat on the remaining \$16 million of the housing money from the federal government when it could have been building homes. Simply put, government has shown a complete unwillingness or incapacity to take real leadership on solving the housing crisis. Leadership consisting of real action is desperately needed.

Instead of moving forward with a comprehensive housing plan, with meaningful targets and timelines, this government prefers to rattle off lists of projects in consideration or under-way, but a list of disjointed actions does not constitute a plan. An ad-hoc, one-off approach to housing is part of what got us into this mess in the first place. It is going to take much more than a long list of promises to get us out.

The housing challenges facing Yukoners run the spectrum — from difficulty paying the rent or mortgage to homelessness. Working and middle-class people can't afford pricey residen-

tial lots and new home construction. Businesses struggle to recruit and retain the staff they need to operate. Young people, families, and transient workers are forced to leave the territory to find work where housing is more available and affordable, and the list goes on.

My point here is that the housing crisis affects us all. Canada is the only G-8 country that does not have a national housing strategy. The United Nations has described housing and homelessness in Canada as a national emergency. In fairness to the federal Conservatives, it was a Liberal Party government that cancelled the national housing strategy we once had. But for more than the past decade in Ottawa, and here in Whitehorse, neither the federal Conservatives nor their Yukon Party brethren has taken a single, concrete step toward comprehensive housing solutions. It's no wonder we face the current housing crisis when our governments lack the political will to do anything meaningful about it.

The motion before the House urges the government to develop a Yukon housing strategy and policy framework that will address our current housing crisis and give us a road map into the future. As I mentioned already, a housing strategy must be comprehensive. It must include all stakeholders in housing and urban and rural communities. It must respond to the needs of the people with all levels of income and cultural identities. It must be inclusive. A housing strategy must be innovative. The creative solutions are out there. It will take government vision and a willingness to lead and to be bold to turn those solutions from ideas into reality. A housing strategy must be practical and achievable. It needs to be grounded in the reality of the current housing crisis. It must contain concrete steps with sufficient resource allocation to achieve them. The way forward must be carefully planned, or nothing will be achieved.

A comprehensive housing strategy must include all Yukon communities. As I mentioned, the housing crisis is territory-wide and affects more than just Whitehorse. A comprehensive housing strategy needs to have performance and risk management elements. We are calling for immediate action, but that action needs to be responsible. Strategies are effective only if they have a framework in place that allows the elements in them to be measurable and evaluated. It's hard to measure progress if we don't know what we have set out to achieve. Goals, timelines and benchmarks are critical if we truly want to address this crisis in a systematic and lasting way.

We aren't looking to reinvent the wheel. The answers are out there in various studies and reports and ideas from experts in other fields. Other jurisdictions have successfully implemented housing strategies that are innovative and precedent-setting, like British Columbia or Pride 2001 and Quebec, to this day.

The problem of housing in the Yukon has been widely studied. There has been a ton of housing reports in recent years. We have the information; what we need is a coordinated response, a strategy and a plan and start ticking off the boxes.

I want to give my appreciation for the great work that the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition has done on the housing crisis. Their report, *A Home for Everyone: A Housing Action Plan for Whitehorse* is comprehensive. It's visionary and it sets out the

goals we must strive toward — that everyone needs a home. Their action plan should be adopted by this government. Their action plan hits on some of the most pressing housing problems — the lack of emergency shelter, transition housing, long-term supportive housing, affordable rental housing, affordable home ownership — and proposes a coordinated approach for tackling these problems.

The report is based on the coalition's belief that housing is a human right and that safe, secure and affordable housing should be available to all its citizens; that we can together and collaboratively solve this housing crisis; we can learn from other communities. When people are adequately housed, our communities are healthier — the Housing First initiative.

The NDP Official Opposition agrees with these principles, and they should guide us in developing a housing strategy. *A Home for Everyone* is really looking at where the housing crisis hits the hardest — on Yukoners struggling in poverty or to make ends meet. These are our citizens who are on long waiting lists for social housing.

Right now, if you were to call to make an appointment, you would be lucky if you got in in two months. In the five days of the week, Monday through Friday, the intake day is only on Tuesday, and sometimes only on Tuesday mornings. If you were to get an eviction notice today for January 1, you might not be able to see someone until February. So what happens in the interim?

Our homeless, or the people who are forced to couch-surf — we imagine that there are more than 100 in Whitehorse alone. *A Home for Everyone* calls for action to provide emergency shelter, the housing of last resort for individuals with no other options. They recommend action to create increased transitional housing. They ask for funds for a permanent youth shelter that is accessible to youth under 16, barrier-free, with no restrictions, so they can go even if they've used alcohol or drugs.

We need to create more emergency spaces for women and for families. *A Home for Everyone* calls for action to provide housing with long-term support. We are so far behind in providing supportive housing for the many needs of Yukoners. Supportive housing works to integrate supports and services in a housing model. This is a key way to promote social inclusion in the Yukon. Supportive housing for people living with addictions, with FASD, with physical disabilities, with mental health issues, or for low income seniors is insufficient or non-existent. And we know that, without supportive housing, costs just end up somewhere else.

Take, for example, the financial cost of visits to the emergency room at Whitehorse General Hospital by the acutely intoxicated persons at risk. If they had a place they could go, we would save on that cost.

Dr. Beaton and Chief Allen in their task force report wrote of the financial pressures toward staffing of a hospital that could be relieved if there were adequate housing and shelter solutions. *A Home for Everyone* calls for action to identify supportive housing needs, how services could be integrated, and to expand the number of facilities where support services are provided by in-house staff. It says to fund the Northern City Sup-

portive Housing Coalition proposal. This was a major ball dropped by this government. The coalition, made of really important Yukon organizations, had a thoughtful plan and received CMHC seed funding.

*A Home for Everyone* also wants to see land made available for a token fee to NGOs involved in supportive housing, emergency shelter space or for transitional housing. Vacancy rates for rental housing are very low. Median rents have risen. Many Yukon families are forced with very tough choices: pay the rent or do you pay for heating, electricity or groceries?

Tenants are forced to pay higher rents and may fear speaking out about substandard conditions due to the fear of not finding another place. Our *Landlord and Tenant Act* is extremely out-of-date on issues like cause and rental increases and this contributes to insecurity for tenants living on modest incomes.

*A Home for Everyone* says the Yukon needs more affordable, accessible, adequate rental units, and to get there, this is what we need to do: we need to work toward getting builders to construct affordable, multi-unit rental units through a mix of zoning incentives between us, the municipal government and YTG. We need to increase the supply of social housing units by making social housing a key priority for Yukon Housing Corporation, by following the Auditor General's call for strategic planning and action on social housing needs and by setting targets to ensure supply meets demand. The wait-lists for social housing are great in our community. People are turned away — seniors, the homeless.

We know that there are no provisions to deal with Yukoners from the communities who have medical issues and need to be in Whitehorse to be near the hospital. Meanwhile, we also have issues of quality of the rental housing supply. We have no minimum rental standards. A housing strategy would place a priority on adopting and acting on the report of the Select Committee on the *Landlord and Tenant Act*. I have people in my riding who rent basements. They don't have windows that they could get out of if there were a fire. They have hot plates and they share the laundry facilities with the people above them, so when they walk down into their unit, there is no privacy.

Our shelter allowance rates are inadequate and don't cover market rates. This punishes Yukoners living on social assistance. We need to review social assistance policies to ensure that we promote social inclusion. The Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition is looking at creating a rent-well program for tenants who might not have references or a great track record. There would be an education certificate and the need for a guarantee. The Yukon government needs to provide support to assist this effort.

Many Yukoners can't afford the average \$370,000 price tag for a home, and we all know right now \$370,000 is cheap. A housing strategy would address this and come up with creative solutions toward financing, land availability and development to ensure that owning a home is not out of reach. Again, *A Home for Everyone* has touched on actions needed to address the crisis in affordable home ownership. The report identifies actions such as: releasing more land for housing development; increasing density and modifying zones; providing incentives



to develop derelict land or buildings for housing needs; sell lots below market value in some cases — the Yukon's move to market rates from development costs has contributed to homes being priced out of many people's price range — continuing to support Habitat for Humanity projects through providing land, waiving development fees, by donating materials, funds and labour. I know that Phoenix Rising utilized students from Yukon College. It also utilized inmates from the correctional facility.

*A Home for Everyone* is about a coordinated, new approach for action. It is a wonderful blueprint for a housing strategy for Yukon that is sorely lacking. In developing a housing strategy, we need to build on the great work found in this report. We believe the first step in dealing with the housing crisis is to increase housing supply.

We must partner with First Nations and facilitate their desire to become involved in development of their traditional areas.

In the City of Whitehorse, the two First Nations are the second largest landowners. By helping them with titling and leasing arrangements, they will become paramount in lot development. We must partner with municipalities on settling land use questions. By identifying need in all communities, this government could take a proactive approach to land use planning. We should encourage municipalities to become more involved in housing. In other jurisdictions, municipal governments have established social housing in conjunction with their provincial governments; that's an example we could follow.

We must work cooperatively with private developers, but the housing crisis will not be resolved with a purely market-driven approach. We cannot expect the private sector to solve what is ultimately a social problem. Their job is to develop land, to build houses and to earn a profit. It's the job of the government to help address our collective challenges. We must establish clear expectations and guidelines for private partners. There must be incentives, but there must also be consequences to ensure success.

We must partner with NGOs — those organizations that know the housing needs of our most vulnerable citizens. These organizations best know the populations they deal with and their special requirements for housing. We must respond in a timely fashion and positively to business plans and proposals from NGOs. It is in our interest to support them. It has been proven by many studies that what is needed for this segment of society is housing first.

No one can become an active participant in society and be included as a productive citizen without shelter. The Northern City Supportive Housing Coalition is a perfect example of an NGO that is trying to address the housing needs of the hard-to-house. Northern City has submitted far more than just an ideas document. They've used examples from across the country to come up with a viable solution for us in the north. They've spoken to banks and other funders to come up with a comprehensive plan to build a suitable space to address the needs of the hard-to-house. They follow the Housing First philosophy. It's quite simple: provide housing first, and then combine that housing with supportive treatment services in the areas of

health promotion, mental health, substance abuse, education, employment and life skills development.

Northern City's clients are not just tenants; they will be residents. That might not sound like much, but the sense of ownership will make all the difference. They will be part of a healthy, dignified community and encouraged and engaged by staff to access programs and services related to their well-being. The approach is based on a harm reduction philosophy and to address the availability of low-barrier housing.

Low-barrier housing is housing where a minimum number of expectations are placed on people who wish to live there. The aim is to have as few barriers as possible to allow more people to access the services offered. This approach honours an individual's human rights. Low-barrier facilities follow a health promotion and harm reduction philosophy. Harm reduction focuses on the risks and consequences of particular behaviour, rather than the behaviour itself.

In terms of substance abuse, it means focusing on strategies to reduce harm from high-risk use rather than insisting on abstinence. Abstinence is neither condoned nor condemned; instead it is considered one strategy among many others. Harm reduction means that residents will have ongoing access to services to help them address their substance abuse issues. It is based on the understanding that recovery is a long process and that users need a stable living arrangement to overcome their addictions.

In constructing seniors housing, we must take into account the effects of aging. Preplanning during this design phase will save millions of dollars in renovation costs later when the buildings need to be retrofitted to meet the seniors' needs. Yesterday I spoke a bit about 600 College Drive and I need to reiterate that the seniors who live in that building can't access their bathtubs. They can't get to their showers. They can't take baths safely. At what point do we start being proactive in our design as opposed to reactive in our construction?

We all expect our homes to be safe, healthy and to meet a minimum standard of repair. Due to the housing shortage across the territory, tenants in all communities have been taken unfair advantage of by having to rent substandard living accommodation. It is a responsibility of the government to set out housing standards. No one should live with mould, broken windows, unsafe wiring or without basic amenities. How can we set that standard when Yukon Housing's own stock is badly in need of repair? We need to develop a system of licensing and crediting for home inspectors and for home buyers.

Buyers need to be confident in the information that they are given before they purchase a home. When a new home is bought or built, that homeowner needs to be confident in the quality of their purchase. We need to develop a homeowners' protection act that will enable new home buyers to address building deficiencies. This would go hand in hand with a home warranty program. We need to send a message to builders that substandard construction is unacceptable, and they will be responsible for their product.

With all of the hard work put in by the community groups and our own select committee, we owe it to the territory to respond to recommendations brought forward to them to change

the *Landlord and Tenant Act*. We have proposed a residential tenancy act. This act would provide a legal framework for rental units and outline the rights and responsibilities of both landlords and tenants. It would also ensure a basic health and safety standard for all rental units. It proposes a dispute resolution process that will avoid the use of courts for tenancy problems; therefore, saving both time and money on both sides.

Staff housing in communities is a problem. The staff housing outside of Whitehorse is in a dismal state. It is in short supply and some units are of very poor quality. This is no way to encourage applicants for vital positions, such as social workers and teachers, in our communities. Without a strategy and plans for staff housing, based on consultations with First Nations, communities, unions and managers, we fall short on the needs of communities and employees. It is our responsibility as elected officials to take a leadership role in response to the housing crisis.

Let's lead by example. Let's be bold; let's be innovative. Together we can show the rest of Canada that there are workable solutions to the housing crisis. I strongly encourage members of this House to vote in favour of Motion No. 11 for a comprehensive housing strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I would like to start by thanking the member opposite for bringing forward this timely and very important motion for debate. I, contrary to perhaps many other members, past or present, happen to view that private members' day is a great opportunity to debate issues of fundamental importance and to be able to hear many of the members' views and perspectives on issues of importance.

I think that when it comes to the issue of housing, it is an issue that all of us — at least I'm assuming all of us; I know I did — heard about at the doorstep, and it remains of fundamental importance to all Yukoners.

Of course, as the member opposite just referred to, it is a very complex issue. It's one that deserves quite a bit of discussion — some context, some history — about where we have been, where we are today and where we're about to go as a Government of Yukon. There are many aspects or many facets to addressing housing within the territory, from land development to a holistic view.

As a member of this Legislative Assembly for the past nine years, I have seen great, drastic improvements, but I also recognize that there is considerable, significant work left to be done. That is our job as legislators — to be able to listen, to be able to collaborate, work with our partners, and identify areas on a go-forward basis for improving housing, availability of land, addressing the issue of affordability and, of course, addressing the many different, complex needs within the housing continuum. I've often spoken about the continuum, because housing is not just a cookie-cutter approach. It's not just about building a single-family residence.

That is not going to cut the bill for everyone. Everyone has their own finite needs; everyone's situation is very different, even in as small a jurisdiction as the territory — although our population continues to grow. I think our response to housing in the territory needs to respond based on those very needs.

I do want to recognize and thank the member for bringing forward this motion. It speaks to a number of different issues pertaining to a framework within a strategy and pertains to, of course, all of our communities within the territory. It talks about measures for reporting and, of course, that it be comprehensive, as I just alluded to. It's about increasing the housing supply, improving affordability and supporting individuals and families with the greatest housing need.

There is a lot to this motion, and I do have a few things to say here this afternoon in response to this motion. I want to assure members opposite that housing is of fundamental importance to this Yukon government. I just wanted to say that there is a lot to this issue.

So I just want to provide some context, going back a few years. I know members opposite may not like to reflect upon our past, but I think it's important to reflect upon how we got to where we are today, and that is by reflecting upon issues of the past.

As a person who was born and raised in the Yukon, I have seen significant changes in the territory. It's very important to see where we were and where we are today. In particular, back in 2002, for example, prior to the Yukon Party taking office, we had experienced a number of years of economic downturn. Our population had been in decline for several consecutive years, which followed the closure of the Faro mine back in 1997. Our unemployment rate was in the double-digit range for a number of years. Our mining industry was not very healthy at that point, with exploration and development spending being less than \$10 million at that point.

We also saw that, over the course of that several-year period, almost 3,000 Yukoners — primarily, I might add, very young people — who comprise our prime labour force had to leave the Yukon to find labour opportunities outside the territory.

So, you know, back in those days, housing perhaps didn't receive the attention that it could have at that particular time because of the very situation that Yukon found itself in. So we went to work and, of course, rebuilding our private sector economy was job number one for the two successive Yukon Party governments elected in 2002 and re-elected in 2006, and here we are today, again re-elected just recently.

Of course, that was and continues to be of prime importance to the territory — putting Yukoners back to work, diversifying our economy in many different ways, and making the Yukon a very attractive, desirable place to not only live, but to invest in, and to visit from the tourism point of view. We were able to effectively put Yukon on the pathway to prosperity and here we are today moving forward along that very journey. Our vision for moving forward together today continues to build upon the previous four pillars that were outlined in our two consecutive platforms: better quality of life, environment, economy and good government. I have to say that, during the first two terms of the Yukon Party government, there was great emphasis and a lot of work placed on investing in strategic infrastructure that not only put Yukoners to work, but also placed great emphasis on training opportunities and educating our own student workforce, ensuring that when growth occurs — in

fact, is occurring — that Yukoners would be able to take advantage of those very opportunities.

We went to work on many strategic initiatives in collaboration with Yukon communities, with Yukon First Nations, the Government of Canada, the private sector and many of our agencies and non-government organizations, as has already been alluded to. I am very proud of the infrastructure, whether it is expanding in energy infrastructure, expanding our hydro capacity, which is so very important for the growth of our economy, but also investing in schools — investing in post-secondary education opportunities, replacing our Yukon College campuses in Dawson City and Pelly Crossing; and building a new School of Visual Arts in collaboration with the community of Dawson, Klondike Institute of Art and Culture and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First nation. We have been able to invest in other new schools such as the one in Carmacks, and we are working on a replacement of the F.H. Collins Secondary School, as well, as we speak.

We went to work on investing in health care infrastructure, which is another very important piece of infrastructure when it comes to attracting and retaining our health care professionals in our respective communities and ensuring that we have the service on the ground to be able to accommodate the growth in our population that we have seen.

We went to work investing in critical infrastructure, and we also went to work in collaboration with all orders and levels of government and also the private sector in providing a climate that was conducive. It continues to be conducive to the growth of the private sector, as well. We have seen great progress in this regard. I want to reflect that there have been a great number of statistics in terms of the economic growth the Yukon has seen, which is very important in providing the context in the housing situation of today.

When we look back, in 2003, just shortly after we were elected the first time as a Yukon Party government, the level of mining activity was not as robust as it is today. Today we have another record level of mining exploration and development; we have producing mines, something we did not have in previous years.

In terms of building permits and values — both on the commercial front and residential — we have also seen a tremendous growth in these over the last 10 years, as a result of the Yukon being a very attractive place to live and to grow and to go to work, as well. We have, as I mentioned, our capital expenditures. One of the things that we did as a government and continue to focus on, is investing in, like I said, important infrastructure, as well as building our fiscal capacity to where it is today. I can say that investments to support the growth that we are experiencing there today have grown substantively, whether it's on the housing front; whether it's public administration — and the list goes on. We have been able to grow the fiscal capacity of the Yukon government, working through our formula finance agreement, also working with the Government of Canada on many infrastructure items, either one-time expenditures in collaboration with municipal governments or First Nation governments, through Build Canada or the gas tax.

We have also seen expenditures such as the municipal rural infrastructure fund and the Canadian strategic infrastructure fund, to say but a few. We have also benefited greatly from infrastructure through the territorial health access fund, which has provided growth opportunities investing in health infrastructure.

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I beg the House's indulgence to welcome to the gallery a former MLA and a constituent of mine, Al Falle, the former Member for Hootalinqua.

*Applause*

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Actually, Mr. Speaker, I too would also like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Falle; but also to Kim Solonick, who is our executive director for Yukon Women in Trades and Technology.

*Applause*

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** As I was mentioning, our fiscal capacity has enabled us to invest in significant opportunities that are conducive to the growth of the Yukon. As a result, we have also seen a significant growth in our labour force. It is at an all-time high.

When it comes to Yukon's unemployment rate, we are among the lowest in the country today as a result of diversifying our economy. I'll touch upon that in a few moments. That's despite the worldwide economic recession — the downturn — and the continuous challenges that we continue to experience on a global basis. Yukon has been able to withstand some of these challenges; not to say that we don't continue to keep our eye on the ball, but it is important that we remain a very attractive place of employment.

When it comes to our communities, when we look at the population growth, the City of Whitehorse alone has seen its population grow. All across the territory, I recall that back in 2002, our population was standing at around just over 29,000. Today I believe we are just about at 35,000, perhaps even over that today. Within a relatively brief threshold of time, we have seen the population grow substantially. That adds pressures upon our housing stock and also the need for diversified housing.

In the City of Whitehorse alone, I know that up in our area — my family resides in the Copper Ridge area and have done so for more than 15 years — just on the same street — and we're now considered one of the original people belonging to the Copper Ridge area. We have seen a growth of hundreds in that particular area. As a result, we are having to respond to some of the pressures as well. We have seen an incredible amount of housing stock go up in that area, from single-family residences to condos, duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, and there have been new mobile homes being invested in — there have been all kinds — as well as basement suites and garden suites also associated with the housing mix. So we have seen a tremendous amount of growth.

As a result, the Yukon government is working to respond to some of the city's pressures with, for example, the added

extension of Hamilton Boulevard; a new, second ambulance station at the top of Two Mile Hill, just below the Canada Games Centre, to help enhance our response times to emergency medical situations. Those are just a couple of examples that we have seen within the City of Whitehorse.

We have seen growth throughout the territory. It's not just situated in the City of Whitehorse. We appreciate that there is a great demand for land development, as well as housing stock.

When it comes to Yukon's population, there has been a net migration to the territory over the years. The trend continues. Indicative of that were the recent announcement of changes and enhancements that support Yukon's labour framework; immigration — we are receiving more immigrant workers, both on a temporary as well as permanent basis. This is a very important part of our population, providing Yukon businesses to continue to open their doors and to respond to all of the many employment opportunities that are available in all of the Yukon Territory.

The other trend that we're finding in more recent years — the last 10 to 20 years — is that whereas, perhaps, when I was growing up in the Yukon, and people would reach retirement, many of those individuals would find their way south. We're not seeing that too much any more. In fact, we're seeing quite the contrary. We're seeing more and more individual Yukoners choosing to retire in their own home communities. It's testament to the quality of life that we have to offer here in the Yukon — whether it's on the cultural stage, or in terms of seniors benefits, health opportunities, and, of course, wanting to be with your family as well. Going door to door in my area, that was another very interesting trend that I continued to see and applaud — families who moved away from the Yukon many years ago are now choosing to come back home to the Yukon. They are coming back to join their parents and siblings because there are growth opportunities in the Yukon, unlike many other areas in the country. But it's not just because of the job opportunities; it's also because of the quality of life, as I mentioned.

One only has to take a look around the territory — in every corner — and it's just a great reminder of what makes us so very proud to call the Yukon our home. So that too is adding pressure on housing stock and housing demand throughout the territory.

We are seeing a whole gamut of different population demographics throughout the territory, whether it's first-time buyers or individuals coming to the Yukon, or even coming of age — finding their first rental. Those individuals are moving up with the lower interest rates in the country, when it comes to mortgages — that is also serving to make it more attractive for individuals — particularly younger individuals — to move up and to become first-home buyers.

I have to say that when I first moved to Whitehorse to work in 1990-91 or maybe 1992, it was January. I just recall that at that time there was not much available in terms of rental opportunities. I remember going through the "For Rent" list and there were a couple of places at the particular time. I remember calling up one and there was actually a bidding war going on in terms of who could provide the better deal, so to speak — at least it appeared to me at that particular time. It is

interesting how things have evolved since then. Now here we find ourselves.

Beyond first-time home buyers, there are also those moving who have children, who have different needs as families, all the way to seniors housing demands. We just spoke about that with respect to Yukoners, more and more who are choosing to stay in the Yukon longer and longer.

As I mentioned, the five-year mortgage rate is looking to remain low in the next number of years — the forecast is. When I say "low", it's low by historical standards. That is also serving to enhance the opportunities for more individuals to get into their own homes.

I just wanted to provide that context and just to reflect upon where we are today. So, whereas where we were about 10 years ago is somewhat different, as I mentioned, we now have record mineral exploration spending. We have new producing mines with more on the way. We have a high level of construction activity, thanks to many capital initiatives occurring throughout the Yukon, whether it's infrastructure investments in new hospitals, in new housing initiatives, or in education opportunities, new businesses, new growth, condos — and the list goes on.

We have also been experiencing, regarding tourism, a rebound in the visitation since the major recession struck just two or three years ago, and a significant growth in air access, which is an interesting trend, to say the least. Again, thanks to the government's vision and foresight, a major expansion of the Whitehorse International Airport has occurred to accommodate more and more air access. It is in fact working.

We've experienced some 30-percent increase in individuals planing and deplaning at the Whitehorse International Airport. We are seeing also continued demand for air access in communities such as Mayo and Watson Lake, and the list goes on, as a result of mines in place and opportunities that could expand with the growth in outfitting opportunities, tourism, commercial wilderness and many others.

We have seen significant economic growth, as I just mentioned, whether we have seen population, employment, trade, all of our economic indicators, as our Minister of Economic Development just recently tabled in the Legislature, or I believe alluded to it in the Legislature — the economic outlook for this year. We have seen significant growth. I mentioned resource development, construction, and of course all of this contributes to additional economic employment opportunities in all different sectors.

We have seen a significant amount of exploration and mine development expenditure at an all-time high, pushing, I believe, \$300 million in just development expenditures, and that does not even take into consideration other expenditures.

When one takes a look at some of the mines — Minto Mine, Bellekeno, Wolverine Mine; when you tally all of that, we have direct employment anywhere from 700 to 750 persons. All of this is helping to fuel some of our local community spending, new opportunities in the supply sector and recent service sector growth. We have seen mineral assay prep labs; engineering; environmental services; transportation services. The strong flow of benefits from mining to our other sectors,

such as accommodation and food services, is also good for tourism opportunities.

As I mentioned, as a result, we are investing in more public infrastructure to accommodate this growth.

I mentioned investment in new hospitals: Watson Lake and Dawson City. We're looking at expansion of the Whitehorse emergency facility here in town. We've invested in the international airport here in the City of Whitehorse.

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

#### Point of order

**Speaker:** Member for Mayo-Tatchun on a point of order.

**Mr. Tredger:** The member opposite is repeating herself.

**Speaker:** Minister of Community Services on the point of order.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I don't believe I am repeating myself. I believe I am articulating some of the growth and its direct impact on the housing demands in the territory today, which is prevalent to the motion we are debating.

#### Speaker's statement

**Speaker:** I don't believe there's a point of order at this time.

The Minister of Community Services has the floor.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** As I mentioned, the key economic trends are expected to continue from years on out, and this will continue to add additional demand for housing. When it comes to the Yukon government and the motion today, which speaks to the housing framework and strategy in place, adequate housing is a fundamental building block for our social well-being. It's also very important for economic growth; for inclusive, safe, sustainable communities. It provides a basic level of shelter; it's more than just a shelter, it's about having a home that is a person's regular personal space, or it could even be viewed more broadly to include a sense of belonging in a neighbourhood or community life.

The topic of housing spans a wide spectrum, from homelessness at one end through to rental and home ownership at the other. In between are such elements as emergency shelters, transitional housing, supportive housing, social housing, to subsidized and non-subsidized rental accommodations. Adequate housing also has a great number of dimensions and characteristics, as I believe the member opposite was alluding to. It can vary depending on persons and their respective circumstances. Some of those used to determine housing adequacy include the demand for the number of residents — and, of course, each individual circumstances — how many bedrooms, the common space, what structures, what supports are required to meet the health and safety demands of individuals; looking at the affordability; looking at acceptable conditions, as we were talking earlier, from a health and safety perspective.

When it comes to adequate housing — looking at the housing supply — it's but one part of the housing picture. As I mentioned earlier, some people require specific supports in order to maintain and continue to retain housing. The supports can

range from the provision of shelters intended for a temporary basis to supported living environments to transitional supports to assist people to live independently, and so forth.

Today's discussion surrounds all of the different work that is going on, and some of that work was referenced earlier by a number of different governments, organizations, the private sector and others.

What I can say is that the Government of Yukon is and has been and continues to be involved both in the provision of housing space, housing supply and providing related supports for housing needs. As I mentioned, there are many different partners involved in housing and housing supports, whether it be on a municipal or federal scale, delivered by non-government organizations, private sector, communities, families, individuals — and the list goes on. So a substantial amount of work has been done or is currently underway to provide adequate housing and housing supports.

I want to touch upon some of the work that has transpired over the recent years. I think it is very important to be able to reflect on what we have been working on; who is working on that within the Government of Yukon; how we are partnering with other governments; and, of course, speaking to the framework itself. When it comes to housing-related programs and services, the Yukon Housing Corporation plays a very fundamental role in assisting people in meeting their housing needs; helping the housing market place work better by furthering the self-sufficiency of communities, industries and people through a whole gamut of available programs and services; providing social housing; providing staff housing to meet departmental needs; supporting Yukoners with the repair of their homes; and, improving the energy efficiency and accessibility of the homes, protecting the environment.

We have seen substantive enhancements on that front, moving toward green and energy-efficient building of homes and, of course, to the standards as prescribed by city bylaws' regulatory regime — we have, indeed been moving toward just that. Even on the industrial side, even going toward more and more lead design — leadership in energy environmental design.

The Yukon Housing Corporation also provides technical advice and financial support for assisting clients concerned with energy costs — whether its individual energy audits and so forth. Yukon Housing Corporation also supports Yukoners to become homeowners and improving, as I mentioned, the energy efficiency of the housing stock.

I think it's very important to note this fact, because in terms of being able to assist Yukoners in becoming homeowners, there are a number of programs in place, whether through mortgage financing or repairs and upgrades to becoming more green and energy efficient. This is to the tune, if I am not mistaken, of over \$40 million in support that has been made available over the last number of years in terms of loans and financial assistance to enable Yukon homeowners to improve their energy efficiency or to become homeowners.

Yukon Housing Corporation also plays a lead role in educating and transferring technology to the Yukon housing industry and the general public, building community and industry

capacity and increasing the availability of affordable housing in the Yukon for everyone. What I can say is that when we look to the Yukon Housing Corporation, there have been substantive investments to the tune of almost \$100 million over the last nine years toward many different housing initiatives. I will get into that in a bit.

The Department of Health and Social Services offers a number of programs and supports for both individuals and families in need of assistance in order to access, maintain or retain appropriate housing. The range of supports provided or funded include everything from emergency shelters, transitional supports and supported assisted living, as well as case management for clients who require financial support to pay for housing and other basic needs.

I don't want to go on at great length here, because I know the Minister of Health and Social Services has much more to offer in terms of what is currently being provided and the initiatives planned by the Department of Health and Social Services. Some of those areas have and do include a supported independent living program, mental health support workers and home care — so very important in order to facilitate individuals to stay in their homes longer and to remain in their communities longer.

The Department of Health and Social Services also provides long-term residential care — Copper Ridge Place, Macaulay Lodge, McDonald Lodge — and also provides youth shelter services, in collaboration with Skookum Jim Friendship Centre. The Department of Health and Social Services also provides funding support to the Salvation Army for their emergency shelter and drop-in centre — also, funding support for Options for Independence Society for persons with fetal alcohol syndrome. They also provide funding support for specialized and approved homes for clients with a wide range of needs — and again, also funding support to other organizations for providing required supported living opportunities, as well. What's also really important is that the Department of Health and Social Services provides long-term funding arrangements with women's shelters, which provide both immediate shelter on an emergency basis, as well as longer term, when we look to the second-stage housing initiative that we're currently working on with Kaushee's women's transition home. Help and Hope for Families Society in Watson Lake — it was only, I believe, a couple of years ago, if that — maybe a year and a half ago — that the government was able to provide additional funding assistance to provide first-ever second-stage housing outside of the City of Whitehorse.

It's additional units, being able to provide that next step from emergency shelter, but providing that transitional living support for mothers and families in a safe and a very workable environment, providing that transitional support to provide families with that longer-term support down the road. That also includes the Dawson City Women's Shelter the Department of Health and Social Services also works with.

In terms of other departments, the Department of Justice also provides a very important role in facilitating safe communities and the safety of individuals. Again, in addition, although not directly involved in providing housing, there are many

other departments that are responsible for areas that also potentially affect housing availability, including: Energy, Mines and Resources through land management, the disposition of Yukon lands, regional land use planning; and our own Department of Community Services, in terms of funding, information, advice, support for community governments and developing land on behalf of municipal governments, providing that technical experience and expertise.

We also have other housing work that is currently underway through many other partners. I will get into that in a little bit here as well, but some have been referenced already through Yukon First Nation housing programs and the programs and support that they currently make available for managing their own housing stock for eligible persons. There has been work done by many other organizations and I will get on to that as well, shortly.

I wanted to express the point that, when it comes to the Government of Yukon, there is no single agency or no single department that is responsible for delivering housing. It is a continuum of housing options and working in collaboration. The very point that I want to make is that this work that the members opposite are saying is so very important has, in fact, been transpiring for some time and will continue to do so.

Since 2002 our government has invested approximately \$100 million in a number of housing initiatives, one of which was the Whitehorse family-focused housing initiative in Riverdale. When I was minister responsible for the Women's Directorate at that time, we were tasked with the role of doing due diligence, coming up with research, and finding the largest pressure point in terms of meeting housing needs at that particular time. At that stage of the game, and it continues to be, it was single-parent families.

We went to work with women's organizations, with many of the housing clients who subscribed to housing initiatives under Yukon Housing Corporation and worked with many others to help define what a housing initiative would look like to meet some of these pressing needs identified by single-parent families. Hence the Whitehorse family-focused housing initiative in Riverdale evolved. It's a great example of what can be done; in fact, I am going to be visiting with families over the Christmas holiday period and seeing first-hand myself some of the great work that going on.

It's a facility that I think has succeeded. It's not only a place for housing; it's a place for coming together, to sharing with each other as community spaces. It was built kid-friendly and, having a six-year old, I know what that means — tough, durable spaces, having play-friendly spaces as well, which is so healthy; having those common areas for workshops — everything from life skills to beyond. I think it's really important that, when we do provide housing, we also look at working on becoming good landlords, becoming good tenants and providing individuals with the tools to do just that.

So that is one example of what we have been able to provide. I believe there are 32 units. The units that were built within that facility range from two bedrooms to three bedrooms.

I know that was expressed during the consultation — to find housing that had enough rooms in the house to accommodate larger families, especially for single parents. It's tough enough being a parent these days, but being a single parent is a tremendous amount of work, lots of pressure, and the most rewarding job you can ever have in your entire life. I am very proud of this particular initiative, and I think it is going really well. I think it can serve as a template for other housing initiatives and it has, in fact, done just that.

We have seen tremendous investments in seniors housing across the territory. We have spoken a lot on the floor of the Legislature over the years on accommodating seniors' and elders' needs on a go-forward basis. The demographics are such that we know there continues to be a significant need, and that we need to be innovative and creative in meeting those needs — what we can do to ensure individuals can stay in their homes longer, to being able to provide assisted living and, on the other side of the spectrum, providing the continuing care for the more extensive needs. That is, in fact, what we have been doing.

There was some mention about seniors units near Yukon College — 48 new seniors units — along with 24 affordable housing units for student families at Yukon College. Looking at the continuum of housing needs, when we look at education opportunities and look to meet some of the growing demands on our labour market — preparing our younger individuals for job opportunities of today and tomorrow — we need to think about how we can facilitate that growth. Of course, accommodating families on campus is very attractive and also relatively affordable for students to be able to partake in college and post-secondary opportunities.

Likewise, in addition to that particular facility at the college, we have just recently seen the opening of the Whitehorse waterfront seniors residence. I had the opportunity to tour that facility with the previous minister. What a fantastic space, and what a tremendous tribute to the seniors and elders of today. As the minister of the day said, what better way to say thank you, than by having such an amazing piece of infrastructure — a welcome environment — to call your home and also situated on the waterfront.

The other day I was saying that we have talked about for many years and spent so much time — and this actually came from Minister of Education — turning our backs on the waterfront. It is incredibly humbling and rewarding to see that now we are finally turning back to the waterfront and placing our emphasis on infrastructure. Of course, this includes a new seniors residence. That is a tremendous improvement, in terms of building housing stock to accommodate those who have contributed to the economic wealth we have here today and the quality of life that we enjoy as Yukoners here today.

In addition to that, in Whitehorse we have invested in seniors units throughout the territory — in Haines Junction, Watson Lake, Teslin and Faro. Again, these were all developed so that seniors can remain their respective communities.

There are also initiatives also currently underway: a new children's receiving home opened not long ago in the downtown core — again, something that was very much missed and

was well overdue — to house those children who have been removed from their home due to abuse or neglect and who come into the care of the government; as I referenced earlier, through the Department of Health, working with Skookum Jim Friendship Centre as well in providing that emergency youth facility. I have to also add that our continued investment in youth organizations — Blue Feather Youth Centre; there is BYTE; the Boys and Girls Club — these are all investments that our government chose to make, unlike previous governments.

I also wanted to add that, when it comes to some of these housing initiatives that we have been investing in over the years, it was our government that was able to do that in collaboration with the Government of Canada. We were very appreciative of that fact. Through economic stimulus funding made available through the Government of Canada and funding made available through the northern housing trust in which we also were able to negotiate a transfer of over, I believe, \$32 million toward First Nation communities, there were able to deliver housing stock enhancements in their housing availability, as well, over the last number of years.

There have been tremendous strides, and I know that there have been a lot of feelings of different opinion expressed by the opposite side. What I can say is that, when it came to the previous two governments, previous to the Yukon Party government, I don't believe there was any investment in the housing stock. I think that has to be duly noted, for whatever reason, but it does have to be stated here. So, \$100 million in housing initiatives. Also, we've got family residences in Carmacks that are under construction today. We have four single-family residences in Ross River also under construction. We have three duplexes, comprising six units, in the Takhini North subdivision. Those are also under construction.

Right in my own constituency in the new subdivision of Ingram, six-unit family townhouses were built by Kwanlin Dun First Nation, and they did a fantastic job. This is another example of helping build capacity on the training front from the construction perspective, as well as providing some fantastic housing for families.

Speaking to the residents themselves, they are quite thrilled to have housing within a great neighbourhood that is up and coming, a neighbourhood that will comprise eventually well over 220-some dwelling units within that smaller area. I will get into that a little bit later on as well.

I already referenced the affordable housing project for single-parent families, the Watson Lake seniors facility, and the replacement of the Korbo Apartments in Dawson City — another great initiative that I think is well overdue. It is a fantastic facility, energy efficient all the way, and attractive at that. It's just one more example of how we have been able to really capitalize on the availability of some of this economic stimulus funding.

I have to say thank you and recognize and acknowledge the hard work and the forward thinking of Yukon Housing Corporation, because a lot of that economic stimulus was time sensitive. I think that one has to be made acutely aware that, in terms to be able to expend those dollars, you have to have plans

on the shelf, that you have the working relationship with those respective communities to make those initiatives happen — planning responsibly but also ensuring that it does happen.

If I'm not mistaken, we're one of the few jurisdictions in this country that was able to expend most of the funding that has been made available through the federal government — time sensitive or not. I just wanted to make reference to that.

When it comes to other achievements on the housing front, we should also take a look at other initiatives, such as Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity is an organization that has been around for some time over the years throughout the globe. But in the Yukon, I recall one of their first initiatives was in the Copper Ridge area, within my old constituency boundaries. I have to give credence to the former Member for Whitehorse Centre and his work in spearheading this particular initiative, helping to oversee and using his assets, his carpentry experience and his ability to unite partners as well. It is very much driven by volunteers, but being able to partner up with an organization such as Habitat for Humanity as well as Yukon College, whether it was through Yukon Women in Trades and Technology or the other apprenticeship programs, has been another vehicle that we have been able to use to enhance the availability of housing stock for families that may not necessarily have been able to apply for or receive conventional financing through the mechanisms of today.

One only has to take a look at the number of duplexes — the first home that was constructed was a single-family home; I believe it was on Kodiak, if I'm not mistaken — and others in the area. Just recently, through Yukon Housing, we have been able to provide land and we have been able to donate it to Habitat for Humanity to build another triplex, if I'm not mistaken, in the Ingram subdivision. It's going to be another great initiative.

810 Wheeler Street — that was another example of where we were able to partner up with Yukon College and the organization as well, providing training opportunities for apprentice carpenters on SuperGreen home construction and accommodating, at the end of the day, three families who were able to secure these affordable housing accommodations.

There was also reference — I need to also talk about it — to the Abbeyfield housing initiative. When we talk about seniors and elders housing initiatives available, it's yet another innovative — a very creative new approach — to providing modified independent living suites for seniors that will allow them to live on their own, yet providing some supports in some common areas, such as a lounge or a dining area, sharing in meals, game time and so forth. It's another initiative that our government is very much committed to providing on the housing front.

I already made reference to the children's receiving home and how we were able to come through with just over a \$1 million contribution through Canada's economic action plan for the replacement of a well-overdue piece of infrastructure. Also, as I mentioned earlier, we are working with Kwanlin Dun First Nation on a number of housing initiatives through the Yukon asset construction agreement, as housed within their final agreements. A significant amount of housing initiatives have

been made. I could go on at greater length, but perhaps I will just save that for the ministers responsible to delve into within some of their specific areas.

When it comes to housing, I also just wanted to mention that when it comes to land availability — and although this is about developing housing strategy, certainly one component of such a strategy is the provision of building lots. I am very pleased as Minister of Community Services that developing and improving community infrastructure, including making land available for Yukoners, is a priority for the Government of Yukon. As members opposite may or may not appreciate, making new land available can be a very complex and lengthy process. It involves extensive planning, public consultation, environmental assessment and development of the land itself, which takes some time and capacity available within the ministry itself. But I can say that since 2002, the Yukon government has worked cooperatively with municipal and First Nation governments, the private sector and the public in developing over 780 lots throughout the Yukon.

By 2013, within the next two years, the Yukon government will develop and bring to the market another minimum of 430 additional new building lots. I want to say that there has been a tremendous amount of work done in this regard. As I mentioned on the floor of the Legislature yesterday, Community Services has recently completed rural land development projects, which include industrial lots in Dawson City; single family lots and multi-family lots in the Village of Haines Junction; country residential lots in Destruction Bay; and residential lots in Grizzly Valley just north of the city.

The department is also working with municipal and First Nation governments on land development projects in the communities of Dawson, Mayo and Carmacks. In addition to these projects, the Department of Community Services also works closely with the City of Whitehorse on land development with the municipality.

I want to reiterate again for members opposite that we do respect the city's lead role when it comes to planning and design. It's framed within a framework, the *Land Development Protocol Agreement 2006*, that was signed off back in 2006, which spells out how we actually develop areas within the boundaries of the municipality of Whitehorse. So, in keeping with that agreement, we are working with Whitehorse in developing its planned areas, including the new Whistle Bend subdivision, which is well underway. It is a major land development project with many phases. As part of this project, Community Services is planning to have about 112 lots ready next fall, with an additional 187 lots available by the fall of 2013.

I do want to say that we are very proud to be able to work diligently with our many partners throughout the territory to continue to find a supply of building lots that will help address some of the Yukon's housing needs, whether it's now or well into the future. We recognize there are pressures all about, but we are working collaboratively — and I have to again just stress that when it comes to development of land, we need to continue to respect the roles of our municipal governments, First Nation governments, and the private sector, but continue to find those opportunities to advance land opportunities.



When it comes to the City of Whitehorse, I just want to spend a couple of minutes here going over some of what we have been doing. Of course one of the city's — I probably don't have to spell it out, because we have a couple of former members from the city council in the Legislature, and they could probably speak a lot more eloquently than I could, and probably will on that front. One of the city's greatest challenges — and we only have to take a look at the recent debates on the floor of city council — is finding suitable land development for developing diverse and attainable housing options within the City of Whitehorse.

The official community plan for Whitehorse — which is really the city's local planning guide or planning tool that guides and provides that broad contextual use of land within the municipal government or within the municipality — estimates that approximately 4,500 housing units will be required over the next 20 years.

This is based on a medium growth rate of two percent. In conjunction with this growth estimate, we have the official community plan. It shows a variety of development areas within the respective boundaries, whether it's Whistle Bend or Porter Creek D looking for potential infill locations, in order to help meet this growth projection. The city has experienced a greater average — 2.6-percent growth over the past five years — meaning that instead of the 4,500 housing units, we're probably looking at anywhere from 6,000 units, or 300 units per year. So that will be required over the next 20 years, if this particular economic growth rate is maintained.

So it's really important to take a look at those growth projections within the OCP, which was just recently updated by the City of Whitehorse in consultation with many different stakeholders and the residents of Whitehorse.

Obviously, when we look to the development of Whistle Bend, and we look to the city's proposed plans, whether it's infill, or whether or not Porter Creek D should proceed or not — even if it were to — the city needs to continue to look at growth outside those boundaries, as well.

I think that is where other governments, such as Kwanlin Dun First Nation, the Ta'an Kwäch'än' Council and all First Nations within the boundaries of the territory, play a fundamental role when it comes to providing land development opportunities within the city municipal boundaries. I think that is very important to reflect upon. Just recently, back at the end of August, the Premier of Yukon signed off a letter of understanding with the Chief of Kwanlin Dun First Nation to look at those particular growth opportunities in development of Yukon communities. Both governments, within the LOU, recognized the very need for affordable housing and the demand posed before all of us for developing residential land within the City of Whitehorse and the immediate surrounding areas as well.

Kwanlin Dun has substantive settlement land holdings and significant land development potential in the Whitehorse area. If I am not mistaken, Kwanlin Dun First Nation has some 42 square kilometres within the City of Whitehorse and the surrounding area. Together with the First Nation, there is a very concerted interest and agreement to move forward to explore those development opportunities on these lands, which would

see residential land for housing made available to the public, while providing those very important economic benefits to Kwanlin Dun First Nation.

As outlined within the letter of understanding, the parties have agreed to work together in order to help facilitate and expedite some of these land development opportunities, working together to share the expertise, resources and ideas related to opportunities and provisions within the self-government agreement itself; to be able to share and collaborate on opportunities pertaining to servicing options; involvement of other governments and agencies, where appropriate; third party leasehold agreements on settlement land parcels; looking at conventional financing and mortgaging options for potential lessees, land registry options and opportunities; and also sharing expertise and resources when it comes to looking at applicable legislation, whether it is within Kwanlin Dun, the City of Whitehorse or with the Yukon government or other parties.

Again, it's a significant step, and I have to say that there have been many other opportunities that have also been seized upon between the Yukon government working in collaboration with other First Nation governments, whether it is Teslin Tlingit Council, the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Carcross-Tagish First Nation, and others. Again, self-governing First Nations in the territory — First Nations also play a very important and integral role in providing accessible and affordable housing opportunities available for all Yukon citizens. So the point is to be able to work together and to see how we can help advance these opportunities, providing that additional capacity and working together.

As I mentioned before, working through the northern housing trust fund, we have been able to facilitate flowing of dollars through the Government of Canada of over \$32 million toward First Nation land, or I should say, housing initiatives. Of course I won't get into the breakdown, but each of the 14 Yukon First Nations have all subscribed to that. Having toured many of the communities — Pelly Crossing comes to mind as one; Mayo, or Na Cho Nyäk Dun First Nation, for example — they are all examples of great investments and what can be achieved by working together with First Nation governments in recognizing their roles and responsibilities.

As I mentioned, there has been a significant amount of work already done in previous years in developing land opportunities. I mentioned Whistle Bend. There are a significant number of contracts already underway —

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

#### Point of order

**Speaker:** Order. Order. The member must wait to be introduced. Thank you.

Leader of the Official Opposition, on a point of order.

**Ms. Hanson:** Mr. Speaker, the point of order is Standing Order 19(b) with the needless repetition. I do believe that we have heard repetition of this very same fact with respect to Whistle Bend; it's probably the second or third cycle around.

I believe the Standing Orders do speak to the attempt to avoid needless repetition.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** On the point of order, first of all, the Standing Order that the member should have cited was

19(c). I would also note that, from my perspective, it's simply a dispute between members. I think the Minister for Community Services was laying out elements of her perspective and laying out elements of the government's vision for developing and continuing forward with the housing strategy.

I believe this is merely a dispute between members.

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

### Speaker's ruling

**Speaker:** Order please. I would remind members that when order is called, I would appreciate their attention.

On the point of order and the reference to needless repetition, the member has been, in my view, going on at length, but bringing forward things to emphasize their importance and then moving slightly off the subject. I would caution the minister to watch the repetition of statements. They are becoming a bit long.

There is no point of order.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just moving forward, as our platform states, we of course recognize that there are land development pressures and demands all throughout our communities. The Department of Community Services, in collaboration with our Yukon municipal governments and all Yukon communities, are also working on a land assessment that is to provide, really, some structure to balancing land supply with demand in a very efficient and sustainable manner. We are looking to both evaluate and assess the land development issues and needs within our communities throughout the territory — of course, also promoting the development of a comprehensive land development process throughout the territory, which includes all of our partners. And of course, just work to further expand upon our land development program as housed within the Department of Community Services. This takes into consideration First Nations, municipalities, private developers — all having a very great role in land development. So that, too, is also transpiring.

It is really the first of its kind and we look forward to receiving the results of that, building upon the very successes that we have seen in previous years.

The member opposite made reference to a number of housing initiatives and there have been assessments and references made by organizations. I think it's very noteworthy to reflect on some of them. What I don't believe — the member opposite alluded to the work that was done by the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce, the Partnering for Success Initiative: looking at easing the housing demands within the City of Whitehorse; looking at land availability; and looking at the policies and any barriers to Yukon's economic growth. I very much appreciate the work done by other organizations. I think it also has to be pointed out that there has been work done by others that is just as noteworthy.

The Partnering for Success Initiative has been a very unique initiative, spearheaded by the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce, working hand in hand with First Nation development corporations, Yukon government departments, the private sector, whether it be home builders — real estate association representatives were involved in there and also other advocacy

representatives. They have done a tremendous amount of work too, and I very much appreciate their leadership in serving as a template that could be carried further, in terms of continuing to flesh out the framework and housing strategy for the Government of Yukon.

Specifically, when one takes a look at some of the workshops they actually held to oversee the very issue, they looked at the economic indicators, the population projections, the labour force, all of which I have already alluded to. Not wanting to be repetitive, I do want to say that it was very much heard — loud and clear — that land developers and home builders want to see a comprehensive effort on behalf of the Government of Yukon, working in collaboration with the stakeholders. I am not sure if the Leader of the Official Opposition agrees with that approach or not, but this was a recommendation made and was presented for a great deal of discussion.

One of the recommendations was to release land to the private sector for developments, in fact, whether that's working with the City of Whitehorse, working with First Nations, implementing a policy or a framework, whereby we would see more flexibility built within land development opportunities to be made available to the private sector.

Another one of the recommendations was to look at incentives policy. I know that the City of Whitehorse has come up with many various incentives available for home builders and those wishing to add on to their own homes through availability of garden suites, legal suites and so forth. Even through the Yukon Housing Corporation — which I will get to in a few minutes as well — making available funding opportunities to provide those low-interest loans — I believe it's up to \$25,000 available for homeowners to build on to their homes to accommodate a legal suite or a garden suite. Those are some of the incentives in being able to further engage the private developers, to stimulate densification and also redevelopment of our downtown core.

One of the other recommendations made out of this initiative was to further identify areas for growth, in terms of land development and the emphasis being pointed to the fact that all respective orders and levels of governments should be working together to strategically accelerate the development of identified lands within the official community plan.

I just wanted to reference some of those that work because a significant amount of time and resources did go toward that. Likewise, in terms of other work, which was alluded to earlier, *A Home for Everyone: A Housing Action Plan for Whitehorse*, was brought forward by the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition. Again, significant work was done by that coalition, and thanks to all the individuals and agencies who collectively contributed to that process. Like within our own framework, in talking about the continuum of housing options to be made available for emergency shelter, to transitional support, to longer term rental, and affordable home ownership and so forth — I just wanted to reference that. But, again, for the sake of not wanting to be repetitive, I will perhaps resist going into the specifics of that report as well.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to looking at addressing some of the housing challenges currently being experienced within

the Yukon, it's not simply a matter of putting up houses and looking at a different continuum of housing options; it's not just about land development and affordable land accessibility — but looking at the policy end of it as well. Some of that has been pointed to by organizations and has been identified as a priority of our government. The *Landlord and Tenant Act* — the select committee that was struck — and the work that was tabled by the select committee some months ago, speaks to a number of recommendations to which our government is committed — which I spoke to on the floor of the Legislature — in terms of providing the protection of the interests of both the tenants and the landlords, while promoting a healthy rental housing market throughout the territory.

In good time we will be providing meaningful opportunities for consultation with landlords, the tenants and the public. I hope that members of the opposition agree that there is a warranted need for additional consultation when it comes to this very specific, very important issue.

As I mentioned, it has not been amended or changed in 50 years, so a review is well-needed. It is a very complicated piece and one that we need to be very careful in demonstrating that measured and responsible approach in determining the balance for both. In terms of the land titles — there is also a commitment within our platform to proceed on modernizing that particular statute.

In addition to those particular policy initiatives, I have to also mention that there have been other policy initiatives that have been taking place or took place years ago, one of which was to come up with a priority housing initiative — a policy. That had not been taken up by any previous government, and we did. We consulted at great length with all the respective stakeholders and, through the Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors, made recommendations on a number of categories: for example, those fleeing abusive relationships, seeing that they receive priority housing. There are many other examples of those receiving priority housing.

That's one of many policy initiatives that I will not get into at great length here today, but I did want to add to that. When we look at the Yukon Party election platform, entitled *Moving Forward Together*, we made a number of specific commitments dealing with housing, one of which included, at the recommendation of many stakeholders, raising title on Crown land at various sites throughout the Yukon for sale to the private sector on a case-by-case basis and making that market-dependent as well.

I am very pleased that, on November 7, the Yukon government did issue an expression of interest, seeking to collect information and ideas, approaches and to gauge the interest of the private sector in undertaking new development of affordable rental units. It included details on Lot 262, which is a parcel of public land within the City of Whitehorse with developmental potential.

The submissions were received and the deadline came December 7, I believe it was. I believe there were 12 submissions received. We look forward to reviewing those submissions in collaboration with the various departments and the City of

Whitehorse in making recommendations and coming up with next steps to proceed with this initiative.

Coming up with affordable rental accommodations was something that I am pretty sure all of us heard very loud and clear. Given the lack of building of those affordable rental accommodations over recent years, this is really a very important first step toward making land available. In this regard, it's another option that's available to the private sector.

We also made a commitment to address the housing needs by working within our plan to address housing. This includes proposing improved accommodations for the territory's homeless by working with the Salvation Army to expand or replace their existing homeless shelter in Whitehorse; also committing to working with a non-government organization to develop a youth shelter in Whitehorse.

Together with these facilities, we are investing over \$20 million to ensure further housing options are available to those most in need: seniors and persons with disabilities. That includes construction of a new seniors complex in Mayo, containing up to eight units; the replacement of McDonald Lodge in Dawson City with a new facility to be attached to the new Dawson City hospital; also \$4.5 million for second-stage housing for Kaushee's Place here in Whitehorse; providing up to \$2 million for Options for Independent Living to expand its current complex for adults with FASD, despite what the opposition may find; coming up with \$2.57 million for the new seniors Abbeyfield complex in Whitehorse; \$2.2 million for three Takhini duplexes to construct six units; and dollars for mobile home replacements within Carmacks and Ross River.

We made a number of other commitments, which I have also spoken to and do not want to repeat for the sake of being repetitive — in terms of land development, working with the Yukon College to construct new student residences, and working with First Nation partners, such as Kwanlin Dun — and I already referenced the letter of understanding when it comes to land development opportunities.

I'm coming very close to the end of my remarks here. When it comes to coming up with a framework, I guess the point I want to make is that the Yukon government has been doing a substantive amount of work, and that addressing housing in the territory takes a collaborative and coordinated approach within a housing framework, which we have and which we currently continue to update and revise, looking at the housing policies, all the programs, the support services, responding to the different needs across the lifespan of all Yukoners — I alluded to some of those before.

We know that we need to connect the dots, so to speak. There are many close linkages among our partners, even within the Government of Yukon confines. We need to coordinate. We need to communicate in terms of housing — the social, economic, health policies, which all dovetail into housing. We need to coordinate programs and services to support the availability of appropriate housing, when such services are needed. So a well-coordinated strategic investment in housing will in fact provide stimulation to the economy. It provides community economic development, enhances health and well-being. It will improve our infrastructure for future generations and will

generally benefit all Yukoners. This approach, particularly in a relatively small jurisdiction such as Yukon, maximizes the efficient and effective use of all our resources.

Social inclusion speaks to the inclusive approach to inform the design and the implementation of appropriate housing policies, programs and services. I know the Minister of Health and Social Services will speak more at length to this very issue. It is another strategy within the Government of Yukon that also needs to be part of the equation in terms of developing a wholly comprehensive housing strategy for the Yukon.

It needs to be partnership-based — developing and strengthening partnerships, as I mentioned earlier. We all have a role to play, and we all share in the responsibility for housing outcomes. So all of our partners — we do need to work together to provide a range of housing options, some of which are already underway, some of which are being proposed at this point in time. Of course, we also need to be fiscally responsible and accountable. We need to avoid homelessness on all accounts. We need to avoid substandard housing. We need to reflect the physical circumstances as they evolve. Long-term funding — we need to provide that — predictability. With stability and adequately staged housing options, based on planning, individuals and families will be supported toward providing that realistic and appropriate level of independence and self-reliance, whether it's in the short-term or the long-term.

So, let me leave it at this: we are very much committed within our housing framework to provide an adequate supply of suitable, affordable housing options within acceptable conditions.

That is working with all of our partners. We are also committed to encouraging self-sufficiency in housing for low- and moderate-income households, providing clear and understandable information about housing options and programs. We are committed to providing supports for individuals who are in need of additional assistance to obtain, maintain and retain stable housing and providing that integrating continuum of housing services and housing options for those accessing and retaining stable housing in the territory. We are committed to cultivating those partnerships with all governments, agencies and citizens, coordinating those reports and clarifying those roles and responsibilities. Those are all initiatives that are already built within our housing framework.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to thank the member opposite for bringing forward this important motion. We look forward to further debate and working to enhance the state of the motion as is currently addressed. Thank you.

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

#### Point of order

**Speaker:** Leader of the Official Opposition.

**Ms. Hanson:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of clarification, is there not an order that should be followed here?

#### Speaker's ruling

**Speaker:** I was not presented with an order. I assumed that the Third Party would be next, but no one stood.

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

**Mr. Silver:** I would like to just start with a letter that I received from the Child Development Centre — Sue Lancaster from the Child Development Centre and Paulette Michaud from the Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program — attention to Mr. Silver, that states: “We are writing you on behalf of two non-profit groups, the Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP) and the Child Development Centre (CDC). We are looking to you to assist us in our housing emergency. We have been given notice by our current landlord. We were given this notice almost a year ago and we are still unable to locate a possible solution and now have less than a year to vacate. Due to the housing shortage in Dawson, we are very concerned.

“Both programs share space in a local resident's home. We are both non-profit programs and are funded through Health Canada. CPNP assists families both prenatal and post natal until the child is one year of age. The program provides respite care, early nutrition intervention, family support, and a number of other important supports for families in Dawson. CDC assists families with children, birth through school age, through two aspects of their program — direct therapy services for children with learning struggles, and a follow-along program that helps keep families informed of development. It also offers the community Romp & Run two days per week. Both programs are very important to the Dawson community.”

This letter was also forwarded to the Minister of Education and to the City of Dawson.

I begin with this purely because the current situation in Dawson is unique to Dawson. As the minister can attest, the housing crisis in Whitehorse is similar; however, there are quite a few differences as to why Dawson has a housing crisis currently. When I say currently, I mean pre-boom — this boom that everybody talks about in the mining industry. I must say, if we can't figure out our housing needs now in the exploration stage when industry workers are currently content to camp out and leave the community when the work subsides in the winter, we will be in quite a predicament when one of the major mining operations decides to land in our community.

Speaking about the exploration stage, I know personally dozens of new-to-Yukon workers who are very hard-working Ground Truthers who would 100 percent pull up their roots in the communities they come from to live in Dawson if they had the chance. The only problem — the only thing stopping them from doing so is suitable housing. When Viceroy opened years ago, 30 new students came to Robert Service School. When that hardrock mining organization closed their doors, 30 fewer students registered the next year at Robert Service School. Golden Predator is poised and ready to reopen that particular operation this summer. I shudder to think that the families of these workers are not going to come up to our community and they're actually going to stay down south, so we won't even see that impact. Why? Well, we already have a housing crisis in the pre-boom; now we're going to have a housing crisis in that boom.

I was curious as to the minister's knowledge of the current housing crisis in Dawson and if their party could speak to the consultation process that the government has completed and

how they feel that the crisis in Dawson may be similar, compared to — a little bit different in the Dawson region. I say that because we have had consultation done by a number of different organizations. The Klondike Development Organization, for example, has completed the consultation needed. They have done interviews with stakeholders and identified local development policies and programs, existing and recommended. They have identified stock, demand and also barriers in our region. Previous to that, the economic scan and assessment of potential development by Vector Research in March of 2008 concluded that housing is currently — and this is 2008 — a challenge in Dawson. Whether it is for year-round residents or for temporary summer workers, it is a topic that arises consistently. Any further development that will push the demand for housing is going to run into limits already existing in the community around housing.

While there is an overall desire for a modest population increase — a modest population increase — to reach a critical mass for year-round services, there is currently very limited capacity for new residents to find adequate housing. This applies to rental properties, as well, and without adequate apartment accommodations or some form of condominium development, the ability to attract and to retain people is going to be a factor.

So I have already given a few hints as to what I think are the solutions to these particular problems, but I would like the minister responsible to comment on how we can help this unique concept, and how we can actually diversify the needs of Dawson compared to the other needs of Whitehorse particularly and also maybe comment a little bit on that process of consultation with the locals who, in my opinion, have done a thorough and excellent job of identifying the current needs. I would like to say thank you.

It is the opinion of the Yukon Liberal Party that the time for studies has passed. I would like to thank the City of Dawson, Across the River Consulting, the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, and the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture for their due diligence on the housing crisis.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I was particularly interested to hear, when the first speaker rose to her feet, her quoting a number of times from *A Home for Everyone – A Housing Action Plan for Whitehorse* because I have kept this report on my desk ever since I came to the Legislature and, prior to that, I had it with me at the city because it addresses a number of issues that I feel are extremely important, not only to Whitehorse, but to the whole territory.

First of all, I was going to get into some of the things that the Health and Social Services department is doing, in terms of what I see as fulfilling our responsibility. But after listening to the first speaker, I think there are a number of things that I have to say.

The first is that when I look at this report, there are a number of things that this government is already doing or has started to do, even prior to the election. The first is in rental housing, where the gap is identified as affordable, accessible, adequate rental. The barriers are cost and availability of land,

and the recommended action was to develop a means for the City of Whitehorse and YTG to reduce land costs, where a builder commits to affordable, multi-unit rental housing. I think that was undertaken even before this election was called. I know I was a city councillor at the time, and the Premier came to me as a city councillor and said, “Maybe we could work together on this issue and see what we can do.”

Consequently the proposal for the area at Mountainview and Range Road there was initiated and that went ahead, and as you heard from the minister who just spoke, we have, I think, 12 proposals. Hopefully we’ll get a proposal from that group that makes rental a little less expensive and a little more readily available in the city.

The other was the supply of social housing units is insufficient, and I won’t go through the barriers, but the recommendation was to make social housing a key priority within Yukon Housing Corporation’s mandate, and I think we’ve done that. We’ve not only made it a key priority within Yukon Housing Corporation, but we’ve made it a key priority within the Department of Health and Social Services, and I’ll get into that a little more.

The other was providing leadership and development of collaborative solutions between NGOs, government and the private sector. That’s something we’re really attempting to do at the present time. Again, we’ll get into that as time goes on — but having said that, there were some other statements that were made that I have a great deal of difficulty accepting. One in particular was land availability and how land availability is something that this government is responsible for, especially within the City of Whitehorse.

When I first became a city councillor — nine, 10 or 11 years ago — one of the issues at the table at city council at that time was the development north of the creek area — what was it called?

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

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** North of Copper Ridge. The territorial government was in the process of doing consultations with the city and with residents in the Wolf Creek area and associated areas to do a development in that area. I went to a meeting as an interested observer, as a city councillor, because at that time we weren’t doing any of the planning. YTG’s responsibility was to do planning and carry out the development as well. I sat in a meeting where there were 250 people and 240 of them were opposed to that development, and that was my first introduction to how vociferous and how outspoken people were about any development in their backyard.

That one went on and the development was finally reduced from 86 lots down, I think, to about 55 lots, so 31 lots were lost in that, but at least some were done.

That whole incident precipitated the land development protocol that came along in 2006. That was something that the city pushed and we found a very willing partner in the then Government of Yukon because they did not want to subject their people, their employees, as well as the Community Affairs minister at the time, who was in charge of land development. They simply did not want to do it any more and the city had evolved to a point where we could.

The land development protocol was signed in 2006. This is one of the things that I mentioned in my response to the Speech from the Throne: how important it is that members of this Legislature support the city in this land development protocol because, if you don't, the same things that happened back then in 2001-02 — I am not sure exactly the year — will continue to happen and are continuing to happen even now.

In the action plan for Whitehorse, they talk of a lack of suitable units of building due to land costs and availability, zoning restrictions, NIMBYism, or funding. The biggest single thing is NIMBYism. Zoning restrictions are no longer a real difficulty within the City of Whitehorse. The city has actively embraced a policy of higher density, smaller individual lots, height restriction relaxation and generally an overall densification in the housing footprint that they see that they want to develop.

If we don't support the city in their planning and consultation — all you have to do is take a look at the consultation they've done in terms of the official community plan. There were 92 public meetings and other forums where the public could get involved in determining the OCP, 92 separate instances where people could get involved. There were a number of large public meetings and they opened a website that allowed people to participate in the planning.

During that planning process, Porter Creek D was set aside. There was a footprint set aside for future residential development. Unfortunately, about five years ago, there was a moratorium called by the territorial government and the biggest reason was that the Porter Creek Residents Association at that time opposed the development. A year was taken out of the phase and public meetings were held during that year with respect to Porter Creek D.

During that time of consultation, I went to a number of those meetings, and I never once saw more residents there than there were government and municipal employees — not once. At every meeting there were more government and city representatives than there were the public. So, based on that consultation, the city decided to at least proceed with planning of Porter Creek D. Recent events can only show you how difficult it has been.

I bring this up because it is so important that we, as territorial legislators, support the city and not take the attitude, which I have seen and it is unfortunate. I know the Member for Riverdale South used to be a municipal councillor and went through a number of these meetings at the same time I did and understood how difficult it is for a city councillor to sit there and look at these folks who are totally opposed to any development and without any kind of visible support, including visible support from the authors of this document who stated that NIMBYism was a massive problem. Yet the authors of that report didn't support the city in their development either.

Fortunately, the city has decided to go ahead. I consider it fortunate because those lots are absolutely essential in the development and maintaining, or at least trying to get, lot prices and house prices in Whitehorse to at least stabilize, if not decrease.

I think the other thing that I found that was very interesting is that the member opposite mentioned the city and how they should have a role in providing affordable housing. My first thought was to chuckle and think, I wonder if that member actually talked to anybody in city council or the city administration before making that statement, because the city has a very clear mandate and it doesn't include affordable housing. What it does include, though, is enabling, through zoning and policy and the official community plan, affordable housing to take place. They've done that and it's one of the solutions recommended by the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, and I was really happy to see during my time as a city councillor that we were able to do this.

We were able to increase the stock of basement and garden suites, pocket housing and multi-unit buildings through the zoning that we fought through, even though every time we went for an increase in density in the form of condominiums — I was going to say apartments, but nobody really wanted to build apartments because they couldn't get their money out — there was a violent outcry every single time. During that time, I didn't see anybody come forth again from the Anti-Poverty Coalition or even from this government or the opposition to support the city in that area.

One of the solutions here is to implement a campaign to encourage homeowners to develop basement, garden or granny suites for rental. That was something else we did, in cooperation with Yukon Housing Corporation. As a city councillor, I appreciated that the Yukon Housing Corporation made grants or low-interest loans available for that as well. So I was really happy to see that we did receive some support, but I just find it difficult to understand their opposition to a housing development that has not yet gone through environmental-impact assessment or the actual planning. All four of their candidates in Porter Creek and McIntyre opposed that development. I was at the news conference when they were there.

So I find it really disappointing, and I think that we have to respect boundaries here — municipal boundaries. It's okay to look after your constituents but, as a group, to oppose any housing or development in that area without knowing what's proposed is, to me, completely unnecessary.

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

#### Point of order

**Speaker:** Member for Takhini-Kopper King, on a point of order.

**Ms. White:** Sorry. I'm going to go for 19(g): "imputes false or unavowed motives to another member". The minister does not know my motives for my actions, so therefore I don't think he can talk about them.

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

**Speaker:** The Minister for Health and Social Services, on the point of order.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I apologize again. I did not try to make any statements about the member's motive. All I know is that she opposed the development at a news conference that I participated in for whatever reason.

**Speaker's ruling**

**Speaker:** I don't believe there is a point of order. The Minister of Health and Social Services still has the floor.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Having gotten through that part, I would like to now address the Health and Social Services department and our role and our priorities as far as housing goes in the territory.

First of all, I was going to open by saying that affordable housing especially is a very complex matter in this territory, and it touches a broad range of populations and a huge range of participants in order to actually achieve the goal that we hope to achieve. I think that goes without saying for all the folks gathered here today.

We are trying to address the issue through a number of actions, and we are also in the process of investigating a range of actions that we think will assist in addressing the issue.

We have done significant work to date to identify options, and we think that we have a number of things that are available to address the issues of affordability and adequacy of housing at all points along the housing continuum. By the housing continuum I mean — as it applies to us anyway — that there are six stages in the housing continuum, everything from emergency shelters to transitional housing to supportive housing to affordable social housing to private market rental and then finally home ownership, which is the ultimate goal of most of us. The things that I will deal with are the first three items on the housing continuum: emergency shelters, transitional housing and supportive housing.

The Health and Social Services department mandate is to service people who are homeless or under-housed and who have difficulty obtaining, maintaining and retaining housing and therefore require additional services or supports. We focus especially on persons who are vulnerable and are the "at risk" populations — by that I mean those who have mental illnesses, physical or intellectual limitations or disabilities, and other factors such as youth, women escaping violent home situations or concurrent challenges, or finally, addictions.

We are attempting to do a number of things. The first that we probably have talked about more than anything is the transition of the Alexander Street Residence from a social housing unit that housed senior citizens to a proposal where we will house difficult-to-house folks, as well as Yukon Review Board clients who are ordered there through a variety of court orders. We also hope to house people from a number of different areas within the city, so I'll go through them.

At the current time, we have family-approved homes. These are model homes that often couples are who are providing care — we currently have a stock of about nine of those. We have young adults temporarily remaining with Family and Children's Services, and these are young adults with a variety of different disabilities. The department assists those families in maintaining a home situation for the children. We also have youth who are transitioning from one to the other. We have specialized, approved homes, which are for young folks with specialized programming needs and we have 17 individuals involved in 14 different homes in the city.

We also have group homes with specialized programming needs. We have clients in facilities outside of the Yukon. We have at-risk Health and Social Services clients and finally, we have St. Elias which, as probably most of you know, has been returned to government control and we are currently staffing the St. Elias Residence ourselves. We hope to be able to move some of the clients who are not in ideal situations now into Alexander Street. However, we also understand that the population that we're trying to serve is growing, so there is a very real possibility that Alexander Street Residence will be a short-term solution, and we're going to be looking for additional solutions over time.

We recognize that housing is a key component of individual and population health and wellness and social inclusion. Those are very important ideals to the territory and to the Department of Health and Social Services. While we're talking about this, it brings to mind the Northern City Supportive Housing Coalition proposal that came to the Government of Yukon some time ago.

They had a proposal to build, own and operate a 20-unit supportive housing facility for hard-to-house social assistance recipients. That proposal was given to the Yukon Housing Corporation and then, at a later date, it was withdrawn. There were a number of concerns that they had, so they withdrew their proposal. At the present time, I believe we already have a set appointment to meet with the Northern City Supportive Housing Coalition and go over some of the problems, perhaps, that they felt they experienced, and I hope to have a proposal, even though we're not in the proposal stage — I'll state that right out. We're not in a stage right now where we're inviting proposals for anything. We're always willing to look at these things. I hope to be able to discuss that with them some time in the next little while.

I guess while I'm on the subject of proposals, I should talk about the Options for Independence proposal that we hope to be going forward with. Options for Independence is a society that has been in existence for almost 15 years.

**Speaker:** The member's time has elapsed. Thank you.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you. Please have a seat.

**Ms. Hanson:** I take it from the comments made by the two ministers opposite, and in fact what I'm hearing from them, is clear support for this motion. I also rise in support of this motion as well. What I've heard from both speakers is a very clear listing of a whole series — I think the speaker previous to the last minister, the minister responsible for Community Services, made the comment. When we review the Blues tomorrow, it'll be more clear. She identified a whole series of components of a framework, and that framework will fit very well into what we're proposing here as a Yukon housing strategy. What is missing is a strategy for housing for this territory.

Not only is it mentioned in the Yukon Party's platform, when they speak to the fact that there are real and pressing challenges with respect to housing and land availability, but this government acknowledged that it failed by having to put in

its platform that it was going to have to deal with real and pressing challenges on housing and land availability.

I want to come back, if I may, to a couple of comments that were made by the first speaker, because there needs to be a little bit of a reality check.

The minister opposite made a number of comments to the effect that it was this Yukon Party government that had to somehow pick up and fix what was done by prior governments with respect to neglecting the whole housing portfolio, particularly when it came to social housing. The reality is that the social housing stock in the Yukon had been allowed to significantly deteriorate under the previous Yukon Party government. If you will recall, those of us who have been around for awhile — now I was not born here, but I do go back to 1978, so I do have a bit of history and understanding of who was doing what, when. In fact, it was Yukon Party government that was in power and did allow that social housing stock to deteriorate.

It was a priority of the NDP to reestablish the Yukon Housing Corporation in its proper role and to renovate the social housing stock to ensure that there would be units that could continue to be able to serve Yukon residents. The NDP reintroduced and introduced the home ownership and home repair program. It was under Yukon NDP mandates that we saw a housing strategy and a mobile home strategy that were innovative and far-sighted, and that began to meet the needs of seniors and lower income citizens.

I would suggest if there are doubts — and I do see some shaking of the heads across the way there — that these reports and annual budgets are readily available to the ministers to read them on their own.

It's not really worthy of pondering or waiting too long on that one. The really important piece of our presence here this afternoon is to move on the importance of developing a housing strategy for this territory.

What we've seen over the course of the last almost nine years of this Yukon Party government is what I heard from the last minister: it's a silo approach. We're talking about a Yukon government strategy, a broad strategy as it says, that includes all, all First Nation governments — all governments, First Nations and municipal governments, non-profit and private housing providers. When we talk about the approach to housing in this territory, we have clearly, as the NDP, spoken to all partners. We are very clearly aware of the Chamber of Commerce's condemnation of the Yukon Party in creating a housing crisis. That's why they were forced to develop the Partnering for Success plan. They went and spoke to the private sector and came up with these concrete suggestions. Nobody would ever suggest that the private sector is not a key party in this — they are; but they are not the only partners.

### Speaker's statement

**Speaker:** Order please. I would ask the Government House Leader to keep his socializing down a bit as I'm finding it disruptive. If he has to pass a message to give people direction, I can appreciate that, but I am getting a little tired of all the motion. Thank you.

**Ms. Hanson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that.

So, what we've seen over the course of the last nine years has been a silo approach. I would like to commend the government for being able to use the significant amount of federal stimulus dollars that came into this territory and to address some of the needs of seniors and single-parent families, because nobody would argue that those families do not require priority.

You know, it's a year ago yesterday that I was elected to this Legislative Assembly, and during the course of the six months of the campaign — or at least my campaign, because what else was I doing? I wasn't elected. I was talking with people in my riding on a daily basis. The issue that was paramount in everybody's mind then was housing. Again, going into this general election, the issue that was paramount was housing. I had the opportunity and I took the opportunity to go to different communities throughout this territory to look at some of the units and to talk to some of the people who live in the new social housing units that this territorial government has created. It's one thing to spend the money; it's another to do it properly and effectively.

When you talk about the new waterfront housing, I would encourage the minister — he hasn't had a chance to go down there yet. I would encourage him to go in there and go and knock on the people's doors — and to a person. You will hear what I heard. It was, "Liz, come in. Look at my apartment. It's beautiful. I'm so happy to be here, but please come into my bathroom." I'd think, "My God, how many times do I go into bathrooms?" I don't, usually, on home visits. Every single person wanted to show me their bathroom because they can't get into the bathtub. One old guy, 83, said look: "You know, there's a pole here, but I'm not a pole dancer." He said, "I can't get out of the tub if I get in here."

What we have done, Mr. Speaker? We have created a situation where these are supposed to be their homes and the ideal is that it is to be "aging in place, to live graciously and for a long time in your own home." If you cannot bathe, then you are going to be relying on home care. It speaks to planning; it speaks to effective use; and it speaks to consultation — consultation with the Yukon Council on Aging, who have offered to work with the government on these issues.

Look at the residents in Teslin. Look at the labyrinth of stairs on the exterior of that. Is that accessible and easy for seniors to get in and out of? Every single one of these places got whatever the stock bathtub was — impossible for seniors or handicapped people to get in and out of.

It is one thing to spend the money; it is quite another to do it in a proper and effective way.

The minister who spoke first spoke about the litany of programs and services. Many, many times we heard the theme — repetition of some innovative programming. I was pleased to see that she had the same comment that I did. I had my notes as I was listening to her speak. When I noted that she was listing the spending, my comment to myself was, "Where do the dots connect?" and she said, "It's time to connect the dots," and that's exactly what a Yukon housing strategy will do. It will connect the dots so that it's not the silo approach — one gov-



ernment department or agency doing something and maybe tentatively connecting with the others.

The minister — just preceding me speaking — spoke about the social inclusion strategy. Social inclusion is really important. We have supported — as the Official Opposition, as the Third Party — the dimensions of social and economic inclusion as defining characteristics of a good and healthy society. Social inclusion demands that at least the departments of Health and Social Services, Justice, Education and the Yukon Housing Corporation, as well as Energy, Mines and Resources and Community Services — they need to be talking as one, as a Government of Yukon. That's why you need a Yukon housing strategy so we get that integrated approach to dealing and responding to the dimensions — the continuum, as we have heard.

That's a word we used in describing this last year, and I'm really pleased to hear it echoed back from the government side, because it means that they're getting what we're talking about. That's progress. I'm pleased.

I just want to comment about the three elements of emergency, transitional and supportive housing as being an important part of the most difficult edge of the continuum and moving along. We must make note of the fact that it's a Yukon Party government that made promises in 2002 and again in 2006 and now in 2011 to deal with an emergency youth shelter. They did not deliver in either of those two mandates. What makes you believe that they will deliver it this time? That's why you need a housing strategy — so that you can see that it doesn't get left off the edges because other priorities come along.

When we hear that Alexander Street is now going to be used — two years ago, Alexander Street, according to the government opposite, was unable to be used any more. It was old housing stock. It must be torn down. That was repeated every time we came up with alternatives in response to the demonstrated need for emergency short-term housing for the hard-to-house or for people who just have no place to live. They may not have had any of the social indicators of somebody who is hard-to-house; they simply had no place to live for economic reasons — and the government said, repeatedly, Alexander Street cannot be used for living. It must be torn down.

Now we hear that we are going to be using it and we are going to be using it without demonstrating — at least demonstrated to the public in any way — what the effectiveness of this plan is for putting together hard-to-house individuals and those who are under the Yukon Review Board. We are talking about, basically, warehousing; we are talking about people who require line-of-sight supervision, and those who are hard to house. Those are people who have distinctly different needs and it beggars the imagination. The Official Opposition will be looking for the business case that would be put forward to this to demonstrate that this is cost effective and is best practice, that there is any evidence to demonstrate that this is a good use of public money, or that we'll have the social outcomes that are desired.

There were other issues raised during the course of the long afternoon of recitations of expenditures by the govern-

ment. One — and I must comment on it again — is the notion of the northern housing trust. Yes, it is true that that money was flowed through the Government of Yukon, the \$50 million. Let's keep in mind that that was \$50 million that was provided by the federal government to the Yukon government.

In 2006, \$32 million did flow eventually to First Nations — \$18 million this government has sat upon and could have been using to address the social housing demands and needs and not have created the crisis that people are facing who have no place to live. No place to live. There is no disputing the facts that the minister and the minister's office all have, that there is in excess of 100 people with no place to live. That is shameful. It's one thing to say that we've got lots of money and we're flowing through the money and we're building these housing units but, again, if they're not effectively built —

The minister said that she was going to visit families who live in Riverdale. I would encourage her to go and visit the people and actually to talk to the people who live in those units. When I was in the election campaign this fall, you'll recall that there were some patches of bad weather there. When you walk into those Riverdale units, I had expected them to be family-centred and family-friendly. Where do the children play? You've got boulders for front yards. You don't have playing fields. Most people, when you design a family-centred apartment, would think that you would put playing fields in there. These do not.

When you walk in, the main floor units are cement. They're not heated. When you walk in, when there's wet snow traipsing in, you suddenly have a skating rink in the foyer. It speaks to spending money; it doesn't speak to spending money effectively.

So, when we talk about a housing strategy, we're talking about making sure that all of the elements, all of the planning, is taken into consideration and all of the voices are heard. There's no doubt, and it has been said many times, not simply by the Official Opposition — the public has said it, the faith community has said it, the non-government sector has said it, the business sector has said it — we are in a housing crisis. That crisis has to be systemic and you need to have a systemic response to it. It's not simply ad hoc, little bits and pieces, by one government department or going out and suggesting, as the government has done — it didn't ask and it didn't tell the private sector what the criteria would be or what they were looking for when they said they wanted the private sector to get involved in developing housing in the Mountainview area; it simply said that they wanted to gauge the developers and contractors and private landowners in undertaking development and to provide a form for feedback — utilize the knowledge and expertise. It didn't say what government wants out of it. It didn't say that they had an expectation — that in return for significant policy concessions or policy concessions or policy incentives, that they would expect the private sector to do X, Y or Z.

A strategy would say, based on evidence and based on best practices: this is what we expect the private sector to do in return for our allowing them to have access at reduced cost for land — to access to other incentives — because we do want the

private sector to be involved because, as the ministers opposite are correctly saying, there has not been private sector development — with one or two exceptions — in developing rental accommodation in this territory for over 30 years. Yes, it is important to get them involved, but government has to take a leadership role and it has to say what it expects in return for giving them access to land and incentives to do what their job is, which is to maximize profit. We don't doubt that at all. We hope that that will happen, but certainly with vague guidelines and vague criteria set out without a strategy, it isn't going to be achieved.

I had intended originally to speak primarily to the hard-to-house aspect of this and, in particular, to the failure of this government to address the really serious issue of those people who are hard to house. Again, the government has a tendency — and I've noted this before — to ask the public for its comments — to go out and seek input and then to ignore it.

The most recent example of that, and the most shameful example of that, has to do with its lack of response to the Beaton/Allen report. When the Government of Yukon established the review of policing in the territory in response to the death of Raymond Silverfox, during the course of that review it became clear that there were so many dimensions of policing in this territory that needed to be addressed. The one element that really triggered it all: how do we deal with the most vulnerable — those people who are severely intoxicated and who are at risk — in our community? That was being missed.

So they asked, and thank goodness they did. They asked Dr. Bruce Beaton and Chief James Allen to take a look at this and to look at practices elsewhere in the country and to come back with recommendations because recognizing — perhaps the government didn't recognize it at the time, but certainly the people they asked, Dr. Beaton and Chief Allen, came back and said, "You know what? Being acutely intoxicated, being at-risk, being vulnerable is not a crime." It's not a justice issue; it's a societal issue; it's a social issue; it's a health issue and you need to treat it like that and this government has refused to do that and that is a shame. That speaks to a lack of a housing strategy because until and unless you're willing to listen to all the voices, including the voices of the people that you ask to give you advice, then it begs the notion of whether or not we are actually seriously in a democracy that wants to be responsive and will be listening to the public as we go forward.

The opposition did. We were concerned enough with the lack of response on the Task Force on the Acutely Intoxicated Persons at Risk. In fact, in May of this year, we held a public forum. It wasn't a "talking heads" kind of thing. We simply said, "Come on out. Come and tell us what you think are the real issues here." In excess of 100 people came to that forum — people representing the real estate association, from city council, from the Anti-Poverty Coalition.

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

**Ms. Hanson:** There were people there from the city.

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

**Ms. Hanson:** Excuse me —

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

**Ms. Hanson:** Mr. Speaker, I guess I shouldn't engage in across-the-aisle bantering with the member opposite. There were representatives from the city, from the Anti-Poverty Coalition, the private sector, various non-government agencies — in excess of 100 people attended this event to share their views on how we implement the 12 recommendations.

It's clear that this government, absent a strategy, will not move forward on dealing with those people who are hard to house.

The notion that the territorial government would simply jump to the conclusion that an over-burdened, non-profit organization like the Salvation Army is the response to dealing with the hard-to-house — is the response to dealing with those people who have the issues are identified in the Beaton and Allen report. It is impossible to believe that this is seriously being tendered as their option. We will be pressing the government to deal with this in the context of developing a Yukon housing strategy. I am so pleased to hear both the speakers for the government set out clearly their support by articulating the elements of a strategy. Now let's work together and get that strategy developed. Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** It is indeed a pleasure to rise on private members' day, the first one for me since returning to the Legislature.

I will take this opportunity to wish all of my constituents in Riverdale North, my friends and family, and indeed all members of the Legislature season's greetings and all the best in the New Year coming up. It's certainly an exciting time as our mini-sitting winds down tomorrow. I felt I may not have that opportunity to pass those greetings on tomorrow. Thank you for allowing me to do that right now.

One of the exciting things for me about private members' day is being able to listen to different perspectives and the perspectives of all 19 or 18 members — save yourself, Mr. Speaker, of course — in this House and listen to their particular concerns when it comes to their particular ridings. I have been listening to the Member for Klondike on issues in Dawson City, and I've spoken with the Member for Mayo-Tatchun, former principal in Pelly Crossing, about staff housing issues up there. I'd like to actually congratulate the Member for Takhini-Kopper King for bringing forward this motion today, because it is, of course, one of the top issues that we heard at doorsteps only a few short months ago.

So, with that, maybe what I'd like to just focus on first is a few stories from my riding from going door to door there. Riverdale North, as I mentioned in my response to the Speech from the Throne, is diverse. The diversity of Riverdale North is in the people who live in Riverdale North and the different circumstances that they're in. There are a number of apartment buildings there with people renting — some young couples. I knocked on one apartment door one evening and talked to a young couple that makes a substantial wage, but was having difficulty saving enough for a down payment to purchase a home. There were also a number of people who are new to the riding and new to the Yukon.

A young family on Tay Street had just purchased a home. The gentleman of the household works at Alexco at the Belle-eno mine and commutes back and forth, and his wife and children live there — certainly they bought at a point in the market that may be different from when others entered the market, as that goes, with regard to that home ownership. Then of course there are a number of long-time Yukoners who live in Riverdale North and have lived there for a number of years. Certainly they appreciate the increased equity that now exists in their homes. So for Riverdale North and for all the ridings throughout the Yukon, it's certainly an issue that is very complex and multi-faceted and I think that has been identified by all the members who have spoken before me here today.

Now maybe what I could touch upon for a little bit is the Yukon Housing Corporation for which I am the minister responsible and some of the things that have been accomplished by the corporation in the last number of years.

I would like to thank the Minister of Community Services. I know that during her remarks today, she pointed out the hard-working officials at the Yukon Housing Corporation, who had to come up with plans and designs with federal dollars that were time-sensitive. I would also like to echo her congratulations for the capital development unit, especially at the Yukon Housing Corporation, for their hard work in spending a substantial amount of dollars over the past number of years.

Some of those units built include a 19-unit affordable housing building in Dawson City; a 12-unit Watson Lake seniors facility; a 32-unit Whitehorse affordable housing project for single-parent families — the one off of Nisutlin Drive in Riverdale. As well, there is a six-unit seniors facility in Faro; an eight-unit Teslin seniors facility; six-unit family townhouses in Ingram; and a 30-unit Whitehorse seniors facility.

The Member for Whitehorse Centre and Leader of the Official Opposition referenced that facility. I do look forward to going there early in the new year and visiting with the residents — not only there, but at other seniors facilities, such as the one at 600 College Drive, or Closeleigh Manor, or the one on Lambert Street in downtown Whitehorse.

There are a number of multi-unit facilities that are the responsibility of the Yukon Housing Corporation, and I look forward to getting out there and talking to the people it matters most to, which are the residents who live in those units.

There have been four, single-family residences in Carmacks under construction and single-family residences in Ross River that are under construction, as well as three duplex units in Takhini North that are under construction. So that's some of the affordable housing activities the Yukon Housing Corporation has undertaken in the last couple of years — a significant investment. In the five-year period from 2006 to 2011, the Yukon Housing Corporation has increased its number of social housing units by approximately 40 percent, which is a significant number. I have to congratulate previous ministers and the previous government for those accomplishments in such a short time frame, for something that's as important as providing social housing for Yukoners.

The core business of the Yukon Housing Corporation is the provision of staff and social housing, managing a variety of

loan programs, and housing industry development. The corporation has just over 130 staff housing clients, approximately 656 in social housing and 982 loan clients. The corporation is directly helping over 1,700 Yukon clients and their families, which is an estimate of about 4,250 people, to achieve a better quality of life and to be able to have proper housing here in the Yukon.

When it comes to staff housing — I know the Member for Takhini-Kopper King spoke about staff housing as well in her opening remarks — there are certainly some challenges. I recognize that. In talking to the Member for Mayo-Tatchun about some of the units that exist in Pelly Crossing, for instance, we need to work on improving the quality of those units. I'm anticipating the staff housing strategy from the corporation, and I expect it some time within the next number of months. We're very, very hopeful that not only can we address the wait-list, but also the quality of some of those staff houses.

I'd like to talk a little bit about this government's work with First Nations when it comes to housing.

The Yukon government entered into the Yukon asset construction agreement — I guess the acronym is YACA — with Kwanlin Dun to construct a six-unit family townhouse building in the Ingram subdivision in 2010. As referenced before, the Yukon government entered into a YACA agreement in recognition of the Whitehorse waterfront seniors housing project, constructed on Kwanlin Dun First Nation's traditional territory. In relation to this agreement, Kwanlin Dun is constructing three duplexes in the Takhini North subdivision for Yukon Housing Corporation's social housing stock. Yukon Housing Corporation provided energy, ventilation, indoor air quality training and advice to the Little Salmon-Carmacks First Nation and also provided advice to Champagne and Aishihik, Vuntut Gwitchin, and Carcross-Tagish First Nations as well.

Again, I think Habitat for Humanity is such an important organization. I know that the Minister of Community Services spoke about it and the Minister of Health and Social Services is a former board member of that organization. The Housing Corporation was able to provide approximately \$170,000 to Habitat for Humanity for the purchase of land to build the triplex in downtown Whitehorse and also to provide funding to offset the cost of constructing to the SuperGreen standards. The project was in partnership with Yukon College.

Similarly, the Housing Corporation has donated a new lot in the Ingram subdivision for Habitat for Humanity's newest triplex project which is, I believe, now under construction.

Other ways that the Housing Corporation helps Yukoners and their families is through the loans, mortgages, grants and flood relief programs in the form of grants. Interest-free and low-interest loans were designed to assist homeowners affected by flooding. In 2007, the Southern Lakes, Lake Laberge and Liard River areas were affected by flooding. So that 2007 program just concluded in 2009. Then in 2009 there was the Rock Creek flooding near Dawson City.

The Housing Corporation also assists homeowners in increasing rental accommodations — offers loans to upgrade or construct rental suites on their main property. Again, this is one of those partnership aspects where the municipality — in this

case, the City of Whitehorse — is moving forward with their garden suites and their pocket houses, as referenced by the Minister of Health and Social Services, the former city councillor. I think that's going to be one of the most important things moving forward — those partnerships that we can develop.

This isn't a problem that's unique to the Yukon, so thankfully we have some other jurisdictions and other innovative ideas to look at right across Canada. Of course, we've got some great things that we can do in partnership, not only with the City of Whitehorse and the First Nations throughout the Yukon and other municipalities throughout the Yukon, but also NGOs and the private sector. The land that was made available at the junction of Range Road and Mountainview Road to the private sector is really designed to address some of the affordable rental housing problems, I guess — or issues, I guess is the word I'm looking for — when it comes specifically to the Whitehorse area.

Again, most of the apartments in Riverdale North, I know, are close to full, if not full, and then there is the expense — maybe being able to help that young couple by increasing the stock of rental units in Whitehorse and stabilizing the rental market so that they can afford to save up that down payment and move up through the housing continuum and purchase their own home.

I think that when you look at the platforms of the parties from the last election, housing was identified in all of the platforms and also identified in the Yukon Party's *Moving Forward Together* platform, which were the documents that we put to Yukoners on October 11 as our plan to move forward for all Yukoners. Housing is one of those issues that we addressed. I won't touch on all of the commitments, given the time, but there are a few important things that I would like to talk about under housing for Yukoners and about implementing a comprehensive strategy to address the housing needs of Yukoners. With that implementation of that comprehensive strategy, I would like to move a friendly amendment to the original motion. It's very brief, if I make that motion now.

*Amendment proposed*

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I move

THAT Motion No. 11 be amended by deleting the words “develop a” and replacing them with the words “implement its”.

That is a very friendly amendment, and I do have copies of the amendment for all members in the House and also the copy for the table.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation that Motion No. 11 be amended by deleting the words “develop a” and replacing them with the words “implement its”.

The member has his remaining time.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Maybe what I could do is quickly read out for members of the House how the revised Motion No. 11 reads, which was originally moved by the Member for Takhini-Kopper King.

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to work with all governments, including First Nations, as well as non-profit and private housing providers, to implement its Yukon housing strategy and policy framework that will:

- (1) include all Yukon communities;
- (2) have performance and risk-management measures;
- (3) be comprehensive, innovative, practical and achievable;
- (4) increase the housing supply;
- (5) improve housing affordability; and
- (6) support individuals and families in greatest housing need.

There is more to be accomplished, but I did take the time earlier to reflect on the many positive housing initiatives that have and are continuing to be accomplished by our government through the Yukon Housing Corporation, and my colleagues earlier this afternoon were able to expand on the initiatives being undertaken by Community Services and Health and Social Services.

I'm very proud and pleased of the partnership we've developed in working to address the housing issues for all Yukon residents. One thing I should also say, in conclusion, is that the last time I was here, it was very rare that we were able to support motions. I'm hoping the opposition will take this friendly amendment and we can support this motion unanimously and move forward, as it's such an important issue for all Yukoners.

**Ms. White:** I really thought when I got elected and we all talked about good government, that we would actually try to do that. My concern with “implement its” is that it insinuates that there is a housing strategy in place and that we will then implement it. The wording that we originally used “in develop a” was supposed to be a collaborative effort — all parties, partisan politics aside. The concern with the change of wording is that it insinuates that there is already a housing strategy in place and that we will then be implementing it. From the point of view of the Official Opposition, we do not see that.

I appreciate the fact that everyone had aspects of a housing strategy in what the members spoke of. My hope was that we could work together in making one. It has been suggested that this is not nearly as friendly an amendment as that. I'm going to quote from —

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

**Point of order**

**Speaker:** The Member for Copperbelt South, on a point of order.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I rise on a point of order in that the amendment changes the intent of the motion.

If the government does not like the motion as it appears before the House, they have an opportunity to vote against the motion. But to bring forward an amendment that would replace the words “develop a housing strategy” with the words “implement a housing strategy” makes the assumption that they have a Yukon housing strategy. The amendment to “implement its housing strategy” is not only not a friendly amendment, as the member opposite said, but it is, in my submission, out of order.

**Speaker's ruling**

**Speaker:** The amendment has been put forward in the correct manner and is currently in debate, and there is no point of order.

Member for Takhini-Kopper King, please continue.

**Ms. White:** So what I had hoped when we originally put this forward is that we would all go forward — and we had all said that we wanted to do government differently. All parties said that. We said that we wanted to work together. This was our effort in working together — to develop a strategy together.

I'm going to quote the minister opposite, when she said, "We need to look at where we were, where we are and where we are going." This was our opportunity as elected officials to make a real concrete change together. We could make change for the citizens of the Yukon. This was our opportunity to show citizens that we heard what they said when we knocked on their doors and told them we were listening. We said we could work together; we could develop a strategy together. This was our opportunity to show citizens that we believe in their right to housing.

It's our responsibility as elected officials to take a leadership role in response to the current housing crisis, and we could have done that together. It's time to stop being reactive and to start being proactive. Both governments, when in power, have done good things and both governments have made mistakes. The Liberals, the Yukon Party, the NDP — we have all had successes and we've all had failures, and that is easy to find in records. We all promised that we would do things differently. We all promised that we would work together. So let's put party politics behind us and make the positive change that we so desperately need in the territory.

I wanted us to lead by example. I wanted us to be bold, and I wanted us to be innovative. I thought that we could work together toward that plan, and I'm disappointed that we can't.

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**Speaker:** Question has been called.

Are you prepared for the question on the amendment?

*Amendment to Motion No. 11 agreed to*

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

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** I would like to speak on this motion now, as amended, for a brief time. I recognize that we are short on time in the House today. I'm sure we would like to bring this motion as amended to a vote at some point, so I'll say that, of course, housing is an issue in the territory. It's something we heard about throughout the campaign. I heard it from my constituents, as many of them are new to the territory or newly returned to the territory. Housing has been something they raised with me.

As a result of the significant economic development this territory has seen over the past several years, there are a number of pressures that puts on our economy, and one of them is on the housing front. I would agree with the spirit and intent of

this motion — that, of course, the House urges the Government of Yukon to work with all governments, including First Nation governments, as well as non-profit and private housing providers, to implement a Yukon housing strategy and policy framework, as the points of the motion lay out. I don't need to repeat them.

This is an issue that is important to local businesses. It is important to local citizens. It's important to municipalities, First Nations and general stakeholders. It is one that I think we need to implement and we need to move forward on. We need to put aside some of the less productive banter we have had in the past and move forward to implement a strategy. That strategy has been put in place already. We have had a significant body of action on this file as my colleagues have laid out throughout the day. I don't need to reiterate the numerous initiatives we have undertaken in terms of making land available both in the City of Whitehorse and in the communities of Dawson, Watson Lake, Teslin, Haines Junction, Old Crow, Mayo, Pelly Crossing, and the list goes on. I don't need to lay out all of the initiatives that we've undertaken on the development of social housing units in the territory. The minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation has done an excellent job, as well as the Minister of Community Services and the Minister of Health and Social Services. We have got an impressive body of work so far but there's more work to be done. We acknowledge that; that's why we say we have to continue to implement this plan to ensure that businesses can continue to grow and that our population can continue to grow, as more and more people are seeking to move to the territory because of the fantastic opportunities that are available here in terms of our growing economy, our beautiful, natural environment and just the general good quality of life we have here in the Yukon.

This was a platform commitment of ours to work collaboratively with stakeholders and communities and First Nations in developing and continuing our initiatives on housing. I look forward to working on this with my colleagues and I look forward to continuing with the good work done in the past by the previous government. I look forward to working with all members of this Legislature on this initiative.

With that, I'll pass it back to the opposition for further discussion.

**Mr. Tredger:** I wish to speak against the motion as amended. There is a real need for some long-term and short-term planning around housing in our territory.

We had an ad hoc reaction to needs and it has left us with an emergency. We're sitting now with what is recognized by everyone as a housing crisis. The members opposite talked about developing a strategy. Right now we don't have a strategy. I'd like to refer to a couple of things that have happened in my experience.

Staff housing — 10 years ago, we sat down with Yukon Housing, administrators in various schools and representatives from social work. At that time, everybody acknowledged that staff housing was approaching a crisis situation. We knew that a number of people in the communities were retiring. Many of them were long-time residents. In their retirement, they were

planning to stay in the houses they had bought and had become community members. The new people would be arriving and they would be looking for staff housing. We were also going through a period of devolution where a number of departments were being brought down to work locally. They also would need housing. The types of housing was changing with this. Many of the Yukon houses in the communities were three- and four-bedroom houses. It doesn't work for single teachers, single social workers or single forestry people, who have to pay an extra amount for these houses and for the heating of them, as heating costs rise.

At that point, we suggested that there be a biannual planning, spring and fall, when the deputy ministers and the minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation could sit down with representatives from the various unions and administrators of the area, and decide what housing would be needed, how it would be needed and how we could provide for it. This hasn't happened. Something like that would work if we were to implement it in our strategy — if we were to develop a strategy. Also at those meetings, we would be able to discuss some of the concerns that local staff have about their housing.

For instance, in Pelly Crossing they continually have trouble getting a contractor. I experienced it when a different contractor would work every month. There are some very humorous examples of what happened. Maybe I'll share one of them. At the nursing station across the way, every night the light would come on and the light would go off, and the light would come on, and the light would go off. They sent an electrician from Faro to fix it. He took some wires and crossed them and everything and when he left, all the lights were on. The next night, this went on again. They brought a contractor from Mayo to fix it. Each one of these, by the way, is not an inexpensive undertaking. Finally, it was determined that there were two lights. When one came on it would set the other one to turn off because it was now daylight. The other one would turn off and they went back and forth all night long. Those are the kinds of things that could be resolved if we worked with local people to develop a local housing strategy.

There is a need, as the minister opposite suggested. Each person has unique needs. I would reiterate that and say, each community has unique needs.

We need to work cooperatively and in a fiscally responsible manner with local communities to develop local housing policies. I sat down with some people in Carmacks just the other day. Some of the things they said — a dire need for a strategy. They said we need a housing design, one that will work locally and one that will accommodate wood stoves. I just read in the paper this morning, there were some 70 woodstove flue fires this year. The houses that CMHC are putting up, the houses that we are getting, aren't designed for wood stoves. We need to plan with local communities what is going to work.

We need Arctic entries. Many Yukon Housing Corporation houses and most of the CMHC houses don't have Arctic entries. What developing a strategy should do would be to sit down with local people and determine what works for them and how it would work. We could design a low-cost, efficient

house that could be replicated. We need to develop a strategy and involve people in that.

Training and capacity: we need a strategy around training and capacity. Many of the communities do not have the capacity, the carpenters and the tradespeople necessary, to build standard houses. What is needed would be short courses. We found them very successful in the communities: continuing education short courses that might come in for two weeks, work with the people who are working on housing, on maintenance issues — HRV issues. These courses can be delivered in a community and gradually upgrade the tradespeople there.

There's a need for supported living, not only in Whitehorse, but in all the communities. I was glad to hear that it's being made a priority, but we need to set some timelines and work within those timelines to build. We can only do that if we develop a housing strategy — develop.

I can go on with a few — there's need for proctor housing in some of the communities. We have a lot of people who need supported-living situations — youngsters who need a place that's safe to go to. Those kinds of things aren't being looked at. We need to have that sit-down with the local community, discuss this and come up with a strategy that works. The ad hoc — we're going to put this here or put that there — no longer works. It's good spending money — I know we have a billion dollars to spend — but it is not fiscally responsible, and it is not achieving its end.

So I find the amended motion doesn't work for me and I believe I spoke against it.

**Speaker:** Are there any other members who wish to speak to the amended motion?

Are you prepared for the question on the amended motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Division.

#### Division

**Speaker:** Division has been called.

Are the House leaders in agreement that we will shorten the time? We will wait.

#### Bells

**Speaker:** As all members are present, is it agreed by the House leaders to proceed?

Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Agree.

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

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Agree.

**Ms. McLeod:** Agreed.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Agreed.

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** Agreed.

**Mr. Hassard:** Agreed.

**Ms. Hanson:** Disagree.

**Mr. Tredger:** Disagree.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Disagree.

**Ms. White:** Disagree.

**Ms. Stick:** Disagree.

**Mr. Barr:** Disagree.

**Mr. Elias:** Disagree.

**Mr. Silver:** Disagree.

**Clerk:** Mr. Speaker, the results are 10 yea, eight nay.

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

*Motion No. 11 agreed to as amended*

### Motion No. 65

**Clerk:** Motion No. 65, standing in the name of Ms. Hanson.

**Speaker:** It is moved by the Member for Whitehorse Centre

THAT this House establish a select committee on democratic reform to meaningfully consult Yukoners during the spring and summer of 2012 for the purpose of receiving views and opinions of Yukoners and interest groups on means of improving our democracy, including, but not limited to:

(1) reviewing electoral processes and amendments to the *Elections Act*;

(2) consideration of fixed election dates;

(3) consideration of proportional representation;

THAT the membership of the committee be comprised of equal representation from the government caucus, the Official Opposition caucus and the Third Party caucus to be determined by the Premier, the Leader of the Official Opposition and the Leader of the Third Party;

THAT the select committee on democratic reform report to the House its findings and recommendations no later than the 2013 spring sitting of the Legislative Assembly;

THAT the committee have the power to call persons, papers and records and to sit during intersessional periods; and

THAT the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly be responsible for providing the necessary support services to the committee.

**Ms. Hanson:** I guess, after the proceedings of this afternoon, this motion takes on incredibly more importance than I had anticipated that it would, because this motion is about talking to the public about our democracy. I want to be perfectly clear. It is to talk to and with the public and hear — listen and hear if they think our democracy and our electoral reform system need reform.

It would then be up to the House to decide what to do. The New Democratic Party believes that there should be major changes proposed to our elections. These proposals, for a change, should go back to the people. But if there should be major changes proposed to our electoral system, these proposals for change should go back to the people — to the people, Mr. Speaker — in the form of a referendum.

We had initially drafted this motion as covering two aspects of improving our democracy. The first was the democratic/electoral reform piece that is set out in the motion you just read, Mr. Speaker.

The second had to do with legislative renewal — that is, improving the Legislative Assembly's process to make us function better and to be more relevant to the public. As a bit of

background, we have had the previous Yukon Party government's commitment to a Select Committee on Legislative Renewal. The then Premier identified himself as Chair, but no meeting was called and when the election was called, the select committee died before doing any work.

The NDP Official Opposition caucus made a decision that, when it came to our democratic functioning, the public would be much more interested in public consultation on electoral reform than on the minutiae of legislative proceeding. We want to see legislative renewal take place; we are committed to it. We hope that all parties can collaborate and work through the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges to make this happen.

So here we are with this motion. Should we pass this motion, we would be creating in the first instance a select committee of this Legislative Assembly, and have members named to this committee who would then go out and talk with Yukoners about whether our electoral processes, the *Elections Act*, issues like fixed election dates, and whether the first-past-the-post system is working. There would be consideration then, as it says in this motion, for the notions of proportional representation. The committee would consult over spring and the summer 2012 and report no later than the spring of 2013, in that sitting, with recommendations. What we are proposing is a one-year process of talking with the public and gathering information. Then it would be up to the House to decide whether there would be amendments, regulations — who knows, perhaps a plebiscite or referendum: a question put to Yukoners on changing some aspects of our system.

Some people may be asking in this Legislative Assembly, why this motion to talk to the public about improving our democracy? Well, we have seen over the course of the last few years, and in particular over the course of this last year, through the federal and territorial elections, that there is an appetite among the public, particularly as a result of some of the issues that were raised around the elections. The issues are fresh in people's minds.

So the first thing that we'll speak to in this motion is process improvement. This motion mentions "reviewing electoral processes and amendments to the *Elections Act*."

The recent territorial election revealed some perceived problems with our election processes and there was criticism in the local media from citizens who felt disenfranchised. Regardless of whether or not these criticisms were well-founded, the post-election period is a good time to canvass the public on elections and other matters related to improving our democracy.

Some of the issues that arose during this election included enumeration issues. I think everybody in this room would recognize this, because members were involved in an election less than six weeks ago. We heard complaints in the media and from individuals that a number of Yukoners were not enumerated or not able to vote on election day because they couldn't find someone from their poll to vouch for them. Lists of electors are not provided electronically. This is 2011; we are still having handwritten notices — handwritten lists. Handwritten voters lists in the Yukon creates problems for the parties — all

parties — in terms of data entry and legibility problems among others — problems for parties, electors and polling clerks.

We start from scratch every election. It's great that we enumerate, but why not maintain a permanent list that gets additions, rather than always starting from scratch?

There were problems associated with the enumerators talking to one person in a residence and just simply taking their word that five or six people in that house were eligible to vote, without any requirement that they show identification. On election day, someone not enumerated has to have ID and a voucher — somebody to personally vouch for them.

The enumerators collect the first initial of the first name, which creates problems on election day with large families or common names. These are a few examples just to give some idea of what we've heard and what others, I'm sure, would be sharing. Other issues that occurred during the election included difficulty in voting after special revision. Voters needed to bring ID and someone from their poll to vouch for them. In federal elections, B.C. and Ontario have less cumbersome ways to deal with those not enumerated.

We know the system needs to be legitimate and secure, while at the same time we don't want to unduly disenfranchise people like the poor or transients. In my riding, the transient people were told that the political parties should be the ones who enumerate them. That seems passing strange in a democracy. That's something that an independent body like Elections Yukon should be handling. We think the public would have a lot to say about improving our elections process.

The second aspect of this motion is to address voter apathy and low voter turnout. Today, we know and we've heard more and more from groups as desperate as Fair Vote Canada to Apathy is Boring, that there is a need for these democratic reforms in the Yukon. Although the voter turnout in the Yukon was marginally up from 2006, we do see apathy and low voter turnout across Canada. Roy Romanow reported that fewer Canadians are voting. In the recent 2011 federal election, only 61.1 percent of Canadians cast a ballot. It turned out that the 2008 election was the lowest in Canadian history at 59 percent. That was down more than 10 percentage points since 1993.

There are parallels in the Yukon. Concerns arise because participation rates in formal political activities are extremely low. The number of people volunteering for law, advocacy and political groups has hovered about two percent or less throughout the past decade, and hours volunteered dropped by 15 percent from 2004 to 2007. Canadians have said repeatedly that they aren't satisfied with our democracy. Between 40 and 45 percent said they were not satisfied with how democracy works in Canada. These are 2004 and 2006 surveys.

Women and minorities are under-represented in the political process. Since 1997, the percentage of women in Parliament has remained relatively steady, and low, at about 20 percent. I am so pleased to see that the Official Opposition has dramatically changed that for the Yukon in this last territorial election. That's very much due to the merit of the candidates running.

Yukoners are turning out politicians and tuning them out. After some of the comments and some of the exchanges today,

we understand why. They are turning their backs on politics, and they are not voting in the numbers they once did. They are alienated and frustrated and disillusioned. We have an obligation to turn that around. Restoring the public's trust and confidence in government will not be easy. It will take time. Restoring their faith in their government will take a comprehensive revamp of how we do politics in this territory. We had a chance and we had a challenge today. I believe we failed. The process starts by respecting the public and ensuring people have a say in things that matter to them. Then we strengthen our public processes, including how we operate in this Chamber, to bring diverse perspectives in our community together. Today you can count on one hand the people who have a say in how this Yukon is run.

Some of the other issues that would be talked about in the process for the select committee are discussions about election rules like fixed dates. We talk about talking to the public, whether or not they are interested in having fixed election dates. When it comes to electoral reform, the issue of fixed election dates comes up often. Some jurisdictions in Canada do have fixed dates. When there are fixed dates, people can plan their lives around them. Some argue it levels the playing field a bit, so a sitting government doesn't have the sole right to call an election whenever they feel like doing so.

There are criticisms too that fixed dates lead to lame-duck governments; well, we may have seen that in the past here. We want to hear the public's position, not make our suppositions about that. We think the public should have a say in this — on fixed dates and other matters.

One of the more challenging aspects that this motion poses and certainly there has been a lot of debate and many letters to the editor — I know the Premier has received correspondence as have I, and I'm sure the interim leader of the Third Party has — with respect to proportional representation. Currently, the single-member plurality system — the first past the post — is used in all Canadian federal, provincial and territorial elections. It does and has revealed serious weaknesses in producing Legislatures that reflect the choice of parties made by the voters. It is argued that changes should provide a more accurate representation of the popular vote and interest within the region of the territory.

Recent Canadian elections have witnessed a significant fall in voter turnout which some say indicates that structural changes are needed in order to encourage greater participation. There are numerous efforts for change underway at the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal levels with respect to elections engagement. Most active initiatives in this area have been with provincial governments. There are active advocates of reforms and we have many of them in the Yukon, which include Electoral Reform Canada, Fair Vote Canada, as well as the federal NDP, who have made clear for years their support for proportional representation.

There have been a series of referenda across the country in British Columbia, P.E.I. and Ontario, and, so far, they've failed. It's interesting to look at the reasons for the failure. Oftentimes, it has been a changing of the rules, as it was in P.E.I. the month before the referendum was actually held. Some



would argue that the British Columbia process didn't have adequate information. There are lots of reasons, but that doesn't mean there isn't still an appetite for exploring it with Yukoners.

When people talk about proportional representation, there are various methods of voting that have been proposed. But you know what? There has been little public education, which may be one of the reasons why it sounds confusing. The basic change is a mixed-member system that allows for more proportional representation of parties in this Legislature. It's not as though we're suggesting something that's radical or revolutionary. Types or variations of proportional representation are the electoral system used in 84 countries around the world, including a number of Commonwealth countries. Fair Vote Yukon raised the issue that no majority government in the Yukon's history has ever had the support of a majority of electors — no government — regardless of the political stripe. Just recently in the 2011 election, the same results occurred where the winner of the majority of seats did not have the majority of votes — under 40 percent.

The select committee would be a way to gauge the public appetite for electoral reform. Finally the motion, as it is put before this Legislature, has a basket clause. It has the unlimited nature, which we are saying that there are other issues. It is not limited. We foresee that the select committee would hear lots of opinions from Yukoners on a range of topics central to our democracy. Maybe they will bring up the issues of election financing. There are no limits currently in Yukon on donations. There are no limits on corporate donations. There are no limits on elections spending by parties, and there are no guidelines for election activities of third parties, those from the Outside in terms of influencing the outcomes.

The public: there may be days more than others that they may want to talk about recall legislation. We have seen this in other jurisdictions: the ability for constituents to remove their sitting MLA from office in the event that he or she did something reprehensible. The public may want to talk about by-elections and whether the current 180 days that a government has to call a by-election in the event of a vacancy is fair. Perhaps it should be shorter than that time frame.

The Yukon NDP has a proud history of positive suggestions for improving our democracy. The NDP has previously presented private member's Bill No. 107, *Democratic Reform Act*. In the fall of 2010, the NDP brought forward a bill to amend the *Elections Act*, which would reduce the length of time that a seat in the Legislative Assembly can remain empty to 90 days. As I said earlier, it is 180 right now. We thought it important that the government side give up a little power in the interest of the public having representation in the case of a vacancy. In that case, it was a vacancy due to the death of the incumbent. We hope the new Yukon Party will reverse its position that its predecessor took and look to considering and seriously engaging in these democratic reform initiatives.

I imagine that there are other issues for improving our democracy that will be raised, and we will welcome amendments. I do hope that this House will agree to pass this motion. There may be some who feel that everything is just fine with our democracy. That may be your take, but many, many members of

the public do not. This is the motion that enables us to talk with Yukoners, to place the public, the people, at the centre of the discussion of democracy. That is the way it's supposed to be. For democracy to flourish it must, like a garden, be cultivated and nourished, not once every four years, but every day. It is up to government and citizens to encourage its growth. Yukon is a small jurisdiction with a proud tradition of doing things differently. With an engaged public we could really create a shining example of democracy with a high standard of public participation and creative approaches to decision-making and accountability.

We all want greater participation. To participate the people need information, they need access and they need to be properly informed about the issues. We must realize that there are social economic barriers to people's participation. Our political institutions need to foster these values of participation. The people affected by the decisions we take in a democracy should participate in the decisions. We think that first step out is to go out and talk with Yukoners and ask them what they think. How can we improve our democratic process in this small territory of the Yukon, this territory that has embarked on momentous changes with the conclusion of land claims and self-government, stepping forward as quasi-provincial jurisdiction under devolution?

I look forward to the positive response from all members of this House in supporting this motion and establishing the select committee on electoral reform.

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

*Debate on Motion No. 65 accordingly adjourned*

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

**The following Sessional Papers were tabled on December 14, 2011:**

33-1-13

*Yukon Child Care Board April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011 Annual Report* (Graham)

33-1-14

*Health and health-related behaviours among young people in Yukon* by John G. Freeman, Hana Saab, Matt King and Kathleen Gropp, January 2011 (Graham)

33-1-15

*Yukon Hospital Corporation Annual Report* for the year ended March 31, 2011 (Graham)

33-1-16

*Yukon Health and Social Services Council 2010 – 2011 Annual Report* (Graham)

33-1-17

*Yukon Housing Corporation Annual Report* for the year ended March 31, 2011 (Kent)

33-1-18

*Yukon Liquor Corporation Annual Report*, April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011 (Kent)

33-1-19

*Crime Prevention and Victim Services trust fund annual report* 2010/2011 (Nixon)

33-1-20

*Yukon Heritage Resources Board Annual Report*, April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011 (Nixon)

33-1-21

*Yukon Arts Centre 2010/2011 Annual Report* (Nixon)

33-1-22

*Yukon Public Service Labour Relations Board Annual Report*, 2010 – 2011 (Taylor)

33-1-23

*Yukon Teachers Labour Relations Board Annual Report* 2010 – 2011 (Taylor)

**The following Filed Documents were tabled on December 14, 2011**

33-1-3

Health Care Insurance Programs: Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for Fiscal Years 2000/01 to 2010/11 (Graham)

33-1-4

*Yukon Lottery Commission Annual Report 2009-2010* (Kent)

33-1-5

*Yukon Geographical Place Names Board Annual Report 2010-2011* (Nixon)