

**Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Wednesday, October 31, 2012 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

**Withdrawal of motions**

**Speaker:** The Chair wishes to inform the House of changes that have been made to the Order Paper. Motion No. 243, standing in the name of the Premier, and Motion No. 259, standing in the name of the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin, have been removed from the Order Paper as they are both similar to Motion No. 265, which the House adopted yesterday.

**DAILY ROUTINE**

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

Tributes.

**TRIBUTES**

**In recognition of Dr. Marvin Westwood, Dr. David Kuhl and Brian Walker (Veterans Transition Program)**

**Speaker:** Members, yesterday I read a news release from the Hon. Steven Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs, regarding the unveiling of the Veterans Transition Action Plan. This action plan includes new support of up to \$600,000 over four years for veterans to participate in the University of British Columbia's groundbreaking Veterans Transition Program, which will provide group-based therapy for veterans across the country.

Today I want to pay tribute to Dr. Marvin Westwood, Dr. David Kuhl and Brian Walker. Dr. Westwood, while attending a family gathering, asked about an uncle who was sitting by himself and was told, "That's Uncle Joe. He's just a drunk." Dr. Westwood went and talked to Uncle Joe and found out that there was a lot more to him than being a drunk. He was a veteran and was and had been hurting for a very long time. He needed to tell his story. From that encounter, Dr. Westwood conceived of and, with the collaboration of Dr. Kuhl, developed the Veterans Transition Program.

The program was first done for several World War II veterans who felt it had a lot of merit, but also felt it was too late for them and it should be given to younger veterans. B.C. Yukon command of the Royal Canadian Legion stepped forward to raise funds to deliver the program in the Vancouver and Victoria areas.

Mr. Brian Walker, a psychologist, became the coordinator responsible to evaluate potential participants. In 2007, at their biannual convention, Legion branches of British Columbia and Yukon committed to raise funds to deliver the Veterans Transition Program to veterans in Yukon. Over the next several months, Brian Walker and I talked to veterans, the media, local doctors and officials from the Department of Health and Social Services. In the end, we had identified a number of veterans who were willing to participate. In October 2007, we gathered

just outside of Whitehorse for day one. I'm not ashamed to say I was one of the veterans. It was life-changing and life-saving.

The Veterans Transition Program is difficult, very emotional and very successful. Participants learn that they aren't the only ones who feel the way they do and they are experiencing normal reactions to abnormal situations.

Dr. Westwood's and Dr. Kuhl's Veterans Transition Program is specifically designed for veterans and goes beyond just those with occupational stress injuries.

With its new partnership with Veterans Affairs, they will be able to reach and save many more veterans. Brian Walker left the program a few years ago to pursue other academic adventures but, true to his word, he remains in contact with those many veterans he has assisted. At this time of year when our thoughts turn to remembering the sacrifices of our veterans, I think it is appropriate to pay tribute to those who assist our veterans in making the transition from military to civilian life. It is not always easy. Thank you.

**In recognition of National Autism Awareness Month**

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I rise in the House today on behalf of all members of the Legislature in recognizing October as National Autism Awareness Month.

Autism spectrum disorder, often referred to "ASD," is a complex neurobiological condition that affects individuals from all racial, ethnic and social backgrounds and from all income and educational levels. ASD impacts the way the brain functions. Affected individuals usually have difficulties with communication and social interaction, will repeat specific patterns of behaviour and have a restricted number of activities and interests.

It is important to note that each individual is different and has varying degrees and combinations of symptoms. Signs of ASD usually appear by the time a child is three years old. International studies have indicated that about one in every 150 or 160 children has autism and that it is four times more prevalent in boys than girls. Autism spectrum disorder can be very challenging, not only for the individual affected, but also for the family and for the caregivers. It's important to get an early, accurate diagnosis. Early diagnosis translates to early intervention, which can mean a better life and greater educational and social opportunities for the child.

Here in Yukon, diagnosis of ASD in preschool children is coordinated by the Child Development Centre. Along with supporting the Child Development Centre, Yukon government also offers funding to families through the family supports for children with disabilities unit. We want to acknowledge the valuable work of Autism Yukon in raising awareness of autism in the territory.

Autism Yukon plays an important role in providing information and education to families and service providers during Autism Awareness Month and throughout the whole year. While October is the month in which we give special attention to ASD, we need to think about ASD all year long, as every day affords us a chance to make others aware of this disability and help raise awareness of this affliction. Thank you.

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Thank you. It gives me great pleasure to introduce Margaret Commodore. Margaret is here in the gallery today. Margaret Joe was elected to serve as the MLA for Whitehorse Centre for many years and, for a period of time, was a colleague of mine in this Legislature. Margaret served also as Canada's first aboriginal woman Minister of Justice and, often, when we have Margaret coming for a visit, it's when election campaigns are underway, but I'm sure that all members will welcome her as she's here with her family for a milestone birthday. Welcome Margaret.

*Applause*

**Mr. Elias:** I ask all members of the Assembly to join me in welcoming my new chief of staff, Mr. Andrew Robulack, who is in the gallery today.

*Applause*

**Mr. Silver:** I'd like to, with your indulgence, point out Mr. Michael Gates. He's a long-time Yukoner, a former Dawsonite, a columnist extraordinaire and a champion of all things heritage in the Yukon.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to all of you.

## TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Speaker:** Under Tabling Returns and Documents, the Chair has for tabling the *Yukon Child and Youth Advocate 2012 Annual Report*.

Are there any other returns or documents for tabling?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I have for tabling the Public Accounts for the Government of Yukon for the year ended March 31, 2012.

**Mr. Silver:** I have a letter from myself to the Auditor General, Michael Ferguson, for tabling.

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

## PETITIONS

### Petition No. 5

**Mr. Barr:** I have for presentation the following petition, signed by 330 people, regarding backup power generation for the Carcross-Tagish area. The petition reads as follows:

To the Yukon Legislative Assembly:

This petition of the undersigned shows:

THAT most Yukon communities that are tied to the electrical grid have backup diesel generation capability to supply power during outages;

AND THAT the Carcross-Tagish area contains a population that exceeds the population of some of the communities that currently have backup power generation capability;

AND THAT backup diesel generation capability is essential for residents, businesses, institutions and governments in the Carcross-Tagish area to supply power during outages;

AND THAT emergency services in the Carcross-Tagish area including ambulance, fire protection, emergency measures and policing services require a reliable source of power to function properly;

AND THAT a backup generation system for the Carcross-Tagish area meets the criteria accepted by the Public Utilities Board that communities with loads over one megawatt should have local generation to serve them during line failures;

THEREFORE, the undersigned ask the Yukon Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Yukon to take the necessary measures to ensure that backup diesel generation capability is established near Tagish with sufficient capacity to supply the Carcross-Tagish area.

**Speaker:** Are there any further petitions for presentation?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motion?

## NOTICES OF MOTION

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon, in consultation with the medical officer of health, to develop a communications protocol for food safety recalls that:

(a) ensures prompt transmission of food safety recall notices from government to wholesalers, retailers, food service establishments and the general public;

(b) requires wholesalers, retailers and food service establishments that may have sold food subject to a food safety recall to post notice of the same in a conspicuous location on their premises; and

(c) incorporates best practices from other jurisdictions.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to work with the City of Dawson to negotiate a land development protocol agreement that meets the unique needs of the City of Dawson.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to rethink its top-down decision to impose a sub-acute care model for the new Dawson hospital because this direction:

(1) is not supported by the community;

(2) is not supported by the Yukon Medical Association;

(3) will likely result in nurses currently employed in Dawson leaving the community;

(4) does not make good use of the existing health care professionals in Dawson; and

(5) will be next to impossible to staff.

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

THAT it is the opinion of this House that the National Hockey League and the National Hockey League Players' Association find a swift, fair and equitable resolution to their contract dispute by respecting the interest of their fans and the service and retail industries as their paramount concern.

**Speaker:** Are there any other notices of motion?  
Is there a statement by a minister?

**Speaker's ruling re point of order re Standing Order 19(g) raised on October 30, 2012**

**Speaker:** Prior to proceeding with Question Period, the Chair will rule on a point of order raised during yesterday's Question Period by the Member for Takhini-Kopper King.

During yesterday's Question Period the Leader of the Official Opposition asked questions regarding the *Canada-China Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement*. In response to the final supplementary question from the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Premier asked why the Official Opposition opposed the agreement and then said, "Is it just that the NDP don't like the Chinese? Is it the fact that they are not only anti-Chinese —"

At that point, the Member for Takhini-Kopper King rose on a point of order and alluded to Standing Order 19(g), which empowers the Speaker to call to order any member who attributes a false or unavowed motive to another member. The Government House Leader and the Leader of the Official Opposition also spoke to the point of order.

The Chair believes there is a point of order in this case. In suggesting that the members of the Official Opposition opposed the investment agreement because they are "anti-Chinese", the Premier attributed to members of this House an unworthy motive, specifically a bias against an identifiable group of people.

Such a statement personalizes the proceedings and is not in keeping with a fundamental principle of parliamentary procedure, that members are to treat one another as honourable, no matter how strongly they disagree with one another about matters of public policy.

Whenever the Chair rules a member out of order for something that member has said, it is a good time for all members to reflect upon statements they make in the House. While these statements may not be out of order, members should consider whether they contribute to raising the rhetorical temperature in the House.

The Chair recognizes that members are here to debate important issues — issues about which they, and their constituents, hold strong views. Strongly held views often lead to strongly worded statements. All members will have to accept that. However, members should always be mindful of the role they play in ensuring that the proceedings are orderly. Procedurally, the Chair has no interest in the position that members take on issues before the House. The Chair is only concerned with how members express themselves. Sticking to the issues, and not personalizing the debate, will assist in this regard.

The Chair thanks all those members who contributed to the resolution of this point of order. We will now proceed with Question Period.

**QUESTION PERIOD**

**Question re: Health care services**

**Ms. Hanson:** Yesterday Yukoners, including the Yukon Medical Association, were surprised to learn that an acute care model has been selected for the Dawson hospital. It's not the model of care patients need, nor that the community wants. This just days after learning that both Dawson and Watson Lake hospitals are behind schedule and overbudget.

At about the same time, we learned that the Yukon Hospital Corporation has apparently drafted a 20-year plan for hospitals in the territory that the government will not share with the public. My question is simple — will the minister tell this House why there is so much secrecy and so little public discussion on the future delivery of health care services in the Yukon?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I think the member opposite first of all should check her facts. The Yukon Medical Association was not surprised by the statement that the hospital is an acute care hospital. What some members opposite seem to not realize is that there are various stages of acute care hospitals. Watson Lake has been an acute care hospital and serving the residents of that area for a number of years. Dawson City will be modeled along the same lines as the Watson Lake hospital has been for a number of years. In the same fashion that Whitehorse is an acute care hospital, but doesn't perform brain surgeries or heart replacements, Dawson City will be an acute care hospital that doesn't perform major surgeries that are currently being undertaken in Whitehorse. So, there are various stages. The hospital in Dawson City was intended to be an acute care facility from the first day.

It will be able to enhance and expand services by providing 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week emergency physician care, as well as six in-patient beds. Their extensive community, partner and stakeholder consultation was done in conjunction with the service programming, as well as the design of the hospital in Dawson City.

**Ms. Hanson:** I guess I just have to attribute what I say to what I hear on the local radio, and if the media decides they're going to selectively play what the president of the Medical Association said, I'll take what his words were — he "was surprised."

The minister talks a good talk, but it's really time to start walking the walk with this government. The main purpose of the 2008 *Yukon Health Care Review* was to move Yukon toward a sustainable health care system. We see that this government is doing exactly the opposite. We have hospitals that are behind schedule and overbudget. Yukoners cannot find doctors. Day in and day out, I get calls in my office from people who cannot find a doctor. We've seen a lack of meaningful action toward team-based collaborative care that puts patients first and costs less money. Yukoners have little confidence in this government.

Will the Minister of Health reverse the decision on the Dawson hospital and commit to a firm timeline for the creation of team-based collaborative care for Dawson, Whitehorse and elsewhere in the territory?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I am reminded of that song some years ago: It must be true; I saw it on TV. If you believe everything you hear on the radio, the sky is falling as well. No, we won't reverse the decision on the Dawson City or Watson Lake hospitals because that decision was made several years ago when the design and implementation of the new hospitals was taking place. So that is not a decision we will change.

As for the apparent doctor shortage in Whitehorse, there is no doubt that we have a problem here, the same as every jurisdiction in Canada has the problem. We are in the process of resolving the issues on a long-term basis by encouraging more Yukoners to, first of all, enter medical care, but also to return to the Yukon when their education is completed.

We have also done a number of things as a result of the new contract we recently signed with Yukon physicians that double the retention bonus. We pay off loans of students while they are in university, and there are a number of other incentives to both attract physicians here, as well as keep them here in the territory.

**Ms. Hanson:** I remind the minister that the media are the means of transmitting the spoken word. The minister has a very narrow vision of collaboration and vague commitments don't cut it. The Yukon Party's approach to increase Yukoners' dependence on the emergency department and hospital admissions — that's what they're focusing on. The NDP Official Opposition and health care advocates everywhere know there are better models of care that better address patients' needs in a more efficient way. The end result of those models is to keep people away from the emergency rooms and out of the hospital. Patient-centred, collaborative care takes collaboration with communities, patients, nurses, and other health care providers, not just doctors.

Will the minister agree to true collaboration by inviting a broad range of health care providers, including pharmacists, physiotherapists, nurse practitioners, mental health and addictions workers, and social workers to help design the collaborative care model for this territory?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I first mentioned the collaborative care system some time ago in the first session of the Legislature. It's a system that I believe fully in, and it's one of the reasons that we brought forward nurse practitioner regulations. There's an act on the Order Paper at the present time to enable nurse practitioners to offer a broad range of services throughout the territory.

We have already hired a nurse practitioner within the government itself. We have made it perfectly clear, right from six months ago, that it is our intention to start a collaborative care clinic here in Whitehorse. It's part of the agreement we just signed with the Yukon Medical Association. I was able earlier in the spring to bring together not only the YMA, but the Yukon Registered Nurses Association, at a meeting to discuss the nurse practitioner regulations and why they hadn't pro-

gressed for seven years. So seven years' of delay has been resolved in the last few months.

We're looking forward with great anticipation to beginning collaborative care here in the territory, once the nurse practitioner regulations and this piece of legislation are passed.

#### **Question re: Income supplements**

**Ms. Stick:** We heard from the Premier yesterday that the Yukon supplementary allowance for persons with disabilities and seniors on social assistance was increased back in 2005. Today, just as in 2005, a person with disabilities or a senior on social assistance receives an additional \$250 a month. This amount has remained unchanged for the past seven years and does little to lift Yukoners in greatest need out of poverty.

When will the minister look at increasing the Yukon supplementary allowance to ensure it meets the needs of eligible seniors and persons with disabilities and consider the consumer price index?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** The Yukon currently provides one of the highest seniors income supplement benefits in the country, and we remain committed to ensuring our lowest income seniors continue to receive financial support from this government. Our seniors income supplement formula is tied to the federal government's guaranteed income supplement rates, and while some seniors benefit from the increased federal rates — I am sure the member opposite is talking about the changes in July — some also had their Yukon senior income supplement decreased slightly because of that tie with the federal income supplement.

**Ms. Stick:** Yesterday we also heard the Premier say that the federal universal child benefit that some families receive is not considered income for purposes of calculating low-income tax credits. Yet for a family receiving social assistance, the national child benefit supplement is considered income, and this amount is clawed back from social assistance.

Can the minister explain why the national child benefit supplement results in a social assistance clawback for families in the Yukon who are in the greatest need?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** That's an unfortunate occurrence. At the present time, the department is taking a look at that regulation. I hope the member opposite is aware the clawback is not a 100-percent clawback; there's a very small percentage. But we on this side — the government side — feel that's probably inappropriate. We've asked the department to prepare some information for us and we'll be making a decision on that soon.

**Ms. Stick:** This government has had a year to look at that and to do something. A clawback is a clawback. The Premier also said yesterday that enhanced services are available to social assistance recipients with severe disabilities. This assertion sounds good yet it doesn't reflect the reality of many Yukoners with disabilities.

Can the minister explain why many individuals with severe disabilities, and the families and caregivers who support them, cannot find appropriate day programs and respite care?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** It sounds like the member opposite is intimating that the government is doing nothing for these people. We have just recently taken the additional benefits for

people with disabilities out of the social assistance program so that it will be a separate item of support for persons with disabilities.

It won't be considered social assistance. But we've done any number of other things as well. The pioneer utility grant went up by 35 percent. Seniors housing — you only have to take a look at what we've done. We've done 30 new suites at the Waterfront Place seniors facility. We did a nine-suite addition in Haines Junction, 12 in Watson Lake, six in Faro — and the athletes village — what used to be the athletes village — I believe it's 48 units at the college in Whitehorse that were also done. So we're making progress in all of these areas, and we're very proud of it.

**Question re: Health care facility costs**

**Mr. Silver:** The government confirmed this week that the hospital in Watson Lake has blown through yet another cost estimate for its construction. When I raised this issue with the minister, he said he didn't know where I was getting my numbers from. Well, here's some information for him. In the 2004-05 budget speech, a former Yukon Party premier announced \$10.6 million was planned for the construction of two multi-level care facilities in Watson Lake and in Dawson. The original projection was just over \$5 million. The Yukon Party changed its mind on the scope of the project and decided to build a hospital.

The budget has increased several times since then and, according to the Hospital Corporation's own website, has come in at \$22.1 million.

We now know that the final bill has been increased to another \$2.4 million higher. The minister said in this Assembly the other day that the Dawson hospital is on schedule to be completed in late December. So, which is it? The chair is saying one thing, the minister is saying another.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I don't know where the member opposite received the information from the chair of the Hospital Corporation, but there is no doubt that — or at this point, the latest information is that the hospital in Dawson City will be ready in December and will be opened in March or April of 2013.

In the case of the Watson Lake hospital, the design and the intent of the hospital was changed substantially in 2008, as I understand it, which is one of the reasons that the costs of the hospital escalated fairly quickly. Construction is well-underway in Watson Lake. They expect the facility to be completed in December of this year and to be opened in March of 2013. The new hospital will be a single-point delivery for most of the medical services that are available in Watson Lake. That includes a nursing station as well as a pharmacy and doctors' offices. The scope changed dramatically in 2008 and that was the reason for the increase in costs.

**Mr. Silver:** Even if the minister and the chair can't agree on how the project is delayed, everyone understands that the project is behind schedule. The project in Watson Lake has now been underway for seven years.

One thing the government has been clear on since day one is that the preferred option for the new building in Dawson will be acute care. As MLA for Dawson, I have heard very little

support for the acute care model. In fact, residents and health care professionals with whom I have spoken think that it is the wrong way to proceed. The overwhelming support is for a collaborative model of health care.

The minister speaks today of education and incentives encouraging locals to become doctors. I know of somebody in their final year of medical school from the Klondike who will not come back to an acute care model, who will only come back to an extended care or a collaborative model.

Also, the head of the Yukon Medical Association today said: "In my mind, Dawson is not an acute care facility." It seems to be another example of the government deciding what it wants and then telling the community to accept it.

Why is the government going ahead with this model of care when there is very little support in the communities for it?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** The member opposite is obviously not quite conversant with the situation. The fact that we have an acute care hospital designed and built in Dawson City does not preclude a collaborative care clinic.

You are talking about two different things here. A collaborative care clinic is just that — it's a clinic. It's not a collaborative care hospital — although the hospital will use the collaborative care model in some areas, such as the emergency room. But a collaborative care clinic is a clinic where doctors, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, perhaps physiotherapists, and a whole range of medical practitioners gather together to provide services to their clients. That's not precluded by an acute care clinic. So the member opposite, first of all, has to get his terminology correct, and then maybe we can discuss this intelligently — or at least one side will.

**Mr. Silver:** That insult is not to me, it is to the medical community in Dawson, because that's where I'm getting my information from, and right now we have extended-scope nurses who are getting their marching orders because they will not be able to go to their full extent and their full capabilities as extended-scope registered nurses with this new acute care model, unless legislation changes. Now, I am concerned about these nurses who currently work in Dawson, who will not be able to practise at the same level that they will in the new hospital, and they are basically being given their marching orders out of town. Why would they work somewhere where they are not allowed to perform to their capabilities and will be paid less money? We have raised this issue repeatedly with the minister over the last year, and so many others in my community have as well.

Our concerns have obviously fallen on deaf ears and the government is simply going to go ahead with whatever they wanted back in 2009.

Why does the minister consult with local residents and then ignore their advice?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** As I said previously, the Yukon Hospital Corporation did extensive consultation — extensive community consultation, partner consultation and stakeholder consultation — in Dawson City. When I was recently in Dawson City, I met with some of the nursing staff in the current nursing station there, as well as representatives of the doctors in the Dawson City clinic. I have to tell the member opposite

what I was told at those meetings is diametrically opposed to what he's saying now. There is no doubt the nurses are feeling displaced. They have been given offers to work in the hospital, but as the member opposite stated — this is one area where he is correct — they feel that their expertise would be somewhat diminished in that setting. So they have been given alternatives by the Department of Health to work in other areas around the territory, if they so choose.

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

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Mr. Speaker, maybe the member can bring up another question here soon. But those are the facts and we can't run away from those facts. There was consultation by the Yukon Hospital Corporation, and we will be proceeding.

**Question re: Old Crow recreation centre**

**Mr. Elias:** I'd like to beg the House's indulgence in a hypothetical situation for a moment. Imagine Whitehorse without the Canada Games Centre or Takhini Arena. Imagine all the city's neighbourhoods without their community ice rinks — that is, imagine a community without any safe community recreation facilities at all. You might picture the reality in our community of Old Crow, then. The youth in my community are growing up in a place where there is no safe opportunity to play hockey or other winter sports or swim in the summer. There is no formal place for our community to host large sports or cultural activities, or for the community to congregate and share meals. If the minister's own constituents were without a safe and accessible community recreation facility, what would she do to help provide them with one?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I'd like to thank the member opposite for his question and his perspectives. I just want to assure the member opposite and all members in the Legislature that the Government of Yukon remains committed to working with the community of Old Crow and all communities throughout the territory to advance through a whole variety of community-related, capital initiatives. Within the community of Old Crow, for example, the construction of the new water treatment plant is currently underway.

We have upgrades to roads in Old Crow and improvements to waste management. Those are but some examples of how the Yukon government has been working collaboratively with Canada and with the Vuntut Gwitchin government on advancing issues of importance to that particular community. Yukon government has invested significantly in community infrastructure throughout the territory, and that is inclusive of recreation as well — some \$10 million in this year's budget that promotes recreation initiatives throughout the entire Yukon. So we certainly remain committed to working with the Vuntut Gwitchin government to address the priorities and the needs of the community, while managing the available resources.

**Mr. Elias:** If I have ever had a patriotic cry about an issue, this is it. Old Crow is not without a community recreation facility for the lack of trying. Everyone in the community has been hard at work for over a decade, planning and preparing for a community recreation complex we all can be proud of. In 2004, a Vuntut Gwitchin General Assembly resolution recognized the demonstrated need in the community for a multi-use facility and supported the undertaking of a feasibility study.

The Yukon government did provide \$10,000 toward this, and it was completed with hundreds of additional hours of community support in 2007.

This resulted in a \$60,000 working group contribution by the Vuntut Gwitchin citizens' trust fund to begin development of building design options and conceptual drawings. Does the minister recognize the hundreds of hours of volunteer work and the hundreds of thousands of dollars that Old Crow citizens and the Vuntut Gwitchin people have already invested in conceptualizing and planning a safe community recreational facility in Old Crow?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Well, for the member opposite's information, we are very much committed to continuing to work with the community of Old Crow to ensure that youth and adults in the community have a multitude of opportunities to participate in an active and healthy lifestyle. We are committed to working with each and every community throughout the territory.

As I just referenced, we have actually invested in excess of \$200 million in support of a number of community infrastructure investments throughout the territory, in support of drinking water upgrades, waste-water treatment, road improvements, solid waste, recreation, tourism and culture as a result of these federal infrastructure programs, to which there has been joint investment by the Yukon government and the federal government.

Again, we are very proud of the significant investments made in the community infrastructure, and we'll continue to work collaboratively with the Vuntut Gwitchin government, the citizens of Old Crow, Canada and many other partners to realize other areas of importance to the member opposite's community, while serving to manage those available resources for development.

**Mr. Elias:** I'm proud to say that my fellow community members in Old Crow did not stop at just planning for a community recreation complex — quite the contrary. They have instead taken it to the point where they are ready to build. In 2008, the working group raised another \$136,000, which funded schematic drawings to determine accurate construction costs and the development of a solid business plan. In 2009, the building site and the final schematics for construction were finalized. Finally, in 2010, the Yukon Party government released the land to be used for the construction of the community recreation facility. Old Crow is ready to build itself a new community recreation complex. All the pieces are in place, except for one.

Is the minister ready to commit to a partnership with the people of Old Crow and put that final piece in place? Can Old Crow count on the support of this government for the final funding required to fulfill a demonstrated need for a community recreation facility in Old Crow?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** What this minister and what the Yukon government will in fact commit to on the floor of the Legislature is to continue to work with the Vuntut Gwitchin government, as we have in the past and will continue to do in the future.

As I've just referenced, in this budget alone our Department of Community Services has dedicated some \$5 million in terms of drinking water upgrades, improvements to roads within the community of Old Crow and to improvements to waste. We will continue to address issues of importance, as identified by the Vuntut Gwitchin government, through the renewal of an inter-governmental accord, and I understand that the Vuntut Gwitchin government recently had a meeting with our own Premier. We'll recognize and we appreciate the ongoing work of the citizens of Old Crow in realizing their priorities and their needs, and we will continue to work with them to advance initiatives of importance, which include recreation.

**Question re: Residential school curriculum**

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Many of us, First Nation and non-First Nation, celebrated the finalization of the first land claims agreements in 1993, after 20 years of negotiations, because these agreements provide an opportunity for two levels of government to work together. However, implementing the agreements requires the Yukon government to take positive action on a number of fronts.

A more shameful history in the Yukon is that of the seven residential schools that were in operation here between 1890 and 1975. The Trailblazers, as they are known, are 12 Yukon men who won a court settlement against the government and the Roman Catholic Church because they were abused at Lower Post residential school. The Trailblazers used that money to form the Committee on Abuse in Residential Schools, a first in Canada. Now it is time for the government to lead the way.

Will the Minister of Education tell us why Yukon schools are not delivering residential school curriculum today?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** When it comes to the curriculum for residential schools, I had the opportunity to meet earlier this spring with Justice Murray Sinclair here in Whitehorse and then again at the national ministers of education meetings in Halifax. Justice Sinclair presented there. There was an awful lot of talk around the table among all of the ministers, particularly the western ministers, about the need for this type of curriculum. I know that the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have introduced this curriculum and what we are doing is monitoring what their success is. We will take a look at the program and we've committed — I committed earlier this year in the media — to having something ready when it comes to residential school curriculum — ready and available as early as the 2013-14 school year.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I think that the Minister of Education needs to be aware that there has already been a wealth of locally developed resources that are available to the Department of Education, related to residential school.

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation published the K'anáchá scrapbook, created an archival collection and held a welcome home ceremony for residential school survivors. The Liard Aboriginal Women's Society has offered Kaska language and culture camps and have been involved in the Together for Justice project. The Teslin Tlingit Council prepared a Caring for the Land Initiative. The Yukon native teacher education program has an annual culture camp where their students work

and they develop curriculum materials relating to First Nation cultures and the residential school experience.

Why has the minister not directed his department to gather these materials and work collaboratively with the people who have done them to offer it in the schools now?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** As I mentioned, we're monitoring what is happening in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut with respect to their residential school curriculum that's being offered. When it comes to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, they have, of course, developed some resources on the residential school experience. Our Yukon First Nations Programs and Partnerships unit is in discussions with them on how this might be part of a course that we're developing. There are several examples of the Department of Education working with First Nations, whether it's the Old Crow experiential program or some of the other programs referred to by the member opposite.

I think there's a tremendous amount of work that we've done; there's a tremendous amount of work yet to be done. I've actually committed to attend the CYFN leadership meeting next week and I'm looking forward to speaking with representatives of that organization and the chiefs who are in attendance about any number of issues related to education and First Nation education initiatives here in the Yukon.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I believe that the Yukon should be leading the way on this. Our responsibility as legislators, as parents, as professionals in a broad range of positions, and as citizens is to be aware of the past and to act on that knowledge. The shocking legacy of residential schools is far reaching. Children who were forcibly removed from their families and communities did not have the ability to grow up in homes with their families.

We're all paying for residential schools in our social, our health and our educational costs. We have an opportunity to educate our students who need to learn from the past.

Will the Minister of Education direct his department to work with First Nation governments and partners and to gather available residential school resources and information and draft curriculum, and do that sooner — this year — not next year or the year after — but to start today?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** In the previous answers I've given, I have mentioned to the member opposite that that work is already underway. I referred to the work being done right now with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. I referred to other work being done with the Vuntut Gwitchin government. There's a tremendous number of examples of cooperation and collaboration with First Nations when it comes to developing curriculum.

There's, of course, a commitment to work toward a 20-percent locally developed curriculum with these schools, so that work is underway. We are monitoring what is being done in N.W.T. and Nunavut specific to residential schools, but there are some things here in the Yukon that I think we need to also incorporate, such as the impact of the Klondike Gold Rush, or the Alaska Highway, or some of the positive impacts with *Together Today for our Children Tomorrow* and the *Umbrella Final Agreement*. Education is going to be a big way where we can address these concerns — it's the key way — and I'm

committed as minister to setting the foundation for the next 20 years so that we can make a generational change, close that education gap, and close that labour gap that exists between First Nations in the Yukon, and non-First Nation citizens.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

### MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

#### Motion No. 240

**Clerk:** Motion No. 240, standing in the name of Mr. Hassard.

**Speaker:** It is moved by the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin:

THAT this House urges the Government of Canada to recognize the important role Parks Canada sites in Yukon play in attracting visitors, increasing the value of Yukon tourism products and supporting local travel and recreation by:

(1) ensuring that Dredge No. 4 continues to be open to the public with guided tours, and that operating hours during the summer season are not reduced;

(2) recognizing the historical and tourism value of Bear Creek by opening it to the public and providing guided tours during the summer season;

(3) restoring the funding for the curatorial, conservation and collections management of the quarter of a million artifacts in Dawson City, including the preservation of Dawson's historic buildings;

(4) continuing to provide year-round access to Kluane National Park, including access to emergency medical and search and rescue services, ski trails and winter camping opportunities at the Kathleen Lake campground;

(5) ensuring that the *SS Klondike* continues to be open to the public with guided tours, and that operating hours during the summer season are not reduced;

(6) continuing to provide year-round services for the Chilkoot Trail National Historic site; and

(7) promoting the development of interpretive and instructional material for Ivvavik National Park and Vuntut National Park.

**Mr. Hassard:** I'd like to take a few minutes today to talk about the important role Parks Canada plays in attracting visitors, increasing the value of Yukon tourism products and supporting local travel and recreation.

I would like to talk about the "where" of this motion, as it influences the type of visitors who will visit the different parks and sites. I will cover the parks and sites that I believe are relevant to this motion and I will be addressing the Parks Canada sites in Yukon. I would like to mention Ivvavik, Nunavut and Kluane National Parks. Ivvavik covers the area between the Beaufort Sea and the Vuntut National Park. It's the calving ground for the Porcupine caribou herd. The Vuntut National

Park is located immediately south of the Ivvavik National Park. It is compelling because of the northern Yukon's unique, non-glaciated landscape.

Kluane National Park and Reserve Visitor Centre, located in the southwest corner of Yukon, is Yukon's UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is also home to Canada's highest peak, a fact that the MLA for that area likes to remind us of quite frequently.

I would like to talk about some of the holdings in and around Dawson City. These include the Dawson Historical Complex National Historic Site of Canada, which is an important collection of buildings in Dawson City from the Klondike Gold Rush. We have the former Territorial Courthouse National Historic Site of Canada, which is a substantial frame judicial building from the 1900-01 period. There is the *SS Keno* National Historic Site of Canada. The *SS Keno* is a wooden steamboat built in 1922, which is 140 feet long and 30 feet wide and consists of three decks.

I want to talk about Dredge No. 4 National Historic Site of Canada, which symbolizes the importance of the dredging operations between 1899 and 1966, with the evolution of gold mining in the Klondike. Dredge No. 4 is located on Bonanza Creek.

Here in Whitehorse, we have the *SS Klondike* National Historic Site of Canada. It celebrates the largest and last Yukon commercial steamboat. I will also mention the Chilkoot Trail, even though it is in B.C., because of its historic and ongoing significance to the Yukon.

I would like to share with you Parks Canada's mandate: on behalf of the people of Canada, we protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage, and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure their ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations.

I think that if you look at the motion today, you will see that it calls for the Government of Canada to recognize the important role Parks Canada sites in Yukon play in attracting visitors, increasing the value of Yukon tourism products and supporting local travel and recreation. I've crafted this motion so that it speaks to attracting visitors. I think that addresses the mandate to present nationally significant examples of Canadian heritage and the mandate to foster public understanding and appreciation.

It speaks to increasing the value of Yukon tourism products. Again, that speaks to the mandate to present nationally significant examples of Canadian heritage and the mandate to foster public understanding and appreciation. It also speaks to supporting local travel and recreation that addresses the aspect of Parks Canada's mandate to protect and present Canada's heritage and foster appreciation and enjoyment for present and future generations.

Let me share with you the role Parks Canada see for themselves: "We are guides to visitors from around the world, opening doors to places of discovery and learning, reflection and recreation." They also write that — quote: "We are storytellers, recounting the history of our land and our people — the stories of Canada."



They commit to present the beauty and significance of our natural world and to chronicle the human determination and ingenuity that have shaped our nation. As well, they commit to celebrate the legacy of visionary Canadians, whose passion and knowledge have inspired the character and values of our country.

I spent some time preparing for today by reading management plans. I want to share how these draft management plans are prepared with local input.

During the fall of 2010, Parks Canada invited comments and suggestions for a new management plan for the Klondike National Historic Sites, including Dawson Historical Complex, Dredge No. 4, the *SS Keno*, the former territorial courthouse and the Discovery Claim. There was significant interest from partners, stakeholders and the public in helping shape the plan.

In the Vuntut National Park of Canada Management Plan 2010 it states that Parks Canada's goal is to ensure that Canadians have a strong sense of connection through meaningful experiences to these protected places and that these places are enjoyed in ways that leave them unimpaired for present and future generations. It goes on to state that the management plan integrates the three elements of Parks Canada's mandate: the protection of heritage resources, the facilitation of visitor experiences, and the provision of public outreach education.

The second part in answering the question of why is to answer why this product is meaningful and valuable to Yukon visitors. Why does this material that Parks Canada has generated matter?

In this section, I plan to talk about why this matters to Yukoners and visitors. The demographic of visitors to the Yukon is changing. In talking with tourists and those in the industry, it's clear that the demographic of visitors to the Yukon are changing. The kind of tourists coming today is more likely to be here to experience Yukon's culture and to explore our history. Today's visitor is more likely to place a higher importance on the understanding of our past and our culture and they are willing to pay for those opportunities. This is often referred to as "cultural tourism."

I'd like to mention a few things I found on "cultural tourism." This kind of tourism is interested in exploring a region's culture, including their history, their art and their lifestyle in person. People like to learn firsthand to experience history, rather than to read about it in a book or watch it on a video. This means they are more likely to go to historical sites, go to museums, or go to art venues. I am told that "cultural tourists" tend to spend quite a bit more than regular tourists.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has described cultural tourism as one of the largest and fastest growing global tourism markets. It says that culture and creative industries are increasingly being used to promote destinations and enhance competitiveness and attractiveness. Many locations are now actively developing their tangible and intangible cultural assets as a means of developing comparative advantages in an increasingly competitive tourism marketplace and to create local distinctiveness in the face of globalization.

Yukoners have much to offer. Parks Canada has control over some sites that are very important to Yukon's history.

Parks Canada has assets and artifacts that show the legacy of the development of the Yukon. These sites and items are significant parts of our cultural legacy. It would be very disappointing for Parks Canada to abandon developing these cultural products. I would have to argue the best thing Parks Canada could do is to take these cultural sites and artifacts and continue to add value to them and continue to make them more accessible to the marketplace.

Now I said, "THAT this House urges the Government of Canada to recognize the important role Parks Canada sites in Yukon play in attracting visitors, increasing the value of Yukon tourism products and supporting local travel and recreation by: ..."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you some of the information I learned from my tour of our local sites run by Parks Canada. In May of 1898, some 4,735 boats of one kind or another, carrying some 28,000 people went past the Northwest Mounted Police checkpoint at the Tagish Post. It is one thing to read words in a book that tell you each claim in Dawson was 500 feet wide; it is much more meaningful to stand on the mounds of dirt, processed by the dredge into tailings piles. As I walked along these piles, I thought of the dredging machines, chugging through all the dirt and sifting out the gold. It is impressive and awe-inspiring.

I mentioned all of these products because I want to drive home what is valuable about these parks. Over the course of the summer, I found myself reading many of the management plans for the parks and historic sites in the Yukon.

As I prepared for today, I did some reading on their website and I looked at several of their management plans. One thing I read that stuck with me is that, in order to remain relevant to a changing Canadian society, Parks Canada is taking a fresh look at the needs and desires of Canadians. I'm not too sure how closing up shops helps you stay relevant, so I decided to put this motion forward as a way to help find a solution.

Parks Canada's management plan calls for them to actively seek ways to better connect Canadians with their natural and historic treasures. They call for an increase in their efforts in seeking and strengthening support from existing and new partners, reaching new audiences, engaging youth, attracting more visitors, making meaningful connections with communities, and ensuring real and inspiring opportunities of discovery for all Canadians. Accomplishing that by reducing services or by switching out the human element for a machine is going to be difficult, in my mind.

The whole reason cultural tourists come to a region is to experience it in person instead of through a computer. Let's make that an authentic experience by keeping our people in the mix. Item (1) from my motion was ensuring that Dredge No. 4 continues to be open to the public with guided tours and that operating hours during the summer season are not reduced.

I went to see Dredge No. 4 with my wife this summer. It's located at Claim No. 17, below Discovery on Bonanza Creek. It is roughly two thirds the size of a football field and eight stories high. Again, it's one thing to read about these numbers, but it's quite another to stand in person on this dredge and just see how big it really is. The dredge was electrically powered

from the company's hydro-plant on the Klondike River about 30 miles away, requiring 920 continuous horsepower during the digging operation. Extra horsepower was needed occasionally for such things as hoisting the spud, which caused the dredge to pivot or to raise the gangplank. The dredge moved along on a pond of its own making, digging gold, bearing gravel in front, recovering the gold through the revolving screen washing plant and then depositing the gravel out the stacker at the rear. The dredge pond could be 300 feet by as much as 500 feet wide, depending on the width of the valley in which the dredge was working.

Mr. Speaker, some people learn by reading things in books. Some people learn by hands-on, real-life experience. I am so appreciative of the opportunity to see Yukon's history first-hand. The operating season was, on average, about 200 days, starting in late April or early May, and operating 24 hours a day until late November, or until it was too cold to dredge any more. Given my own personal background, I like learning about solutions that folks came up with in response to some fairly major challenges that they faced. I was very impressed by this dredge and others like it, and at its very significant engineering accomplishment.

The second point in my motion was recognizing the historical and tourism value of Bear Creek by opening it to the public and providing guided tours during the summer season.

The Canadian Register of Historical Places is an on-line, searchable database that includes listings of historic places important to communities, cities, provinces, territories and the nation. It is administered by Parks Canada. It is part of a national program through which local provincial, territorial and federal governments enable people to learn about value, safeguard and enjoy the country's historic places. The Canadian register does not connote national historic significance, though many national historic sites of Canada are listed. Rather, it is a nationwide register of property, many of which are of local significance and have been nominated by local governments. There are many more buildings at Bear Creek, but I want to flag the following structures which were identified as significant: the auto repair shop, building 7; the carpentry shop, building 6; the cat repair shop, building 8; the Troberg residence, building 67; warehouse 1, building 27; warehouse 3, building 35; the engineering office, building 19; another engineering office, building 28; the gold room, building 29; and the machine shops, buildings 1 and 2. Unfortunately, many Yukoners and many visitors are unaware of this site and those who do visit it are unable to fully experience all that this site has to offer.

We urge the Government of Canada to recognize the historical and tourism value of Bear Creek by opening it to the public and providing guided tours during the summer season.

The third point in my motion was restoring the funding for the curatorial, conservation and collections management of the quarter of a million artifacts in Dawson City, including the preservation of Dawson's historical buildings. As I mentioned earlier, I spent some time reading the management plan for these parks and sites. I would like to share with the House that Parks Canada heard from nearly 100 organizations and indi-

viduals who provided comments at one of the three public open houses, a stakeholder workshop, and through comment forms and written submissions. All input received was considered by the planning team and directly influenced the drafting of the management plan. Parks Canada produced a couple of newsletters for the Dawson work that reflected what was heard during the consultations and provides highlights of the significant new directions proposed in the management plan.

With respect to the vision for the region, Parks Canada asked for help in developing a vision for the Klondike National Historic Sites, or NHS — an inspiring picture of the desired state of these sites 15 years in the future.

Many suggestions for the vision included the following ideas: that the Klondike NHS represent an ongoing quest — the history of the gold rush is still alive and Dawson City still continues to evolve. The sites are part of this living legacy.

The people and the community are fundamental to the future of the sites. Dawson City is a vibrant community and people's sense of pride draws visitors and strengthens this living historical community.

The preservation of the buildings is important, setting the stage for sharing the stories and increasing the sense of place.

The Klondike NHS are rich in stories and experiences. Amidst the backdrop of historical buildings and artifacts, it is the human connection that creates a positive experience for visitors.

Parks Canada can play a role in the future economic development of the community — great potential for partnerships that build on strengths and existing assets.

During consultations, Parks Canada was encouraged to partner and cooperate with others in the community to look for innovative ways to protect and use the heritage buildings. There are over 90 heritage structures managed by Parks Canada between the Bear Creek compound and the Dawson City complex.

Parks Canada is beginning a process of evaluation and inventory of these structures that can realistically be used by others and assessment of feasible reality options. Parks Canada is open to innovative proposals and encourages others to invest in heritage structures and to fully utilize the buildings. I just mentioned the Klondike Gold Rush international historic park. I would like to talk about some of the features of that park.

The Klondike National Historic Sites of Canada, located around the Dawson area, commemorate the 1896 gold rush, the role of large corporate gold mining in the Klondike, and river transportation in Yukon. During the Klondike Gold Rush in 1897-98, thousands of adventurers and fortune-seekers braved many dangers to come to the Dawson area. In a matter of months, Dawson went from a remote trading post on a mudflat at the confluence of the Klondike and Yukon Rivers to a community of some 50,000 people from around the world. Parks Canada has several assets in this region that commemorate this tremendous period in Yukon's history.

These holdings include the following: the Robert Service Cabin, the *SS Keno* National Historic Site, the Dredge No. 4 National Historic Site and the Discovery Claim National Historic Site.

During my visits to Dawson this summer, I learned quite a bit as I toured these facilities, and I'm sharing this information I learned to show Yukoners the kinds of resources Parks Canada provided. I was very impressed with the passion and quality of those who worked at these sites, and I want to mention the very informative Parks Canada website. Much of the information that I'm sharing with you today I was able to double-check on that website. My visits were both entertaining and educational. It is an experience I hope each of our visitors has had the opportunity to experience while being here in the Yukon.

I learned that Dawson City was named for Dr. George Mercer Dawson, a Canadian government geologist. It is so important that one of Canada's most significant tourist destinations is named for someone from the mining industry. As we all know, mining played — and continues to play — a critical role in our tourism industry.

As I toured the Dawson area, I discovered that on August 17, 1896, Bob Henderson, George Carmack and his fishing partners Skookum Jim and Tagish Charlie found gold and staked the first four claims. In order to obtain a placer mining grant, a miner had to stake the ground where he intended to mine and record his claim at the mining recorder's office. This was done by completing an application form which included such information as the miner's name, address, Free Miner's Certificate number, when and where his claim was located, as well as its size.

The *Series 10 Mining Recorders' Records* for placer mining claims, 1896-1971, is an important group of records comprised of more than 200 books giving access by creek and claim number to many of the other classes of records that were maintained by the mining recorder. Generally, each major placer creek had one or more books that contained a page for each claim that was laid out on a creek. The books recorded the various transactions, owners, mortgages, liens, renewals, et cetera, that were registered against each claim. Entries that were made often cross-referenced such items as applications for grants, registered document numbers, certificates of renewal and certificates of work. This, Mr. Speaker, is where you would find the first claim by George Carmack listed.

It is that kind of educational product, that kind of learning and that kind of cultural experience that our visitors find informative and compelling. It's that kind of experience that our tourism operators find marketable and profitable.

I also toured the *SS Keno*. I found this a fascinating look at how these boats transformed the Yukon. Remember that prior to the Alaska Highway, almost everything was shipped by water. The *SS Keno* was built in Whitehorse in 1922. As I said, it was 130 feet long. It was built to transport silver, lead and zinc ore from the mines in the Mayo district 180 miles to Stewart City. I read on the *SS Keno's* website that one steamer, depending on its size, consumed approximately 120 cords of wood every trip from Whitehorse to Dawson. Think about that for a minute, Mr. Speaker. As I read about the sites, I was impressed by the pioneering can-do attitude. They found a way to overcome the challenges before them — and there were plenty.

But it was not all work and toil. Yukon inspired some very fine poets. I had the opportunity to visit the old cabin of Robert Service, and I'm sure each of us has a favourite poem of his. For me, it's *The Spell of The Yukon* and no, I am not tempted to recite it.

I also want to mention some of the other products related to Yukon Parks. I'd like to mention the "Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History." This project — based at the University of Victoria, the Université de Sherbrooke, and the University of Toronto — is based on the premise that students can be drawn into Canadian history and archival research through the enticements of solving historical cold cases. One of their cold cases is who discovered Klondike gold. This website offers a wide range of primary and secondary archival material to help you understand the people credited with the discovery of Klondike gold, as well as the historical context of their discovery. It features lesson plans and activities designed for grades 5 to 12; however, it will fascinate anyone who wants to learn more about the subject.

Other related products include MysteryQuest, which are interactive, user-friendly lessons designed for use by individuals working alone or with a partner. Suggestions for adapting these resources for use by an entire class are found in the teachers' notes attached to each MysteryQuest. There is also a Sternwheeler Edukit for Yukon teachers, who can borrow it. Each contains a riverboat video, old photos, teacher guide book and posters, and is suitable for grade 5 social studies.

A bit earlier I related some of the community feedback that the Klondike National Historic Site is rich in stories and experience. Amid a backdrop of historical buildings and artifacts, it is the human connection that creates a positive experience for visitors. This motion calls for the Government of Canada to recognize the important role Parks Canada sites in the Yukon play in attracting visitors, increasing the value of Yukon tourism products and supporting local travel and recreation by restoring the funding for the curatorial, conservation and collections management of the quarter of a million artifacts in Dawson City, including the preservation of Dawson's historic buildings.

Parks Canada's mandate is to protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure their ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations. If we lose the people who provide the curatorial, conservation and collections management, we are at risk of losing the ability to protect and present this example of our cultural heritage and our ability to foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure their ecological and commemorative integrity for the future generations.

Item (4) in my motion said, "continuing to provide year-round access to Kluane National Park, including access to emergency medical and search and rescue services, ski trails and winter camping opportunities at the Kathleen Lake campground". I am sure my colleague from Kluane will speak to this part of the motion as well.

As I read the management documents, I noted that they are reflecting a change in the kind of visitor Yukon is attracting. Several factors are driving the need to review and revise the visitor experience offered in the park: changing visitor patterns; decreasing backcountry use and increasing frontcountry use; changing tourism trends; an aging and more affluent population looking for greater comforts while travelling; renewal work within Parks Canada, striving to better serve the needs of Canadians in order to continue being relevant into the future; local First Nation economic interests in tourism-based businesses, providing employment and a greater range of visitor opportunities; funding pressures on the maintenance of visitor facilities and assets — for example, parks, trails and campgrounds; and needing to review park visitor opportunities within regional tourism context.

Mr. Speaker, it is given that the demographics of visitors to the Yukon in general and the visitors to Kluane Park in particular are changing. Since we know this is the case, I believe that if the user population is older, then we probably should ensure that we have appropriate medical and search and rescue services. The trend is for park users to be more frontcountry than backcountry users. That seems to mean that keeping the campground open would be a good idea.

I think we have to recognize the park's demographics and respond to them. Having run a business, I appreciate that we have to pay attention to our customers. A business that stops serving the needs of their customers tends to have customers stop coming to that business. I would like to share with you what Jim Byers, the travel editor for <http://www.thestar.com/> wrote on his May 28, 2012, blog — I'll mention him because he has travelled extensively in his life and his comments were published on <http://www.thestar.com/> website. He wrote that the park's centre will probably offer to show you a new, 20-minute video they're quite proud of — and justifiably so. It's well done and the scenery is jaw-droppingly beautiful. He noted the impact of the park on local First Nations, and then wrote, "There are fabulous shots of glaciers and hiking trails and grizzly bears and moose and all that, and the video alone was enough to convince me to come back in mid-summer some time."

He also talked about his drive past Kathleen Lake: "I drove a few minutes further south, then pulled over to watch the clouds dip and swirl over a jagged mountain peak. The road feels similar to the parkway between Jasper and Banff, one of the differences being that when I was pulled over for 10 minutes I spotted just one vehicle; a motorcycle. A few minutes later, I look down the road and lumbering up the hill is a very large moose."

That gentleman's experience encapsulates the kind of tourists that we have coming to the Yukon. They are impressed by the scenery; their encounters with wildlife are the highlights of their trip; and they are socially aware and concerned. They are increasingly the kind of customer that is coming to the Yukon, and I urge Canada to continue to provide year-round access to Kluane National Park, including access to emergency medical and search and rescue services, ski trails and winter camping opportunities at the Kathleen Lake campground.

Item (5) in my motion spoke to ensuring that the *SS Klondike* continues to be open to the public with guided tours and that the operating hours during the summer season are not reduced. I did some reading on the Parks Canada site and Wikipedia for the *SS Klondike*. It was the name of two stern-wheelers, the second now a national historic site located in Whitehorse. Both ran freight between Whitehorse and Dawson City along the Yukon River from 1921 to 1936 and 1936 to 1950.

The *SS Klondike I* was built in 1921 and served until it ran aground in 1936. The British Yukon Navigation Company used parts of the *SS Klondike I* to build the *SS Klondike II* the following year. The *SS Klondike II* carried freight until 1952. In the final years of its service, it operated as a cruise ship. This service was shut down permanently in 1955. The ship was donated to Parks Canada and was gradually restored until 1966, when city authorities agreed to move the ship to its present location, then part of a squatter's residence. The task required three bulldozers, eight tons of Palmolive soap, a crew of 12 men and three weeks to complete. Greased log-rollers eased the process.

I can recall stories of the late Andy Hooper moving impossibly large structures, and I think that this may have been his crowning achievement, next to moving the museum in Teslin — but it was close. In August 1955, the *SS Klondike II* steamed into Whitehorse for the very last time. I think it is important to recognize not only the role of this particular vessel, but also all of the steamboats that served the Yukon.

Item (6) in my motion spoke to continuing to provide year-round service for the Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site. Although it is not located within the boundaries of Yukon, I also wanted to mention the Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site of Canada. The Canadian side of the trail is administered by Parks Canada. The Chilkoot Trail was designated a national historic site because of the role it played in the mass movement of people to the Yukon during the Klondike Gold Rush. It protects the historic gateway to the Yukon once trod by Tlingit First Nation traders and Klondike Gold Rush stampedes. The Chilkoot Trail is a component of the Klondike Gold Rush International Historic Park, which also includes Dawson Historical Complex National Historic Site, Thirty Mile Heritage River and Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park in the United States. The Log Cabin parking lot is the most common staging area for winter activities in the Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site. I have driven to this area in the winter and the parking lot has been packed with campers and snowmobile trailers. It's a very popular spot.

I also understand that it is a favourite spot for skiers. The Log Cabin parking lot is an excellent starting point for cross-country skiing in the White Pass area. The Father Mouchet Buckwheat ski trails are home to the annual Buckwheat ski race as they begin across the tracks from the Log Cabin parking lot and are packed and maintained by volunteers throughout the winter.

Cross-country skiers may also follow the White Pass and Yukon Route right-of-way toward Bennett. I think most people know about Log Cabin as a place to go cross-country skiing or

snowmobiling; however, the Chilkoot Trail site is also popular for alpine touring, telemark skiing, backcountry snowboarding, snowshoeing, and even dog sledding.

Item (7) in the motion spoke to “promoting the development of interpretive and instructional material for Ivvavik National Park and Vuntut National Park.”

Both the Ivvavik and Vuntut parks are significant to the Vuntut Gwitchin culture. People wishing to learn more can do so through the Parks Canada publication, *Meet the People Who Call the Arctic Home*. Other items include work on the Spirit of the Vuntut, Old Crow Flats, British Mountains and the People of the Lakes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to draw your attention to the work of Vuntut Gwitchin elders visiting the remains of a caribou fence and the interactive experience of caribou fences. As you may know, until about 1920, the Gwich'in used caribou fences to harvest caribou. These wooden structures consisted of drift fences that spanned kilometres and guided caribou to a solidly built corral, which funnelled caribou into a constricted area where they could easily be killed. Evidence of this efficient harvesting method is now being found across the north, with a total of 46 known sites in Alaska, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. Seven of these fences are located within the Vuntut National Park, representing important archaeological and cultural sites.

In conclusion, I would like to share something Fritz Mueller posted on his blog, entitled “Robert Service in full colour”, which was posted on Monday, October 22, 2012. He wrote about a recent photo session in Dawson City to shoot the Klondike National Historic Sites for the Canadian Tourism Commission.

One of the Parks Canada staff leading the group on a walking tour had been reciting service ballads. While they were recreating a famous photograph, Mr. Mueller was so impressed that he found himself feeling like he was back at the turn of the last century; back in the era of the gold rush. Mr. Mueller wrote the following: “I’ve been to Dawson many times, yet I felt something significant at the cabin that day, like I’d travelled through time and found Klondike gold myself. It was a testament to the power of interpretation.” The power of interpretation has the ability to make the past come alive. It is the power of interpretation that connects us with these places and makes these parks and sites meaningful. That is the goal of Parks Canada’s mandate, and I would encourage Canada to recognize the important role Parks Canada sites in the Yukon play in attracting visitors, increasing the value of Yukon tourism products, and supporting local travel and recreation. I look forward to hearing what everyone in this Assembly has to say today. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Ms. Hanson:** Mr. Speaker, I’d like to start by thanking the Member from Pelly-Nisutlin for his remarks this afternoon.

I’m sure I join and echo the views of many Yukoners, who would say that the experiences he outlined with respect to his views and his visits to various Yukon Parks Canada sites echo theirs. They echo those of many international visitors. I’m sure

that many of them would like to know, where were you, as a member of the Yukon Party, where was the Government of Yukon last spring, when these cuts —

#### Speaker’s statement

**Speaker:** Order. I would remind the member to direct the comments through the Chair and to the Chair.

**Ms. Hanson:** Okay, where was he —

**Speaker:** Thank you.

**Ms. Hanson:** — last summer? Where was the Yukon Party? Where was the Yukon Party government last spring, when these cuts were being effected by the federal government?

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

#### Point of order

**Speaker:** Government House Leader, on a point of order.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Where was the Leader of the NDP when the government introduced a motion this spring on this matter?

#### Speaker’s ruling

**Speaker:** There is no point of order.

**Ms. Hanson:** May I continue, Mr. Speaker?

**Speaker:** The Leader of the Official Opposition has the floor. Please carry on.

**Ms. Hanson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So last spring when these cuts were being brought forward, when the omnibus budget bill was being put forward, the Official Opposition stood and called upon this government to speak out. That did not happen.

Through this motion we are essentially and effectively talking about the impact of federal Conservative government cuts and their radical agenda for this country and the fallout that has been felt in the Yukon. This is not an abstract — this is real. These are real people, these are real jobs and this is our real heritage.

When it comes to federal decisions that have a negative impact on the Yukon — you know, I don’t think the Yukon Party can be blamed for being inconsistent. They have been extremely consistent. The Yukon Party response has been simple — they won’t stand up and say to the federal government — to their federal Conservative colleagues — that this is wrong and that this will have an impact on this region of this country, and they will not and have not advocated on behalf of Yukoners and in Yukoners’ best interests.

So what we have heard again today is suggesting that Parks Canada should somehow self-remedy this. In fact, these are the impacts of federal government cuts through this omnibus budget. It is because of a federal government decision — not the agency of Parks Canada — we’re seeing the results of this in the territory.

So we heard this afternoon the Yukon Party government going on at great length in this motion, and I think there is a lot to talk about in terms of the legacy and the importance of Parks Canada's presence in this territory. But, you know, the problem is that this is after the fact. This is after the implementation of this omnibus bill and the cuts to Parks Canada have already begun. I'll speak more about that in a moment. You know, this is not an isolated event or an isolated impact on this territory. As the Official Opposition, we have risen in our chairs, in our place, to speak to the implications for this territory, for Yukoners, for business, and for industry on a whole range of initiatives that the federal Conservative government has put in place through various pieces of legislation. There are so many examples of this government's apparent lack of interest in standing up for Yukoners' interests when it comes to federal government decisions and the impact of those decisions. Over the last few days, we have joined with Canadians across the country — and today I see with the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs — to respond to earlier criticisms from the ministers opposite that it's just some individuals who have concerns about the *Canada-China Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement*. More and more people are realizing that it's important that Canadians stand up to these. But the Yukon government is alone in accepting absolutely everything that their federal counterparts say is good for them.

We as Yukoners will feel the impact of that, and we begin to see the real impact as we see the erosion of our capacity in this territory to tell our story — and that's really what Parks Canada is all about.

Again, I'll go back and just remind the members opposite and the Members of the Legislative Assembly here and to the listeners and to those people who read *Hansard* that it's not just Parks Canada that has felt the draconian cuts and knives of this federal government. When we said to the Premier last spring: Where was he and where was his voice in speaking to the federal Minister of Finance with respect to the thousands of public servants who work for the Yukon government, who got a rude awakening in the omnibus budget? They're now expected — as a result of that budget — to make larger contributions to their pensions with the stroke of a pen.

Yukon public sector workers now pay an average of \$1,100 more a year toward their pensions out of their household budget. Yukon Party is responsible — they don't care and they didn't stand up for Yukon Party workers — Yukon Party public sector workers; I'm sure they stand up for public Yukon Party workers.

Last year, when the federal government —

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

#### Point of order

**Speaker:** Government House Leader, on a point of order.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** With the Leader of the NDP's accusation that the government didn't care, she's imputing motive contrary to Standing Order 19(g) and in fact the Premier did stand up and express our concern on that matter, contrary to what the member just indicated.

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

**Ms. Hanson:** On the point of order, I'll just let the record stand for itself. You can check it.

#### Speaker's ruling

**Speaker:** I'll ask the member to watch her phrasing on that. Please continue.

**Ms. Hanson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I will follow your direction.

Last spring, when the federal government singled out the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for major cuts, to the tune of \$115 million over three years — which required the CBC to cut 650 jobs, including some in the north, and had to cut analog services to deal with the cuts — and when we recognized and we said CBC is so important to the Yukon and to rural Yukon in particular, the response from the members opposite was to essentially repeat the federal government's lines with respect to the importance of international radio, denying the importance of trade and the relationships that one establishes by the media.

The members opposite said that they did not see that there was any importance or any link between Radio Canada International and our major trading partner, Brazil. When we raised the impacts of the federal budget implementation bill in terms of changes to federal legislation, including the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, *Species at Risk Act*, *Fisheries Act*, the *Kyoto Protocol Implementation Act* — Yukon's Minister of Environment first said it was fiction and then changed his tune and said it was no big deal.

When we suggested that members of this Legislative Assembly form a select legislative committee to study the impacts on the Yukon, that idea was rejected. So there have been a number of federal cutbacks that have had an impact on the Yukon. We've reviewed them and we've raised them in the Legislative Assembly here, asked the Premier, asked the ministers responsible to deal with their counterparts in Ottawa. To date, there has been no response.

Most of those have direct impacts on the operations of this territorial government. The cuts to the Surveyor General's Office is another example. The federal cuts that were forced on the office of the Surveyor General of Canada will force the staffing to drop from nine to three. Private sector companies have expressed a concern that the cuts are too deep and may hamper the territory's efforts to reform its self-admitted antiquated land titles system. Did the territorial government say anything about that? No.

And so today we're talking about the implications of Parks Canada and the cuts to Parks Canada that were announced. We talked about this, we raised in May that Parks Canada was going to lose 30 jobs in the Yukon — that's nearly a third of the organization's territorial staff of approximately 110 people. There was no response. I'm pleased to hear today, somewhat belatedly, that there is a recognition that these cuts do have an impact on this territory.

But you know, Mr. Speaker, it's a bit too late to be suggesting that Parks Canada should adapt to the cuts. Blaming Parks Canada is not going to resolve the matter here.

The member opposite said if we lose the people, we won't be able to do the job. The news is we have lost the positions; we have lost those people who provided the valuable services. That's past. That's done. The member spoke about the importance and cited, repeatedly, the management plan of 2010. But you know, to be charitable, that's somewhat naive. A management plan is a response and it's developed by the public servants in response to political direction. What he did was cite a management plan of 2010, and at the time, Parks Canada and the officials who worked with the representatives from tourism industries, from First Nations and the private sector from a cross-section of people in this territory, did so under the understanding of the operating environment they had to operate within at that time, not 2012, which saw, as we said already, \$30 million the omnibus budget cut from Parks Canada's budget.

So, it's one thing to say that these management plans are good, and I have no doubt they are, but if the friends of the Yukon Party in Ottawa gave political direction and said this money will be cut, then they must assume the responsibility for the implications of the cuts and the impacts on this territory.

When we talk about Parks Canada and its contribution to this territory, I think it is important that we step back and look at Parks Canada and what it does and what it contributes nationally because that is how it is nested. Parks Canada and the series of historic sites and the parks that we have within the Yukon are part of a national vision that really started over 100 years ago — about 101 years ago, actually. They celebrated their centenary I believe last year.

In a 2012 report on the state of Canada's parks, there was a question: Why do Canada's parks really matter? If I may, Mr. Speaker, I would like to cite from that report. In that report it says, "Canada's natural parks are among our most iconic symbols and the cornerstones of our nature conservation programs. They protect wilderness areas, and help maintain healthy, diverse and resilient ecosystems upon which our own health ultimately depends. They provide refuges for wild plants and animals, particularly those that cannot survive in intensely managed landscapes. And they provide opportunities for Canadians to spend time with family and friends, to connect with and learn about nature, and to enjoy healthy outdoor activities, supporting our physical and mental health. They provide outdoor classrooms for scientific research and citizen learning. And for a growing number of indigenous peoples, parks offer a means to maintain and share their cultural traditions. Canada's parks also provide direct and indirect benefits to the Canadian economy. For example, in 2009, the \$800 million spent by Canada's governments" — governments, plural — "on provincial, territorial and national parks generated \$4.6 billion to Canada's GDP and supported 64,000 full time jobs across the country, including many in rural and remote communities." Those figures are cited from a report that was done on *The Economic Impact of Canada's National, Provincial & Territorial Parks in 2009*.

What we're talking about today are the dramatic budget cuts that the federal government imposed on Parks Canada this year. This year's federal budget cuts cut close to \$30 million

annually from the Parks Canada budget, which has resulted, as we said earlier, in a cut of 638 jobs nationally. The people who will lose their jobs include experts with years of experience in promoting park ecosystems and ensuring visitors appreciate the natural wonders and who have built trusted relationships and partnerships with aboriginal peoples and local communities. Losing this staff represents a huge loss in human capacity that threatens to reverse a decade of progress in how our parks are managed.

This summer, when there were visits to the Klondike and the Minister of Tourism and Culture was there, the residents of Klondike — who are part of the legacy of these cuts, the impact of these cuts — expressed their concern, and one of the Tourism officials in the Dawson area was quoted as saying she was surprised the territorial government didn't respond. "I would have liked to have seen the Yukon government step in a little sooner and at least express their concern." I can't say it better than that. We would have liked to have seen the government at least express its concern at the Yukon share of these cuts that are destroying our parks system and our national heritage system.

You know, in a report that was done by the Outspan Group Inc. on the economic impact of Canada's national, provincial, and territorial parks, they noted that, as I said earlier, the \$800 million spent by Canada's 14 park agencies — that's spread across the various provinces, territories and the federal government — did contribute \$4.6 billion toward Canada's gross domestic product and returned \$300 million, or 44 percent of the expenditure, in tax revenues to government coffers. These impacts supported employment and spinoff benefits in cities, as well as many rural and remote communities. The studies showed that parks provide valuable ecosystem goods and services to society, including those that are not that quantifiable: purifying water, producing oxygen, regulating the climate, protecting against erosion and damage from flooding. All of these services have significant value.

For example, a study done on carbon sequestration in protected areas in Canada, an economic evaluation, suggested that the total economic value of carbon stored in Canada's national parks is estimated to be in the area of \$75 billion. That's a significant amount of money.

Parks Canada has had a challenging history, and the officials and the professionals have worked hard over the 100 years plus that this system has been struggling to be put in place across our country. I'm sure there are many in this Chamber who have had the opportunity, as the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin spoke at length this afternoon, to talk about how important it was to get a sense of the history of the place, the people, that you get when you go to Dawson City. If you've been to Lunenburg, or Grand-Pré, or any other of the national parks and, in particular, the historic sites — which ground us as a people in our country — then you understand how very important it is that we not lose this valuable asset to our current economy, but also to our future generations. So, on the surface, the cutting of \$30 million per year from Parks Canada's budget appears to be less than a five-percent cut. But do you know what? As we've heard today, when we talk about how services

get delivered, in fact, the impacts on staffing have been much more severe.

On one particular area with respect to the budget documents that were available in the 2012-13 budget, the impact on the ecosystem science capacity for Parks Canada has been particularly severe. Of the approximately 150 ecosystem science positions in Parks Canada, 25 to 30 percent will be lost. More than a quarter of the technical specialists who support science and management, including geographic information specialists, remote sensing specialists, monitoring technicians, and human wildlife conflict specialists will also be lost.

In 2005, the Auditor General of Canada reviewed Parks Canada's progress toward implementing its first priority of protecting ecological integrity and reiterated: "Good monitoring, restoration, and public education programs are essential for Parks Canada to meet its mandate of maintaining or restoring ecological integrity and fostering public awareness and enjoyment of national parks. Without them, national parks are at a risk of losing species and biodiversity, and Parks Canada will be limited in its ability to restore ecosystems and protect the natural heritage of national parks."

As we lose our biodiversity, as we lose that ability to protect our national heritage, we deny future generations that experience. It is not just the loss in terms of capacity in one area like ecosystem science, but the funding cuts also cause hardship in local communities across the country that rely on the jobs and economic spinoffs from national parks to support their local economies. I'll come back to that in a little bit when I speak directly to the experience here in the Yukon.

In researching for the discussion this afternoon, I also found a report from the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society that noted some concerns they've noticed in the last few years with respect to Parks Canada being under pressure. I mean, these cuts this last year have been the most draconian, but it wasn't the first time that there has been some pressure placed on Parks Canada to shift its mandate. "In addition to the budget cuts, in recent years" — and I'm quoting now here from CPAWS — "CPAWS has noted a worrying shift in emphasis in the management of our national parks away from a primary focus of protecting ecological integrity. While Parks Canada is investing in some laudatory projects that promote 'nature-focused activities', such as learn-to-camp programs" — which I think the member opposite spoke to — "and wildlife-focused festivals, it is also allowing commercial, pay-for-use activities that focus on infrastructure, not nature, to attract people to parks."

Parks Canada argues now, because they have no money, that we need new attractions in our parks to appeal to more urbanized Canadians who aren't interested in traditional park activities. But, Mr. Speaker, as CPAWS points out in the research that has been done — and it has been significant research in this area — there is no evidence that this is the kind of activity — the theme park — that Canadians want for their parks. In fact, when there was a proposal to establish a theme park sort of walkway in the Jasper area, Canadians voiced their opinion and said they did not want this infrastructure-focused theme park-like attraction to be built there.

It is interesting that this is not the first time that there has been an assault on parks in Canada. Nearly 50 years ago, the organization that we call CPAWS was formed in response to a plea in Parliament from the minister responsible for national parks at the time, that Canadians stand up to defend them against recreational and tourism development pressures.

So sometimes it takes the courage of the members of government to actually stand up and say that there needs to be change. By the turn of the century, if you remember, Mr. Speaker, one of the first parks established was Banff National Park, and when Banff was established there was real pressure — commercial pressure — to establish it, as significant private interests were out there. But the federal government chose to respond to the growing public concern about the state of the parks and move them toward a stronger shift toward a nature-first model. So we slowly developed a sense that the Parks Canada role is incredibly important, both on the environmental side and preserving our national history.

When the budget cuts were announced there were, of course, many voices raised in opposition. One of the ones that struck me in speaking more to the aspect of the national historic legacy is a letter that was written by the Canadian Archaeological Association to the Prime Minister.

They expressed to the Prime Minister their grave concerns about the cuts to Parks Canada. In this letter, the Canadian Archaeological Association said to the Prime Minister that, "Parks Canada has an enviable world-renowned reputation as a leading agency in heritage management in the world. This reputation was forged through decades of extraordinary research, conservation, site development, collections management and visitor experiences carried out by highly qualified archaeological teams." They went on to say the "reduction to Parks Canada staff and infrastructure does not...make business sense." They also point out to him: "In November 2011..." the current "...Environment Minister Peter Kent estimated that the national parks contributed..." — and this was in 2011 — his words — "...\$3.3 billion to the Canadian economy in 2008-2009 at a cost of \$587 million." — less cost than I cited earlier. "This fact alone does not support the skewed impact of the 80 percent reduction to archaeologists and conservators."

Mr. Speaker, that's a real important aspect of this — because what the government has done is forced a cut to the knowledge sector and the history sector — the memory of our capacity as a country.

There will now only be 12 archaeologists and eight conservators to support 218 national parks, historic sites and marine conservation areas, many of these being UNESCO World Heritage Sites — 218 national parks, historic sites, marine conservation areas with 12 archaeologists and eight conservators? It makes you wonder. They went on to say, "We also understand that the Educational Outreach Program has been abandoned. The removal of artifact collections from Calgary, Winnipeg, Cornwall, Quebec City and Halifax to Ottawa will significantly hinder the ability of Canadians to access and research artifacts of their heritage and will certainly be of grave concern for First Nations who view these materials as part of their cultural patrimony." There are implications as well, which I'll



come to, for this very same matter in terms of conservation for the Yukon — but you wonder what kind of mindset or what kind of thinking is there that will say that we want to eliminate our ability to maintain and preserve our heritage — to maintain and preserve it in a way that future generations will be able to access, so they can understand who we were and what we were doing — what we did in the past.

Once you have destroyed access to that history, it is gone forever. Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if you've been or ever had the opportunity to go to Grand Pré in Nova Scotia — you know the poem about Evangeline is sort of, I would say, mythical, but those who believe it don't believe she is a myth. It has become a poem and legend and a link to the Acadians based on the expulsion in 1755.

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

**Ms. Hanson:** A colleague just reminded me that I didn't finish my sentence. It was the expulsion of the Acadians. I was reading a comment by a person who had worked for years as an archeologist at Grand Pré. When I went there first 30 years ago, it was a site that was just hills. Now when you go there, you can actually see the revelation from archeology of this history and the importance of it.

I thought this former archeologist with Parks and the national historic site captured it really beautifully. This person said that she or he would argue — whoever it was — that the contribution of this direct connection with our past that archaeology gives us is beyond reckoning financially.

We are mortal and our memories are short and our historical memory is further blinded by those who benefit most from written history — the rich, the notable, the prolific, the safe. Everyone who has ever lived on the soil that would become Canada has left a story here and archaeologists are the ones who can tell those stories. Those stories teach us. They give us a certain amount of truth, but far more than that, they allow us to see beyond the limits of our own lives to the greater human story that extends backward in this country for thousands and thousands of years. How does one calculate that value, the value of meaning? That's at the core of what we're talking about this afternoon. It's not simply that there's this whole list of seven objectives or seven places that people have visited, but it's the fact that we as Canadians are being robbed of our ability to give and to understand the value of the meaning of our history, of our place.

I spoke earlier that when we speak to the implications — as the motion speaks to narrow this down in terms of the implications of Parks Canada to the Yukon — it's within that national context that we see the significance of these cuts, and why it's so important that it's not just simply 30 jobs, although there are significant implications to that. Every single one of those jobs means somebody who owns their house, pays rent, contributes to the local economy, and when they're forced to move, that affects this economy. That's why Yukoners were expecting their government to stand up for them and to say that that was wrong, it was wrong-headed. We're blessed with the kinds of experts and professionals who have chosen to contribute and make their career here. I believe we're still blessed with the presence of one of those experts in our public gallery today,

whose personal history goes back to a time when we were as a territory, and as Yukoners, faced with some really big challenges.

We have this history in the Yukon of the Klondike, but we came perilously close to losing it. It probably wasn't that catastrophic, but the impact was pretty catastrophic — the flood that occurred in May of 1979, as I recall. You know, I was a very junior public servant at the time, but for some reason I was appointed to the federal-territorial flood compensation committee. The other two members were the late Art Deer and Jim Yamada. It was a fascinating time for me as a relatively new Yukoner. I had only been here a year, and we had been to Dawson numerous times over the course of that year — but when I went back up there just shortly after the flood, it was like: how was anybody ever going to make anything out of this?

We owe it to the visionaries, and I think the Yukon owes a huge debt to one of its native sons, Pierre Burton, because I can tell you that I don't think that most people from Toronto or Ottawa — particularly from Ottawa — if they had flown into Dawson right after that flood, would have put a penny into that place. But there were visionaries who worked within the parks system, within the heritage system, and through the influence of people who believed that there is an importance to our heritage and to our history that prevailed, and we should be thankful. We owe a debt to ensure that that legacy is not destroyed.

Recently, one of those dedicated former public servants wrote a letter to Yukon's Member of Parliament and asked him — since neither the minister responsible for heritage and parks nor the Yukon Party, nor the Prime Minister were doing anything — what our Member of Parliament would do to champion Yukon's threatened heritage. If I may, I'd like to quote because it does raise some very, very important issues. As the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin pointed out, the official website for the Parks Canada Agency, says: "An important part of Parks Canada's mandate involves protecting the health and wholeness, or commemorative integrity, of the national historic sites it operates. This means preserving the site's cultural resources, communicating its heritage values and national significance, and kindling the respect of people whose decisions and actions affect the site."

I'm quoting here from this, I think, very well set-out letter to the member: "With recent Parks Canada budget cuts" — that resulted from the federal budget decision in the omnibus legislation — "and staff lay-offs in the Yukon," it has been noted that "this mandate has been compromised in ways that previous cuts have not." I've already referenced the fact that this is not the first time. This is like the CBC; there have been a series — a wave of cuts to integral services to Canadians.

An important question has been posed, and the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin didn't raise this, but there has been discussion for a very long time about the designation of the Klondike as a world heritage site. I'll just leave that for a moment. For Yukon to lose because we no longer have the integrity or the capacity to preserve the Klondike, and to lose the ability for us as Yukoners to see it designated as a world heritage site — it's beyond a shame.

We heard the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin talk about the issue of the closures to Dredge No. 4 and the elimination of the guided tours of the *SS Klondike*. That's it; they're done. That's what's happening and, unless the members opposite are willing to use their good graces to prevail upon their friends in Ottawa, that is what the truth is. There will be no ability for you or future generations to have a tour of the dredge or to have a tour of the *SS Klondike*.

More importantly, the letter sent to our Member of Parliament expresses a concern that, "... major cuts in personnel in Dawson City leave significant national treasures vulnerable to mishandling, mistreatment, theft, loss and deterioration. The entire unit of staff dedicated to the care and display of collections has been eliminated."

That relates to what I said earlier about these draconian cuts to our capacity to maintain and preserve our history.

The quality of our current exhibits will decline and our ability to develop new offerings of non-personal — the member opposite talked about these "non-personal" interpretations where you don't need a human being giving you the guided tour; you have little plaques telling you about it. Well, those are going to be crippled as well.

Maybe it's worth repeating: not many people realize that Parks Canada houses 250,000 artifacts in Dawson. Most of them are site-specific and most of them have national significance. They are nationally significant treasures. So earlier when I spoke about the fact that there is this move to quarter or hold various other artifacts in these major centres across Canada, now the question is, once you've eliminated those people who have got the capacity and the training — the professional expertise — to look after these historic and nationally significant treasures, who is going to do it?

Also housed in Dawson City are the documents and reference materials that help make clear the meaning of these resources. These are not replaceable; these are not mock-ups; these are originals; these are our history. Many of these artifacts are associated with national historic sites like the Dredge No. 4, the Commissioner's Residence, the *Dawson Daily News*, the Blacksmith Shop, the Red Feather Saloon. The rest of it really helps to contribute to the interpretation of the themes that represent the messages that make these have some national significance. I said earlier that it has taken a long time for this to be pulled together and for us to get an understanding of the significance of this. It has taken decades and over the decades the collection that we now have of a quarter million artifacts has been organized, rationalized, placed in proper storage with proper means for tracking their locations and their histories. Without the staff to maintain them and to provide proper care, that is going to unravel. It's like we purposely chose to do our own Iraq invasion where we saw antiquities and treasures destroyed — in that case by bombs.

In this case, we're deciding as a nation that we don't want to treasure our history; we're just going to let it ravel away; we're going to let it rot; we're going to let it disappear, because that's what's going to happen. It has been figured out — I love the point that the person who wrote to the Member of Parliament — he did an interesting calculation. He said the way in

which the work was done has resulted in a very cost-efficient means for caring for these artifacts; at a cost of two cents per annum per artifact. So, you figure it out: two cents per annum per artifact; two cents times 250,000. To care for the collection, it would take 2,500 years of care before the cost of removing them from the collection would be recovered. In other words, it's a bargain to continue caring for them.

I talked about the cuts to conservators across the country. The Dawson City collection had — the operative word — had a full-time conservator. If interventions were required to treat an object, much could be done on-site. Now, they're going to have to wait in a queue, for somebody in some national body, some bank someplace — perhaps in Ottawa, perhaps in Halifax, perhaps in Montreal — to decide when they think that this artifact needs to be dealt with.

If you're going to have to ship that artifact 5,000 kilometres away, what often happens — and any of us who have had antiques or anything of any antiquity — if you move it, you know how much damage can be done in the transit. That's exactly what will happen to these artifacts.

The imagery is powerful in his letter to the Member of Parliament. He says, "Artifacts often receive more damage in transit than they were originally sent away for." A question he asked was, "Would you want to send your flat tire to a tire shop in Ottawa for repair? I don't think so, so why would we consider this approach as a viable alternative for the national treasures housed in Dawson City?"

As I mentioned earlier, the flood of 1979 left a lot of Dawson City immersed under water and hunks of ice that flowed up to Fourth and Fifth and wherever — Sixth. You know, at the time, we were fortunate that there was in place a trained conservator with the professional expertise to help. It didn't come from Outside. I can tell you there were not Outside experts coming in to say, "Geez, what can we do to help? Look at this Parks Canada site."

There were other issues that were more important. Help did not arrive for more than a week. But having the trained conservator on-site ensured the survival of many valuable treasures from the collection. That capability for immediate response to emergencies has now been lost and, you know, there's a spinoff here. There's collateral damage. There's always collateral damage when these kinds of rash decisions are taken. But you'll recall — I think it was within the last year — there was a sprinkler system flood in the Dawson City museum, and who did they call upon? They called upon the Parks Canada conservators to help them because they had the capacity and they were there. They're gone. They will not be there. Yet again, another example of the short-sighted and history-denying federal government cuts.

The Member of Parliament was reminded that there are over 30 displays in Dawson that showcase the treasures from the Parks Canada collection. They range from simple display cases to fully furnished historical buildings like the Commissioner's Residence, which was opened by the Prime Minister in 1996. These showcase the story of the Klondike Gold Rush, and I think all of us would agree that they are world class in

quality. They were all designed and developed by staff on-site — staff that has now been eliminated. That capacity is gone.

There are such ironies in the way the federal government has gone about destroying the very sectors of this economy, in particular the knowledge sectors and particularly when we look at — as we're talking about today — the history of our country. I believe the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin spoke earlier about the great collaborative work that Parks Canada has done between governments and among agencies with the private sector. We know that Parks Canada has done an awful lot with respect to Holland America and others — as they desperately needed to because their budget was being cut time and time again over the last number of years. Actually, one of the Dawson personnel — that person's job is gone — was recently awarded a recognition of excellence for bringing in \$250,000 of outside money — outside of Parks Canada — and the participation of several other agencies and interest groups.

We say to public servants that we reward them for doing the kind of work that we want them to do to increase the ability of the parks and the history of this territory to be developed in innovative ways to bring in more money — private sector money and other sources of money — to further that initiative. The federal government's response has been to say to these Yukoners — to these people who worked so hard to contribute to the local economy and to help grow the local economy — "You're gone."

I can't overstate the importance of the fact that these are, yet again, more focused cuts toward the knowledge sector. The positions that were eliminated consisted of people who were highly trained and experienced. These people also did the inspection and maintenance of artifacts at all of the sites in the Yukon field unit, not just Dawson City. Thus, the collections housed in Haines Junction, Kluane National Park and in Whitehorse, the *SS Klondike*, are now vulnerable.

You cannot simply have somebody who is wandering about — the janitor or interpreter are not the ones who are going to be able to tell you whether or not there is any impact on that historic site, but they are the ones who are going to be there.

What we have identified is that, by standing by idly, the Yukon Party has really collaborated in putting our national legacy in Dawson at stake. What we have identified is that our Member of Parliament has stood by and refused to take a stand on this. By default, the budget cuts have fundamentally changed the mandate of Parks Canada — the mandate to preserve and protect and, most importantly, to address the commemorative integrity of our history. Our legacy to our future has been compromised. I talked earlier about the potential — well, I mean this will be a question I would hope that one of the members opposite — perhaps the Premier will be able to address this since he, no doubt, has greater access to those in Ottawa who made this decision.

And it would surely be through the Premier's office that initiatives to continue the efforts to see the Klondike UNESCO World Heritage Site designation pursued. But, you know, if we're going to do that — if Klondike is going to be successful — and if we want to see this designation that brings with it a

certain international allure, if you have travelled internationally, you know that when you see a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it goes up a little higher on your checklist. We certainly know that Lonely Planet, Rough Guide, Frommer's — they all look at the UNESCO designation and say, "Hmm, perhaps that's one we should check out." I can say that I have done that in numerous places myself. But in order to get there, we have to be able to demonstrate that we can address the sustainability and integrity of what's being preserved. What Canada has said to the world, and what it's forcing Yukoners to accept, is that we don't treasure the Klondike — that the federal government does not treasure the Klondike and the history of this territory enough to want to preserve our ability to assure that the integrity of this potentially internationally significant site — we are not going to put the resources necessary to sustain it into the future to ensure that we have a legacy for our children and our children's children.

I really liked the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin's comments when he was talking about Dredge No. 4. I've been there many times in the years before the Army Corps of Engineers — the sort of joint effort, I think, between Canada and the Brits who worked to raise that dredge in the early 1990s. It used to be kind of — well, it wasn't much to look at then, Mr. Speaker. But now, with the work done by the Army Corps of Engineers, and the significant investment by governments and Parks Canada over the years, it has been refurbished and is the treasure the member spoke about this afternoon.

Something the member opposite may or may not be aware of is that when that dredge was moved, and when they sort of lifted it, it was buried in 17 feet of silt. Thousands of original artifacts were uncovered — thousands. We were able to preserve those because we had the trained professionals. We had the conservator. We had people who knew what the significance of those items was — treasures that tell us a little bit about the history — each one of those thousand. Now we have nobody to preserve that kind of treasure for our grandchildren. We have nobody left to care for those if they were to be found, nobody to keep track of them, and nobody to make sure that they will be there in the future. There is nobody who will be able to monitor and look after this vital collection.

These cuts the federal government has imposed upon Parks Canada through its omnibus legislation are part of a series that are cutting away at the very fabric of this country.

It's not just the history. I spoke earlier about the collateral damage that results from these unthinking and poorly thought-out cuts. So, it was 30 people who lost their jobs. But it's not just that. It's the spinoff, because every job that is cut has a ripple effect through the economy. Every job created has a ripple effect through the economy in a positive way. What we've contributed to here by our silence from the Yukon government is allowing that wave of loss to be extended. I don't say that idly. In June, the Tourism Industry Association also echoed their concerns at the silence, the refusal from this government to speak out.

I'll quote here from an article that talked about Parks Canada cuts being called a threat to the economy in the *Whitehorse Star* of June 29, 2012: "The Tourism Industry Association

(TIA) says it's 'very concerned' with the federal government's decision to cut 30 of the 110 Parks Canada employees in Yukon — almost 28 percent of its presence in the territory." Mr. Speaker, can you imagine any other employer cutting 28 percent of its employees in one fell swoop and not having a reaction from the Yukon government? Would the Yukon government stand by and let any other sector do that? But they allowed, without a voice being raised, the federal government to do this.

The article says, "The organization warns this will have major consequences to the Yukon's tourism industry and overall economy."

"The Government of Canada may save a few dollars with these cuts, but by doing so, the Yukon will lose millions in direct and indirect revenue that comes from visitor spending associated with Parks Canada sites," TIA Yukon chair ... said Thursday."

He said, "Think about the business owners who offer accommodations, retail and food services to visitors who go to and from these attractions. If the attractions become less attractive to tourists because there are less services provided, how can this not result in less visitor traffic, and ultimately, less business?"

"According to a report compiled by the federal government last year, *The Economic Impacts of Parks Canada*, sites in the Yukon produced almost \$6.9 million in direct revenue in 2009."

But the Yukon Party government quietly lets this happen; it says we don't care; \$6.9 million — that's nothing. It's a sad commentary on a government that says it cares about Yukoners and investments in this territory.

"The same year, Parks Canada also contributed \$10.2 million to the Yukon's GDP, generated \$7.5 million in labour income, created the equivalent of 145 full-time jobs and brought in \$600,000 in tax revenue to the territory."

Did we hear one word from the Yukon Party government in defence of those 145 full-time jobs? In defence of that foregone tax revenue? I guess we know the answer: no.

"Many tourism operators who own businesses near Parks Canada sites have expressed their concerns about the impending cuts and believe that the federal government should reconsider its decision."

It's a bit late, but it would be nice if they could. Perhaps the Yukon Party will be telling us at some point today that they have a magic bullet here and they have been able to bend the ear of their colleagues in Ottawa.

The article went on to say — I quote the tourism association: "Parks Canada handles a huge amount of tourism product in the territory and now all of a sudden, the funding it needs to function properly is being taken away. Who's going to fill this gap? Does the federal government expect the territorial government to pick up the pieces? Will it fall to the private sector?" So, will the territorial government declare how it will be picking up the pieces left by the equivalent of 145 full-time jobs and the \$10.2 million that Parks Canada contributed to the GDP? Will we be hearing that strategy coming from the Yukon Party? If the silence on the federal cuts remains, then we will

need to hear that from the Yukon Party. The tourism association went on to say, "You can't just saw a leg off a table and expect it to stand up as well as it once did." Their question echoes the question that the Official Opposition has been asking this government for 10 years, but for sure in the last year. Because we thought that they came to the Yukon public and said, "We have a new way; a new plan of working together." The tourism association said, "What's the plan here?" Good question.

The tourism association also noted that the Yukon Chamber of Mines — and this was written in June, so it's somewhat more draconian than what they identified — has warned that the territory can expect close to a 40-percent downturn in mining exploration from last year. Many Yukoners have expressed the need to diversify the economy, the group said. As an economic driver, tourism has been proven to provide a strong return on investment, both territorially and nationally. "In the past, when commodity prices were low, it was the tourism industry that kept the Yukon afloat," said the tourism association.

The tourism association went on to say that, "Yukon's MP has said that these cuts to Parks Canada won't impact tourism in the territory, but the report released by his government last year clearly proves that it does. When many Tourism Industry Association of Yukon's members in the communities like Dawson City and Haines Junction, who have been operating in the area for years, tell us they will be affected by the cuts to Parks Canada sites, our MP needs to listen to what they're saying. This is their lifeblood that we're talking about."

It is their lifeblood; it is their jobs; it is their ability to create employment — real employment — in rural communities.

On top of the economic impact that Parks Canada has had on many of Yukon's small businesses and communities, Tourism Yukon said that "most Yukoners also recognize the cultural and historical significance of the artifacts and sites that Parks Canada oversees." Just like the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin told us today about how he learned something of the history by going and visiting these sites, the tourism association asked the same question — "How many families have learned about Yukon history and culture by taking a guided tour of Dredge No. 4 or the *SS Klondike* over the years?" They didn't do it this summer. They won't be able to do it. Sad, isn't it? "How many have had the chance to enjoy a hike in Kluane, knowing that the park would be well-maintained and that search and rescue was only a call away if an accident happened?" The tourism association went on to say that "Parks Canada staff work hard to tell the story of the Yukon by preserving and showcasing many of the things that are part of our territory's identity: the things that make the Yukon special. Now, many of these staff are being shown the door." The door is shut. They're gone.

It is sad, there is no other word for it — the fact that we have a federal government that is determined to restructure our country, to redefine it in ways that Canadians had never anticipated, that has turned its back and is increasingly denying the ability of Canadians, particularly as we welcome into this nation people from around the world. We have increased, and we need to increase our immigration into this country, but one of

the most important aspects is to be able to share with new immigrants to this country how rich our history is. In comparison to many of the immigrants who do come to this country, our history is relatively short, but it's vibrant and it's dynamic. Up until now it has been inclusive and forward thinking; now it has shut the door.

I won't go on much longer. I just wanted to close by saying that there was an interesting comment by the Canadian Archeological Association: "There will be more people employed in a single Tim Hortons than are employed by Parks Canada nationally to preserve and care for millions of archaeological and historic objects in storage and on display." That's a sad commentary on the federal government and the Yukon government's respect for our history and our future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** It's a pleasure to rise to speak to Motion No. 240 with respect to the importance of Parks Canada sites in the Yukon. I'd like to thank the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin for bringing it forward.

I could spend my next 20 minutes responding to a lot of the things that the Leader of the Official Opposition said. I've mentioned this before in this House — when I was here from 2000-02 as a government private member and then a Cabinet minister, Wednesday afternoons or private members' days were always deflating. They took a lot of energy out of all members of the House, no matter what side of the House owned it. Whether it was the opposition or the government, they were days of insults; they were days of political gamesmanship; they were days when not very much was accomplished that was in the interests of Yukoners and in the interests of those people who elected us and sent us here to represent them. But when I got back last year in 2011 — and I'm going to steal a couple of words from a famous American politician, and those are "hope" and "change". I was very, very hopeful that, in those early days when we passed government motions unanimously and motions by the opposition unanimously. Even a private member's bill passed this House, introduced by the Member for Riverdale South. Unfortunately, today a lot of that hope has turned to disappointment.

Certainly what we have just heard from the Leader of the Official Opposition disappoints me. And, as I've said, I could spend the next 15 or 20 minutes of my time responding to that, but I'm not going to do that, because when I got elected last fall, my constituents demanded better of me. And I'm sure many constituents demanded better of each and every one of us in this House. They want us to spend our Wednesdays talking about issues that are important to Yukoners, such as the one we're discussing here today.

I know there was a government motion on the Order Paper in the spring toward the end of the sitting. This motion was introduced on the first day of this fall sitting by the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin, and it is the first one that we've brought forward to the floor of this Legislature. I'm not going to pretend that I have the best understanding of the fiscal situation of the Government of Canada. Of course we all know that they are running deficits and they're trying very hard to balance their

budget, and of course budgeting is about making choices. I think what we as legislators want to send to Canada and the federal government with this motion — and I'm hopeful that it will receive unanimous consent of this House — the message they need to make a different choice. We want them to restore funding to Dredge No. 4, complete with guided tours.

The first opportunity I had to go to Dawson City was in 1979 or 1980 with my parents, and we visited Dredge No. 4. I have visited it several times since, but only once did I take the guided tour, and that really gave me a great understanding of the tremendous amount of work that the people who worked on those dredges did and a better understanding for how important those were to the development of the Klondike. That guided tour during that summer that I spent up there — and that was only a few years ago — was when I gained that real understanding.

When it comes to the second part of this motion, which is dealing with Bear Creek, I never did get the opportunity to tour Bear Creek when it was open. I've heard fantastic things about it from friends of mine who work for the Klondike Placer Miners Association or are placer miners — during my time working for the Klondike Placer Miners Association. I know it is something that that industry organization would really like to see reopened and brought back to life. I applaud the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin for introducing that part into the motion here today.

The third part of this motion is about restoring the funding for the management of the artifacts in Dawson City, including the preservation of Dawson's historic buildings.

When I read that part, it also brought something personal for me, because during that time when I first visited Dawson with my parents, one of my older brothers was working for Parks Canada. It was his summer job and he was doing artist conceptions of some of the buildings so that they could be restored to their original state. I'm sure that that was an incredibly rewarding summer job for him as he was putting himself through technical school, and it's something that I've remembered to this day, just because of how proud I am of him for his work in helping to preserve the historic buildings in Dawson City.

When it comes to Kluane National Park — I know the Member for Kluane will speak to this probably in greater detail if he has an opportunity to speak this afternoon — but so many people value what Kluane National Park brings. The activities that I've been able to undertake in there are cross-country skiing, visiting Sheep Mountain during my time in elementary school and junior high here in the Yukon, and I think it's something that many others enjoy until this time. My younger brother was actually married at the Kathleen Lake campground, so I know that, too, will hold a special place for my family.

The *SS Klondike*, of course — what can you say about that? When I was here before, it was the centrepiece of the riding that I represented here in this Legislature, which was Riverdale — half downtown and half in Riverdale. That riding no longer exists, but the *SS Klondike* was definitely the centrepiece for us. Again, the guided tours are so important. I was able to take one of those when I was in public school here and

another wedding for one of my other brothers actually took place on the *SS Klondike* back in the early 1980s.

The Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site offers many recreational activities for Yukon residents, including a class from Golden Horn Elementary School that hikes that trail. They hiked it last year, and I believe they have plans to hike it again. I was fortunate enough, as part of an outdoor education class that I took in junior high here, to also hike the Chilkoot Trail in 1982, and I was able to travel back to Whitehorse on the White Pass & Yukon Route. It was the last season that that train offered service into Whitehorse. It was just a tremendous experience that I've had personally when it comes to Parks Canada attractions that are identified in Motion No. 240 that we're debating here today.

Bullet (7) is promoting the development of interpretive and instructional material for Ivvavik and Vuntut national parks. I'm sure the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin will be able to speak more eloquently to that than I would. I have never had the opportunity to visit either of those national parks, but I know he did serve as a park ranger working for Parks Canada and I am looking forward to hearing from him on this matter as well.

I know that a number of individuals will talk about the economic impact and some of the tourism product that we are losing and the support for local travel and recreation that we are going to lose, but as Minister of Education, I just want to take a bit of a different track with this and talk about the educational opportunities that exist within the heritage resources that we have in the territory. Not only Parks Canada resources — and I'll talk to one of the national parks down south and some of the school programs that they offer there — but I'd like to start actually by talking a little bit about some of the activities that are offered at MacBride Museum of Yukon History here in Whitehorse. I know that so many of our museums and heritage sites that are operated by NGOs or by the Yukon government offer educational experience, but this one is personal for me because I served on the board of the MacBride Museum for two years prior to coming to this House.

They have so many summer kids' camps that they offer from Dig It Yukon to the Yukon Mad Scientist, Yukon Gold Fever, Yukon Ghost Hunters, Game On Yukon, but they also through the leadership of their executive director and their board offer a number of school programs and tours.

There's a program in archaeology. There's also a program called "All About Bears". These are both offered to the K to 3 level. Pardon me, the archaeology one is K to 7. "Yukon Mammals" — K to 3; "End of Steel, Head of Navigation" — which is a grade 3 level course. What students do during that two hours is "...build the city of Whitehorse using giant puzzle pieces, and don era costumes to act out a play." What that program focuses on is "...the development of Whitehorse between 1900 and 1920, when its rail and river traffic peaked."

Some of the curriculum connections identified by the museum: "1. Describe the historical development of Whitehorse; 2. Describe how the physical environment influences human activity; 3. Identify how matter changes when heated and cooled."

Some of the other school programs offered by MacBride Museum include a "Yukon Kids Series Program: 'Aurore of the Yukon'", and that's based on a book, I believe, that was written by a local author, Mr. Keith Halliday, also a constituent of mine. We also have Yukon kids series programs, "Yukon Secret Agents", "Extra! Extra! Klondike Women Make History", "Murder At Gold Bottom Creek", and many other opportunities that the MacBride Museum gives to Yukon students. I know at the start of this school year, they hosted a number of teachers at MacBride Museum. That was something that I know the executive director was very proud of and was able to show off her museum. I'm sure many members of this House have attended events at MacBride Museum.

Again, the educational component of that heritage resource, as with many other museums — and I won't name them because I'm afraid I'll miss one of them and leave one of them out — but that's just a snapshot, I think, of how heritage helps out with education. Of course, Parks Canada is no exception. I was going to talk about two of the park programs that I found on the Internet today, but in the interest of time, I'll just keep it to one, and those are some school programs offered through Glacier National Park in British Columbia.

"Explore Nature and the Past" is the title of their school programs — a number of elementary school programs: To name a few: "Herbivore Carnivore"; "Wild Weather"; "Railway Tales"; "Predatory Prey"; "Art in the Park"; "Snowshoeing" — and these cover off the K to 7, everything from physical education to science and social studies and art. I think those are tremendous opportunities that Parks Canada affords our educational system when it comes to activities that are offered there. I did, of course, mention during the personal part of responding to this motion many of the activities that I was able to undertake as a public school student here in the Yukon with respect to the parks, and I'm sure the Member for Klondike, as a former educator in Dawson City, will be able to tell us either today or perhaps outside of these chambers all of the activities that he was able to undertake with his students when it came to the historic resources in the Klondike region. So, I'm not going to take all of my time today because I know there are other members who wish to be heard, and I'm hopeful that we can get to a vote on this motion so that we can also address the second motion that was brought forward here today by the Member for Watson Lake.

I know that is something that is very important to her and her constituents and, of course, others in these chambers.

In closing, again, I think that what we want to accomplish here today as legislators and as Members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly are a couple of things. I am hopeful that again we can bring back some of the order and decorum that exists on these days during my recent history and get away from some of the negativity that was unfortunately exhibited by the Leader of the Official Opposition that I remember all too well from my days here prior.

The second thing again, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, is that I am hopeful that what we are able to accomplish here today is to send that message to Canada that, although we know budgeting is about making choices and they have their

own fiscal pressures and their own fiscal responsibilities that they have to address, we think cuts to Parks Canada were not the right choice. We want to see those programs, those sites, the tours, and the things that we have asked for — and that the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin has asked for — in this motion protected.

Again, not being at that table and making those budget decisions and feeling the pressures that they feel, we just want them to make sure they recognize the value of Parks Canada here in the Yukon, the value of our heritage sites, and I am hopeful that we can send a positive message to Minister Peter Kent — no relation — and let him know that we as Yukoners value what Parks Canada does in our territory and the programs and services that are offered — again, whether it's from the tourism side of things or the economic development, but also from the educational opportunities those historic sites give us as Yukoners.

With that, I'll bring my remarks to a close and again thank the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin for bringing this forward and thank the Minister of Tourism and Culture for introducing a government motion in the spring sitting. Again, hopefully we are able to get this to a vote today so that we can send that strong message to Ottawa that is in the best interest of all Yukoners. Thank you.

**Mr. Silver:** Before I begin I would just like to thank the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin for bringing forward this important motion, Motion No. 240.

Parks is spending mega-millions of dollars on new urban parks in Toronto, the War of 1812 and the Franklin expedition projects, and also publicity — all good initiatives, but meanwhile the dredge is being shut down and the *SS Klondike* converted to self-guided tours as part of a massive national strategy to reduce salary costs. It is largely a cookie-cutter approach. The curatorial staff — all dismissed from their duties — were told this summer by their bosses in Ottawa — and I quote: "Sorry, but it's a very prescribed process and it can't be undone." But the inconsistencies are not explained. For example, the Fortress of Louisbourg or Fort Malden kept museum professionals on-site when experiencing their own federal cuts, while in Dawson the artifact museum function has been completely gutted, completely shut down, with jobs being transferred to people 5,000 kilometres away in Ottawa. Access to the collection and new exhibits will be slowed to almost nothing.

Why is Parks Canada supporting heritage attractions in the east, while shortchanging the Yukon? These are not small, run-of-the-mill historic sites. The *SS Klondike* is a Whitehorse icon. Dawson is the flagship national historic site in the west, named one of the top 10 in the country by *History Magazine* and considered a brand leader by Parks Canada. The dredge is the most visited Parks Canada site in the Yukon.

Yukoners want to go inside. Visitors rave about the knowledgeable interpretive staff and personal service on the dredge, and it is a key part of what makes Dawson a unique destination. Now, the *Lonely Planet* has designated Dawson City as number 3 in its top Canadian destinations, ahead of

Toronto — go figure — and the Queen Charlotte Islands. Well, I wrote a letter to the *Lonely Planet* today, Mr. Speaker, informing them that they may have just made a mistake. I would imagine that the large part of this recognition would have to go to the tourist attractions that we offer. Well, I informed them that the federal government has just taken away the biggest one. Looking at a sign in the parking lot is not a tour; it's an insult. What a great 100-year anniversary present this is — *Hansard*, if you could, please write that last statement dripping with sarcasm, thank you.

Yukoners should pressure the Government of Canada to sufficiently fund Parks Canada Yukon operations to maintain quality, personal interpretation and management of the collection without impacting other jobs or programs. That last comment is to circumvent parks opening the dredge and, say, closing the *SS Keno* or laying off other staff in the Yukon to make up the difference.

There is also a negative economic impact to small communities. In Dawson alone, the permanent loss of positions has already taken away a half a million dollars, and this will be even more when the dredge is closed next year. Dawson and Yukoners deserve better.

I would like to take a moment to address the Minister of Tourism and Culture's comments during a recent Question Period debate. His final supplementary, when grilled on what his government is doing to help the Klondike in lieu of the current federal cuts — he voiced his surprise in my interest, and I quote: "I just bumped into the Member for Klondike two weeks ago and asked him if he had any concerns, and at that time, he told me no."

I "bumped into the member" — it was in the cafeteria of this building, actually. He was eating with others and I walked by and he yelled out, "Are you ready?" I assumed he meant for the fall session. Then he asked, "Got any questions?" Well, of course, I have questions, but this is neither the time nor place to discuss them. Now, if this is what passes for diplomacy, well, I'm frankly disappointed — no letter of concern, no invitation to discuss this in an official capacity, and no information sharing. If we are sharing statements, the initial response from the minister on this issue when the cuts were first announced was that this was a great opportunity for the private sector. He echoed this statement to me just a few weeks ago in our caucus office. This suggestion of downloading into the non-profit sector is not a solution.

If Parks Canada farms it out to others they are abandoning their mandate responsibility. The quality of interpretation will suffer and so will the Yukon tourism industry.

Our MP, Ryan Leef, has at least contacted me and asked that we set up a meeting in the immediate future to discuss new information that he was excited about and willing to share. I would expect the same courtesy from my colleagues, especially since, on this issue, we are seemingly all on the same page.

Now, I am going to support this motion absolutely. It is the third motion in two sessions on this issue. My worry is that this is where the government stops, and I think this is a valid concern. We sat in this House last spring and we all passed a motion giving unanimous consent to urge the federal government

not to cut funds to the CBC. That's the last that we heard from this government on this subject and the cuts went through anyway. My opinion is that of the people of the Klondike, and this is a huge issue. If I haven't yet convinced people of my intention to go past motions of unanimous consent in this House, or if I haven't convinced the listeners today, or the readers of *Hansard* in the future of the importance of this issue, well then maybe the opinions of others will.

I'm going to quote a few people who have been in the news on this topic, and I'm going to start with the new mayor of Dawson City, Wayne Potoroka.

As a quick aside, I would just like to send congratulations to Mayor Potoroka and to his councillors, Stephen Johnson, Bill Kendrick, Kyla MacArthur, and Darren Taylor. They were sworn in last night; they had their first meeting already and they have scheduled a committee of the whole meeting for next week. I have the utmost confidence in this mayor and council and wish them well in their dedication to our community.

Wayne Potoroka said, "It is up to everyone to make sure that their political leaders — whether it be municipally, territorially, or federally — just let them know how important tourism and heritage is to the community and to the territory in general. And I think it's incumbent on all of us to ensure that we have a vibrant tourism offering for guests of the Yukon. So, again, it is not just about political people, but certainly the people on the ground too that will have a big effect if they make their voices heard."

I'd also like to quote an ex-curator — now, it's interesting that this particular person — and I can say "she" because they all were "shes", all five of them who no longer work there — she didn't want her name put forward because she didn't want to seem like just a disgruntled ex-employee. I find that an interesting statement, and kind of sad.

I quote: "When I toured around our Ottawa colleagues a couple of weeks ago, they were blown away by the exhibits and the collection's work, and they told me privately that they were very upset that not even a partial position was saved. As it was well-known that Dawson has an important site-specific collection — the second-largest in Parks Canada — it was a small measure of vindication — at least for me and the other collections staff to whom we might have passed the torch, if they had kept their job. I would have walked away happily if I had known there was even someone — even in a lower level position — left on the site to manage the collection. Imagine trying to operate MacBride Museum or the Dawson City Museum from a distance."

The next quote, the Leader of the Official Opposition was mentioning a bit as well. I don't know if she knows or not that the author of this next quotation is in the gallery today — Mr. Michael Gates. "According to the official website for the Parks Canada Agency, 'An important part of Parks Canada's mandate involves protecting the health and wholeness, or commemorative integrity, of the national historic sites it operates. This means preserving the site's cultural resources, communicating its heritage values and national significance, and kindling the respect of people whose decisions and actions affect the site.' With recent Parks Canada budget cuts and staff lay-offs in the

Yukon, this mandate has been compromised in ways that previous cuts have not. Will these cuts leave Parks Canada able to sustain a bid for World Heritage Site status for the Klondike?"

"I composed an inquiry and sent it out to Ryan Leef, MP for the Yukon. I am not a political animal, but I turn to my Member of Parliament, whatever his or her political stripe, when I feel that I need an ally or a champion for something that affects the Yukon.

"Here's what I wrote: As one of your constituents, I want to voice my concern regarding recent cuts to Parks Canada budgets and personnel in the Yukon. Many have voiced concern about the issue of closures of the Dredge No. 4, and the elimination of guided tours of the *SS Klondike*, so I won't linger on them. I am concerned that major cuts in personnel in Dawson City leave significant national treasures vulnerable to mishandling, mistreatment, theft, loss and deterioration. The entire unit of staff dedicated to the care and display of collections has been eliminated. I think that the quality of the current exhibits will decline and our ability to develop new offerings of non-personal interpretation to the public has been crippled. Parks Canada houses a quarter of a million artifacts in Dawson, most of them site-specific nationally significant treasures. Also housed are documents and reference materials that help to make clear the meaning of these resources. They are not replaceable.

"Many of them are associated with national historic sites, like the Dredge No. 4, the Commissioner's Residence, the Dawson Daily News, Biggs Blacksmith Shop, the Red Feather Saloon and so forth. The remainder in large part contributes to the interpretation of the themes that represent the message of national significance.

"Over the past four decades, the collection has been organized, rationalized, placed in the proper storage with proper means for tracking their locations and history. That work will unravel very quickly without the staff to maintain order and proper care. The way in which the work was done has resulted in a very cost-effective means of caring for them. At a cost of two cents per annum per artifact to care for the collection, it would take 2,500 years of care before the cost of removing them from the collection would be recovered. In other words, it's a bargain to continue to care for them.

"The collection had a full-time conservator. If interventions were required to treat an object, many could be done at the site. Now they are going to have to wait in the queue in a conservation lab 5,000 kilometres away. Artifacts often receive more damage in transit than they are originally sent away for. Would you want to send your flat tire to a tire shop in Ottawa for repair? I don't think so, so why would we consider this approach as a viable alternative for national treasures housed in Dawson City?"

"In the flood of 1979, much of Parks Canada's collection was immersed in water. Fortunately, at the time there was a trained conservation professional working on-site. Help didn't arrive from the outside for more than a week. The measures taken before the arrival ensured the survival of many valuable treasures from the collection. That capability for immediate response to emergencies has now been lost. You may be aware



that there are over 30 displays in Dawson that showcase the treasures from the Parks Canada collection. They range from simple display cases to fully furnished historical buildings like the Commissioner's Residence, which was opened by the Prime Minister in 1996. These showcased the story of the Klondike Gold Rush and are world-class in quality. They were all designed and developed by staff on-site who have now been eliminated. That capacity is now gone."

"At a time when we are being told that the staff reductions will result in non-personal interpretations of many of our attractions, I don't understand why the personnel who were responsible for such work have been eliminated when they will be needed even more than ever. One of the Dawson personnel who was eliminated was recently awarded recognition of excellence by the CEO of Parks Canada. Among her accomplishments: bringing in one-quarter of a million dollars from outside of Parks Canada and the participation of several other agencies and interest groups. Is that the kind of stuff that we should retain? So, why the cut? Since then the site has had to turn back another quarter of a million dollars in money from outside of the agency, for a virtual museum project that would have fulfilled all of the criteria for cost-effectiveness, and reaching citizens all across the country as well as around the world."

"In addition to all of these points, consider that the positions that were eliminated consisted of people highly trained and experienced. These same people also did the inspection and maintenance of artifacts at all of the sites in the Yukon field unit, not just Dawson City. Thus the collections housed in Haines Junction (Kluane National Park) and in Whitehorse (*SS Klondike*) are now vulnerable. A janitor or a site interpreter will not be able to do the job, but they are the only ones left at the sites now."

"In their eagerness to meet targets set by your government, someone, or some people in management have made decisions that do not make sense, and which leave a major national collection vulnerable and uncared for. Long distance care from a service centre 5,000 kilometres away just won't do it.

Mr. Leef, I know what I am talking about, and I know what is at stake. I was curator of collections for Parks Canada in Dawson City for many years, and worked in the heritage field my entire career. Our national legacy in Dawson is at risk, and I think that something should be done to reverse or minimize the damage of some bad decisions before it's too late."

"I received a reply in due course, which really didn't answer my questions. I repeat my request here in my column in the hope that it will elicit a more focused reply. Cutting the entire collections staff for the Yukon was a bad management decision that will seriously harm the commemorative integrity. What will be done to rectify the decision?"

Now, there is an answer from Mr. Leef. It's two paragraphs. I just read 20 paragraphs. I'm not going to read the reply. Well, maybe I will read the reply. Maybe that's a good idea. I think I will read the reply: "Recently I have received a few inquiries in regards to the cessation of guided tours for Dredge No. 4 in Dawson City. I fully agree and support that Dredge No. 4 is an important Yukon heritage site. Not only is it important for Yukon, it is also an official National Historic

Site. The educational value that it represents for Yukoners and international visitors is something that we should absolutely be proud of. As many of you know, the cessation of guided tours of Dredge No. 4 is part of the budget reduction facing Parks Canada. I will continue to work with the government and Parks Canada, in an effort to identify this as an important endeavour and work towards a solution that is mutually beneficial. Thank you for bringing your concerns forward to me. Sincerely, Ryan Leef."

Moving on to the Tourism Industry Association — and I quote: "The Tourism Industry Association of Yukon — TIA Yukon — says it is very concerned with the federal government's decision to cut 30 of the 110 Parks Canada employees in the Yukon — almost 28 percent of its presence in the territory. The organization warns this will have major consequences for the Yukon tourism industry and overall economy. The Government of Canada will save a few dollars with these cuts, but in doing so, the Yukon will lose millions in direct and indirect revenues that come from visitor spending associated with Parks Canada sites." This was from the chair, Neil Hartling.

Another quote from Neil Hartling: "Think about the business owners who offer accommodations, retail and food services to visitors who go to and from these attractions. If the attractions become less attractive to tourists because there are less services provided, how can this not result in less visitor traffic..." That quote goes on.

I have another quote from the director of a tour — the tour and cruise operations, Premier Alaska Tours, and I quote: "As an Alaska-based tour operator who has brought thousands of people to the gold Dredge No. 4 and to the *SS Klondike* over the years, we are very disappointed with the recent closing of these important historical attractions. This decision affects us and our clients greatly. The historic attractions are a big part of why we bring visitors to the Yukon. Experiencing the Yukon won't be the same without guided tours, especially Dredge No. 4. We encourage you to reverse this decision and keep this attraction open."

So, in closing, the Government of Yukon has had six months to do something about this issue and has done almost nothing. Today's motion may just look like an attempt to look busy on this file, but nothing more, and I hope not. The Minister of Tourism and the Premier had a golden opportunity to raise the issue with the Prime Minister when he was here this summer. They didn't, which makes me wonder if it was not on their list of priorities. There was plenty of time for posing for pictures with the Prime Minister, but no time for Dredge No. 4 or the *SS Klondike* or for people who are losing their jobs in Dawson. Even today, has the government brought anything new to the table? Is there a plan B past this motion? I hope there is. I guess we will find out. It's very disappointing to see the government accepted a federal Conservative decision, but I hope that this great opportunity brings forward a unanimous consent in this House and that today is not the end of the battle. Thanks a lot for your time.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I'll try and keep this as short as I can, but I do want to be on the record with this motion. I was a boy of eight when Kluane National Park Reserve came to Haines Junction in 1972, so I'm probably one of the few who can probably speak to the start of parks — being there and living there through where we are today.

I'm going to quote a couple of things from the original start of the parks. It will be verbatim and some will be from our former MLA, Mr. Bill Brewster: A promise made and a debt unpaid; a promise made on February 22, 1972. The then Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Hon. Jean Chrétien, made a promise to Yukoners. It was on that day that the Kluane National Park was created and then Commissioner of the Yukon, Mr. James Smith, made the announcement for the minister in the Yukon Legislative Assembly on the same day. I would like to reiterate to you some of the statements made at the time by Jean Chrétien which constitutes the promise made to Yukoners: "All groups directly affected by these land withdrawals will have an opportunity to make their views known. We will discuss with the Indian and Eskimo people who live near the parks ways to make sure that they get their share of the jobs created and every other possible economic advantage the parks can provide."

I should note here that the Eskimo people were referred to because of South Nahanni River National Park Reserve and the Cumberland Pennsylvania Park Reserve of Baffin Island in Northwest Territories were set aside on the same day. Jean Chrétien went on to say that the northern policy recognizes the importance of balanced development which benefits the people and protects the environment. And then the minister made one of the most important statements of all — that national parks will stimulate tourism and will provide economic and social opportunities for northern residents.

Then 16 years later, when Mr. Brewster, the Member for Kluane, brought this to the House — now 40 years later — Yukoners are still awaiting the fulfillment of these promises, and I can tell you that we are tired of waiting. We have been telling Ottawa and Winnipeg and everybody at Parks for many years — for 40 years — and nobody ever seems to listen. I might remind the members here that throughout that time it was not always a Conservative government. There were Liberal governments; there were NDP governments in the Yukon Territory. So the blame game can't be today.

The debt unpaid — I would like to hear some of the comments from some of the local residents. If you can go through exit surveys, you can look — many times, they have gotten residents together to discuss the vision — Parks 20:20 Vision is a good example. Today, Kluane National Park still covers 21,980 square kilometres, and yes, the largest mountain in Canada, at 19,545 feet and still growing — for those of you who did not know that. We have a diverse array in our national park of plants, wildlife, species, the largest non-polar ice field. I speak to that because I'm wondering: where are we today? We have closed ski trails. We have the Kathleen day use area that's blockaded. It's not open for Yukoners. Our mountain rescue people are not there any more either. Businesses have closed. Geez, we don't even have a store. We have a great new

cultural centre that we just built. We have the co-management of our national park with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Kluane First Nation. I was proud to be a member of the Kluane National Park Management Board, and a few years ago, we reviewed the management plans. We brought the community together — all stakeholders — long before this last round of cuts. We brought many positive things to Ottawa and to Parks Canada about things that could improve Kluane. Times are changing.

Access and economic development was most of the stuff that came forward, while respecting the environmental and wilderness integrity of our national park. I believe there will have to be a fundamental change in the present thinking of how we operate in our national parks. Some parks are different, but in Kluane, I do believe that. For those in my riding, my constituents and for all Yukoners, I brought this to the attention of our MP and the Prime Minister. I've also written letters about these and I've alluded to this earlier. I encourage the Government of Canada to address this issue and, as long as I sit in this chair, I will push for the residents of Kluane and for Parks Canada. It's one of the most beautiful, majestic places that we have. All Canadians should have the opportunity to see it. By closing and taking some of these activities away, we're not doing that.

I'd like to thank the Minister of Education for his comments. They were very good. This is about national parks, so in closing I definitely commend this motion. I thank the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin for bringing this forward.

**Mr. Barr:** I would like to thank the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin for bringing Motion No. 240 forward today. It's nice to hear that the Member for Kluane has done something in the last six months. I wish we would have heard that publicly, not just today.

Not only on Wednesdays do we speak on behalf of the people who elected us, but we speak on behalf of the people in the grocery stores; we speak on behalf of the people at events and visiting elected officials to these events. We must speak up for what we have when we have the opportunity or the opportunities are lost.

It is about spirit; it's about spirit of the people, the spirit of nature. Old buildings, the Chilkoot Trail, have a spirit or many spirits within. I was thinking back to when I hiked the Chilkoot Trail about eight years ago with a friend of mine who hadn't been to the Yukon before. It was her first year here. We were coming near the end of the trail, over that sand into Bennett Lake and as I was walking along I could hear the voices of children laughing. There was all of this glee in the air and all of this life, and yet when I looked around, there was nothing but the beauty of the nature that I was walking on.

There was an elder there from Carcross who still has a trapline at Bennett Lake. I went up and knocked on the door and she said, "Oh, Kevin, it's so nice to see you." We were dirty; we were tired and my partner had blisters on her feet. They started the sauna and we had a sauna. We were so cleaned up; we had such a good welcoming there at the end of the trail. We sat in the house and had tea after this and the elder said to

me, "Did you hear?" I said, "Yes, I heard." The person I was travelling with said, "Hear what?" I said I heard all these people laughing, sounds of children and parents and people working and banging and things. The elder looked at me and said, "Yes, I hear it here often."

The spirit that I speak of and the opportunities for learning and the opportunities for awareness and having validation that things are real, that things are important, that it's happening here and now — it's a lost opportunity when our Prime Minister was here not that long ago, when the time was right.

Missed opportunities are missed opportunities. We're talking about this now today. I was speaking with a woman from N.W.T. the other day at the TIA convention. She was telling me that she was relocated from N.W.T. to Yukon. She left her home, her family, her friends and her job — things that she has from living there for many years, she said. She says she loved it. I said, well, do you like the Yukon? She said that well, yeah, the Yukon is nice here. She came here, though, to keep a job — to keep a job because her job was lost at Parks Canada in N.W.T. We are speaking of the jobs lost in Dawson — the income lost, the people leaving to relocate. Old Crow — the people who worked for Parks Canada in Old Crow — they're human beings. They were part of that community. There are people in Whitehorse who lost jobs. These are people who pay taxes that will not be paid to the government here now, with the salary dollars that will not be feeding our economy now.

I know that the Member for Whitehorse Centre spoke very eloquently on detail after detail after detail of the complexity of these cuts. I don't do that. Yet, we have that to broaden that part of this conversation. I speak about people and the feelings and about the spirit of community. Yes, there's money involved here from these people. Yes, we lost those jobs. That's an awful thing. This woman who was here from N.W.T. — she's well on in her life. She had hoped to plan to retire there with her friends, family and community. The people who are leaving here now — relocating — they are people with family, with a dream to retire here. They have worked years and years, who are now, near their retirement, having to leave. We are leaving — those people are also employed in Haines Junction, Whitehorse and Dawson City.

These people are community people. They contribute to the music circles, I know, as the folks in Old Crow. I know a young couple got married in a traditional way on a caribou skin. They became a part of that community, learned to play the fiddle from Allan Benjamin and would go to the community dances and lived and breathed when hunting — went to the Flats. They're gone. They were sad when I saw them leaving the Yukon. They were happy people who came to Whitehorse who would share all the wonderful things they were living. They volunteered in their community. Those other people who are leaving — they contribute to the festivals — volunteers. The highway cleanup crews that we see walking — they're vibrant, they're the fabric of our community here in the Yukon.

We're not just losing what has been worked for preserving for our generations to come. Expertise was leaving us, but also the opportunity for that to continue to be shared by the hard work of the people that these cuts have cost. You know, to

blame Parks Canada — that notion is to blame them like we blame the CBC for trying to do something that's good for all of us. What is that?

The federal government directs Parks Canada priorities. The minister gives the CEO of Parks Canada agency his marching orders and on down the line, so if Parks Canada has diverted an inordinate portion of its ever-reduced budget on the War of 1812, it's because the federal Cabinet thinks that this is of a higher priority than the people, the lives of our future here in the Yukon to preserve what we have intact today. I think that's a shame.

These people sit on our school councils — the exact people with the expertise to care for ongoing work needed to preserve and build on the efforts of years of work to still be completed for future tourists and local people to explore and enjoy. The government had an excellent opportunity to speak with the Prime Minister and to raise these concerns personally when he was here just over a couple of months ago.

When I remember back then, what I saw in headlines in the paper was front page pictures of our Prime Minister walking among our mining future. The future of extracting and the opportunities — that's not to say that that's not important, yet I think what is important is that the water will always be here to provide for us. It'll always be here and the land, the animals. It'll be here to provide for our children, our children's children long after the last chunk of gold is gone and the oil is taken. We need these people who have to leave here to continue to work alongside a respectful mining industry to ensure we all move forward together as one — not placing a priority from one over the other.

As it has been stated, our tourism industry is a mainstay of our economy — a great mainstay of our economy. We can't drink a mineral, we can't protect our wilderness. This is all part of when we hear in this House people talk of cumulative effects. This is a large chunk of our cumulative effects on the future of the Yukon in totality, for the future of our generations to come. What will we be left with if we do not move forward together by supporting all the people here — that's all of us who are in charge of stewardship of the land which incorporates good mining practices along with preservation of our culture, our heritage and our vast wilderness.

I was speaking with another tourism operator at TIA just the other day. I will finish with this, because I hope we do get to hear what plan B is when we lose what we have.

I have heard this story many years from many people who travelled to visit the Yukon. The people from Europe read. In their schools, it's compulsory. Up to last year, it's no longer compulsory. Another famous author — our Member for Whitehorse Centre spoke of Pierre Berton. We also had Jack London who wrote *White Fang*. That is the book that has been compulsory reading in Europe by the children. For generations now, kids grew up reading *White Fang*. The lure of the Klondike — to come to the Klondike to see not only what the gold rush had to offer, but the vast wilderness, the wildness that I first got caught with when I came here to the Yukon. That's why I'm still here today: the love of the people; the respect of people for all people; not a one-sided vision. Those people

don't read that book any more. This tourism operator is concerned. What are we doing for one of the most important mainstays of our economy — wilderness tourism and tourism in general in the Yukon — which these cuts affect?

What are we doing to instill that there is going to be a continued flow of generations of people — tourists — to come and see what we have? When we say the *Lonely Planet* has acknowledged us as being fourth on the list to come to in the world — but caution: get there before all the roads and the mining happens. It won't be there for long.

What is plan B? I am anxious to hear what that is. Thank you for your time, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** If the member now speaks, he will close debate. Does any other member wish to be heard?

**Mr. Hassard:** I appreciate all of the comments from everyone in the Assembly here today and I realize there are probably people who still would like to have things to say, but in light of the time, I'd like to hopefully have a unanimous decision on the vote for this motion. Hopefully then we could carry on with the motion put forward by the Member for Watson Lake, because I understand the importance of her motion too. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** Division.

#### Division

**Speaker:** Division has been called.

#### Bells

**Speaker:** Order please. 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.

**Ms. McLeod:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** Agree.

**Mr. Hassard:** Agree.

**Ms. Hanson:** Agree.

**Ms. Stick:** Agree.

**Ms. White:** Agree.

**Mr. Tredger:** Agree.

**Mr. Barr:** Agree.

**Mr. Silver:** Agree.

**Mr. Elias:** Agree.

**Clerk:** Mr. Speaker, the results are 16 yeas, nil nays.

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

*Motion No. 240 agreed to*

#### Motion No. 238

**Clerk:** Motion No. 238, standing in the name of Ms. McLeod.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Member for Watson Lake:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to examine legislative, regulatory, and policy options to ensure that movable sports nets at public facilities meet appropriate standards that protect the safety of Yukon children.

**Ms. McLeod:** I'd like to thank my colleagues for their support and give special thanks to the Minister of Education, to have the opportunity to bring this issue of great importance to my home community of Watson Lake and, indeed, to all Yukoners.

In July of this year a playground incident involving a sports net resulted in the death of five-year-old Jaedyn Amann Hicks. Our community was, and still is, devastated by this tragedy. One set of statistics that I looked at, covering a period from 1979 to 2012, puts the number of injuries involving sports nets in excess of 90 for North America, with 36 of those resulting in death.

Accidents don't have to happen. The majority of injuries are predictable and preventable. Playground injuries can be very serious, ranging anywhere from fractured bones to death.

The Canadian Standards Association has developed the only nationally recognized standard on children's play spaces and equipment, and they can provide detailed information about materials, installation, strength of the equipment, et cetera, and specifications for each type of sports equipment. The standards are voluntary and are not a law. There is no national enforcement body in playground safety; however, some jurisdictions in Canada have passed regulations requiring public playground operators to ensure that their playgrounds meet the CSA standard. There have been studies to show that, when adopting CSA standards, playground injuries drop by as much as 50 percent.

Generally speaking, the prevention of injuries really only requires four steps, and that is defining the problem, identifying the risk, developing some prevention, and then evaluating those strategies and making sure that they are, indeed, effective. To say that it's time to review how we Yukoners are managing the safety of our children on playgrounds is to state the obvious. Bumps and scrapes may be a part of childhood, but serious injury resulting in death or lifelong disability is something no child and no family should have to bear. It's my desire that having this discussion among Yukon legislators will lead to safer playgrounds where our children have fewer injuries and parents, more peace of mind. Thank you.

**Mr. Tredger:** On behalf of the Official Opposition, I rise to speak in favour of the motion and I would like to thank the Member for Watson Lake for bringing it forth. The death of five-year-old Jaedyn Amann-Hicks was a sad tragedy. We cannot possibly comprehend the grief that this family and their community had to endure with this loss. We want to take this opportunity to extend our deepest sympathies and condolences

of the Official Opposition to her family. It is hoped that today we will respond to her father's wish that she is not forgotten.

I'd like to speak to this motion on a number of areas, but I'll begin by referencing the Auditor General's report of 2009. Item 71 on risk identification management: "We examined the department's risk management, and we expected that the department would be able to demonstrate that it identifies, measures, mitigates, and reports significant risks. Risk management is important because it helps a department keep risks within a level appropriate to the nature of its operation. Although the department identifies risks on an ad hoc basis, it does not have an integrated risk management plan. Since it does not formally identify risks, it is difficult to determine whether the department is aware of all the critical and potential risks that need to be managed."

Item 75 goes on: "Overall, we did not find a risk assessment that specifies each risk, its potential impact, and how the department plans to manage the risk. We found that the department mitigates risks as they arise, but does not mitigate or report risks in a comprehensive, proactive fashion ... As part of the strategic planning process, the Department of Education should develop an integrated risk-management plan that identifies and assesses the key risks the department faces and the measures it will use to mitigate these risks."

The reason I refer to the Department of Education here is because that's what I'm familiar with, but I would expand that to all government buildings and all government properties because there should be a risk management plan in place for them.

The department responded and agreed with that. The Department of Education will continue discussions with partners in Education and relevant Government of Yukon departments to identify what risks are inherent in education and what measures are required to mitigate these risks. The information will be used to develop a comprehensive risk management plan. A summary of the risk management plan will be included in the department's annual report under a new section entitled "Environmental scan." The collaborative risk management project underway with the Department of Highways and Public Works with Executive Council Office assistance will help form the framework and content of future assessments.

The Auditor General goes on to recommend the Department of Education should work with the Property Management division of the Department of Highways and Public Works to conduct regular and comprehensive facility audits. To ensure that major building deficiencies are identified, the audit should address environmental, health and safety issues as needed.

Again, the department agreed, and while Property Management is undergoing a business process, the department will incorporate the results of the building audits and is scheduled to be done in 2009-10.

The 2011 education report refers to the management plan in number 10 under environmental scan of facility audits for Yukon schools. "The facility audits that were started in 2009 will be completed in 2011 and there will be an expectation that any deficiencies are identified, prioritized and that some headway is made toward addressing them. The department will be

expected to plan for this by setting aside the resources to complete the work and work with the Department of Highways and Public Works to set in place a work schedule." That was in 2011. Here we are today.

What we can learn from business and from other industries is that safety is not a one-time thing. There is no ad hoc solution to safety. We must inculcate a culture of safety — an attitude among those who use the buildings and our grounds, those who are responsible for them and those who build them. When parents send their kids to school, they expect that their kids will be safe. When we send a child to play in a playground, we expect our child to be safe. It is important that we as a government put in place measures to mitigate any risks and work with the public to ensure that those risks are not there. A risk management plan would include protocols that clarify roles and responsibilities within the buildings. It would include inspections. Those inspections, those protocols and those roles and responsibilities would be clear to staff. It would be clear to building managers and it would be clear to the public who use them. Reports must be made public. In the case of schools, I would suggest that reports be made available to school councils so that they can operate and act in the interest of the safety of their children. I'll return to that in a few minutes.

When I think of schools, and myself as a principal, I never thought of what happened when I left the school in June, what happened to the grounds in the summertime, and who was responsible for what occurred. Those are the kind of protocols I think need to be in place, and I hope that this is a starting point for everyone to begin to build on that. I know the government and Department of Education under the minister's direction have had building audits in the last few years. Some of them have been completed. Those audits should be made available to the public, to the staff who reside in those buildings, and the people who are using them. Again, I would suggest that they be, as a matter of course, given to school councils. We live in an earthquake zone. We've just heard about an earthquake off the coast of Haida Gwaii. How many of our government buildings have had seismic testing done in the last four or five years? Our government buildings are aging.

I know schools — and I can speak to that — when people go to a building or when we send our children to school, we hope that those kind of audits have been done and shared with relevant staff, posted in staff rooms or in public places so that those who enter the building know what the risks are and what they are encountering. I know there was a Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board inspection of shops and industrial arts facilities done a few years ago. Again, the results of that should be shared with school councils and should be made available to the public. What conditions were unsafe? How were they dealt with? What is the plan to manage the safety of Yukoners?

Government-wide, I know the Auditor General has mentioned in several different reports that there is a need for facility renewal, a long-term plan. Some of our buildings are aging. When I look at how long it has taken to get where we are with F.H. Collins — and I can remember four and five years ago being told that some of the measures to mitigate environmental

hazards to health hazards, were being temporarily put in place because we would have a new school.

Now I wonder how long the people of Watson Lake will have to wait for their new school. Their elementary school had a problem with one of its roofs collapsing and that wing had to be closed. Vanier school is aging. Grey Mountain is aging. Christ the King Elementary School is aging. Whitehorse Elementary School is aging. Do we have a five-year plan? Do we know when these schools are going to be replaced? Again, we can't expect it all to happen at once, but we need to have a plan. We need to know that our facilities, and our grounds are being managed in a comprehensive way so that we don't end up having to come up with ad hoc solutions. In the interest of getting through this debate and getting on with — as I said earlier — what I think is a very good motion, I'll keep my next remarks shorter — somewhat.

The United States learned several years ago. Hurricane Katrina landed with devastating effects on New Orleans, and the damage from that was extensive and well-documented.

This last week we have seen Hurricane Sandy come in. The United States and Canada were better prepared for that, and even though it has been called one of the largest, if not the largest, hurricane and storm ever to hit the eastern seaboard of North America, the damage was relatively contained and the response was well done. We've had a number of occurrences that have raised the interest and the involvement of Yukoners. If I think back to 2001 and how our emergency measures responded, and how there was a lot of work being done after that to set in place measures so that we were able to handle a potential disaster. Now it is 12 years later — hopefully, and I'm sure that it is still happening — many of these issues are being renewed, looked again and re-examined in the light of what we know.

It's critical that our emergency responses be updated. We had another wake-up call just a few weeks or months ago — I'm losing track of time — when much of Yukon lost power and people went through a number of processes to deal with that. These are wake-up calls. What we need is a systematic system-wide way to manage risk, to assess the risks coming to manage those risks, to make sure that the public, the staff involved and those who use the facilities are involved and know what is going on.

Having said that, I will conclude my remarks with thanks to the Member for Watson Lake for bringing this forward. Hopefully it is a wake-up call for everyone and that our departments and our government can begin to put in place plans that will mitigate and ensure that this type of thing doesn't happen again, not only with soccer nets, but with all of the potential risks that we have in our buildings.

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I'd like to begin by thanking the Member for Watson Lake for bringing forward this motion.

This really was brought to our attention as a result of a tragedy, a tragedy that profoundly affected a family, the first responders who had to respond to that incident, and certainly the community of Watson Lake. Really, the whole community of Yukon has been affected by this. Again, I did go to Watson

Lake to attend the ceremony for Jaedyn along with our Member for Watson Lake. On behalf of my wife Tammy and I, and I think all of us on this side and all Yukoners really gave our sincere thoughts and sympathy and prayers to the family at this tragic loss. As a father and a parent of four children, I can't even imagine what this would be like to have to go through — a young child to be taken so suddenly and so unexpectedly and so tragically. So, it certainly is something that has really touched all of us. I think now it is part of our diligence as a community, as Yukoners, to get together to talk among the stakeholders, find ways to identify those risks and to provide options to manage risks. We want to ensure that our children have those opportunities and I think each of us have memories of what we did as young children and the fun things and the great things that we did that really helped make us into the people we are today through those extremely important developmental ages of our lives.

Really, we want these children to be able to go outside, and to ensure that when they go to play in places like playgrounds that they will be safe and we, of course, are very proud to be supporting this motion. Thank you.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** As the previous speakers have said, I too would like to start by indicating that we are in support of this motion: "That the House urges the Yukon government to examine legislative, regulatory, and policy options to ensure that movable sports nets at public facilities meet appropriate standards that protect the safety of Yukon children." We all want to see the children in our communities and on our school grounds safe at all times. And tragedy always does touch us on a personal level. It's part of the human condition. But we as legislators, we as political leaders, have a responsibility to take the kinds of action that will prevent future harm.

That means that we, as political leaders, have the responsibility to move in implementing recommendations of the various reports that are brought to our attention. The Auditor General of Canada — and I would like to thank the Member for Mayo-Tatchun for his remarks — reviewed Public Schools and Advanced Education in the Department of Education in January of 2009. As the Auditor General always does, their staff brought forward a number of recommendations. The responsibilities of governments and of leaders are to enact those recommendations — to review them, to determine whether they agree, to lay out a plan on how you accomplish the recommendations that have been identified.

I just want to make note of a number of the recommendations that are relevant to this motion before us.

"The Department of Education should work with the Property Management division to develop a long-term facility plan that takes into account the age, capacity, and location of facilities and student enrolment trends." The department agreed with that.

"The Department of Education should work with the Property Management division of the Department of Public Works and Highways to conduct regular and comprehensive facility audits to ensure that major building deficiencies are identified.

The audits should address environmental, health and safety issues, as needed.”

I am hoping that in this debate the Minister of Education and the Minister of Highways and Public Works will speak to the leadership roles that they’re playing and to how they will ensure that all of our facilities are safe. There are many things that can be done now, and I’m looking for the government to support the Member for Watson Lake, who has brought forward this motion, and to do that work — to examine their own policy options, legislative and regulatory options, and take action beyond the immediate action after this tragedy occurred this summer in Watson Lake.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Again, I would like to echo the comments of colleagues here this afternoon who have spoken and relay my deepest and heartfelt sympathies to Jaedyn’s family — her parents and extended family, and indeed the entire community of Watson Lake. I, like many others, can’t even begin to imagine the effect that this tragedy had on the family.

Maybe I’ll just speak for a second. When this accident occurred, I was actually attending the national education ministers meetings in Halifax and got word early in the morning in Halifax. Of course, it would have been around 4:00 or 3:30 in the morning here in the Yukon. I was able to touch base with my colleague, the Member for Watson Lake, and other colleagues as well, as this unfolded over the day. Again, I just want to thank them for their support. It was a very difficult day, I think, for all Yukoners trying to come to terms with such a tragedy.

I certainly support the motion that has been brought forward by the Member for Watson Lake today. Again, this incident has been and will continue to be probably the toughest day for me in my political career. That pales in comparison to what has happened to this family since then and during that time.

With respect to some of the comments made by the two members of the Official Opposition — the Member for Mayo-Tatchun and the Member for Copperbelt South — I know a number of the Auditor General’s recommendations were cited — of course, the long-term strategic plan, the integrated risk management plans, the long-term facility plan, perhaps the comprehensive school facility audits, as well as some talk about F.H. Collins and Johnson Elementary — the old wing of Johnson Elementary.

As all members do, I have access to the 2010-11 annual report that talks about some of the progress that has been made at that time, but rather than reading that into the record right now, I’ll review the Blues and provide a written update to members of the progress that has been made to date on these issues and other things.

I know that immediately after the accident occurred, the movable sports nets were removed from the school grounds of all Yukon schools. The department cooperated fully with the RCMP investigation and the work of the coroner and launched our own investigation as well. We hired a company to assess the risks of those soccer nets. Over the past while some of them have been returned to schoolyards after passing the test of that independent company. I know that we all want our children and

our families to be safe when using public facilities like school grounds, whether it’s during school hours or after school hours or when school is not in session.

To that end, I know that risk management of playgrounds — there has been some work done in Watson Lake and one of the schools here in Whitehorse — l’École Émilie Tremblay. It’s a very specialized field. I know I’ve talked with the Minister of Highways and Public Works about this, and it’s something that very few companies in Canada do, but we’re intent on completing those risk assessments for all school grounds in the Yukon as soon as we possibly can.

I’m not going to go on any longer with this. I just want to again say thank you to the Member for Watson Lake for bringing this forward. I think that by examining any legislative regulatory or policy options, we can ensure that those movable sports nets at public facilities do meet appropriate standards that protect the safety of Yukon children, while also continuing to support the fitness and the aspects that come with playing soccer, for instance.

This will take some discussion with the soccer association and other groups that use those fields. We just want to make sure that again the safety and health of our children are paramount. Just in closing, again, I would pass on to Jaedyn’s family how sorry I am, and heartfelt feelings go out to them with such a tragedy that they continue to cope with on a day-in and day-out basis. Thank you.

**Mr. Silver:** I’ll be very brief as we are running short of time here today. We will absolutely be supporting this motion, and I would like to thank the Member for Watson Lake for bringing forward this vital motion. I just wanted to say from one rural representative to another, our hearts go out to the member and her community. We can’t imagine what you are feeling, but we can offer our support and our sympathy. Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I will be brief, too, looking at the time.

I do live in a small community, and I know what it’s like for the Member for Watson Lake to lose a member in her community, especially a child, so my heartfelt thoughts go out to Jaedyn’s family, as reiterated by everyone else in this House.

As the Minister of Highways and Public Works, the Yukon government expects that we should maintain the integrity of all government facilities and ensure that they are safe for everyone. We also expect them to be kept in good repair and good order. We take our responsibilities for the safety and security of our citizens very seriously. Central to the work done at Highways and Public Works is to ensure that the safety and protection of the public, be that a Yukon school, on our highways, or using our airports or any other government facility. This is a job our people take pride in, and it has significant value to the employees within my department.

When health and safety issues arise, the government has a duty to act. Highways and Public Works has championed a cross-government initiative in risk-assessment management, as was alluded to. Specific tools have been developed with the

department and are helping to identify and mitigate the risk across the whole of the Yukon. I just want to keep this as short as I can, but we continue to work with the other government departments, groups, and our facilities to promote safety.

We'll be developing procedures for user groups who are using our facilities, including sports fields, after regular school hours and on weekends, to determine how best to manage sports equipment during extended school breaks when the grounds are not regularly inspected. Just to inform this House, Highways and Public Works is hiring a consultant to conduct a full inspection of all playground equipment in the spring of 2013, and will address any deficiencies that are found, along with what we do now.

Looking at the time, I am definitely glad to hear that everybody supports this motion, and I thank the Member for Watson Lake for bringing it forward. Thank you.

**Mr. Elias:** I also would like to take this opportunity to rise in support of the motion of the Member for Watson Lake. I also, during the tragedy that happened last summer to Jaedyn's family, did take the opportunity at that time to send my condolences to the community and to the family and to Yukoners in general through my website and through Facebook. I just want to reiterate that right now because the pain is still there.

With regard to the motion and removable sports nets, I do have an experience to share that wasn't mentioned today, and that was when I was coaching novice hockey.

In all our arenas around the territory, when they finish doing the ice, the hockey nets are leaned against the boards. During this time, when I was coaching the novice hockey, the little people tended to rush out on to the ice. Sometimes the individuals take it upon themselves — the little hockey players — to try to lift those heavy hockey nets. At that time, there was a little hockey player who tried to lift the net from the boards and he couldn't hold it, and it ended up falling on his back. This is just another example of where the review of legislation and regulations and policy could possibly save a youngster from getting hurt. That's at another sports venue in our territory, so this is important.

I do stand here in support of this motion. I thank, again, the Member for Watson Lake for bringing this motion to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your time.

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

**Ms. McLeod:** My thanks to the Legislature and to all of its members for their full support of this motion. I know that it will mean quite a lot to the family. Their greatest fear was that nothing would happen, and I will be happy to report to them that we all take this matter very seriously. Thank you.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** Division.

#### Division

**Speaker:** Division has been called.

#### Bells

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Ms. McLeod:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** Agree.

**Mr. Hassard:** Agree.

**Ms. Hanson:** Agree.

**Ms. Stick:** Agree.

**Ms. White:** Agree.

**Mr. Tredger:** Agree.

**Mr. Barr:** Agree.

**Mr. Silver:** Agree.

**Mr. Elias:** Agree.

**Clerk:** Mr. Speaker, the results are 16 yea, nil nay.

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

*Motion No. 238 agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

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

*Motion agreed to*

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

*The House adjourned at 5:20 p.m.*

#### The following Sessional Papers were tabled October 31, 2012:

33-1-50

Yukon Child and Youth Advocate 2012 Annual Report (Speaker Laxton)

33-1-51

Public Accounts 2011-2012 of the Government of Yukon for the year ended March 31, 2012 (Pasloski)

#### The following document was filed October 31, 2012:

33-1-23

Community hospitals in Dawson City and Watson Lake: letter re (dated October 31, 2012) to Michael Ferguson, Auditor General of Canada, from Sandy Silver, MLA for Klondike (Silver)