

**Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Monday, November 5, 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 which have been made to the Order Paper. Motion No. 214, standing in the name of the Minister of Justice, has been removed from the Order Paper. It is similar to Motion No. 240, which the House adopted on Wednesday, October 31, 2012.

Motion No. 12 and Motion No. 73, standing in the name of the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes, and Motion No. 100, standing in the name of the Member for Takhini-Kopper King, have been removed from the Order Paper, as the actions requested in the motions have been fulfilled in whole or in part.

**DAILY ROUTINE**

**Speaker:** We will now proceed with the Order Paper. Tributes.

**TRIBUTES**

**In recognition of Healing Totem Pole raising**

**Mr. Barr:** I rise on behalf of the Assembly to pay tribute to the healing totem ceremony this past weekend.

A vision is given to us, Mr. Speaker, at times in our lives. It's our responsibility when this happens to have this vision become a living, breathing action from the unseen world to this world that we walk in. Human being, master carver, Wayne Price, has done this together with the help of his Creator, the carvers from Northern Cultural Expressions Society, the staff, the First Nation, federal government, territorial government and the community as a whole to bring this vision to our walk here on this earth.

The healing totem is an ongoing — I guess you will say — statement to the residential school survivors, both past and present — the moms, the dads, the aunts, the aunties, the grandmas, the grandpas and the children who live with the daily struggles from the ongoing — what we say, “intergenerational effects” of residential school.

It speaks to a process that I know many in their lives, throughout this country, have tried to bring forward and acknowledge that there was even wrong done to the First Nations. This wrong that I speak about, as I understand it, by the government and churches to — as I have read in notes — remove the Indian question and to develop a subservient workforce.

This testament today — this ceremony this weekend — speaks of the courage of a people that has not been removed, and are not only people to be subservient in our workforce — and not to have aboriginal people lose their culture, the love of their families, the love of this land, our community and all things we hold dear, as everyone in our lives.

It speaks to — when a wrong such as this has happened, it takes seven generations for this healing to occur. I know per-

sonally that in Carcross residential school, Chooutla Residential School — five generations attended this school.

So the work that I hope we understand is yet to come is entrusted to the generations beyond our lifetime who are sitting here in this room. For this to come full circle, to start again as a people — untouched, living happily, productive, caring, loving lives as families, as contributors to their community, as strong entrepreneurial people. We know trade happened here, and it went alongside the environment for thousands of years, long before Europeans touched on this continent.

Northern Cultural Expressions Society is a program I've had the honour of being a part of over many years.

I saw it come from a vision of Andrew Finton coming to speak about how we can help the youth to help with the intergenerational impacts of residential school. Out of that started a young carver, Calvin Morberg, who was followed by Will Callaghan into the CAIRS society long before. This isn't something that just happened, but it's people that have walked many footsteps to come to where we were all together as a community this weekend.

I acknowledge the Premier was there, carrying that totem front and centre, and other politicians — my colleagues from Mayo-Tatchun, Takhini-Kopper King, Copperbelt South, Whitehorse Centre, Riverdale South, and others witness to this phenomenal event that carried on into an evening of dancing — people coming from northern B.C., from all the communities, chiefs, the little people that you would have seen dancing at this ceremony. The little four-, five-, six- and seven-year-olds who were just proud in their regalia that I didn't see here 15 or 20 years ago in this territory. I didn't see this. You couldn't witness this. You couldn't witness a totem pole of this magnitude. A couple have happened, but there have been many years without. We're back on track as a community, I believe. What's so great is the work of Northern Cultural Expressions Society — the young carvers and the staff, whom I'm going to introduce. I must say that this community worked as a family. All of us, from all walks of life were there this weekend. You will see on that totem pole the black people, the white people, the yellow people and the red people. Those are all our relations we talk about. We're all connected to walk in a good way on this earth. On this weekend, it was an opportunity that allowed us to see for ourselves that we can do this together and accomplish something. I spoke to someone in Europe, and when I spoke of a 30-metre totem that was raised by people and ropes, he asked, “And no machinery?” No. No machinery — just us together.

That was awesome. It was just awesome to see the carvers that helped this vision come to fruition, knowing of the struggles of their lives a short five or 10 years ago. Some, whom I spoke of earlier, see that they have purpose and they have love in their hearts that they want to give. They were sharing all summer long and so was the community all summer long — stopping in to see the progress of this log, which is now a testament to us all down by the end of Main Street. It has a raven on top, and it tells a story of a mother on the bottom. That mother represents the two-legged that gives life. Men can't do that.

We're part of that, but when a mother gives life that's our children, and it represents all the children who were forcibly taken from their homes to destroy the family — the children who never came back; the children who tried to run away from those schools; the children who are still unknown — among the numbers who have died in those schools. There were ashes from those chips, and on those chips were written the names of all these people who were affected — who went into the fire of the ones, and it resembled those ashes that finally — those children are back with their mother and their parents in the unseen world — we say, the “happy hunting ground.”

I can't tell you — to know of my own history that is affected by this and still not recognized, even within my own family, that this is a reality. I need to say that this tribute — that this ceremony, that this healing process is not over when I say “seven generations from now”. There were people who said — as I noticed on Facebook — and not to deter from the greatness of this, but to bring recognition to this — there is still understanding and awareness that needs to happen by us all — that “Well, maybe now they can get on with their lives,” and I thought, “Oh my. That tells me that there is much more work to be done.”

These young carvers from NCES, Northern Cultural Expressions Society, if you notice — and I won't go into the whole story of this totem, but at the top it represents a wolf and a crow here in the Yukon — two peoples. There are many subsidiary clans as a result of that, from Southern Tutchone, Tlingit, Northern Tutchone, Kaska, Gwitchin — all aboriginal people. The space on the top of that totem is the totem that will be carved by these young carvers and their children because the rest of this healing process is yet to be told. That's why there is a space at the top. So there will be another totem to come. Isn't that amazing? Please wander down and see this totem — a place for us to sit and meditate; a place for us to maybe, while we are meditating, realize what we can do as a community to help foster this healing journey. It's a journey; we haven't arrived, but we have arrived at a significant portion. I commend all of us here in this House. I commend all of the community members who were there to witness this and be a part of this great time that we had.

I had a lot of notes here and I kind of got away from them, and that's okay because it's from the heart that I think we have to look at these things every day, and ask our own Creator, ask our friends, our family and neighbours, or strangers: What do you think we can do to come together, to continue to display this unity that has happened in our community? To bring us forward, not only in our community but to the other provinces and territories, to our sister countries globally, and to think beyond this to our universe, remembering that the unborn are still to come and what we're going to leave for them to carry on — this vision for us all for the good of us all.

### **In recognition of National Technology Week and Skilled Trades and Technology Week**

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I rise today in this House in honour of National Technology Week, organized by the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists, as well as Skilled Trades and Technology Week, organized by Skills Canada.

Skilled trades and technology careers are important for our economy and are an excellent career path for many young Canadians. In the Yukon, education and advocacy groups like Skills Canada Yukon and Yukon Women in Trades and Technology are dedicated to promoting and assisting in the recruitment, training, and retention of Yukoners in the skilled trades and technology sectors.

Skills Canada Yukon provides Yukon youth with hands-on, trade related workshops and skills clubs to explore trades and technology as a viable career option. The group also holds competitions to prepare participants and apprentices — with great success, I might add — to attend the national and world competitions. This past May, in Edmonton, the Yukon ended up with four medallists. Two gold medallists — the first being Dennis Godin, who won the gold in the mechanical CAD. Dennis is going to the worlds in Germany in July 2013 — and I should note that Quantum Machine Works and its owner Martin Loos — this is the second Yukoner that they've sent to the WorldSkills competition, so a big congratulations to Martin and his team from Quantum as well. Also winning gold, a two-time national champion in heavy duty equipment repair was Nathan Peterson, silver medallist Jake Montgomery in sheet metal, and bronze medallist Mike Trainor in electrical installations.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to take this time to thank and congratulate Mr. Dan Curtis for all of his years of dedication and service at Skills Canada Yukon. He has of course moved on to a career in municipal politics, and I'd just like to thank him for all of the work that he was able to put in.

Advanced Education also plays a key role in helping Yukoners prepare for work opportunities by promoting industrial and apprenticeship training programs and by promoting the interprovincial standards red seal program. The Advanced Education branch provides for the registration, monitoring, arranging of in-school technical training, and coordination of an individual's training in any of the apprenticeship occupations in the Yukon.

Careers and education in skilled trades often go hand-in-hand with technology education. Our public schools incorporate technology into all aspects of learning to give Yukon students the abilities and skills to thrive in our increasingly technological society. As part of its commitment to 21<sup>st</sup> century learning, the Department of Education has introduced over 50 Promethean boards — or the interactive whiteboards — into schools across the territory. This innovative technology is being utilized in instruction and curriculum from kindergarten to grade 12. We are particularly excited about using the boards as a tool for teaching First Nations languages as part of the Revitalizing Culture Through Story and Technology project.

Advanced Education also plays a key role in helping Yukoners prepare for work opportunities by promoting training and education careers in technology.

In closing, I'd like to recognize the efforts of educators, employers and organizations that work to provide Yukon learners with opportunities to pursue careers in skilled trades and technology, which are, of course, important for our economy and are an excellent career path for many young Canadians.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I rise on behalf of the Official Opposition to recognize National Skilled Trades and Technology Week. Industry and governments across Canada acknowledge the need for a skilled labour force. There are many rewarding career opportunities in trades and technology that await students — if training is available and once it is completed. Specialized training and hands-on experience through apprenticeship is required in order for our youth and adults to take advantage of work opportunities in all trades.

In its last sitting, the Yukon Legislative Assembly unanimously supported a motion calling on the Yukon government to develop a comprehensive plan to offer quality training in skills, trades and technology. We, as members of this House, have agreed that a comprehensive trades strategy must bring together public schools, the private sector and mining community, First Nations, Skills Canada Yukon, trade unions and Yukon College.

It is with these partnerships that a creative, responsive and efficient strategy can be realized. Of course, the Yukon Women in Trades and Technology has also done much work in promoting trades training for young women.

We've also agreed that short-term, immediate solutions are needed and that there is a need to address the unique skills necessary for working in northern conditions. Mr. Speaker, this government's 2008 *Comprehensive Skills and Trades Training Strategy* recognizes that "A disparity exists between rural and urban availability of training programs. Yukoners living in the communities, largely aboriginal people, face many barriers entering and completing training programs and post-secondary education, which primarily take place in urban areas."

So in recognition of Skilled Trades and Technology Week, we encourage initiatives that improve access to skilled trades training opportunities for everyone. An offering of trades training should include more innovative approaches such as mobile labs and shops in rural Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, industrial arts facilities in Yukon schools are important venues for training youth. These facilities could also be opened up in the evenings for adult training. Yukon College and public schools' cooperation for trades training benefits both institutions.

In rural Yukon, where the unemployment rate for youth is unacceptably high, there is a need for qualified teachers and instructors. Recruitment or training for trades instructors should be a cornerstone of our strategy. Government itself can offer apprenticeship placements in its daily work.

We also endorse more trades training opportunities for Whitehorse Correctional Centre inmates so they have the job skills to become productive members of their communities. If Yukoners are to take advantage of the present good economy, they must be able to obtain training opportunities that are efficient and productive and that are available in their own communities.

National Skilled Trades and Technology Week is an opportunity to acknowledge the training already in place offered by Skills Canada Yukon and many others, and for us to promote more trades training.

**Mr. Silver:** I rise today on behalf of the Liberal caucus to pay tribute to National Skilled Trades and Technology Week. The annual Skilled Trade and Technology Week in Canada is an initiative to focus the attention of the nation on the importance of skilled trades in our economy and our country's future. Canada is facing a crisis when it comes to skilled labour. Skilled trades and technical careers are important for our economy and are excellent career paths. Today, a university degree isn't the only path toward a successful future academically.

National Technology Week is Canada's national showcase of exciting career choices available in applied science and engineering technology. Focusing attention on the value of skilled trades careers will help highlight the opportunities in these career areas and may spark the interest of young people and employers to look at these careers in a new way.

It offers the opportunity to help students, teachers and parents to explore technical careers, particularly the 14 different fields in which over 50,000 certified technicians and technologists contribute to Canada's workforce. Skills Canada Yukon and the many mentors and volunteers have been very successful in working with Yukon students and apprentices. Our Yukon team at Skills Canada competitions has made us very proud. Canada recognizes that the Yukon has some of the most skilled students and apprentices in Canada. Skills Canada Yukon runs many skills clubs in Yukon communities, mentoring people up to 30 years of age in various trades and technologies.

In the skills club, participants develop basic understandings of trades and then are encouraged to pursue formalized training within the college. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many business partners, mentors and volunteers who donate thousands of hours a year across the territory engaging and fostering our youth in the pursuit of skilled trades and technologies. The opportunities that await an entirely new generation of skilled workers are incredible.

We would also like to recognize at this time and congratulate David Lister, a student from F.H. Collins Secondary School who has just won a seat on Team Canada for mechanical CAD. David, as part of Team Canada, will be participating in the WorldSkills America competition to take place this month in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

David is the second Yukoner to date to go to an international competition. Well done, David. You do Canada and the Yukon proud. Thank you.

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Mr. Barr:** Thank you. I'd like to acknowledge — and I do apologize ahead of time for the lack of some names in my excitement — I will say that we have some of the carvers and some of the staff: Josh; Bianca; Sean; Colin; Colin's wife and son; our board; Dianne, chair of NCEs; executive director, Owen, one of the carvers; and — it wasn't speaking of Sarah, but below Sarah — and the name escapes me right now, I can't believe it — Naomi. I do apologize. I would like to say that I saved Sarah, especially for last, because anyone there witnessing the carrying of that pole would have seen that Sarah was

front and centre of the heaviest part of that pole, and she did not take a break.

I saw it. Everyone else took a break, but this young woman was there right from the start to the end, and I'll tell you — I think the Premier can attest — that was hard. He took many breaks. Welcome.

*Applause*

**Mr. Elias:** I ask all members to join me in welcoming Mr. Dennis Allen, award-winning musician and filmmaker and also a wonderful family man, to the gallery today.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I'd like to rise and fully introduce a constituent, who was partially introduced before, and ask all members to join me in welcoming Naomi Crey to the gallery today.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Are there any further introductions of visitors?

Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motion?

## NOTICES OF MOTION

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Canada to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of aboriginal girls and women consistent with the United Nations *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, and the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, by:

(1) holding a public inquiry into the cases of more than 600 aboriginal, Inuit and Métis missing and murdered women and working with the Native Women's Association of Canada and other representative groups who have petitioned for such an inquiry;

(2) providing restored funding to the Native Women's Association of Canada for continued work on the Sisters in Spirit research, education and policy initiative to end violence, including additional funding to investigate missing and murdered women in the three northern territories of Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

(3) amending the *Indian Act* to provide full citizenship rights for all aboriginal women and their children, and ending continued gender discrimination against aboriginal women and their children whose human rights have been violated.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to implement an immediate moratorium to conduct a full and rigorous scientific review and to conduct a public consultation on

the effects and desirability of hydraulic fracturing, also known as "fracking," before any regulatory approvals or permitting is allowed in Yukon.

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

THAT it is the opinion of this House that:

(1) a Government of Canada and a Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) decision mandating that over-the-air television transmission must switch from analog to digital has left many Yukoners without access to CBC television;

(2) if you haven't been a cable or satellite customer in the last 90 days, Yukoners may be eligible for a local television satellite solution program currently being offered by Shaw Direct;

(3) this program, which expires November 30, 2012, will allow you to continue receiving the same or similar Canadian over-the-air channels for free; and

(4) the Government of Yukon should promote this program to ensure Yukoners continue to have access to CBC.

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

Is there a statement by a minister?

This then brings us to Question Period.

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: Government consultation

**Ms. Hanson:** This government's tune on public consultation is constantly changing. On oil-fired appliances they say extensive consultation is important and they use it to justify rejection of one of the working group's important safety recommendations. On the *Oil and Gas Act* they say the poorly attended consultations in the summer of 2009 were good enough and they have no obligation to do more. On the Peel they reject the plan and redefine what the consultation is all about. On increasing government secrecy and limiting access to information they don't bother consulting at all.

Will the Premier honour his commitment to an open and accountable government by consulting the public before the *Oil and Gas Act* is changed, reversing his plan to restrict public access to government information, and sharing the public input received in the *Landlord and Tenant Act* review?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** What I must point out and remind all those who are listening and the Leader of the NDP herself is, in fact, we see a pattern here from the NDP that, depending on whether they personally agree and support the outcomes of a consultation process, they either demand more consultation or don't want us to conclude the consultation we're obliged to do, such as in completing the process in the development of the land use plan for the Peel region.

The members have stood up consistently and asked government not to fulfill their obligations under the process, which do require final consultations.

**Ms. Hanson:** This government is working hard to explain their inconsistency on public consultation, but I think the facts do speak for themselves. When public consultation is

likely to serve the political interests of this government, they consult. When public consultation is likely to raise concerns about this government's political agenda, they do not. This government wants to have its cake and eat it too.

Will the Premier show Yukoners that consultation isn't just a political tool for his government and consult on the *Oil and Gas Act*, withdraw the bill to restrict public access to government information, and share what Yukoners said on the *Landlord and Tenant Act*?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Again, what I must point out is that the NDP are the ones that have an inconsistent position on consultation. Depending on whether the NDP agrees with the outcomes of a process or not, they either ask for more consultation or less consultation. We've seen it consistently throughout this sitting where they've asked the government not to continue the required consultation in developing the final plan for the Peel region. Aside from the fact that they don't agree with what the government campaigned on in 2011, they don't want the process to conclude; they don't want more consultation.

Again, depending on whether the NDP agrees with the conclusion that came out of the consultative process, they either ask for more consultation or less consultation. This government is committed to continuing to listen to Yukoners and I would remind the member that, in fact, it was this government that established procedures such as the select committees that have gone out on a number of very contentious issues, providing unprecedented opportunity for members of all parties to participate in going out with Yukoners and discussing major policy issues, such as landlord and tenant, anti-smoking and off-road vehicle legislation.

So the members like to either attack there being too much consultation or not enough.

**Ms. Hanson:** Clearly what the member opposite has done is misstated the NDP's statements in this Legislative Assembly with respect to consultation on the Peel. We have been clear from every position that it is the obligation of this government to consult on the plan as submitted.

Late last week, this government introduced the long-overdue *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*, and we're pleased the government finally moved to make tenancy law clearer for tenants and landlords alike. However, comments from the public consultation period were not disclosed. This government also introduced a bill to restrict public access to government information by amending the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. This has been done without any public consultation and, so far, the government has offered no explanation.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's really time to hear. How does this Premier explain to this House why he isn't honouring his campaign promise, not the minister who speaks for him, but his campaign promise for open and accountable government?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I would remind the member that Cabinet operates as a collective body and we all work together and the Premier has been clear since before taking on the leadership about his belief in the importance of all members of the team. What I would again remind the Leader of the NDP — I know she is very touchy on this subject — but the NDP's posi-

tion on consultation is very inconsistent and depends on whether the NDP supports the outcome of that consultation or not.

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

#### Point of order

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

**Ms. White:** Standing Order 19(g): imputes false or unwavering motives to another member.

**Speaker:** Could you specify exactly what part of the statement you are referring to?

**Ms. White:** The part where he says that we have not been clear with our intentions.

#### Speaker's ruling

**Speaker:** This is a dispute between members, and I'm going to caution every member here right now that interruptions like this, especially in Question Period, are detrimental to the entire process. If the use of the point of order is to clarify your position as a member may have stated it or you disagree with how the member stated your position, if that is the intent, it is not what the point of order is supposed to be used for. It's starting to sound like a little boy crying "wolf" here and it may end up in people missing out on real and pertinent points of order if this pattern continues.

Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** How long do I have, Mr. Speaker?

**Speaker:** You have about 62 seconds.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Thank you. Again, what I would point out — to give another example where this government believes the NDP has been inconsistent in their position on consultation: before there had been consultation with the public, which was conducted recently in the community tour by the Minister of Community Services and Yukon Housing with respect to the report on oil-fired appliances, the NDP took a position and demanded implementation of the internal work that had been done by officials prior to public consultation taking place and has criticized the government for listening to public consultation, including statements made by former NDP candidates about the importance of recognizing the fact that rural Yukon has limited capacity and limited technical resources for implementing some of the recommendations that the NDP stood up and demanded the government implement, prior to public consultation taking place. That is what we mean when we say the NDP is inconsistent on their approach to consultation.

#### Question re: Northern Cultural Expressions Society funding

**Mr. Barr:** This weekend, I was honoured to be part of the raising of a healing totem pole in downtown Whitehorse. As mentioned in my tribute, this totem will help commemorate and continue the healing process for the legacy of Indian residential schools, referred to by some as "Canada's Holocaust".

I was pleased that Yukoners of all stripes participated in this important ceremony. The Premier was one of the many people who carried the pole to its permanent home, and I applaud him for that. There was some funding from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, but without the hard work of the Northern Cultural Expressions Society, this project would not have happened.

Members might recall the unanimous motion this House passed in May, calling for ongoing federal and territorial government support for this important community organization. My question is simple: Does the Premier stand by the stated commitment of his government and this House to the Northern Cultural Expressions Society?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for his question. This was a file that I reviewed several months ago and shared the information with my colleague. The Northern Cultural Expressions Society, formerly known as Sundog Carving Studio, is really and truly an exceptional component of our community.

The Government of Yukon supports the Northern Cultural Expressions Society's vision to help emerging artists develop artistic, social and business skills required for personal success. The 2012-13 Tourism and Culture budget includes \$345,000 to support the society's carving program. We truly believe that this is money well spent and a great investment in the community.

**Mr. Barr:** Nearly every member on both sides of this House stood and praised the Northern Cultural Expressions Society when the issue was debated in the spring. Members spoke sincerely, and I have no doubt they meant every word. It's time for the government to put its money where its mouth is.

Federal funding for NCES has stopped. This House passed a motion calling for that funding to continue. What has the Premier done to convince his friends in Ottawa that cutting funding to the Northern Cultural Expressions Society is not in the best interests of Yukon?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Again, I thank the member opposite for his question. This is an important topic for us to be discussing on the floor of this Legislature. As I alluded to in my first response, the work of the Northern Cultural Expressions Society is a really important component to our community. In fact, when I was heading over to Germany just a couple of months ago we had commissioned one of the artists to make up some beautiful paddles that we could take over and provide to some of the tour operators who are booking tours over here.

The department is supporting the society's efforts to research future funding options that will enable the group to continue to achieve its important artistic, social and cultural mandates. Again, as I've mentioned, the component of Northern Cultural Expressions Society is truly a great part of this community, and I'm actually just working on scheduling a visit with them in the coming weeks.

**Mr. Barr:** I'm happy to hear there will be another meeting happening.

The federal government decision to cut funding for the Northern Cultural Expressions Society is disappointing. Let me

say I'm also disappointed the government couldn't do more to reverse the wrongheaded cut made in Ottawa. Since it's clear the government in Ottawa isn't listening and doesn't care, it's time for the Yukon government to step up. The Premier's participation in this weekend's ceremony leaves me hopeful that he's committed to the Northern Cultural Expressions Society carving program beyond a good photo opportunity.

Will the Premier honour the motion passed by this House and direct government officials to ensure the Northern Cultural Expressions Society receives adequate funding to offset the cut from Ottawa so the four-year carving program can continue?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** As I mentioned in my previous comment, the department is supporting the society's efforts to research future funding options that will enable the group to continue to achieve its important artistic, social and cultural mandates. This government is committed to funding opportunities like this throughout the Yukon. We don't have to go far just to name the new Haines Junction Visitor Information Centre located in Haines Junction. The centre showcases the work of 41 Yukon artists, while providing travel information to Yukon visitors.

We can look at the government hosting "Frozen Pasts: 3rd International Glacial Archaeology Symposium" with Kwanlin Dun First Nation. The department coordinated the cultural festival opening and closing ceremonies at the Arctic Winter Games. The department contributed \$17,000 to the Council of Yukon First Nations product development conference in November 2011. I could go on and on and on. This government has shown, time and time again, how committed it is to promoting cultural opportunities in Yukon, and we will continue to look at that.

#### **Question re: First Nations/government relations**

**Mr. Silver:** I have some questions for the Premier on his strategies on working with First Nations. During the 2011 election campaign, the leaders of all political parties were invited to attend Council of Yukon First Nations' leadership meetings. All of the leaders attended except for the Leader of the Yukon Party. It was an ominous sign of things to come. As we hit the one-year anniversary of this Yukon Party government, it is fighting First Nations on a number of fronts. Last week the White River First Nation launched court action against this government. Our environmental screening body, YESAB, said a mining exploration project should not proceed. The government overruled YESAB and said go ahead. The government now finds itself in court.

The former Premier would have rather litigated than negotiate, and this Premier did promise a more conciliatory approach, so why is this government pursuing this antagonistic approach with the First Nations?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** This government has — and the Yukon Party government has — worked with First Nations for a decade now. We continue to work with First Nations to collaborate on many, many fronts. A most recent one was an announcement of resource-revenue sharing with the announcement of Yukoners being able to retain more of the revenues as a result of the resource industry. We have also concluded an agreement with self-governing First Nations, so they in fact,

too, can continue to benefit from the enhanced resource industry here in Yukon.

Another thing that we did since I've come into the leadership position is to reinstate the Yukon Forum. The Yukon Forum is an opportunity for all the Yukon First Nations and Government of Yukon to get together to talk about things they can work together on to resolve. One of the things that has grown out of the latest meeting was to work on a land-based treatment centre, and we continue to have officials working toward that. We'll get an update at the next Yukon Forum, at which time we'll have a formal signing agreement to the new resource revenue-sharing agreement that we have with First Nations.

**Mr. Silver:** The Premier talks of some examples. Let me move on to another example. First Nation chiefs have made it clear they are not happy with the Government of Yukon's new Peel land use plan, nor are they happy with how it was rolled out — no consultation prior to the unveiling of the eight guiding principles released earlier this year and none again recently with the new direction announced two days before this Assembly commenced in October.

Several chiefs have criticized it already, and the Grand Chief has said that she is alarmed by the way the government is ignoring the *Umbrella Final Agreement*. She went on to say that the government is losing sight of the spirit and the intent of the UFA. Those are strong words, and they're words spoke out of frustration. This government's relationship with the First Nations is on the rocks, and they need to change the way the government operates. Will the government stop ignoring First Nations' views when it comes to a land use plan, or does it intend to keep on antagonizing and end up in courts here as well?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I continue to talk about areas where we are collaborating with First Nations and other areas in intergovernmental forums. An intergovernmental forum is a forum in which Yukon First Nations, Yukon government, and Government of Canada will get together to talk about areas of mutual concern. In fact, when these forums have occurred in the past, Yukon First Nations and Yukon government get together in advance to make sure we're all on the same page as well before going forward and discussing things with Yukon First Nations.

You know, we have signed agreements with Kwanlin Dun First Nation — a letter of understanding on affordable housing, on land development. Recently the Minister of Health and Social Services signed an agreement with them in terms of child services. We are working together on such things as managing cumulative effects. We have helped First Nations with their financial transfer agreement negotiations with Canada and of course, as I've stated in the past, this government continues to support First Nations with millions of dollars financially, over and above the obligations we have to those First Nations. We spend millions every year to help build capacity and ensure that First Nations can deliver on programming and services for their First Nation.

**Mr. Silver:** I'm glad the Premier has some examples, but my point is that it's not enough.

The Yukon Party is not content to fight a two-front war with the First Nations. The Premier is set to open a third front when later this week he tables legislation that will strip the Kaska of a veto over oil and gas development in its traditional territory. The veto was given to the Kaska by the Government of Yukon in 1997 under a signed agreement, yet this government thinks it can unilaterally rip it up.

There are other options, of course. The government could work with Canada and the Kaska to try to settle their land claim. The government could work with the Kaska to have them voluntarily lift the veto that was the intent of the agreement, but instead this government is once again ignoring First Nation concerns and, more importantly, First Nation agreements. As I have shown today, this is the government's preferred option. Why is the Premier taking this antagonistic approach —

#### Point of order

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

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Accusing government of having the preferred option of going to court is certainly imputing a motive to another member, and I believe it's contrary to Standing Order 19(g). I'd ask you to have the member retract it.

**Speaker:** Leader of the Third Party, on the point of order.

**Mr. Silver:** On the point of order, I am merely showing the direction in which certain initiatives of this government are leading.

#### Speaker's ruling

**Speaker:** I was concerned about the exact wording that I heard and I wanted to just verify that. There is no point of order this time, but the member is close to the line.

Does the Member for Klondike wish to finish his question?

**Mr. Silver:** Absolutely. My question: why is the Premier taking this antagonistic approach instead of working with the First Nation governments?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** Yukon resources belong to all Yukoners — I have said that in this House and I will say it again. This government, as I've said, has continued to commit and to give millions to dollars to First Nations to help them in terms of reaching their goals and providing services and programming for their First Nation. In the southeast Yukon, First Nations have received almost \$10.5 million in royalties over the years with the Kotaneelee gas fields. That part of Yukon is looking for more economic opportunities for jobs and training and for business opportunities.

We continue to work with those First Nations in southeast Yukon to create an economic agreement. We have spent 10 years and millions of dollars trying to reach an economic agreement with those First Nations, to be able to move forward on this resource-revenue sharing. With this new agreement, they'll be able to share in up to \$4.7 million more dollars — over and above what was obligated and what was agreed to in the *Umbrella Final Agreement*.

In terms of working together with First Nations, we have the Minister of Education — in fact, this week we'll be meeting with leadership to discuss education initiatives. We continue to move forward with Yukoners and with First Nations.

**Question re: Whitehorse Correctional Centre programming**

**Ms. Moorcroft:** It has now been almost eight months since inmates and staff moved to the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre. An educator said to me last week that by opening the doors to education and training, we can close the door of a jail cell. I'm wondering how the Minister of Justice is directing his officials to ensure that Whitehorse Correctional Centre programming and staffing model supports work and training opportunities for inmates, as found in the *Corrections Act, 2009*?

Inmates who have been able to work on projects such as the construction of Habitat for Humanity housing can find themselves embarked on a career path that may help them avoid reoffending in the future. Has the minister directed his officials to actively pursue work programs for inmates that contribute to community projects and help inmates develop work skills that may lead to future employment?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for asking this question. As we all know, the new Whitehorse correctional facility has now had eight months of operation. There have been many improvements in program delivery, not only over the last eight months, but over the last few years. The new correctional facility offers improved programming space available centrally on each unit, as well as a new healing room.

The programming needs of offenders are determined by undertaking a risk and needs assessment and developing a case management plan for that particular individual. If the individual has both a jail and a community sentence, the case plan is developed to cover the period of time in jail, the offender's transition to the community and their supervision while on probation.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The *Yukon Corrections Adult Custody Policy Manual* has a rather thin section on programming. There are some programs related to work programs, and the policy on outdoor work programs gives priority to non-profit organizations when selecting work projects suitable for inmate participation.

As I just mentioned, Habitat for Humanity is one group that was able to employ inmates in the construction of a housing project. There have been many other work projects over the years that benefited the community and inmates alike. Whitehorse Correctional Centre inmates have made Christmas toys, picnic tables and filled sandbags in preparation for flooding, so I'd like to ask the minister for specifics. Can the minister tell us what work programs will be offered for inmates this winter?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Before I answer the question, I think we really have to take our hats off to Habitat for Humanity. They provide an excellent service for the community and, like the member opposite indicated, it does give an opportunity for some inmates, provided that they meet the requirements to participate in that program. Hopefully, they'll take those skills on with them once they are finished their sentence.

Programming that is offered is evidence-based. It is proven to be effective in reducing recidivism through robust evaluations. It is provided in a variety of ways: staff facilitation, contracted services, non-governmental organizations, the elders, advisory committee and First Nation participation.

These programs include the following: cognitive skill programming; substance abuse programming; anger management; spousal assault programming; sexual offending programming; mental health services; cultural activities, such as crafts, drum-making, carving and traditional medicines; educational upgrading through the Yukon College — and I see my time is up.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The minister did not tell us whether any work programs would be offered for inmates this winter, and he gave us a list of programs that are the same as before the move ever took place. We'd like to see a plan of when and how often programs are available.

Cultural programs benefit inmates, elders and the community at large as they contribute to healing for the inmates and the people around them. Regular cultural programs with elders available to meet with inmates can improve the morale of inmates and staff and the safety of everyone in the Correctional Centre.

There are reports that although craft supplies are delivered to Whitehorse Correctional Centre for inmates to use, women inmates are often denied access to these craft supplies for projects. Can the minister report to the House today whether all inmates at Whitehorse Correctional Centre have regular access to crafts, First Nation cultural programs, the arts and wood-working shops and culturally relevant substance abuse programs?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The *Corrections Act, 2009* requires sentenced inmates to work. Work programs allow the inmates an opportunity to build skills and knowledge and to gain experience that may increase the prospect of employment — as I alluded to earlier — once their sentence has been completed.

Work programs promote a positive work ethic and they definitely can build self-esteem. The inmate work crews have been involved in many projects over the last couple of years, and some of these projects include the following: assisting with the Habitat for Humanity projects on Wheeler Street and Ingram subdivision; renovations to a local daycare; building sandboxes and toys for a local daycare; cleaning up Kishwoot Island, Bert Law Park, and Camp Yukon; constructing food donation boxes for the food bank; completing renovations for the Justice Wellness Centre; and clearing brush on ski and snowmobile trails, just to name a few.

The outside work crews are currently helping with demolition preparations for the old jail and will be making trail markers for the upcoming Yukon Quest. This is an important program for us and, moving forward, we will ensure that those opportunities continue for the inmates.

**Question re: Government spending**

**Ms. Moorcroft:** For the last 10 years this government has run overbudget on countless capital projects in the territory and cost Yukon taxpayers millions of dollars. Planning, it would appear, has never been this government's strong suit and they cannot make major projects come in on time and on



budget. This is not acceptable; this is not good management of our tax dollars.

What is the Minister of Highways and Public Works' plan to bring costs for major capital projects under control?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I thank the member opposite for the question. As you know, the process of procurement is something that happens in all governments. You see it all the time. This government is committed to improvement in our procurement practices. We are actually in the process of working on a procurement office. Procurement 101: trying to get as many employees within Highways and Public Works — there are over 4,000 people working in government who deal with contracts. So this is near and dear to the hearts of this Yukon Party government, and we are working feverously here, focusing on the fairness, transparency, accountability and value of the money in our government contracting. We are working on that, Mr. Speaker.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** In an effort to get in a pre-election announcement last year, this government dropped the planning for geothermal heating for F.H. Collins Secondary School. This dramatically changed the plan and scope of the project. Now the government is putting the planning for the geothermal heating component back into the school plan and shows an additional \$1.5 million cost. This heating component should never have been taken out in the first place and now it will cost more for work that should have already been done.

The government has a long history of huge cost overruns. We only need to look at the jail going from \$30 million to \$70 million as a result of poor planning and implementation by this government.

Will the Minister of Highways and Public Works explain to this House what he will do to protect Yukon taxpayers from another multi-million dollars boondoggle — aside from Procurement 101?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I'll speak specifically to the plans for F.H. Collins. The total current budget for F.H. Collins is \$56.7 million, which does represent an increase of \$4.18 million from the previous approved budget of \$52.5 million. When I first was appointed Minister of Education — just prior to the fall sitting of the Legislature last year — we did have to put the project on hold for a year. Geothermal was not being considered at that time, and I think a lot of it was because of the YE-SAB process and other types of possible delays.

However, we were able to come up with an innovative solution — working with the City of Whitehorse and signed a memorandum of understanding with them. It's a unique situation that we have going on where we'll pull the water out of the Selkirk aquifer, pump it through F.H. Collins to heat the school and then the potable water will be transferred over to the municipality for their use. So it's certainly something very innovative.

One other thing, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Highways and Public Works and I have been able to add is a consultant to manage the project after it's tendered. The biggest thing right now that we have to consider is that we'll wait and allow that project manager to look after it and ensure that we get the best possible pricing for Yukoners.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources the other day said that this government does not have a plan and to assert otherwise is contrary to the facts.

Well, I cannot argue with that; however, this lack of planning by this government over the last decade has cost Yukoners tens of millions of wasted dollars. Whitehorse Correctional Centre, Watson Lake hospital, Dawson City hospital, Whistle Bend subdivision, Grizzly Valley subdivision — and I would go on but there is not enough time.

So again, what is the Minister of Highways and Public Works' plan to keep Yukon government capital project costs under control?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I thank the member opposite for the question. I alluded a little earlier to our procurement office and to looking at procurement. One of the things that the Minister of Education and I looked at with F.H. Collins, with the geothermal — to your earlier question — was to make sure that this was something that was going to work — that we didn't just spend money on something that wasn't going to work. So we made sure we had some independent people look at this. It's going to be a great saving in cost and energy. This geothermal project looks like a good thing — and we did our due diligence in — so I see a great savings to the environment. When it comes to the rest of our contracts, we work closely together with the departments and with the new procurement office that we're going to be looking at implementing and starting. This government is working with all our employee contracts and training.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### GOVERNMENT BILLS

#### **Bill No. 7: *Second Appropriation Act, 2012-13* — Second Reading**

**Clerk:** Second reading of Bill No. 7, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Pasloski.

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I move that Bill No. 7, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 7, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, be now read a second time.

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** Back in March, I tabled our government's budget, the main estimates for the 2012-13 fiscal year, with total expenditures of just over \$1.15 billion. 2012-13 is the fourth consecutive year in which we've budgeted gross expenditures of Yukon government to exceed \$1 billion. We continue to provide significant investment on behalf of Yukoners, while maintaining our commitment to fiscal discipline. We do this, supported by a prudent and practical approach to planning, decision-making, and budgeting.

In the business world, I worked hard to develop a strong, realistic and achievable budget, and I worked even harder to ensure that year-end results were on target — no easy task, as unforeseen and unplanned events often occurred that forced changes to the original plan. The same applies to government — we work hard to develop a strong, realistic budget, and we work hard to deliver programs, services and infrastructure investments funded through this budget.

However, unforeseen, unplanned events do occur that require the government to revisit the budget and make changes as appropriate. As I've said before, it bears mentioning here once more — and I will probably say it again — that our strong fiscal framework allows us flexibility to be responsive to the many evolving pressures and priorities of the Yukon government. I spoke last December at some length about our government's approach to planning and budgeting. Allow me briefly to reiterate.

Planning and budgeting is about decision-making. It's all about identifying priorities and then considering, developing, resourcing and implementing appropriate actions to provide the best services possible for Yukoners. At its core, planning and budgeting requires decision-makers to make choices. The budget process supports us as decision-makers to consider all issues and identify appropriate solutions.

In this regard, the development of a budget serves us both as a planning tool and a control tool.

Decision-making is an ongoing, frequently evolving process. Decision-making is not an isolated event. It remains the prerogative — more so the obligation — of our government to consider emerging issues and priorities and to recommend effective and appropriately resourced solutions and actions to the Legislative Assembly.

This has resulted in the adopted practice of the Yukon government to have in-year adjustments tabled as supplementary estimates to the original budget plan for the Assembly's consideration. This approach has served Yukon well, offering significant opportunity within the context of a multi-year fiscal framework to consider resource requirements for competing priorities and make sound recommendations for scrutiny, debate and approval by the Legislative Assembly.

We have decision-making as an ongoing, frequently evolving process in each year and we have a budget, and we have in-year adjustments tabled for consideration by the Legislature as supplementary estimates.

It is important for us as legislators to understand the issue of timing. Allow me to illustrate an example relevant to the supplementary estimates. As a matter of principle, our government is committed to the due process of collective bargaining negotiations. Therefore, as a matter of practice, our government does not make specific provisions in formal budget documents for potential collective agreement settlements. To do so has the potential to bias the negotiations.

Our government continues to allow negotiations to conclude and agreements to be ratified prior to the inclusion in the budget, as necessary and appropriate — whether it is in the mains or in the supplementary estimates. The recent agreement reached with the Yukon Medical Association is a case in point.

At the time the 2012-13 main estimates were tabled, these negotiations were ongoing and a final agreement outstanding. Therefore, in our estimation, the 2012-13 budget appropriately did not include any related costing provisions.

Recently our government, together with YMA, announced it had reached a new five-year agreement. Now that negotiations have concluded, and the agreement has been ratified by both parties, appropriate costing and budget adjustments are reflected in the supplementary estimates tabled today. As I have said, our government is committed to allowing the due process of collective agreement negotiations to run its course. I am confident that Members of the Legislative Assembly, and Yukoners at large, will appreciate the value of allowing these negotiations to proceed without potential bias. My colleagues and I take very seriously and respect the importance of effective processes and procedures in support of our decision-making responsibilities.

We prepare and table budgets on the best and most current information at the time. Notwithstanding, the best laid plans are subject to change. Changes to the budget plan through supplementary estimates allow us to be responsive to emerging pressures and priorities of importance to Yukoners. Changes to the budget plan through supplementary estimates maintain accountability to the Legislative Assembly and to Yukoners.

The first supplementary estimates for 2012-13 provides us with two opportunities. First, it provides us the opportunity to represent to the Legislature and to the general public an update of the financial position of the government. As I noted earlier, it is important for us to understand the issue of timing and the challenges it poses for government.

I'm confident that members can appreciate that at the time the 2012-13 budget was prepared and tabled, the audited results for the 2011-12 fiscal year were not finalized and therefore the summary projections for 2012-13 may have been subject to change. As a result, and now that the results for the 2011-12 have been finalized, *Supplementary Estimates No. 1* represents the first opportunity to provide the Legislative Assembly a financial update for 2012-13, inclusive of the 2011-12 final results.

I just referenced the audited results for the 2011-12 fiscal, effectively presented in the 2011-12 public accounts, which have been tabled, presenting the Legislature with year-end financial statements for 2011-12. Members of the Assembly may note that we are not tabling a final appropriation bill and final supplementary estimates for 2011-12.

All departments managed within their approved appropriations. I know that departments face many challenges. My hat is off and my appreciation goes out for all of their efforts in managing emerging priorities and budget pressures within their approved financial parameters. I know this frequently involves making difficult and unpopular choices. Again, thank you to all ministers and their officials who take on this responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me the opportunity to acknowledge these ongoing efforts.

Second, and more to the point of seeking required spending authorities, this first supplementary estimate details the proposed expenditure changes that require legislative appro-

priation authority in addition to the spending authorities previously granted by the Legislature when the main estimates were approved. The *Second Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, and accompanying *Supplementary Estimates No. 1* for 2012-13 provides for increased spending totaling \$46.014 million. Of this total, \$7.993 million represents an increase to gross O&M expenditures and \$38.021 million represents an increase to gross capital expenditures.

I spoke earlier about timing, about the ongoing and evolving nature of decision-making and budgeting. I spoke of the government's ability to be responsive to emerging pressures and priorities. One significant example comes to mind — all Yukoners are aware of the very wet summer we experienced in 2012. The heavy rains resulted in multiple highway washouts and created disaster conditions for Upper Liard. In partnership with Canada, our government responded to repair our damaged infrastructure and to provide assistance to the residents of Upper Liard. The ministers for Community Services, Highways and Public Works and Yukon Housing Corporation will be pleased to speak in more detail during general debate about the emergency responses initiated and supported with additional funding recommended through this supplementary budget.

There are other initiatives identified in the supplementary budget where our government is being responsive to the priorities of Yukoners. Examples include funding allocated to support the implementation of a number of recommendations outlined in the report on acutely intoxicated persons, to enhance municipal fire protection services and to establish a residential tenancy office.

Individual ministers and I will be pleased to discuss in further detail when we convene to discuss it in general debate. As I noted above, this supplementary budget provides for increased O&M and capital expenditures of just over \$46 million. These increases result in a total government expenditure of almost \$1.203 billion. Of this total of \$1.203 billion, \$269.64 million is allocated to capital for infrastructure improvements throughout Yukon, and \$933.137 million is allocated to O&M in support of the many ongoing programs and services provided to Yukoners.

Moving to our summary financial indicators, after incorporating the 2011-12 final audited results and expenditure and revenue changes detailed in our *Supplementary Estimates No. 1, 2012-13*, our government continues to be in a very healthy fiscal position. Mr. Speaker, *Supplementary Estimates No. 1, 2012-13* presents a forecast annual surplus of just under \$88 million, resulting in an estimated accumulated surplus for March 31, 2013 of \$1.217 billion.

Continuing to avoid net debt, our year-end net financial position is projected at \$125 million. I wish to emphasize for all members the significance of having net financial resources as opposed to net debt. This is a very significant indicator of our financial health, as it means that the government is not relying on future revenues to provide current services. This is an enviable position for Yukon as very few governments are in this position. This is something to be very proud of.

As Minister of Finance, I am very pleased with the efforts of ministers and their departmental staff who work so diligently

to implement principles of sound, fiscal management while at the same time still ensuring a strong, effective, yet prudent and sustainable investment in Yukoners. Building on previous years and on the 2012-13 main estimates, we continue to see significant spending initiatives undertaken by our government while maintaining our strong fiscal position.

We project an annual surplus for 2012-13. This contributes to our savings account. With our positive net financial resources — our savings account — our government continues to avoid net debt. We are not delivering current services, programs, and infrastructure at the expense of future generations of Yukoners. We continue to be prudent and disciplined, responsive and flexible, all for the benefit of Yukoners.

Yukon is experiencing economic growth. GDP for 2011 came in at a very strong 5.7 percent. Yukon's unemployment rate of 6.3 percent is below the national average and, of employed workers in Yukon, 87.9 percent are full time. Our government is contributing to a healthy, vibrant Yukon economy.

I am proud of the programs, services, and infrastructure investments for the benefit of all Yukoners. I am doubly proud that we maintain a strong fiscal position, allowing our government to be responsive to emerging issues and priorities on behalf of Yukoners.

I look forward to discussing this supplementary budget in further detail when we reconvene to discuss it in general debate.

**Ms. Hanson:** Before I open my comments with respect to the supplementary budget for 2012-13, I would like to thank the officials from the Department of Finance who met with the Opposition this morning to provide a briefing. As we get an opportunity over the next few days, I imagine, to go into greater detail on the supplementary budget, we'll no doubt have lots of questions in Committee of the Whole about increases and decreases in various departments. We'll be wanting to talk more about what appears to be — and clearly are — the further cost overruns in the building of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, the additional, identified resourcing for the planning — planning only — of F.H. Collins — because we all remember the shovels-in-the-ground, election-time photo op and the work that was done prior to that and the work that was done in this Legislative Assembly by legislators and the estimates that were given by the government about the costs then.

We will be wanting to revisit and discuss the whole approach to strong planning that the Premier just spoke about, because one thing we probably agree on is that planning and control are important tools, but how we go about using and actually implementing that planning and control function differs very significantly.

We will want to talk with the Minister of Finance and ministers for more clarification. Announcements have been made and then changed. For example, the community expectations in Ross River — they saw in the budget a proposed \$7 million toward a Ross River recreation centre and then it was reduced by \$5.5 million. That will certainly be a disappointment to that community, and we will need to talk about that and understand

how that fits in with a strong approach to decision-making and planning by this government.

As we have heard, the Minister of Finance has presented this supplementary budget as basically part of their answer to sound fiscal management. We have heard them, again, point to an increased surplus for the year and increased net financial resources, which we also have seen in previous incarnations of the Yukon Party government spending those down as elections loomed.

In the spring, this government presented a surplus of \$80 million and now they have boosted this surplus to \$88 million, but you know, the experience of Yukoners is that the health of the territory can't be determined solely by the bottom line. For example, the bottom line does nothing to explain the large and growing number of Yukoners who do not have a family doctor. The bottom line doesn't explain why the government continues to sit on \$13 million of federal money for affordable housing while the housing crisis for those most in need continues to worsen. The bottom line doesn't explain why food bank use is at record highs; why the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, in publishing its snapshot, "Mind the Gap" just recently, on all the social indices — the health and human indices — why that bottom line is not just a fiscal bottom line that we should be paying attention to, but it's the whole bottom line with respect to all the indices with which we measure the health of our economy.

As the Minister of Finance rightly pointed out, budgets are about choices and these supplementary estimates reinforce the choices of the Yukon Party to pad the bottom line, while problems like the housing crisis, like the need to make the health care system more patient-centred, and like the need to address the growing gap between the rich and poor continues to go un-addressed.

It's the view of the Official Opposition that there is more to government than accumulating surpluses. Good government means spending wisely and directing that spending at key priorities, at tackling the major issues of the day.

I was reflecting — as the Minister of Finance was speaking — that, just as we heard the Minister of Highways and Public Works talking about Procurement 101, then we have now the Minister of Finance outlining his understanding of the Parliamentary Budget Process 101 — and it's good to hear an articulation of the importance of setting planning objectives and talking about implementing control mechanisms. Now the challenge is going to be when a Yukon Party government can actually implement that.

Though boosting the surplus from \$80 million to \$88 million may benefit the government's bottom line, when there is such great need in the community it's really not good government. A government with a healthy pocketbook should use its resources to tackle some of the profound issues Yukon citizens face — as I mentioned, issues such as lack of family doctors, the expressed need — demonstrated need — for supportive housing. The Minister of Finance referenced implementing aspects of the Beaton and Allen report on acutely intoxicated persons at risk. This government has taken an ad hoc as opposed to a strategic or coherent approach to responding to this

really thoughtful document that came out of the Silverfox inquiry — the police report, or report on policing in the Yukon — when it became apparent that the issues of dealing with the acutely intoxicated persons at risk were getting overshadowed by the other very important issues about policing in the Yukon.

So we've seen the building of — for want of another term — a glorified drunk tank at the jail, in contradiction to what the Beaton and Allen report suggested and recommended based on their evidence from across the country. So, we've got a sort of an ad hoc approach — so that issue continues every day in my riding, because my riding is Whitehorse Centre, and it's an area where people who have issues end up congregating. That's why when the Beaton and Allen report came out they made some significant recommendations about a coherent and coordinated approach. We're not seeing that in the budget that was tabled in the spring or in this supplementary budget.

A government that was looking to really use its resources to tackle these profound issues would also be looking at the issue of not just supportive housing, but the need for more affordable housing options. To date, we've seen land being made available that puts the price — when you add the house in — beyond the reach of the average Yukoner. Even if they're working — 87 percent of those employed are working full-time — most of them are not able to enter into mortgages. New entries into the housing market can't do it.

We've seen a delay in lack of resourcing. We've seen lots of language around the issue of a social inclusion strategy. We have no strategy and no resources, neither identified during the budget process last spring nor during this supplementary. Again, going back to what the Minister of Finance spoke to, there are times through the course of the year where things may change. In fact, this was a much-touted strategy by the Yukon Party government several years ago and there still hasn't been any attempt by the government to develop a comprehensive and costed implementation plan for what may be — we hope — a soon-to-be-announced social inclusion strategy.

This speaks to the lack of the issues when we talk about community infrastructure. I already mentioned that we want to talk with the Minister of Finance, as well as the ministers responsible for the most glaring example in terms of community infrastructure — the reduction in the budget for the Ross River rec centre. That's just in the supplementary estimates, Mr. Speaker, but there are other examples of community infrastructure issues throughout rural Yukon and I hope we'll have an opportunity to speak to that during the course of Committee of the Whole.

What we've heard today then is government basically boasting about the health of its pocketbook and that's really out of place when it's surrounded by the persistent needs that it doesn't address. When this government issued, or released, the main estimates in the spring, we called upon the government to work cooperatively and collaboratively with community, with the Official Opposition — what a novel idea — and with private industry to really develop the most critical piece that's missing in this whole approach in this territory, which is a housing strategy.

We didn't see any action then and now we've seen that there's the same lack of urgency in the supplementary estimates.

The Minister of Finance has spoken to the importance of planning, budgeting and decision-making. That's good to hear because it means that there is an echo occurring within the Cabinet, an echo that's coming from repeated reports from the Auditor General, who has found that the Yukon government hasn't established within its culture around that Cabinet table the importance of establishing measurable objectives for programs and services expenditures.

As a result of that, the Auditor General has repeatedly told this Legislative Assembly that it is impossible to determine if Yukoners are getting value for their money. The billions of dollars that we talk about spending — spending is one thing, getting effective and efficient results for that expenditure is another and that's what we're held accountable for in this Legislative Assembly. Not simply spending, but being accountable that it does do something and benefits all Yukoners, not a select few.

I won't even go into the litany of audits that the Auditor General has identified. The importance of getting a handle on both real planning and effective control — those audits included Highways and Public Works, Yukon Housing Corporation, Yukon Hospital Corporation — coming up with Health and Social Services — Health in particular last year — and the Department of Education.

We come back to the fact that we talk about spending a lot of money, but it's doing it effectively. There has been a tendency to spend more money than is authorized by the Legislative Assembly. Last summer, as you will recall — I think it was last summer — the Premier issued a special warrant to authorize spending and refused to reconvene the Legislative Assembly to discuss the extra spending. That's the job of legislators, to give sanction to the expenditures of public money for public purposes. We are not here for frivolity. We're here because we have an obligation to those people who elected us.

There were large numbers thrown about, but the underlying fact is that under this Yukon Party, our dependence on Ottawa has not changed. We understand the rate of growth in the transfer from Ottawa is slowing and there are a number of factors and indices comprised in that, and this presents some challenges. I will be interested in hearing the Premier's plan to meet this challenge in terms of this slowing of the transfer from the federal government.

I will be interested to hear from the Minister of Finance in terms of some issues related to debt and debt servicing; Yukon Party governments are paying for large projects with debt financing — for example, the Mayo B transmission lines — and the amount the government can borrow will be rising. There were changes made to the territorial rules. The federal government made changes with respect to the limits for the territories in terms of the spending limits that we can exert. It will be interesting to hear more about this and the Minister of Finance's views on it, because debt and debt servicing and how that is going to be handled and is handled by this government is im-

portant to understand in the interest of sound fiscal management.

I'll be interested in hearing from the Minister of Finance more details on how debt obligations and government guarantees of debt of its government corporations are recorded.

I think that would be a really interesting conversation to have with the Minister of Finance. How much debt do these corporations carry — do we carry as a result of the corporations? How much debt are they anticipating? What are the terms of debt servicing? While debt holders — when we choose to do it that way, as opposed to planning and budgeting over time, that old notion that you plan and you only spend what you have, as opposed to finding another venue or another way of servicing that debt — it costs us, because the costs of those corporations to borrow is more expensive than government. So who is paying for those foregone revenues? Who's paying for the social programs that contribute to a healthy society?

In October the Minister of Finance — and there was sort of a reference to this earlier in the day by the Premier — there was a press release issued by this government talking about mining royalties to benefit Yukoners, saying that the Government of Yukon — this was October 9, 2012 — would be receiving \$351,525 in royalties from Alexco. But in the supplementary, land and mineral leases and royalties revenue is unchanged at \$233,000. I don't need to remind listeners that that's less than the government receives for campground permits, at \$306,000. But I'm curious and I'll look to the Minister of Finance to clarify: Where do we see these new revenues from resource royalties showing in our sources of revenue for this territory? When will these royalties make it into the public coffers? More importantly, when will Yukoners receive a fair share for our natural resource wealth?

When you look at the reference earlier today from the Minister of Finance, we keep hearing about this new agreement whereby we'll be retaining up to \$40-some million in resource royalties. I've asked the question before, but it becomes more pertinent now that we see some \$300,000 worth of royalties. I asked the question but didn't get an answer whether that represented a quarter — is that an initial start for this fiscal year or do we anticipate more? Based on the projections and based on the work as the Minister of Finance and the head of the Cabinet table, what projections does he have for Yukoners as to when we will begin to see the trajectory of revenue increasing from resource royalties into this territory?

Based on his knowledge and based on his minister's knowledge of the work that's being done through Energy, Mines and Resources and the Department of Economic Development, when does he anticipate that this \$41-million threshold will be reached? Because that's an important piece of information to have as Yukoners look at their government and at how it plans and establishes what he referred to as a strong fiscal framework that he sets in place and clearly identifies for Yukoners that revenue stream and when he anticipates receiving it. Otherwise it just sounds like conjuncture. It doesn't sound like any sort of solid fact.

From the point of view of the Official Opposition, we will continue to say that we support those departments and those agencies of government that work collaboratively with the public, that are responsive and take the focus of citizens first. We will look to this government as it moves from the supplementary of this current fiscal year, and I would imagine we're now in the process of looking at and actively putting together the proposed budget planning for next fiscal year — let's talk about involving citizens in that budget-making process.

Let's talk about involving Yukon people, First Nations, NGOs and community organizations in identifying community priorities for capital and program expenditures. Sometimes we may assume that we know best, but in fact the communities and the citizens may be able to help us re-prioritize. That way, when citizens see the process and they have more information that is provided in a timely way about budgets and how budget decisions are made and how spending occurs, there can be a better sense that the government is actually listening and understands what is driving the small communities and the large centre of Whitehorse.

Mr. Speaker, we will be looking forward to the discussion in Committee of the Whole. We anticipate there are many issues, but we don't want to use an inordinate amount of time on the supplementary budget because we have a number of pieces of legislation that are before this Legislature that will require full and focused debate. So I look forward to the comments of my colleagues on both sides of this floor.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I rise today in support of this budget. It's one more step in moving Yukon forward. Before I make any further comments, I would like to thank my family for their continued support, and I'd like to thank my constituents in Porter Creek South for the privilege of representing them here in this Assembly. I committed to work hard on behalf of everyone in my riding, and I sincerely appreciate their support. I would also like to thank this incredible team on this side of the House for all of their hard work and their support.

It's the time of year when we formally reflect on the sacrifice of soldiers. As I prepared for today, I found myself reflecting on the great sacrifice made so that each of us here in this Assembly could be here. I would also like to thank the veterans who gave so much for our freedom.

This budget is very significant to me, as it represents both stability and change. It represents stability, in that, like the previous Yukon Party government budgets, it's fiscally responsible. Like the budgets before, it reflects the commitment of working together so we can do better, and the commitment to offer Yukoners a clear vision for a bright future.

We need to reflect on the challenges Yukon has overcome. In 2002, prior to the Yukon Party taking office, Yukon had experienced seven years of economic recession.

Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to dwell on the past, but I think we need to remember the consequences of electing an NDP and then Liberal government. Under the NDP, our unemployment rate soared and our population plummeted. The NDP did their best to euthanize mining and I see that they continue to advance that position even today.

When the Yukon Party took office in 2002, rebuilding Yukon's private sector economy was priority number one. I'm grateful for the contribution of our Yukon Party predecessors. I believe that a decade's worth of population, economic, social and many other indicators prove that they have left the Yukon a better place than they found it when they took office in 2002.

This budget also represents change. We are continuing to move Yukon forward, and our vision for "Moving Forward Together" continues to build upon the previous four pillars: better quality of life, the environment, the economy and good government. It deals with the challenges that a growing, prosperous economy creates: housing and land availability; the increasing demand for clean energy; the increasing demand for transportation and communications infrastructure; increased pressures on our health and social service safety net; the increasing demand for more education and training facilities and programs, as well as increased pressures on our land and resource management systems designed to protect Yukon's environment.

Our budget reflects our vision and our commitments. I'd like to speak for a few moments on what we have accomplished. Let me share with this Assembly what our budgets have accomplished in moving Yukon forward.

In 2011, Yukon hosted over 300,000 visitors from around the world, including 33,000 overseas visitors. That's very impressive, especially given our population. I want to thank our partners in the tourism industry for their good work, and I look forward to working together to accomplish even more in the years to come. So far this year there has been a four-percent increase in the number of visitors to Yukon. Between January and August, we have welcomed 266,896 visitors to Yukon.

More than four percent of Yukon's GDP is directly attributed to tourism. Each year tourism generates \$197 million in revenue for Yukon businesses. Over one-quarter of all Yukon businesses generate some of their revenue from tourism. Last year the department hosted 49 familiarization tours, or "fam tours", resulting in \$11.4 million worth of media stories about Yukon tourist activities. Germany continues to be the Yukon's largest overseas market, representing approximately 26 percent of overseas visitors. Whitehorse is the smallest city in North America with direct flights to Germany. Condor brought 4,000 visitors to Yukon this year, contributing an \$8-million to \$10-million benefit to Yukon's economy. Yukon operates visitor information services in six communities each summer. This year the centres provided travel information and visitor services to over 231,000 visitors.

Yukon government provides \$1.2 million to the 13 museums and seven First Nation cultural centres that present our culture and history to 100,000 visitors each year. The MacBride Museum and the Beringia Centre are Yukon's most visited museums — each welcome more than 20,000 visitors a year. Having been to both this summer, I encourage everyone to visit them. They are incredibly amazing places.

The department has identified and recorded over 3,720 archaeological sites and maintains a collection of over 47,500 artifacts. In collaboration with Klondike placer miners, over 3,000 new fossils were collected for the paleontology program.

The department co-owns and co-manages three historic sites with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Selkirk First Nation. The members opposite voted no to funding our support of those sites.

Last year, the Yukon government added 10 works to the Yukon permanent art collection, valued at \$2.48 million. The collection now has 345 pieces on display in 24 public government buildings. So far in 2012, the department has provided \$38,000 to 11 Yukon artists for personal artistic development. Last year, over \$100,000 of funding was provided to support 22 Yukon artists to tour creative works nationally and internationally. Last year, the department provided \$1.2 million of funding to 61 non-profit arts organizations and collectives. This funding enabled over 100,000 audience members to enjoy over 1,000 arts events.

The members opposite voted no to every one of those items. They voted no to funding our tourism sector; they voted no to funding our arts; they voted no to funding our culture. Let me share with you what else we've accomplished on the Tourism and Culture file.

Tourism and Culture organized and hosted the Canadian Tourism Commission GoMedia Canada Marketplace here in Whitehorse in May 2012. The event was attended by 125 international and domestic media, as well as 170 tourism industry members. This year, the department launched the year-round Yukon visitor tracking program to provide and assist the Yukon tourism sector in developing marketing strategies in making investment decisions to meet today's changing economic climate.

The department opened up the new Haines Junction visitor information centre located within the Da Ku Cultural Centre. The centre showcases the work of 41 Yukon artists, while providing travel information to Yukon visitors.

In 2012, Yukon Archives celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and hosted more than 175 participants at the Association of Canadian Archivists Conference. The national conference supports the archivists who ensure our history is preserved for future generations. In October 2012, the department hosted the Canadian Conservation Institute workshop, materials for exhibit storage and transport and provided training to 18 heritage workers from seven communities. The Yukon government announced \$389,000 in funding for Yukon Archives to support preserving Yukon's past. Projects include planning for expanded storage and improvements to the archives building.

The government improved visitor access and interpretation at three of its major sites through trail and bridge improvements at Fortymile, enhanced interpretive facilities on Herschel Island and a third interpretive building at Fort Selkirk.

We provided \$14,000 in funding for the highly acclaimed book on the natural and cultural history of Herschel Island by Dr. Chris Burn. In June 2012, the department co-hosted Frozen Past: 3<sup>rd</sup> International Glacial Archaeology Symposium. The paleontology program continued to provide an enhanced presence in the Klondike gold fields. In cooperation with placer miners, seasonal staff acquired over 3,000 new fossils for the Yukon paleontology collection. The Culture Quest fund has

been established as an ongoing funding program with \$150,000 annually for projects.

The department provided \$345,000 to the Northern Cultural Expressions Society in funding to support its carving program that helps emerging artists develop artistic, social and business skills required for personal success.

Earlier today, the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes mentioned the carving program, the Northern Cultural Expressions Society, and I appreciate his kind words of support for this program, but I also see that on May 10 of this year, he voted against funding the program. I hope he will support the budget and vote yes.

The Yukon government will provide \$200,000 to partner with the National Arts Centre to present Yukon performing, visual and literary artists at the 2013 Northern Scene in Ottawa next spring. Let me share with you what we are accomplishing with these budgets.

Due to time constraints, I'll shorten my comments with respect to the Department of Justice. I will speak to this in more detail during Committee of the Whole debate. We are actively implementing the recommendations contained in *Sharing Common Ground*. These include forming the Yukon Police Council, signing an agreement with the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, who will act as an independent civilian agency to investigate serious incidents involving RCMP members in M Division. We have provided the first year of funding for a four-member RCMP specialized response unit to provide an effective response to domestic violence and sexualized assault.

I'll save my comments on SCAN for when we are in Committee of the Whole.

Our government is following through on our commitments to modernize the land titles regime in Yukon. We implemented some immediate fixes, and we are currently engaged in consultation on the *Land Titles Act* and *Condominium Act*, as well as on improving the Land Titles service.

The new Whitehorse Correctional Centre opened in March of 2012. WCC represents a new philosophy of corrections that emphasizes the protection of the public, holds offenders accountable, and provides appropriate opportunities for rehabilitation. In December 2011, eight projects split \$142,000 in funding from the crime prevention and victim services trust fund. In May 2011, seven projects split just over \$100,000. We hosted the national symposium on policing in northern and remote environments to share current research in innovative community safety models, which will help inform and shape the response to the unique challenges of policing in the north.

A new community safety award was created in July 2012 to recognize citizens who make significant contributions to community safety in the Yukon Territory. In September 2012, 11 winners were announced. The creation of the award was a recommendation of the 2010 *Sharing Common Ground* report.

I attended the FPT Ministers of Justice meeting just last week, and I'd like to speak to this in more detail in the days to come. I'd like to share that this is a file Yukon continues to lead on. We will continue to work with the Government of Canada on initiatives related to health and to justice to address

FASD. I was pleased to be able to speak to both the federal Minister of Justice and the Minister of Public Safety about FASD in the north. We committed to work with the governments of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Canada to respond to the unique challenges of policing in the north. We have used our budgets to protect and support the family. I was just at the third National Aboriginal Women's Summit in Winnipeg, and we continue to make this file a high priority.

We said that we would invest in second-stage housing for Kaushee's Place in Whitehorse, and I'm so pleased that construction is underway on a second-stage housing facility in Whitehorse, in conjunction with Kaushee's.

During the campaign, many Yukoners shared with me the challenges they face with respect to medical issues for themselves or a loved one. For some, the challenge was getting access to tests, treatments and therapies; for others, it was accessing opportunities that would allow them to remodel their homes to accommodate a loved one's physical disability. As you know, this issue is one that I can relate to on a personal level.

One of the reasons I decided to run for office was because I wanted to work on this issue, Mr. Speaker. I became convinced that it was an area that I could play a part in to make our territory's response even better. As we talked about this as a campaign team, many others were hearing of similar situations. I take great pride in the fact that the Yukon Party committed to providing support services for children and adults with disabilities.

I'm also proud that we committed to provide assistance to Yukoners with disabilities to modify their homes to accommodate their disabilities. I've been working on that file since I was elected and I would like to thank my colleagues, the Minister of Health and Social Services and the minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation for their assistance and advice in addressing this issue.

We have been using our budgets to move Yukon forward, and I encourage all members of this Assembly to rise and support this.

**Mr. Tredger:** I just have a few words to say by way of introduction to the supplementary estimates for this year. I wanted to remind the government of some of their promises to build infrastructure, especially in rural Yukon.

As we know, mining is taking place in rural Yukon and they are paying much of the price for that mining in terms of their landscape, in terms of increased activity in their traditional areas and increased pressure on all their land. So it's important that we do build the infrastructure while we have the money and while we have the surplus so that we are able to ensure that all Yukoners can benefit from the money that is coming in now and that all Yukoners get a fair share.

I remind the members opposite, or the government, that the Premier promised to build a seniors housing complex in Mayo. Now is the time to plan. We have seen how long the planning takes for buildings like F.H. Collins. I'd like to see something in the next budget, planning with the Na Cho Nyäk Dun, with the Village of Mayo and with the seniors, to provide a continuum of care. Mayo is not unique; most of our rural communi-

ties have residents who wish to stay in their community as long as possible, with their friends, with their family and where their support systems are.

Mayo is ready to move forward. The Na Cho Nyäk Dun and the Village of Mayo and the seniors themselves have been very proactive in advocating, in putting together plans and building ideas. It's incumbent upon this government to move on that now.

I'd also like to mention a concern of the people of Carmacks. We've all seen the increase in traffic. We've seen some of the effects of the increased mining activity. Right now much of the traffic is passing through Carmacks, and the entire Freegold/Mount Nansen area runs right through a residential area — not on a highway; through a residential area. For years Carmacks residents have raised the safety of their children, their pets and of anyone who is using the road.

We are starting to look at more development around Casino. The development is increasing, not decreasing. That bypass road should be built now, and I look forward to debate on that to talk about when the planning will start and when it will happen. We can't wait until an accident happens. We need to ensure the safety of our citizens.

Along the same lines, I know the people of Stewart Crossing are very concerned about the safety with the amount of traffic, the volume and the intensity of traffic that goes through their community. Street lighting is a problem. We're entering into another winter season. I've raised it and many others have raised the fact that it is dangerous after a long trip down the dark highway to come into a community that doesn't have adequate lighting to alert people — both the drivers of the vehicles so they can see pedestrians and the pedestrians so they can see cars entering and leaving so they can be ready to drive safely through the community.

It might sound like a small thing, but I talked to a number of tourists last winter who remarked about the facilities along the highway. They need to be upgraded. Most of them aren't accessible. Often there is a big berm left so that people have to climb over top before they can get to the outhouse. That's quite a problem for not only tourists, but residents, as they journey to Whitehorse.

Our roads are seeing increased traffic. The Minister of Highways and Public Works talked about the increasing stress on the road — the impact of climate change on the roads and permafrost changes that are affecting our highways. The amount of rain is changing, and again, it affects our highways with increased flooding and washouts.

I was hoping to see an increased amount in funding for long-term planning to maintain and upgrade our roads — to prepare ahead of time for the increased traffic, rather than to wait until it was already a hazard before we fix it.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the unincorporated community infrastructure and the need to work with unincorporated communities so that they can provide their citizens — Yukon citizens — with the same level of care that the citizens in incorporated communities get.

Another concern I have is that many of the rural buildings — not only in education, but particularly government buildings



in the rural communities, are getting old very quickly and yet I don't see a long-term plan for facility building. I don't see planning for the next phase. I would like to see audits done on the buildings for safety, which are shared with the staff. I would like to see seismic audits done so that people in the communities know what risks they're taking when they go into the building.

I would like to see audits done on environmental hazards within the building and how many of them are safe with the air, with the water and with the materials they've been built with. That should be readily available to all people, not only in the city buildings, but also in the community buildings.

I note there is some extra money in Energy, Mines and Resources for agricultural development. I'm hoping that that is to include storage facilities and a fixed abattoir is something farmers in my area have asked for, for a long time, so they can help get their products to market. I'm concerned about the number of projects that YESAB has approved, the number of explorations that have happened and how much time the next phase is going to take. How many of the YESAB projects have had project audits to see what effects the monitoring and mitigation efforts have had? Are they working or aren't they? YESAB has approved close to 500 projects in the last two years. What effect has that had on the personnel in Client Services and Inspections? What additional training have they incurred? What support have they had and how has their number increased so that they are able to do project audits, that they are able to follow up on YESAB decisions?

I'm still waiting to see the vaunted royalties. Every day one can see the ore trucks thundering down the highway through my area. They're rushing our ore overseas to foreign markets, they're beating up our roads, yet still I don't see an increase in revenue. It's time Yukoners got a fair share of their resources. In an October 9, 2012 press release, entitled "Mining Royalties Benefit Yukoners," it says that the Yukon government will be receiving \$351,525 in royalties from Alexco, calculated from mining production profits in 2011, but in the supplementary under land and mineral leases and royalties, revenue is still unchanged at \$233,000 for 2012-13. Again, that is less than the government receives for campground permits. When will these royalties make it into the public coffers? When will the Yukon public receive a fair share for our natural resource wealth? I look forward to hearing more in Committee. Residents in my communities look forward to sharing some of that.

I don't see any increase in the money allocated to cover the cost of lawsuits. How much have we spent on the francophone school board lawsuit? How much do we anticipate spending with White River or the Kaska?

When I look at the environment and I realize the pressures on the environment, there is a need for baseline data. It's a critical need. As we expand into farther and farther reaches of the territory, mining companies and people who are making submissions to YESAB are screaming for baseline data. If we wait until development has happened, the baseline data is skewed.

When I look at my former province of Alberta — and they're trying to ascertain the effects of intensive natural gas and oil development. They don't have the baseline data, and the people of the area are not reassured. People have no way of telling what has contributed to where. The baseline data is critical. I was looking forward to an increase, not only in the two areas that were mentioned, but throughout Yukon, so that we can have that baseline data to make sensible decisions about development.

We all know that the federal government has caused significant impact with their cuts on environmental assessment, on gathering of data, on the personnel in the field. Yet I see nothing in this budget that would account for an increase to cover the shortfalls. Who is going to get the information to YESAB? The federal government has abdicated its responsibility. Will the Department of Environment pick up that responsibility that they owe to the people of Yukon?

While I was talking to some residents in my area, they wondered what happened to our plans for decentralizing government services. This is a good time to do that and to follow up on that. Communities are losing personnel, cut by the federal government. What an opportunity to move personnel into that community to replace them and help them to replace the citizens who contribute so much, in so many ways, to their communities.

Having said all that, I look forward to the debate in Committee of the Whole, where we can go through many of the things that I alluded to here and get answers for the people in my constituency and for all the people of the Yukon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I thank the members opposite and my fellow colleagues who have spoken to our *Supplementary Estimates No. 1*. I'm going to speak a little bit — to start off, some general information about Highways and Public Works.

I am starting to see a trend from the members opposite. I'm starting to see a trend on the fact that this government does not work with First Nations. I'm going to talk about some Yukon asset construction agreements that fall into this supplementary budget — things that we are doing, working with First Nations, training First Nations, and providing jobs for First Nations. Some of our agreements — after we are done, they will be trained to manage their own departments within their own self-governing governments.

The annual budget for Highways and Public Works is \$188 million. Today we are going to be talking about the \$23 million-plus in our *Supplementary Estimates No. 1* here. We have 900 employees, two coastal mountain passes, and over 4,828 kilometres of highways, which I will break down a little later. For a little tidbit of information — our Dempster Highway is the only public, all-season road across the Arctic Circle in Canada's north, which is very important. We manage four airports and 25 aerodromes. We are the largest aerodrome operator in Canada, with our airports and our infrastructure within our rural communities. Of course, for the Member for Mayo there, it is near and dear to his heart — rural Yukon, and it is to me too.

Our ATIPP office, the only central intake office in Canada — I'm sure I'll be fielding a few questions on that later on in this sitting. So we have two distinct roles: we have the central agency, a provision for government services — I'm sure I will have some more questions on that also — and infrastructure development and maintenance. In our central agency, we have information and technology. It is a little-known fact that approximately 80 million spam messages were filtered just last year. We have over 24,000 boxes of records that are stored at our central records, and we get approximately 16,000 calls and inquiries to the help desk every year.

The Yukon Territory was recognized by the Canadian Newspaper Association as having the shortest response time when responding to ATIPP requests. We got almost 420 a year. Our Property Management people — we employ over 200 staff who are responsible for the operation and maintenance of approximately 500 buildings — some of the buildings that we talk about. There are 10,000 maintenance work orders processed each year. That's pretty busy times.

Our supply and services — in the past two years, the overall CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for our Fleet Vehicle Agency — which the members opposite should be happy with — has decreased by almost 10 percent. We are taking into consideration the environment.

Since April 2009, Central Stores has sold over \$647,000 worth of high quality local office furniture to client departments. In the past five years, Asset Management has recovered more than \$1.4 million through the sale of some of our surplus assets.

We had a question on procurement in the House today. Over \$375 million is spent every year on procurement in the Yukon throughout the different departments. Over 5,000 contracts are awarded annually — 3,500 contracts to local Yukon businesses. Approximately 1,700 Yukon government staff have contracting authority.

Through our risk management, which speaks to what the member opposite alluded to with our different buildings and different communities, we have four departments that have compiled risk registries and we have a process there.

When I talk about airports — Carcross-Tagish First Nation, we had a Yukon asset/construction agreement with them on the Atlin Road working with the First Nation.

When I talk about airports, working with the Kwanlin Dun First Nation on the new parking lot that we built and also the extension to the building — they were part of that and the new bridge walkway. We heard it earlier today in this House — the Whitehorse Correctional Centre — another Kwanlin Dun First Nation — the Carcross community road upgrades — Carcross-Tagish First Nation — Hot Springs Road — lots of work with our First Nations.

I'm going to get into my roads and services. We have 336 kilometres of paved roads. We have almost 2,000 BST cover. We have over 2,500 kilometres of gravel. We have 7.7 kilometres of bridges in the Yukon Territory — in this Department of Highways and Public Works.

The Whitehorse airport is busy as always. There is an increase. Our aerodromes continue to have one of the best safety

records in the industry and we're proud of that, Mr. Speaker. We have two ferries — the *George Black* and the Pelly River barge — approximately 53,000 vehicles use those every year. We maintain 128 bridges and 238 culverts. Our weigh stations — approximately 42,000 vehicles through our weigh stations — keeping our roads safe — very safe, I might add.

Providing project management services for approximately 300 capital projects — capital projects are budgeted just this year alone at \$40 million in the current fiscal year. This includes partial budgets for a number of multi-year projects, as seen in examples below. Looking at the replacement of F.H. Collins Secondary School — on time and on budget. The new EMS station — that's up and running. Ross River recreational centre — and of course you know the completion of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

I'll speak a little bit to the supplementary budget. I'm proud of the department — the dedication of my department to the responsible construction, maintenance and management of all roads and highways when it comes to our supplementary. This year we saw severe weather. We saw the washouts. I'm very proud of the quick and effective response of the staff from Highways and Public Works and from the other departments, such as Community Services and Health and Social Services. It affected our infrastructure. As you know, we were an island here at the centre of the universe for almost four days.

We need to be strategic in our planning — I totally agree with some of the comments from the opposite side — and we are. We need to make good decisions and prioritize our projects in a manner that is best use of the public purse. We do this while ensuring Yukon roads and highways, buildings and other resources are maintained in an effective manner that ensures public safety.

The total request in our supplementary of \$23.237 million — the majority of that request, or \$18.6 million, is for capital funding. I know we will get into the finer details of it when it comes up later. Most of the O&M funds requested are to cover the costs associated with highway repairs required after the washouts that occurred last spring. I will speak a little bit more on that. \$3.75 million in O&M is requested to cover the costs of repairing these washouts along the Yukon highways. A little over \$2 million of these costs will be recovered from Canada's disaster financial assistance arrangement. We also are requesting \$845,000 in capital for the Nahanni Range Road bridge replacement due to the washouts, and over \$500,000 is recoverable from Canada through the same thing.

In addition, \$9.7 million in capital is requested for the second paving project on the Haines Road, between Haines Junction and Beaver Creek, and 100 percent of this cost is recoverable through the Shakwak agreement. An increase of \$1.659 million is requested for the work on the Flat Creek bridge, of which \$659,000 is recoverable, also from Canada.

We're also requesting \$840,000 for airport and aerodrome projects; for example, to complete the work on our passenger bridge — that's a YACA agreement — also at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport. These are important improvements, and improvements in Dawson and Faro are also ongoing. We're continuing to work on the Campbell Highway,

and we're finishing up the portion supported by the Building Canada fund. We're requesting an increase of just over \$3 million on the reconstruction between kilometres 10 and 90. Over \$1.76 million of this expenditure covers both from the Building Canada fund.

An additional \$348,000 in O&M funding is requested to cover the maintenance costs of the newly completed projects, such as the Whitehorse wharf and waterfront project, the new Correctional Centre, as well as the support training of the City of Dawson staff to take over their waste-water treatment facility, and to support operations of the Dawson district heating project. Property Management is also requesting an additional \$625,000 related primarily to space planning, tenant improvements — questions we hear from across the way — within the administration building, the old library and other buildings.

In closing, I look forward to debate in Committee of the Whole on my portion of this, and I'd just like to say that this government, as you can see through Building Canada and the good work that my fellow colleagues have done going after Canada and working with Canada — also, you'll see on a regular day, every day, we're working with the First Nations, we're working with Canada and we're working with the residents of the Yukon for the betterment of our territory. In conclusion, I'd just like to say thank you for this opportunity to get up and speak.

**Mr. Barr:** Budgets are about choices. The Yukon Party is choosing to boost the budget surplus to hold on to more money and not spend it strategically where there is a need. There are a lot of needs out there in the communities. There is a lack of affordable housing, there are difficulties Yukoners are facing finding a family doctor, there is a lack of supportive and social housing to assist those most vulnerable. This government has made a choice. It wants to pad its pocketbook and delay action on these issues of importance.

This government is spending \$1.2 billion for this fiscal year. I'm curious about how community priorities are considered when it comes to government decisions on spending the public's money. I look at my riding of Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes and there has been a real lack of engagement with the community on infrastructure priorities.

Government had a plan to redesign the downtown streets in the interest of tour operators. They put a lot of money in this plan and there were problems with redesign. There were visiting seniors falling off the curbs in Carcross early this summer — curbs that the local people asked not to be put in place right from the start because they foresaw this.

It's good some of these curbs have been replaced; there's more work to do. However, when a government is elected, we're here to respond to the needs of the people. Throwing good money after bad by not doing this is not fiscally responsible. In the meantime, the community of Carcross came together and outlined their priorities for community infrastructure. They want to see a community centre, senior centre and housing, and adequate first-responders' facilities. The citizens of Carcross and Tagish have also raised the issue of government providing a backup power solution. They have not received even an ac-

knowledge from this government that they would work with the residents on these particular issues. What's happening here?

I think back to letters I sent in June regarding these issues and more, such as Penny Cook Lane, ongoing upgrades to the Tagish community club, a community centre funding agreement that would bring all community centres in the Yukon on par with delivering their programs.

I got a letter from the Minister of Highways and Public Works and the Minister of Community Services just a couple of weeks ago in response to my letters and subsequent letters from last June, with vague responses and no commitment to any timelines on even responding to the letters sent.

What's happening here? Why does the government go ahead with spending money on some projects without community input — like the traffic redesign — and then when the citizens get together and come with their priorities and get a consensus on these priorities, they are greeted by roadblocks?

There are choices in a budget and not everyone will be satisfied, but a government owes it to the people to consult with them, to acknowledge their needs and say, "We are listening to you and we will work with you on this plan. Maybe it won't happen next year, but if this is what you want, we will work with you to see that it happens."

Yukoners have a right to have their government consult with them on how they spend the public's money. It appears this government seems to have forgotten this. I think at community meetings — acknowledge money that has been spent in our communities. There has been money and dollars spent. From our LAC, from our chief and council of Carcross-Tagish First Nation and the homeowners group, from the artists group in Carcross and various community members speaking on the funding that has happened in the community, they were saying "Yes, it's good. We do need these things." However, if it were up to the community to have a priority in how this money was spent, they would have chosen their priorities differently.

I've heard this government and the minister opposite noted that the NDP opposition has voted no to many of the good things that have happened. I must say that, as we did in May to the budget that was brought out, it's not that the Official Opposition is saying no to this supplementary budget or the past budget; we're saying no to what's not in these budgets for the people — the goodness of their ability to have community and to build as a community, to meet and gather.

So I would look forward to further discussions later on this afternoon.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** It's a pleasure to rise here this afternoon. I'm not going to spend a lot of time responding at this point to questions and comments from the other side of the floor, but I do need to point out that in the debate that we've heard this afternoon from the New Democratic Party — now I know the Official Opposition often sees its job as being to oppose and to criticize, but their view of what is going on in the Yukon today and what is actually occurring often seem like two very different stories so it's hard to draw the connection between the two.

As I would remind members, we've seen in the past decade very significant growth in the Yukon economy. When my colleagues and I were first elected — the first Yukon Party government was elected to office in 2002 — we have to remind members that the primary issue in the election was the fact that the Yukon economy had not done well under the NDP government and the Liberal government that followed it. Yukoners' primary concern at that point in time — the main election issue in 2002, without exception — few would debate the primary issue was that there was no private sector economy.

Yukoners in 2002 were very concerned and very pessimistic about the future of the Yukon. In the past 10 years that has changed significantly. Now, we are not able to address every priority of every community in every budget. The Yukon's fiscal resources, though they have grown significantly, do have limitations on them, and we are also very mindful of the fact that it's important to maintain a healthy fiscal position and to prepare for the pressures of future years and the fact that we know that the rate of increase in those federal transfers is going to decline in future years.

Now on the positive side, the deal that we signed with the federal government this summer — signed by the Premier and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, John Duncan, witnessed by myself and the Prime Minister at Capstone — was to change the amount of resource revenue the Yukon can get from development of the Yukon's own resources. That change, once it fully takes effect, will have a significant increased annual benefit for the Yukon, up to a total of roughly \$43 million — that's what the cap is. The cap is based on gross expenditure base and it does depend on us receiving additional resource revenue to get anywhere near that cap. But the current effect in this fiscal year of removing the previous division between \$3 million for oil and gas revenues and \$3 million for all other revenues that the Yukon was allowed to keep, prior to handing any revenues in excess of that amount to the federal government — the change that was made to that amount has already, in this fiscal year, benefited Yukon by over a million dollars in increased resources.

That is certainly positive. I would also point out, in looking at this budget and what occurred in the last fiscal year, and remind members that the annual surplus for the 2010-11 fiscal year was only \$1.3 million. The estimate that we indicated earlier this year for the projected annual surplus for the 2011-12 fiscal year was \$38.5 million, but through prudent financial management, that in fact is a total of \$69,383,000 or over \$31 million more than previously budgeted. Again, that is through making prudent financial decisions. Although the members opposite have pointed to areas where they would seem to suggest that all projects should have all funding allocated to them in the first fiscal year, we do take a look at where the pace of projects enables money to be revoted to another fiscal year in the interest of effectively managing Yukon's resources and ensuring that money is used as efficiently as possible and projects managed as effectively as possible.

So there are a few areas that I'd like to highlight in talking to the *Second Appropriation Act, 2012-13*. I'd like to begin by thanking my colleagues in the government caucus and our staff,

as well as the staff of the departments, particularly Energy, Mines and Resources, which is the department for which I am responsible. I would also like to thank all government employees in all departments for the work that they do on behalf of the government and on behalf of Yukon citizens.

There are a few areas that I would like to highlight about what has gone on in this year and talk a little bit about the adjustments through this current supplementary estimate.

A few of the items that this year we have been successful in providing are of particular importance to my constituents. I was pleased to join the Minister of Community Services in presenting a new state-of-the-art fire truck to the Ibex Valley volunteer fire department. That truck is worth approximately a quarter of a million dollars and has new features, including enhanced lighting capabilities, the ability to pump and roll — or in layman's terms to actually spray while moving forward — in a bumper turret that allows them to drive and spray water at the same time. I know that the volunteer firefighters at that department have appreciated that and put it to good use. This has been another year where there have been continued examples of the importance of having volunteer fire departments and I'd like to thank the Ibex and Hootalinqua volunteer fire departments for the work that they do.

Their response times really are something that has always surprised me — how quickly they can and do drop everything else they're doing and get out to assist neighbours who have a fire at their place. This is an important service provided by those volunteers and is of great importance to all who benefit from it — and from others who may not think about it very much, but if the day ever comes when they have a fire on their property they will certainly appreciate the fact that they have people willing to help them out at that time and as quickly as possible.

A few other areas I'd like to touch on — some of them relate to work in Energy, Mines and Resources, some of them relate to other departments. I was pleased in this year to see the first phase of work begin on the Takhini Hot Springs Road and I look forward to further work on that and completion of that project next year.

I was pleased as well to see the initial work being done to allocate an area for a forestry-themed playground at the research forest that will help make it more family-friendly and will make it open to parents. It will also be forestry-themed to help educate children and encourage them to take an interest in forestry research. I believe this will be something that is good for local children and parents, including those of the Takhini Hot Springs Community Association, who approached me to ask for this work to be done. It will also be beneficial to forestry research in getting children at a younger age to understand the benefits of doing research and what we can learn and how we can make better decisions as a result of that research.

A few other areas I would like to touch on — this year, as you may know, in July, the Yukon government issued a prohibition order on quartz mineral staking covering 74 percent of all land within the City of Whitehorse, and this prohibition on new staking is aimed at reducing the potential for future conflicts between mining claims and other interests, such as sur-

face rights, recreational uses and areas designated as parks or greenbelts.

This order preserves all existing rights, while providing more protection for owners of private property. It's intended to support the city's official community plan and protect existing rights and interests from potential future conflicts. From a constituency perspective, the areas no longer open for staking include MacPherson, Hidden Valley, and all other residential subdivisions within the City of Whitehorse, as well as the Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club trails.

Again, one thing I point to is the fact that we on this side of the Assembly believe that it's important to try to balance existing users to try to reduce conflicts where they can occur, but to respect the interests and livelihoods of all Yukon citizens regardless of which part of the economy they make their living in.

Another area I'd like to highlight — work that is going on within my riding and within others of the territory — is the fact that the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, through our land planning unit, has significantly increased the amount of work that we're doing on local area planning and zoning.

This includes work to be done in the Mayo Road area to ask residents whether they would like to see a reduction in minimum lot size that would allow for potential future subdivision opportunities for them, which would not only address — or be a portion of addressing — the demand for land and housing opportunities that the government is focused on addressing corporately. It would, of course, provide those owners with the financial benefit of being able to subdivide and pay off their mortgage or do whatever they felt appropriate with the money that resulted from that. It certainly provides more money to citizens as a result of creating additional land opportunities without significantly increasing the overall footprint or developing new areas.

Now, moving on, there are a few other things I'd like to touch on. As I announced earlier today in a press release, I was very pleased as Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and as MLA for Lake Laberge to have the opportunity on the weekend to present the award for Yukon Farmers of the Year to constituents of mine, Steve and Bonnie Mackenzie-Grieve, who are owners of the Yukon Grain Farm. This is in recognition of the continued high-quality work that they provide and the fact that, as most people here will recognize, they've done an excellent job of increasing the supply of the production of local food and having their potatoes, carrots, beets and other vegetables available in Yukon supermarkets — very visibly available as well.

One thing that is worth pointing out is that apparently the value per square foot — which is an important calculation for supermarkets, which they provide through their products — has been the highest that Superstore and Extra Foods have, which has resulted in them continuing to have prime retail space right when you enter the door. So again, this is something that they should be proud of and Yukon farmers and the Yukon agriculture sector should also be proud of.

This year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the service the Agriculture branch has provided to Yukon citizens. We've seen a sig-

nificant increase in the amount of developed land within the Yukon for agriculture since the 1980s. We have also seen success this year in our work through the agreement on the draft framework for the Growing Forward policy agreement — we are anticipating additional resources from the federal government in future years that will enable us to continue addressing the infrastructure opportunities and needs within the agriculture sector.

One thing I would like to touch on in response to questions, I guess I would say, that members opposite posed in their statements is the October 9 press release about the mining royalties received from Yukon's two producing mines that have hit the point of paying royalties is that the \$351,000 from Alexco Resources is clearly not included in the \$200,000 item that members cited in the budget. If members have any understanding of how a budgetary process works they should be very well aware of the fact that when changes come after the budgets are finalized, recent announcements or recent developments prior to the tabling of a budget may not always be incorporated within a budget or supplementary estimate.

So I'd encourage the members not to try to play games around this issue, but in fact recognize that the \$12.6 million that the Minto mine has paid in royalties to the Selkirk First Nation since 2006, and the first royalty payment from Alexco — which we anticipate to increase in future years as they get further into production — of \$351,000 is just one part of the significant benefits that mining provides to Yukon citizens. The total contribution of mining to the Yukon economy is significantly in excess of that. If memory serves, the total anticipated number for this year in mineral activity and development is in excess of \$400 million of direct activity in the Yukon economy. The members should know that. We'd be happy to provide them with an explanation of the benefits provided by this sector of the economy. I know we hear a consistent theme from the NDP that they don't like mining but, again, we believe this is an important part of the Yukon economy. We remain committed to supporting all sectors of the Yukon economy, whether it be agriculture, tourism, mining, mining exploration, forestry, the knowledge sector, arts and culture and so on and so on.

We have continued to work with all sectors to try to support their responsible development while doing so in a way that recognizes the effect that any of those sectors can have on other sectors of the economy and on Yukon society. Also, the taxes paid by the employees of mining companies and those that provide services to them provide a significant benefit to Yukon citizens which, again, the NDP stand up day after day and consistently fail to recognize.

Another area I'd like to talk about is part of an ongoing consultation that is occurring now and that is the development, in addition to the local area planning initiatives — I mentioned Mayo Road. We have also done work in Mount Lorne and in Mendenhall. There is work ongoing in the Marsh Lake area and in Carcross. The Fox Lake local area planning process is starting. So, again, as I noted, there is a significant increase in the work being done by Land Planning, and — I think it's fair to say — the most they have ever had underway in Yukon's history. We're also seeking public input on the *Dawson Forest*

*Resources Management Plan*, which is another initiative of planning that involves the public and seeks public input to develop a plan for the management of resources in that area.

Mr. Speaker, I see that you're signalling me that I'm running out of my allocated time. So, as I wrap up, I would note it was also an honour to host the federal-provincial-territorial Ministers of Agriculture meeting in September. It has been a very busy year for the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. I have touched on a very small portion of the work that's ongoing, and unless the members of this House would like to give unanimous consent to give me additional time, I suppose I will have to continue the remaining portion of my remarks at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Ms. Stick:** I'm looking forward to getting into Committee and discussing the supplementary budget, Bill No. 7. I appreciated today that the Premier brought up the fact that there was no final appropriation act that was brought forward because I had wondered about that and whether that was coming or not. I appreciated his explanation that the departments were able to stay within budget on this.

I took a look at the public accounts report that we received with the eye of looking at where funds might not have been expended and where people or groups might not have received transfers that they were expecting, and I intend to bring that up when we get into debate.

I did want to just make the point that, as of today, we've had two briefings on the supplementary. I appreciate the Minister of Health and Social Services being at the briefing this morning. I found that helpful, and I appreciated him being there. There are a number of questions that have come out of that department that I will be raising during the debate. I think he has a good idea of what some of them might be since he was sitting there in the first place. It was helpful.

Anyway, I don't have much more to say, except I will be looking at what did not get expended in the previous year — what groups did not get their transfers. I look forward to further debate in the House.

**Mr. Silver:** I'd like to begin today by thanking my constituents for electing me to this Legislature just over a year ago. At that time, voters in the Klondike chose someone they trusted to bring their concerns and priorities to the table. They wanted a representative to listen and understand the competency and the capacity of our great and resilient community, and I am truly honoured to be that person.

Many of my constituents are pleased that over the course of the first year the MLA that they elected became the leader of one of the three parties represented in this Chamber, albeit the interim leader. I take these new responsibilities seriously and, despite the changes, I will continue to serve the residents of Dawson as my top priority.

Over the course of the first year, Yukoners have had an opportunity to see the new and the old Yukon Party government in action. Some habits die hard. The previous Yukon Party Premier is no longer in politics because he broke the first rule of politics: maintaining the public's trust. Citizens must

believe in their governments — that it is competent, that it is responsive, and that it will operate in accordance with the duties entrusted to it by its citizens. The secret plan to sell Yukon Energy Corporation broke that trust.

This brings us to the Peel land use plan and how the new government has broken trust with Yukoners by refusing to accept the plan. It has even gone so far as to try to change the rules of the game after the fact. Other commissions are now up and running, and I urge the government members to remember that their actions must create confidence in government processes and must assure people that when they are giving their time, their input and their good faith to government consultation processes, the government will listen and will act upon that input.

The public's confidence has been severely damaged by the government's disregard of people's input in the Peel planning process to date. This has become a fundamental issue of trust in the people's government, and this is the question on Yukoners' minds as we hit the one-year mark: Can we trust our government? It's a question that the Yukon First Nation chiefs are asking as well.

The government is amending the *Oil and Gas Act* this sitting, and by doing so, they are breaking the 1997 MOU on oil and gas. Can a government that rips up signed agreements be trusted? The First Nation communities are not convinced.

Another example: This spring, both the Premier and the Deputy Premier assured me that the transfer of the Top of the World Golf Course was a done deal. It turns out, behind the scenes, the government was trying to ban the relatives of the former owner from having anything to do with the course for the next 30 years. A deal was thwarted and only reinstated when this ridiculous and vindictive clause made national news. It made national news, not because we had an example of multi-levels of government working together to better a community for the greater good, but because this government wanted to legally ban dozens of people from community involvement due totally to their relation through blood or marriage to a deceased member of our little hamlet. These individuals received a lesson in trust from this government. Another question that is on the minds of Yukoners: Can we trust this government to stand up for Yukoners in Ottawa?

Over the first year in office, this government has sided repeatedly with the Prime Minister instead of with Yukoners. When the federal government cut the amount of money that would come to us for health care, the Premier said he supported the Prime Minister's plan. When the Government of Canada started cutting jobs in Yukon, did this government stand up for Yukoners? Well, unfortunately, it sat idly by and went along with what Ottawa wanted. When the federal government decided to close Dredge No. 4, this government did not stand up for Yukoners. They got their picture in the paper with the Prime Minister, but didn't ask him about the dredge that day in the Carcross Desert this summer. When the local Canada Revenue office closed, this government did not speak out. Again, they put their trust in a vision for the Yukon, not in the hands of the individuals living and contributing in our territory, but in the hands of the political elite in Ottawa.

In its first year of office, this new Yukon Party government has demonstrated that not offending the Prime Minister's Office trumps standing up for Yukoners on the priority list. I would urge the government to remember who it is it's supposed to be representing.

There's something else that I've noticed —

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

#### Point of order

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

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** The interim Leader of the Liberal Party is imputing false or unavowed motives to another member, contrary to Standing Order 19(g). He has said that the government places standing up for Yukoners second to whatever it was he said about supporting the Prime Minister. That is absolutely incorrect and is contrary to the Standing Orders. I'd ask you to have him retract that, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Leader of the Third Party, on the point of order.

**Mr. Silver:** Clearly the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources didn't even hear what I said and he's standing up on a point of order. There are many different parts of the truth. I'm merely presenting my version of what Klondikers and Yukoners believe to be the truth for this government.

#### Speaker's statement

**Speaker:** I'm going to have a look at the Blues and go back over the exact wording and give a ruling tomorrow, if necessary. Leader of the Third Party.

**Mr. Silver:** If I may continue, there is something else that I've noticed one year into this term and I put it on the public record. There are some ministers across the floor who are willing to work with members of the Opposition and some who are not. It is a choice and it is very clear to us what choice each member opposite has made. It is disappointing because when we work together a great deal can be achieved on behalf of the people we represent.

This sitting is a new opportunity for some members on that side of the House to change the way they do business. I am urging the Premier to lead on this and provide some direction to his colleagues. Last session the Premier mentioned in this House that he would lead from behind. We would like to see this direction.

Another curious event in the first 12 months of this government's mandate was the summer wide-scale shuffle of the deputy ministers. To me this looks like a sure sign of a government's lack of direction and unwillingness to act decisively with employees that it is not satisfied with. It was a major upheaval of senior management and public servants that could have been avoided if the government had simply admitted that it was unhappy with the work of one or two of its deputy ministers and actually let them go. Instead, the government decided to shuffle the problem around and set off a domino effect that ended up seeing half of the senior management moved into new roles. The Premier is content that the changes maintained stability and continuity.

When you uproot your entire senior management team, it's hardly going to provide stability and continuity. In fact, it is introducing a great deal of uncertainty and change at the highest level of public service, neither of which is a good thing.

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

#### Point of order

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

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Once again the Leader of the Liberal Party is imputing false or unavowed motives to another member, contrary to Standing Order 19(g).

He has said that the whole purpose behind shuffling deputy ministers was about targeting one or two individuals that he believes were unsatisfactory. That is certainly not a motive that the government has espoused and is contrary to the Premier's statements.

#### Speaker's ruling

**Speaker:** The member is interpreting the actions of the government in his own way. He is merely referring to his interpretation and, at a later date, the government will have an opportunity to respond — if they care to — with their interpretation of the actual actions. There is no point of order.

**Mr. Silver:** I will continue. When you uproot your entire senior management team, it is hardly providing stability and continuity. In fact, it is introducing a great deal of uncertainty and change at the highest level of public service — neither of which is a good thing in large doses. Over the past year, the party to the right of me has made it clear where it stands on mining — against mining in all forms and in all places, against development in oil and gas. More recently, I was just made aware of the NDP leader's decision to insert herself into Whitehorse municipal elections.

It was clear that she didn't like one of the candidates — the one who ended up winning — and she probably insinuated that he has done something wrong by having a well-funded campaign. If the NDP thinks that the *Municipal Act* should be changed to allow for more disclosure of donations, well, that is definitely one thing; to imply in the middle of an election campaign and to make comments intended to affect the outcome is quite another.

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

#### Point of order

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

**Ms. Hanson:** In this case, Mr. Speaker, the member of the Third Party has in fact misstated the facts entirely.

**Speaker:** Order please.

**Ms. Hanson:** He has misstated —

**Speaker:** Order please. It's not up to the Chair to decide what the facts are or a member's interpretation of the facts. Whether one believes a fact has been misstated is a matter between members.

**Ms. Hanson:** He has lied about the Leader of the Official Opposition.

### Unparliamentary language

**Speaker:** I would warn the member to retract and apologize for the use of that word.

### Withdrawal of remark

**Ms. Hanson:** Mr. Speaker, I will apologize for using the word “lied”, but in fact, the Member for Klondike has misrepresented the facts as they are on the record.

### Speaker’s ruling

**Speaker:** Interpretation of the facts, whether they are printed facts or verbal, is not the business of the Chair. We have gone through this on a number of occasions. To use a point of order to try to make a statement about a member’s interpretation of the facts is improper use of the point of order or privilege.

Members can take it up with the press outside and argue the facts out there. In here, the facts are not the Chair’s concern. It is the delivery of the message and how it is delivered.

Also, I would like to tell the Leader of the Third Party that the debate is not currently about the municipal election and a number of the other items he has been speaking to. It is about an appropriations bill. I’d like him to work toward tying his comments back to the bill and the debate at hand.

**Mr. Silver:** I’m just about to do that. Let’s start with a number of local issues in my riding that I would like to highlight at this time — and I would also like to say that I accept the Leader of the Official Opposition’s apology.

We still lack a plan from this government for the overflow in the Quigley landfill. Let’s get to work with the new mayor and council to get this done. The territorial government holds the subdivisions on the Bear Creek side of Dawson City, as well as on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue lots, in the northeast side of our town. Yukon Housing Corporation, now with the cleanup of the old Korbo site, has eight empty lots in the municipality. The city needs access to the government’s land planner to turn this area into homes for our residents.

There are already concerns over the costs of running the new waste-water treatment facility in Dawson City. The government has said that they are prepared to help financially, and I would like to hear from the minister how he plans on doing that once the operation and maintenance expenses are turned over to the municipal taxpayers.

I was not alone in my disappointment that this year’s budget did not include a new rec centre for Dawson City. Dawson’s former mayor blamed a previous Yukon Party minister for raising expectations.

My constituents want the finger-pointing to end and work on a much-needed recreation centre for the largest rural community in the Yukon to begin.

Despite a small increase announced earlier this year to the community firefighting budget, more needs to be done. There is insufficient capacity to fill, develop, implement and administer the fire prevention inspection program, public education program, training program, and providing the emergency preparedness awareness component of the emergency program.

Staying with firefighters, but moving to our forests — there are several individuals who want to receive training in this field. The minister and I have exchanged letters on this topic this summer. Their requests have been repeatedly turned down by the government, and we are hearing two different responses from the minister and senior management as to the cost of the initial attack training expenses. I look forward to discussing this further with the minister. Our local First Nation’s crew contracted to Community Services is losing out because of this.

The opening of the new hospital and the recruitment of the staff for it — the new hospital has been delayed and is over-budget. Unless the regulations have changed, our extended-scope nurses will not be legislated to work at their highest level of certification in their own town.

They have been asked to take a cut in pay and work at a lower certification level. There has been a lot of confusion as to what level of collaboration will happen between nurses and doctors. A collaborative model and the adjective “collaborate” are two different things, and unless things change in this Legislative Assembly, and unless we specifically allow extended-scope registered nurses to work in a Yukon Hospital Corporation-run hospital — because they can’t currently — Dawson will lose some community members. On that note, I also would like more information on cost estimates for programming that will be delivered at the facility and an update on staffing recruitment.

This brings me to the two biggest issues in the Klondike today: Dredge No. 4 and our acute housing shortage. It’s too bad that people can’t live in the dredge because it’s not going to be used much over the next little while, and people certainly need a place to stay. This summer I wrote a letter to our MP. I urged him to ensure the dredge remains open to tours and that Parks Canada revisit the decision to cut staff in Dawson City. I spoke to him personally at the Yukon Special Olympics commissioner’s dinner the other weekend, and he told me to get hold of him and we will meet and discuss this topic of great importance to him.

It has been a week of trying but I do have to say that on Thursday we will have a phone meeting and discuss this further. In a pre-session news release, the Premier said his government planned to take up the cause. We had a government motion receive unanimous consent in this Assembly last week. I was asked by one of my constituents who was affected by these cuts, “What does this mean, a motion receiving unanimous consent?” I had a hard time explaining what significance, if any, this outcome will have and I promised to keep the government’s feet to the fire on this issue. Unfortunately, the real opportunity to fix this problem was this summer.

Tourism operators are not happy; people who lost their jobs are not happy, obviously; and Yukon and Dawson residents are also not happy.

With respect to housing, we are facing a real shortage in Dawson. It is affecting employers who can’t hire staff because they can’t find a place to live; it is affecting students coming to school at the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture; it is affecting Robert Service School because teachers can’t find a place to live; and the list goes on. The response from the government



has yet to allow solutions, yet the community of Dawson wants to work forward with these solutions; they have these solutions. They have partnerships that involve the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the Klondike Development Organization, local contractors, the municipality, other sources of funding and we're still waiting for this government to come to the table. Now this is a lob ball and all the government has to do is step up to the plate and bat it out of the park.

As we move to the territory-wide look at housing, there are different issues in each community. Years of inaction by the Yukon Party government created a made-in-Yukon housing crisis. A complete inability to get lots out to the market in a timely and cost-effective fashion caused a massive spike in housing prices that is now levelling off. I want to encourage this government to keep a supply of lots on hand, as it promised several years ago, to make raw land available to the private sector for housing development.

When the government has managed to get lots on to the market, they have been over-priced at market value. This is another reason for the soaring cost of a home and I want to encourage the government to make lots more affordable by removing this market from the equation.

If we move to our mining industry, the Government of Yukon should broaden its horizons when it comes to sources of capital for the industry instead of solely relying on Chinese investment. For the last number of years, the Yukon Party has focused exclusively on China to the exclusion of sources of capital in Canada, the United States and Europe. Industry itself, particularly through the Yukon Gold Mining Alliance, has been quite active in markets other than China. Why the government is only interested in China is something that doesn't make much sense to me.

China investment is more about stockpiling resources for future development and less about improving local economies. Unfortunately, this pattern is on display around the world and it appears to be the only country the current government is interested in doing business with. Industry, on the other hand, is leading by example, demonstrating that there are other options. Perhaps in his reply the Premier can make a case for this exclusive approach to raising money.

The state of Yukon roads and power infrastructure is certainly a factor when investors are dealing with where to put their money. Partnerships within the European market would mean answering those hard questions on our power supply and roads. Chinese investors don't have the same concerns because they are looking at their purchasing through a much longer development lens. The Yukon Party government has done very little to address these infrastructure needs and companies are aware of the lack of movement on these issues over the last number of years. The government must respond to managing the mining boom to the benefit of Yukoners to get the infrastructure in place to meet these new demands. The new policies being developed for road access — the ones that say to mining companies "build it yourself" — is not a good start.

I would also like to flag a couple of education issues as priorities for the Liberal caucus. The first is technologies and

trades. There is a great opportunity to designate Dawson City as a training centre — a hub.

I urge the government to develop a five-year strategic plan that identifies trades jobs needed and capitalizes on the private sector's willingness to provide local training with a guarantee for employment. I have more questions on this but I will save them for the debate in Education.

A large question is education reform. For 10 years the government has been talking about improving our system. We have had many strategic plans and a lot of consultation and a few reports — and an Auditor General report that told us that we are not doing a very good job educating our young people — but no action from the government, no reform. I urge the Minister of Education to make this a priority in the next four years. Be bold and make the changes that we need. A big part of that is working with the First Nation governments on education incentives, and I'll have a lot more to say on that during this session.

On a more local issue, particularly for the minister as it's around the corner from his house, is F.H. Collins and the future of its gym. Despite knowing for some time that the gym would be closed as part of the reconstruction process, the school and the government has no plan that we know of yet for when the gym closes. This raises a number of questions, particularly in planning.

As I mentioned earlier, there are some members of the government side who are willing to work together for the common good. There are others who are more interested in playing politics. In the last 20 minutes I brought forward several suggestions for improving the quality of life for Yukoners. Over the next couple of months I intend to bring forward ideas that have come to me from Yukoners across this great territory. I'm optimistic that we can work together for the betterment of all Yukoners.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** It is with great pride that I rise to speak to second reading of this supplementary budget. There has been a lot stated on the floor of the Legislature this afternoon and rest assured I will do my utmost to try and respond to some of the information that has been articulated by members opposite. It has been intriguing at best.

First off, I just want to say thank you and offer my heartfelt thanks to all the officials throughout the Government of Yukon for their contributions toward putting this budget together and working on Yukoners' behalf, contributing to what we call the best place on earth to live — here in the Yukon.

It has been interesting, some of the dialogue from this afternoon.

When I was first elected back in 2002, a lot has changed since then and I'll just start off by reminding members opposite where we were back then and where we are today. I know members opposite may not like to receive the reminder, but I think it's important because I think it is important to reflect upon the past and to ensure that we don't repeat what we have done in the past and just to ensure that we continue to do the good, hard work on behalf of Yukon citizens and that we con-

tinue to carry on the path of forwardness and on the path to prosperity.

Back in the latter part of the 1990s into early 2000s, we were in a situation — the economy was perhaps not as bright as what we have today. There was double-digit unemployment; retail sales were not stellar, to say the least; we saw a lot of individuals, especially young Yukoners, having to leave the territory to look for greener pastures to raise their families and to find employment.

Since that time, things have changed and I'd say for the better. We have seen record growth in our population, in our GDP, and we have seen record sales in retail. We have seen record sales of properties. I'll get into the land development here in a few moments as well.

One of the first things that we did as a government back in 2002 was to really invest in strategic investment expenditures throughout the territory that would stimulate — it would help spur the growth — the economic climate as we know it today in the Yukon. We did so by diversifying those expenditures in Tourism and Culture. Unfortunately, the previous Liberal government didn't see the value of Tourism and Culture and actually got rid of the Department of Tourism and Culture. That was their answer to investing in tourism and cultural industries — it's unfortunate, Mr. Speaker. We did, however — the Yukon Party government saw the vision and saw the very importance of these two specific industries and chose to invest in the Department of Tourism and Culture, and we have seen record levels of growth in both industries over the years.

We also saw fit to recognize that investments in housing would also spur on economic growth. When it comes to housing — and I will get to that in a few moments as well — continued contributions and investments in a whole spectrum of the housing continuum from emergency shelters right through to continuing care and everything in between has also helped serve as a catalyst to economic growth in the territory.

We continue to make investments — as we see in this supplementary budget that is before us this afternoon — that will continue to see economic growth in the territory and will continue to see positive changes to many different sectors. The supplementary budget reflects expenditures in many different departments. As the Premier said, we are looking for an increase of approximately \$46 million in total.

The lion's share really falls within the capital domain — just shy of an \$8-million increase in operation and maintenance — again, all the while, reflecting a very healthy financial picture — net financial resources in the bank. That is really important, because that has not always been the case. Under the previous New Democratic Party government, we actually saw a net debt for the first time in Yukon's history — \$13 million net debt, never mind the deficit. But we have changed that around. Now we actually have money in the bank to invest in strategic sectors and strategic initiatives of importance, and that is a very good thing. It has allowed us the flexibility to respond to economic events throughout the globe, and we have been able to weather a number of storms over the last number of years. Compared to the rest of the country, Yukon has really shone, in terms of spurring on economic activity, growing jobs, diversi-

fying the economy, and all the while continuing to attract more individuals to the territory at a record pace. That is something to be very proud of.

The supplementary budget includes expenditures referring to land developments, housing developments and so forth. Perhaps I will just spend a few moments on that particular topic because that is an issue of clear importance to all Yukoners. It's a priority to our government and we certainly recognize that adequate, affordable housing is really fundamental in continuing to build and maintain a strong Yukon — all of our communities and our families. As I referred to on a number of occasions, we are doing significant work to tackle the housing spectrum at all points, from ensuring those who require shelter and support to assisting those who already have homes with repair programs, home enhancement programs and then, of course, continuing to assist those who are vulnerable, those at risk who require those services and supports to live independently.

I just want to touch upon some of the investments that this Yukon Party government, this administration, since being elected and re-elected in the previous year has been investing in. This starts with the recent announcement of a new seniors housing independent living complex over on Alexander Street. This was no small feat. A 34-suite seniors independent living housing complex was announced by our Premier, our minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation, and of course the Government of Canada.

This really builds on seniors housing that has been improved over the previous 10 years in Faro, Watson Lake, as well as the athletes village, the seniors housing at the Yukon College — an additional 48 units right there. This is significant because, when we look at the previous administrations before the Yukon Party government assumed office, there was not one additional housing initiative undertaken by those two respective governments.

In addition to the new seniors housing complex that will be going up in Whitehorse, there was also a recent announcement of 14 residential units in Whitehorse to provide housing and supports for clients with fetal alcohol syndrome disorder. This is a partnership with Options for Independence and is something that was housed within our platform. It's something that we're very proud to see progress on. Thanks to the good work of our Minister of Health and Social Services and his department in collaboration with Canada, as well, and Yukon Housing Corporation. It's another great example of a collaborative partnership that we are now seeing come to fruition as well.

Of course, a housing initiative that is near and dear to my heart is the evolution of the second-stage housing initiative, which has otherwise come to be known as "Betty's Haven." It's going to be 10 units of second-stage transitional housing for women and children who are fleeing abusive relationships. It's something that has been in the works for years and it's something that I'm very pleased to see. Framing of the first floor is pretty much complete.

We are well into the full design, of course. That has been pretty much fully completed and received and we're looking at a total cost of about \$4.5 million toward this very worthy expenditure. It's something that will absolutely make the differ-

ence in Yukon families' lives. This second-stage housing, I might add, also builds on the second-stage housing addition that was made to the Help and Hope for Families Society shelter in Watson Lake. That was really the first time ever that second-stage housing was made available in rural Yukon, and I commend the women's shelter in Watson Lake. That is a great example of what can be achieved when we work together for the betterment of our community.

Something else that was just recently announced — and I'm sure that the Minister of Health and Social Services will also elaborate on it — is the emergency youth shelter, providing additional shelter space for youth to be operated by Skookum Jim Friendship Centre in coordination with the youth outreach services.

Again I thank the Yukon Housing Corporation for working with the Department of Health and Social Services and working in collaboration with an NGO that has been doing fantastic work over the years. We have really established a sound working relationship with the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre over the last number of years on a number of other initiatives. It's just another example of how the Government of Yukon is working to meet some of the ongoing housing needs of Yukoners.

Recently the minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation and I, as being responsible for Women's Directorate, announced renewed funding for the affordable family housing for single-parent families program coordinator. That is something that I take great pride in: the affordable housing initiative that was approved and that has since been built and served over 30 single-parent families in the Riverdale subdivision. It has been a great success in part due to the housing coordinator and program coordinator that has taken place out of that particular facility.

We're really pleased to be able to provide an extension to that program coordinator position — to provide innovative programs and services to the many tenants at the housing initiative over on Selkirk Street. It has been a very collaborative project, working in collaboration with Yukon Housing Corporation and Women's Directorate, and I commend them and I commend the staff who has worked over the past number of years on this initiative. It has greatly assisted many families over the years.

It's hard to believe that time flies. I also wanted to touch upon land development, because I don't think that there has been enough recognition paid to the land development that has transpired. Since 2009, our Government of Yukon has invested more than \$100 million in land development projects throughout the territory, which have resulted in more than 550 new lots in subdivisions in pretty much every community across the territory. For the first time in years, we have lots in the City of Whitehorse available over the counter and that is a significant accomplishment.

Together with the City of Whitehorse, we have worked hard to catch up on the supply of land with that of existing and future demand. Just in my own riding of Whitehorse West — the new Ingram subdivision. In 2010, we actually developed 133 lots in that subdivision. To this day, I can say that every lot

in the subdivision has been sold, and it has provided a very great mix of housing. It's been very well-established — from single-family homes to town houses, duplexes, multi-family housing, and the list goes on.

I also wanted to touch upon infrastructure. The budget within the Department of Community Services comprises millions of dollars' worth of community infrastructure — it's unfortunate we don't have time here this afternoon but, rest assured, there will be time during future debates here during the sitting. But in every single community, you will see that over the last number of years, this government, in collaboration with Canada, working with municipal and First Nation governments and unincorporated communities has invested in every community.

In Beaver Creek — \$1 million worth of road upgrades. Burwash Landing — there have been investments in drinking water upgrades, wellhead protection, road upgrades to the tune of about \$3.6 million; working with First Nations — Kluane First Nation, Carcross-Tagish First Nation. The list goes on in every single community. Our government alone has and will continue to invest in infrastructure when it comes to wastewater treatment; drinking water upgrades; solid-waste improvements; green energy and rural roads. We will continue to invest in recreation infrastructure upgrades and so forth. But we do so in partnership with communities. As I have referenced in my remarks before, we look forward to a new infrastructure program made available for the country, of which Yukon has been a very active participant in helping shape the future of that infrastructure program.

I just wanted to say that I look forward to the future debate here in the Legislative Assembly and really getting into the finer details of each of the departments I represent.

I want to thank them personally for their hard work. There has been a great deal accomplished in each and every department, and there is a lot more to accomplish in next four years, to be sure. With that said, I just want to thank the members opposite and members on this side of this House for the opportunity to provide some comments, and I look forward to receiving some more constructive input from members opposite. Thank you.

**Mr. Hassard:** It gives me great pleasure to rise today to speak to Bill No. 7, *Second Appropriation Act, 2012-13*. It is always a pleasure to showcase what this government is doing to improve the lives of Yukoners.

In the riding of Pelly-Nisutlin, we are seeing some absolutely wonderful projects underway — either underway or getting on track to begin. We have Faro water and sewer replacement, as well as a new arena about to get underway in Ross River.

I believe that the new arena in Ross River will be a great addition to the community and most likely will become the heart of the community. Ross River is also seeing the completion of the arsenic treatment and water system upgrades. As well, this fall they have seen the completion of their street upgrades.

In Teslin, I am proud to report that the arsenic treatment and water systems project is moving ahead very nicely. Teslin is also experiencing street upgrades. The street work is being done in cooperation with the Teslin Tlingit Council as well as the Village of Teslin. It's always nice to see multi-government cooperation. If you add up this work among these three communities, it's nearly \$12 million in my riding alone. It's pretty hard to complain about that. If I could, I would like to thank the Minister of Community Services for her hard work and dedication toward these projects.

I am happy to see that this government understands the importance of investing in Yukon communities. Not only is this nearly \$12 million vitally important to these three communities in the riding of Pelly-Nisutlin, but the projects themselves are also important. Clean, healthy, safe drinking water — pretty hard to find anything more important than that.

Next to water, it could be argued that the most important issue to a community is having the ability to access suitable infrastructure in regard to leading a healthy lifestyle. To the community of Ross River, this is being addressed by the commitment of this government to provide them with a new arena.

As you can see, with a budget of over \$1 billion for the 2012-13 fiscal year, this government is committed to bettering the lives of Yukoners. Other community infrastructure spending includes water and sewer in Watson Lake at just over \$6 million and \$200,000 in Tagish for the Taku subdivision fill point. Pelly Crossing is receiving approximately \$525,000 for road upgrades. There is over \$5 million in investments in water, sewer, solid-waste and road upgrades in the community of Old Crow, in excess of \$3.5 million in Haines Junction for water-related upgrades and over \$1 million toward water the road upgrades in Mayo.

Mr. Speaker, there is almost \$12 million being spent in Dawson City alone for sewage treatment and district heating; \$1.6 million for sewage and roads in Carmacks; and over \$3 million for a water treatment facility in Carcross. We're seeing in excess of \$2.5 million in Burwash for roads and water upgrades and \$400,000 for roads in Beaver Creek. That is only infrastructure development in the Yukon communities. This doesn't include anything in Whitehorse or things like \$50,000 per community for fire services.

This government has increased social housing stock. We've seen an increase Yukon wide of approximately 33 percent in the past five years, but this is even greater in my riding.

Faro has increased from four social units to 10, and Ross River and Teslin have both gone from 13 to 21 in those same five years.

The total capital for Public Schools and Advanced Education stands at nearly \$10 million. To me, money in education and housing is important to this government.

In the Health and Social Services department we are looking at an incredible \$282,615,000 for the O&M of Corporate Services, Family and Children's Services, Social Services, Continuing Care, Health Services and Yukon Hospital Services. In addition to that, there is over \$9.5 million in capital for Health and Social Services.

The Highways and Public Works O&M budget is over \$120 million. With that comes an excess of \$90 million in capital spending.

We have heard from the opposition that it's not all about the bottom line. However, I believe that it is a lot more important than they would like you to believe. A combined surplus of \$120 million is very important to me. It's all well and good to want these wonderful infrastructure upgrades, but they are impossible to do without money. To have money, you need an economy, unless of course you take the NDP's standpoint and borrow.

On March 31, 1992, the last Public Accounts under Tony Penikett's NDP government, the debts totalled \$88 million. The budget for the year ended March 31, 1992, totalled \$334 million. This meant borrowing represented 26 percent of the budget. Thank goodness we are not in that boat today. Even though the global economy faces significant uncertainty, the Yukon's economy has seen growth. With three operating mines and a number of projects and permitting and advanced exploration, the future looks promising for Yukon's mining sector.

This government is continuing to work on the diversification of Yukon's economy by identifying and exploring significant economic development opportunities in the strategic industries, natural resources, tourism and culture, research, innovation and commercialization sectors.

The Government of Yukon continues to work collaboratively with industry to assess the state of the forestry sector and to identify future prospects that encourage development in pursuit of opportunities that stimulate economic growth and benefit for Yukoners.

This government is committed to providing programs and services to support and stimulate the development and growth of the Yukon's small- and medium-size enterprises. For example, in each of the past two years, the Department of Economic Development has provided funding in the amount of \$75,000 per year to support the business retention and expansion program phase, which is a Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce initiative.

In tourism and trade, the Yukon continues to see an increase. Border crossings are currently forecast to total 313,000 crossings, which is an increase of about one percent over 2011. Retail sales are forecast to reach approximately \$690 million in 2012, which is an increase of approximately four percent over 2011.

So, as the Yukon continues to grow, this government is committed to ensuring that it is healthy growth and to ensure that Yukon communities have the infrastructure to accommodate that growth. In closing, I look forward to hearing further debate on this *Second Appropriation Act, 2012-13*.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** It is indeed a pleasure for me to speak to the 2012-13 supplementary budget at this second reading. First of all, though, before I get into my notes, I wanted to address a couple of statements made by the Member for Dawson City regarding the Hospital Corporation and extended-practice nurses in Dawson City. The *Registered Nurses Profession Act* currently only recognizes two classes of nurses — the

RNs and, most recently, NPs — nurse practitioners. The scope of practice of RNs is determined by the YRNA. Therefore, extended-practice nurses work in an expanded scope of practice, and that is set by the Yukon Registered Nurses Association because those people have had additional training, beyond what a normal RN has.

As an employer, the Yukon Hospital Corporation has a responsibility to staff hospitals under its control in a manner necessary to meet the Yukon Hospital Corporation objectives. The employer — in this case, the Yukon Hospital Corporation — can set limitations. The hospital can set limitations on what nurses do, but it's only through their relationship, as an employer, that they would set restrictions on what an employee — in this case, an RN — would do. It's something that they would do independent of anything to do with the Yukon Registered Nurses Association and the scope of practice they have already determined for registered nurses.

The member's contention that we as a government are somehow holding up the employment of extended-practice nurses in hospitals is just not right. If the Hospital Corporation decides that extended-practice nurses would be a good fit in their hospital and are required, the Hospital Corporation is fully within their purview to employ those nurses.

As I understand it, they have not determined that there would be a good fit, and one of the really unfortunate things with the construction of the hospital in Dawson City is that I understand some of the extended-practice nurses are not willing to go to work in the hospital. It's really unfortunate, but the department is very clear that those extended-practice nurses will be employed in other health centres around the territory, or at least offers of employment will be made to them.

Having said that, I would like to highlight some of the key initiatives for the Department of Health and Social Services in this supplementary budget. We see these expenditures under the supplementary as investments in the health and welfare of Yukon residents now and well into the future. We're continuing to focus our attention on two major initiatives. Our wellness initiative is one that we see as a preventative measure that should not only save the health system costs over the long term, but should also increase and improve the quality of life of all our citizens. We have a wellness website called [www.yukonwellness.ca](http://www.yukonwellness.ca). It has practical information on how individuals, families and communities can improve their wellness. Over the next year, the pathways to wellness project team will be focusing on improving the health and well-being of children and youth.

The second major initiative that we will be continuing with is our Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Strategy. This is a major collaborative effort with our community partners and all government departments. It is currently in the final stages of consultation and preparation and it will soon come forward for approval by my government. We want to ensure that as Yukon moves forward, all our people feel valued, differences are respected and basic needs are respected so everyone can live in dignity.

There are also other ways we are investing in both the immediate and long-term health and welfare of Yukoners. To-

gether with key stakeholders we're moving to redesign addictions programming by addressing recommendations on the *Task Force on Acutely Intoxicated Persons at Risk Final Report*. We are also continuing planning for the rebuild of Sarah Steele and we will be fully implementing a medically supported detox centre. We are in the process of moving from a social detox model to a medical detox model and substantial funding is in this supplementary budget to support this change.

The Leader of the Official Opposition made comments earlier with respect to the detox centre, and I believe it was the arrest processing unit — the APU — at the Whitehorse correctional institute. I believe there is some misunderstanding over the various responsibilities of both of these units. So both the Minister of Justice and I will look forward to informing members, perhaps more adequately, on what these two units do. The detox centre is just that — it's a detoxification centre that is capable of handling people medically. I'll look forward to getting into that on a better basis, as will the Minister of Justice.

The rebuild of the Sarah Steele Building has offered us the opportunity to examine our addictions programming. We have initiated discussions with community groups and stakeholders across the territory, and we're very pleased with the engagement and the cooperation and collaboration that we have received from all of the people we've approached.

The emergency youth shelter is also being relocated from the Sarah Steele Building and it will also be expanded. We're very pleased with the partnership we formed with the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre on this initiative. We're looking forward to having the shelter in place in the very near future and moving forward on that initiative as well.

We've also opened 28 new beds at the Thomson Centre in the last year. We're looking forward to opening more beds. As we open more beds, it will require additional funding. With any luck and good planning, we will see another supplementary budget — if we are able to get these additional beds in place before the end of the year, we'll see another supplementary budget to put in place some additional units at the Thomson Centre.

Because of the work of this government, construction is now underway as previous speakers have said on Betty's Haven, which will provide 10 additional housing units for women and children fleeing abuse. We are also proceeding with preparations to expand our supported residential services as we convert the former transitional women's living unit.

As the members of the opposition who attended the briefing today know, we're going to have a more appropriate title for the revised duties of this unit in the very near future. We will be expanding our supported residential services to support a group of clients with very high needs and constant supervision. We're really looking forward to getting that program underway as well. We expect it to be underway in the very near future.

We are also supporting Yukon residents with multiple sclerosis who have been or are in the process of being selected to participate in a trial of liberation therapy. We're doing this in cooperation with the Government of Saskatchewan and a clinic located in Albany, New York. This money is a revote of prior

years because it didn't get underway anywhere near as quickly as we anticipated. This could be something that even carries over into the next year because, as some of the clients have told me during our meetings, the process by which these people participate in the trials is very slow and it's very time-consuming, so not all of the Yukon participants selected for this trial may have reached the liberation therapy operation in time for next year. This money could roll over again, but we are committed to these people to participate in this trial.

We've also successfully negotiated a new five-year funding agreement for physician services in the Yukon with the Yukon Medical Association. The agreement reflects the increased costs of providing insured services, and it will support innovative approaches in health care. It will also support new procedures and advancements in care that have the potential to address, in some part, increasing health care costs. The agreement is a five-year agreement. It will see a total increase of six percent for both fee-for-service and contracted services over those five years. The April 1, 2012, increase will be zero percent. On April 1, 2013, there will be a one-percent increase. On April 1, 2014, there will be a 1.5-percent increase. April 1, 2015, will see a 1.5-percent increase. Finally, in the fifth year of the agreement, there will be a two-percent increase across the board for both fee-for-service and contracted physicians.

We have agreed on a process and funding to support discussions on collaborative care and these discussions will begin within one month. They will be directed by a working group. The working group will be co-chaired by the Assistant Deputy Minister of Health and the Yukon Medical Council will look at issues related to the establishment of multidisciplinary care, including the role of nurse practitioners.

I thought I would give a brief background here on the collaborative care model, just so everybody understands what I'm talking about and what we committed to do. The YMA and the ADM of Health will meet in the next month. The collaborative care model is designed to recognize the specialized strengths, education and training of each of the members of the health care team needed as part of a collaborative care clinic. They will be able to coordinate and complement each other in the care to patients.

The collaborative care clinic that we envision would include a variety of health care professionals. It would include physicians, as we've said before, nurses, nurse practitioners, licensed practical nurses — LPNs — social workers, perhaps even mental health workers and possibly others as well.

We see it as a culmination of a walk-in clinic as well as a clinic that would have regular hours and a client list and therefore we would be able to meet client needs in two ways: both in the walk-in clinic and by providing additional doctors for families to get on the list.

The department is also looking at different operating models for a clinic that make sense for our population needs. We've already looked at a number of clinics in the Ontario model and when you're talking about collaborative care in a neighbourhood of a quarter million people, it's completely different from a collaborative care clinic here in the Yukon with our very small population. We're looking at different operating models

that make sense and we hope to go forward with this in the very near future. That's why we put in such a short timeline — the fact that the two groups would be meeting within a month — and we will proceed as quickly as possible.

The department also reached an agreement with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta for access to their international medical graduate assessment program. It will allow us to assess IMGs and then have them work under supervision in the Yukon for a period of up to five years and possibly longer, getting them to write their Canadian exams so they can be fully licensed to work in the Yukon. We are really looking forward to a number of those initiatives.

Our agreement with the YMA also addressed a host of other key issues and supports, including the continuing education program, medical practice insurance, recruitment and retention of physicians. As you are aware, we just made an announcement of a special position that will be created for the recruitment and retention of physicians. We have also included education support, locum support, maternity and paternity benefits program for physicians in the territory, office start-up and renovations assistance, a physician relocation program, a preceptor support program, a resident and medical student support system and programs to support new graduates of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

In this budget, we are also continuing forward with a number of important initiatives that are supported through funding arrangements with the federal government.

As members probably saw today, we have a number of initiatives that are 100-percent supported by the Government of Canada through a number of initiatives, and we look forward to continuing those.

We also have an agreement with the Public Health Agency of Canada to support the Canadian Diabetes Strategy and the Canadian Congenital Anomalies Surveillance Network and, in addition, we have a multi-year agreement already in place relating to FASD and to supporting internationally educated health professionals.

So as we move forward, this supplementary budget for the Department of Health and Social Services includes the following net changes in each of the four divisions of Health and Social Services: Collaborative Services, \$114,000; Family and Children Services, \$125,000; Social Services, \$769,000; Continuing Care, \$92,000; Health Services, \$1,868,000; and the Yukon Hospital Corporation, \$565,000.

This will result in additional operating and maintenance funding for the department of \$3.5 million, for a total of \$282.6 million. Additional planned capital expenditures of \$1.8 million, for a total of \$9.5 million are also in the supplementary budget for the 2012-13 fiscal year for Health and Social Services.

So that kind of winds up the quick encapsulation of our department's supplementary, and I look forward to discussing it in further detail with members as we go forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Ms. White:** You won't need the timer, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to take this opportunity to say that I look forward to moving toward a productive, constructive and informative back-and-forth debate during Committee of the Whole. I'm looking forward to that. Thank you very much.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** It's my pleasure to respond to this supplementary budget. I too, like other members who have spoken before me today, would like to thank my constituents in Riverdale North, who elected me as their representative to this Legislature just over a year ago. I would like to thank the Premier for, one year ago today, appointing me to Cabinet as the Minister of Education, as well as minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation, Yukon Liquor Corporation and the Yukon Lottery Commission.

It has been a tremendous year and there have been a number of accomplishments that we've been able to undertake over the past year, many of which directly affect my riding, and then I'll speak of course to some of the accomplishments in the portfolios for which I'm responsible.

Quickly with respect to Riverdale North, the Member for Klondike spoke about F.H. Collins Secondary School and the importance of that project and I'll get to that in a minute, but a few things that I know are important to my constituents — the appointment of the affordable housing coordinator, the extension of that. I know for my colleague from Riverdale South that's something that she has also heard about from a number of our constituents in Riverdale. The affordable family housing complex in Riverdale features a new approach in housing by hiring the program coordinator to work on-site with resident families, community agencies and neighbours to address the needs of single-parent families and to promote a vibrant housing community. I was very pleased that in conjunction with my colleague, the minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, we were able to announce an extension to that project.

What I've heard from residents in Riverdale and others is that this concept has proven to be very beneficial and residents appreciate the support they're receiving. As this unfolds, the Housing Corporation and the Women's Directorate will continue to evaluate the success of this 32-unit complex on Nisutlin Road in Riverdale.

Macaulay Lodge is located in my riding. I have a number of constituents who live there. Included in this budget are some capital improvements for Macaulay Lodge. Speaking to the Minister of Health and Social Services, I understand that of the \$248,000 revised vote, there are some improvements to the boiler room, as well as some flooring improvements over at Macaulay Lodge, which will assist with the comfort of those constituents of mine who reside in that important facility here in Whitehorse and more particularly in Riverdale North.

I know it has been spoken about, but I would also like to thank the Department of Health and Social Services and the minister responsible for the additional beds at the Thomson Centre. That facility is also located in the riding of Riverdale North and 10 more beds were added.

Throughout the month of August, 10 more residents moved into the Thomson Centre, for a total of 28 residents in

the facility, which opened its first 18 beds late last summer. The occupants of these 10 additional beds come from the communities, other care facilities, and the Whitehorse General Hospital. The Thomson Centre was built as a long-term care facility, and was designed to house 48 residents, so plans are underway by Yukon Health and Social Services to renovate and open the facility's remaining beds. I know that's going to be welcome news to health care providers and the families and seniors who require that service throughout the Yukon.

Before I talk about some of the other education initiatives that are in here, I should take some time to address the F.H. Collins school replacement. Again, as referenced by the Member for Klondike during his remarks, it's not only a high school that is in Riverdale North and just around the corner from where I live now, but it's also the high school that I attended, as well as a number of other members in this Legislative Assembly who graduated from that high school. As sentimental as I'm sure we all are toward the old building, I think we're also very excited about the construction and the replacement of that facility, which I'm happy to report is on schedule to be completed in time for the 2015-16 school year.

I should speak to some of the issues that have been raised in the media recently about the gym not being available starting in March 2013. The department, in consultation with the school staff, administration, students and the school council is developing a plan for the delivery of physical education and all of the other activities that take place in that gymnasium, including the graduation ceremonies and the fashion show — the program scheduled for the March to June 2013 period and then the subsequent school years in which we are awaiting construction to be completed. I should announce to members of the Legislature and anyone listening that the first in the series of open houses to talk about the construction of the new F.H. Collins will be held on November 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. I'll have an opportunity to be on hand to introduce the project and we will have representatives there to talk about the plan for the gym, the exciting announcement about the geothermal, and the overall design of the new school.

I should take this opportunity to thank all of the individuals involved with the F.H. Collins building advisory committee. It's those individuals, who worked very hard over the past number of years and the years prior to me becoming the minister, to come up with the design that is before the community now. It's going to be a very exciting facility and a very green facility, as we have talked about, with the geothermal project that's going in there. It's also going to offer a flexible learning model that the entire Yukon will be very proud of and indeed all the students and staff and parents will be very proud to attend or work or send their children there for their secondary school education.

As I mentioned earlier on during Question Period, the current total project cost estimate is \$56.7 million, which is an increase of \$4.18 million from the previously approved estimate of \$52.5 million. I guess the other two things I think are important to note — I did speak during Question Period about the fact that we'll be contracting a firm to look after the project management of this facility, to be on-site.

We want to make sure that we don't see any unnecessary changes to design. I know that the Minister of Highways and Public Works and I were particularly pleased that we were able to have this added to the project as a key part so that we can manage the project throughout the construction period. Again when it comes to the budget for the project, we won't know of course until the close of the tender and the contract award, which is scheduled for February 2013.

The tender start is going to happen this month. There is quite a bit of design work already complete and of course two phases of civil works have also been completed on-site. So as we move through the start of active construction, which is anticipated for July 2013, and the substantial completion of the school in April 2015 and then the commissioning and the fit-out and ready to go for August 2015 and the demolition of the remainder of the school in the following summer, I'm hopeful that members of the House are able to attend that first open house in November — November 22 at 7:30 in the school cafeteria. It's an opportunity to stop by and thank members of the building advisory committee who are there for coming up with an innovative design of a school that we will all be proud of for the next number of years here in the Yukon as a fantastic centre for learning.

Some of the other budget items that are reflected in this supplementary budget — of course, this is for Education. There is the increase of \$703,000 in O&M spending, including a revote of \$155,000 and a capital expenditure increase of \$3.866 million, which includes a revote of \$1.707 million.

The capital request of \$3.866 million includes \$1.275 million to purchase 15 new vehicles. This past summer, during an assessment of its activity buses, the department determined a total of 15 activity buses should be removed from the fleet due to new-found concerns about their structural strength. This concern was identified before it became a real problem and department officials took quick action to ensure adequate funding was available and proceeded with tendering for the replacement of these vehicles. I do believe that tender closed October 23, or around that date.

I did, of course, speak about the money allocated to the F.H. Collins reconstruction project, for which \$1.523 million has been allocated, which includes a revote of \$673,000 to complete the design/development phase and \$850,000 in new funds to reflect better project estimates and the defined construction schedule. I failed to mention, but we did expand that construction schedule from 18 months to two years. Department officials and Highways and Public Works officials thought that that was a more realistic construction period. The original 18-month period could have resulted in increased costs due to time pressures. We are very cognizant of the fact that this is the largest capital project that we are undertaking and we want to make sure that we do our very best to keep it within the budgeted amount, which will be reflected when the tenders close.

There are a number of other initiatives that I will get into on the education side of things during Committee of the Whole debate. There is the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, the \$15,000 for the land-based experiential education project which is a

revote to reflect the cash flow required to complete the multi-year transfer agreement with Vuntut Gwitchin. I know the member opposite will be interested in that. I'm looking forward to discussing a number of the education initiatives as we move through Committee.

If I can, I'd just like to quickly touch on the Yukon Housing Corporation and put out a thank you to the board of directors for their hard work over the last year in coming up with a number of programs and implementing a number of changes. I should also congratulate the capital building group from the Yukon Housing Corporation that was tasked with spending the Canada's economic action plan money. I know they were a nominee for the Premier's awards of excellence, so this gives me an opportunity to give them a shout out and congratulations during the legislative debate here this afternoon.

I know the Member for Takhini-Kopper King earlier this session in Question Period said all we had accomplished was buying a few mats for the Salvation Army.

I hope I was able to convey to her during one of my answers many of the achievements over the past calendar year for the Yukon Housing Corporation. Of course, I mentioned the coordinator position being extended — 12 homeowners helped to get on with their lives following the devastating flood of the Upper Liard River. I know that was something very important to the Member for Watson Lake, and I was pleased that the Housing Corporation was able to move on that.

The new affordable seniors housing project — the 34-unit facility that was announced in August for 207 Alexander Street, maximizing the footprint of that piece of property. It's going to be an exciting addition to Alexander Street. I know a number of the property owners around there are very pleased to see that development. They're looking forward to it being concluded in 2014.

Options for Independence — again, we've spoken about that — 14 new housing units started for clients with FASD — and, of course, Betty's Haven, as well. So there are some tremendous accomplishments at the Yukon Housing Corporation. One of the other things I'm particularly excited about is the home ownership program that the corporation is looking at. They're in the process of examining the best methods to assist moderate and even low-income renters who may want to enter the home ownership market.

I'm looking forward to hearing back from the Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors on what types of programs they're going to put in place or are recommending that we put in place — another exciting development on the housing side of things — not to mention all of the things that are being undertaken by Health and Social Services and Community Services with their lots and the fact that you're now able to purchase lots over the counter in Whitehorse and some of the other communities as well.

I just quickly want to touch on the northern housing trust money — the \$50 million that was transferred to the Yukon through that northern housing trust. The Yukon Party government at the time, recognizing the needs of First Nation citizens, immediately transferred \$32.5 million to Yukon's First Nation governments to address their housing needs. Since that time, a



further \$4 million was committed to construct the 10-suite, second-stage housing facility I mentioned earlier.

The corporation is actively assessing the housing needs of Yukoners to determine the best use of the remaining \$13.5 million of northern housing trust funding. We look forward to informing Yukoners of new initiatives that use the northern housing trust funding in the near future.

Seeing my time is winding down to approximately three minutes, perhaps what I could do is leave with a letter that I received on October 9 from the Official Opposition, the New Democrats, that says, "You have shown great leadership in the area of housing. In the last few years your territory has implemented many initiatives to help combat problems in the housing sector."

A big thank you to Madam Marie-Claude Morin from the federal New Democrats for recognizing the great work that we're doing here in the Yukon when it comes to housing.

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** It's a pleasure to rise today to discuss this *Second Appropriation Act, 2012-13*. It has a number of pieces that are relevant to both of my departments and so I'd like to go through a number of those with members so that they can have an understanding of how this supplementary estimates bill will affect my departments' budgets.

To do that, I would like to make a few comments about the international, the national and the territorial economy, which I think will be relevant for members of this House to understand the context within which this budget is coming forward. Secondly, I would like to make a few comments about the Environment portions of this supplementary budget. There are a few pieces in here that I would like to highlight in my second reading speech. I'm sure we'll get into it in Committee of the Whole additionally, but I would like to mention some of those things in my second reading speech as well.

We have heard a number of comments today from members both on this side of the House as well as the other side of the House. Some of them were very insightful and had some good recommendations and good comments. I know the Member for Mayo-Tatchun was asking about some of the activities that the Department of Environment is doing to gather information, research and monitor wildlife populations and other sorts of baseline data.

I look forward, either in my speech today or in Committee of the Whole, to go through some of the activities that we are undergoing this year to gather that information that he mentioned and really have it available for use by a number of people, including the members of this House and institutions like YESAB when they do reviews of projects.

One of the substantive portions of the appropriation here in these supplementary estimates is \$500,000 from the federal government, which I'll explain a little bit more as I go on, and that is for a number of projects to deal with adaptation to climate change. Earlier this year, I had the chance to release the Government of Yukon's progress report on our *Climate Change Action Plan*, which I'm very proud of. I'm proud of the work done by the Climate Change Secretariat which spearheaded that work. I look forward to discussing some of that.

#### **Motion to adjourn debate**

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** Mr. Speaker, seeing the time, I move that debate be now adjourned.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Minister of Environment that debate be now adjourned.

*Motion to adjourn debate on Bill No. 7 agreed to*

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

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

*The House adjourned at 5:29 p.m.*