

**Yukon Legislative Assembly**  
**Whitehorse, Yukon**  
**Thursday, November 29, 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 written questions**

**Speaker:** The Chair wishes to inform the House of a change that has been made to the Order Paper.

Written Question No. 1, submitted by the Member for Riverdale South, has been removed from the Order Paper as the Select Committee on Whistle-blower Protection has now met.

**DAILY ROUTINE**

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

Tributes.

**TRIBUTES**

**In recognition of the Canada 55+ Games**

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I am very privileged to be able to rise today to pay tribute to the 89 athletes, officials, coaches, mission staff and supporters who represented Yukon at the Canada 55+ Games in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, from August 29 to September 2, earlier this year.

By all accounts, Team Yukon's enthusiasm and spirit of good sportsmanship was obvious to all at the games. In addition to the hours of travel and competition, members of Team Yukon had to overcome many challenges. All the while, they remained in really good spirits despite dealing with delays from a major power outage that even left some having to be rescued from a hotel elevator. This is one of the reasons that Team Yukon was called "classy" and "flexible" by their competitors and is a true demonstration of the reasons why members of Team Yukon are such great ambassadors for the Yukon.

On the field they got down to business and the hard work of the athletes and their coaches really came through when they brought home 79 medals — the most medals ever, placing in the top four in the country. This is an incredible achievement and is a direct result of the dedication, the commitment and the enthusiasm of the athletes, the coaches and the supporters.

Yukon government was pleased to support Team Yukon's participation with a financial contribution of \$50,000, but the primary success of this particular Team Yukon was due to the tireless fundraising by members of the ElderActive Recreation Association, the many volunteers and the hard work of Team Yukon, who found a way to maximize participation at the games.

For the past 11 years, the Department of Community Services has supported Yukon's ElderActive Recreation Association, and it's an honour to continue with efforts to promote healthy living opportunities for all adults 55 years and older in our territory.

We value this partnership, and I am very pleased that the Yukon government and, in particular, the Department of Com-

munity Services continues to have an excellent working relationship with the organization.

I also wish to acknowledge the hard work of the dedicated volunteers and staff for their role in promoting active and healthy living in Yukon and congratulate the teams of the association for supporting Team Yukon.

Active, healthy living is about embracing a lifestyle that includes physical activity, mental activity and social interaction. The ElderActive Recreation Association connects Yukoners, creates social opportunities, provides a spirit of competition, and encourages the lifelong recreation opportunities that lead to a better quality of life and to healthier communities throughout the territory.

Team members came from eight Yukon communities, including Dawson City, Tagish, Mayo, Carcross, Watson Lake, Marsh Lake, Teslin and Whitehorse. I am really pleased to acknowledge their many individual and team successes on behalf of the Yukon Legislative Assembly. Our 55+ athletes demonstrated the merits of fair play, extraordinary team spirit and active living. They are role models for Yukoners at every age. This evening I have the honour of presenting each medal winner at these games with the Yukon government award of recognition at the upcoming Sport Yukon awards night.

I look forward to the 2014 Canada 55+ Games in Strathcona County, Alberta, and I have no doubt that Team Yukon will continue to be exemplary ambassadors for sport and recreation in our territory.

I would like to just point out that in the gallery we have many members of Team Yukon among us here and, in particular, I just want to point out Tom Parlee, who is the president of the ElderActive Recreation Association.

I'll ask all members to join me in showing their appreciation and support for Team Yukon's participation in the Canada 55+ Games that were held earlier this year. Thank you and congratulations.

*Applause*

**In recognition of John Flynn**

**Mr. Silver:** Today I rise on behalf of the Legislative Assembly to acknowledge and pay tribute to John Flynn, upon his induction to the Yukon Sports Hall of Fame. Dawson City resident John Flynn will be inducted into the Yukon Sports Hall of Fame tonight at the annual awards night.

Hockey has been a lifelong passion for John. John coached minor hockey in Dawson through the 1980s and 1990s and was instrumental in spearheading the 1997 Dawson City Nuggets' re-enactment of the original 1905 challenge of the Stanley Cup. This team is named on Lord Stanley's Cup, a piece of history that every Yukoner should be aware of. Maybe I'll ask the Minister of Education to put it in the curriculum.

John's athleticism does not stop there. He is also a very avid athlete in snowshoe biathlon, winning 13 Arctic Winter Games medals over 15 years. He has also helped develop the sport of snowshoe biathlon in Dawson City.

As a coach and mentor, John is a vital part of the sports community in Dawson City. It is people like John Flynn who help make rural communities very successful. Volunteering one's time and talents to help develop participation in sport is a

worthwhile endeavour. On a personal note, I cannot think of a better ambassador for Dawson City hockey than John Flynn. Actually, John Flynn's capacity to represent Dawson and the Yukon, for that matter, as an ambassador runs deep.

John is a proud member of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, a successful placer miner, a dedicated father to JJ and Melissa Flynn, and a loving husband to his wife Jennifer. I can't say enough about John and his family, so I will end by just saying: Thank you, John, on behalf of the citizens of Dawson City for your contributions to sport in our community. Being inducted into the Yukon Sports Hall of Fame is indeed an honour and you are a worthy recipient and a true mentor.

Congratulations to John Flynn.

*Applause*

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

## TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I have for tabling the 2011-12 Yukon Liquor Corporation Annual Report.

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

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motion?

## NOTICES OF MOTION

**Ms. White:** I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT it is the opinion of this House that good consultation encourages public participation in decision-making processes by ensuring that:

(1) public consultations are conducted in a fair and respectful manner to build trust and credibility for the process among the participants;

(2) proponents disclose all information relevant to the public's understanding and evaluation of a decision, including the objectives and scope of the consultation, and the roles and responsibilities of participants;

(3) stakeholders have fair and equal access to the public consultation process and an opportunity to influence decisions;

(4) proponents avoid strategies that polarize community interests or that attempt to "divide and conquer"; and

(5) all commitments made to the public, including those by the decision-maker, must be made in good faith with the outcome of each public consultation made public.

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

THAT this House urges the Minister of Education, in the interest of supporting indigenous education, to always attend the Circumpolar Conference on Education for Indigenous People, which this year brings together:

(1) ministers;

(2) educators and researchers;

(3) aboriginal organization representatives; and  
(4) other decision-makers from eight countries, the three Canadian territories and six Canadian provinces;

to discuss:

(a) family community engagement,

(b) early childhood education; and

(c) delivery of quality education programs in all communities, including remote and small schools.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to update Yukoners on what actions it has taken and what it has accomplished since a unanimous motion passed this House urging the Government of Canada to reverse its decision to cut Parks Canada services, jobs and guided tours of the *SS Klondike* and Dredge No. 4.

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

THAT this House supports the Minister of Community Services in her pan-northern efforts to negotiate with the Government of Canada to secure a successor funding program to the \$50 million that was allocated to Yukon through the northern housing trust.

**Speaker:** Is there a statement by a minister?  
This brings us to Question Period.

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* amendments

**Ms. Stick:** Yesterday I introduced a motion to refer the Yukon Party's changes to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to a select committee. This would allow further review and provide an opportunity for public consultation.

Yukon Party government's proposed changes to restrict people's democratic rights were written behind closed doors in secret with no public input. It appears the only person to be consulted was the Information and Privacy Commissioner. He voiced his opposition and was ignored.

Will the Yukon Party government support the NDP motion to send the access-to-information law changes to a committee that could consult the public before Yukoners' democratic rights are restricted?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** As I said yesterday, the purpose of amending the ATIPP act is to ensure Cabinet confidences are upheld in order that fair and effective governance can proceed. Over time, the existing ATIPP legislation has proven that clarification is required for the act to work as it was originally intended, to balance the integrity of Cabinet confidence and the public's right to public documents.

These amendments permit the democratic process to work as it was originally intended by bringing clarity to the forefront of the Yukon's ATIPP act and to ensure decision-makers can receive the frank and honest advice from advisors.

**Ms. Stick:** The minister can make all the excuses he wants, but the reality is that he has not presented a single piece of solid evidence to support this attack on democratic rights. This government's vision of democracy seems to include shutting the public out and doing its business behind closed doors. They want to make the Yukon the only place in Canada that keeps all information about government decision-making and public policy development locked away from view. It doesn't sound democratic to me.

Why is this government so unwilling to consult Yukoners before stripping away their democratic rights? Is it because they're afraid of what the public might say, or is it because they think they know best?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Yesterday when I spoke to this at second reading — it is in the Blues — I explained a lot of this and I'll say it again: These amendments will bring the Yukon in line with most other Canadian jurisdictions, where similar provisions have been introduced to uphold the Westminster model that Yukoners respect and value to guide our democratic decision-making process.

This government is committed to an accountable administration. As such, we are confident that the role of the Information and Privacy Commissioner will continue to safeguard the law and make sure it is applied appropriately, and these amendments also permit the democratic process to work as it was originally intended.

**Ms. Stick:** Part of the Westminster model also speaks to a well-informed and strong opposition. Without access to information, the public would not have heard of the Yukon Party's failed bid to secretly sell the Yukon Energy Corporation or discovered the Yukon Party meddling in the Peel process plan. The public cares and deserves to know; Yukoners deserve to know about government scientists' concerns about fracking and past problems with emergency medical services. The government wants to prevent Yukoners from knowing, and they want to prevent Yukoners from contributing. This is not democracy. We believe this is a heavy-handed attempt to restrict —

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

#### Point of order

**Speaker:** Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, on a point of order.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** This is the second time in Question Period — and I should have called a point of order before. The Member for Riverdale South has imputed motive contrary to section 19(g) in the assertion she has made about government, and I think you should have her retract that, in my opinion.

**Speaker:** Member for Riverdale South, on the point of order.

**Ms. Stick:** All I have done is give an opinion here of what we have heard from this government on the other side. I believe this is just a dispute between members.

#### Speaker's ruling

**Speaker:** For now, I am going to let it stand as a dispute between members, but I will look at the Blues to see the

exact wording. We've talked about this in the past, and I want to be very clear that imputing a motive to an individual or group for any reason is not permissible. I will have a look at the Blues to see the exact wording. If it is not imputing motive, then it will remain a dispute between members. Again, please refrain from pushing this line.

Member for Riverdale South, finish your question, please.

**Ms. Stick:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is this: Why is this government determined to exclude Yukoners from full participation by restricting access to important information without any public discussion?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** You're doing a wonderful job, Mr. Speaker.

#### Speaker's statement

**Speaker:** Order please. I would remind all members that my rulings are not up for debate or comment, and it is definitely not appreciated by the Chair. This job is hard enough as it is without the references to or about anything I have to say.

Minister of Highways and Public Works, please proceed with a response.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Our decisions are still public. We continue to make ourselves available to Yukoners to discuss our decisions. We saw that last night: there was a public meeting. We have a dedicated period for questions in the Legislature every day it sits. We also have debate in Committee of the Whole where we answer questions from the opposition. We have been and will remain fully accountable to Yukoners for our decisions. What we are doing is making some minor changes so that our officials can provide us clear and candid advice as we deliberate on these decisions.

#### Question re: Peel watershed land use plan

**Ms. White:** First Nation final agreements are very clear and legally binding on the Yukon government. Section 11.6.2 of the Na Cho Nyäk Dun, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Vuntut Gwitchin final agreements all state: "Government, after consultation with any affected Yukon First Nation and any affected Yukon community, shall approve, reject or propose modifications to that part of the recommended regional land use plan applying on non-settlement land."

Why is the government putting out to the public its own plan for the Peel before it has consulted with affected Yukon First Nations and Yukoners on the *Final Recommended Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan*?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** The Member for Takhini-Kopper King is incorrect in her assertions. Since we have indicated that we believe the plan should be modified, rather than doing as the member seems to suggest — simply modifying it afterward without sharing with the public our ideas of how we think it should be modified — we have released those in this phase, where the government leads consultation that deals with the potential modifications we think would represent a better approach than the commission's document.

I would remind the member that the member's and her colleague's assertions about this process have consistently been inaccurate — an example being that, in response to the commission's recommended plan, government told the commission it wanted it to do five things. It did three of those things and, with two of them — achieve a plan that's more balanced toward all users and develop options for access — the commission went in the opposite direction from what the government had told it to do. Government has remained consistent in its position and we are remaining consistent with what we told the public during the 2011 election campaign we would do, which is propose modifications aimed at reaching a final plan that protects the environment and respects all sectors of the economy.

**Ms. White:** Chapter 11 of the final agreements requires government to consult with the public and Yukon First Nation governments on the *Final Recommended Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan* before amending or changing it. The government is not conducting the required public consultation; instead the government has put out four new versions of its own plan developed behind closed doors and buried the final recommended plan in a clear violation of final agreements. This is not consultation; this is a sell job.

Will the government live up to its legal obligations, pull its plans off the table and consult Yukoners and Yukon First Nations on the final recommended Peel plan, as required by the final agreements?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** For the second time in a week, I have to ask if the entire NDP has suffered collective amnesia. Do they forget the 2011 election campaign? Does the Leader of the NDP forget sitting at the leaders forum on the environment and the very clear statements that were made by the Premier about our commitments to seek a final plan that protects the environment and respects all sectors of the economy and the clear statements about why we thought that the commission's document could and should be improved upon?

I would point out to the member again that her assertion about the consultation process is quite simply absolutely wrong. Government has the ability, at the end of the process, to accept, reject or modify; but rather than doing, as the NDP appear to be suggesting, and not presenting to the public the potential modifications we are considering, we are presenting those potential modifications.

We have launched into one of the longest consultation periods government has held on any matter — 120 days for public consultation, plus an additional 30 days of First Nation consultation following that period. We are very interested in hearing constructive and thoughtful input from the public during this period. We encourage everyone not to listen to the incorrect assertions coming from the NDP, but to actually check it out themselves. This is an area of the territory larger than Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island combined. We would encourage all Yukoners to take an interest in it. Visit the open house. Visit [www.peelconsultation.ca](http://www.peelconsultation.ca) and please provide us with your comments.

**Ms. White:** Yukoners recall the election campaign promises quite differently. The government can play with in-

terpretation all it wants, but the fact remains that final agreements set out a specific process that this government is not following. Playing lawyer games with final agreements, conducting an expensive green-wash campaign and delivering a sell job instead of consultation undermines our democracy and First Nation final agreements.

This government's conduct is shameful. Yukoners want to be heard. They're outside right now in the cold, desperate for us to hear them. Will this government honour final agreements or will it invite more litigation and economic uncertainty for the Yukon?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** We are fully in keeping with the final agreements, contrary to what the member says. I have a lot more faith in our Department of Justice, our Land Claims Implementation Secretariat and the staff of the departments of Energy, Mines and Resources and Environment than I do in the NDP because the NDP, once again, is badly wrong and saying things that create an inaccurate impression in the public.

As far as those outside honking, I would point out that yesterday, when someone checked, there was someone in a parked car, who said they were a visitor to the territory, repeatedly honking, so it's a staged protest, and we respect people's rights to protest, even if they're visiting our territory.

We have been consistent. The government has identified throughout the process, for the first time going back to 2006 — it was the first time that government told the commission that we thought the plan for the Peel area should be more like the north Yukon plan. We've been consistent in providing that feedback, and we stated very clearly during the 2011 election campaign — despite the NDP's collective amnesia — why we thought the plan was not a good one and stated clearly our commitment to seek a final plan that was more fair and balanced and one that protects the environment and respects all sectors of the economy, and that's what all the potential modifications we have presented are aimed at doing.

#### **Question re: *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* amendments**

**Mr. Silver:** I have some questions for the Premier about involving the public in discussions and decisions that affect them. The Yukon Party's platform promises open and accountable government. Yesterday afternoon the government began debate on the changes to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. It will keep more information secret, and it actually flies in the face of the government's promise of an open and accountable government.

When the government is going to change legislation, it discusses it with the public beforehand. It's done here, and it's done in every jurisdiction in Canada. My question to the Premier: Why were these changes not discussed with the public before they were brought to this Legislature?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I do want to go back a little bit to the intent of the legislation. As it implies, it is both about access to information and, equally important, it's the protection of privacy. I have spoken to this on numerous occasions.

As Cabinet ministers we have the ability to have a full and frank conversation with our officials. Our officials have to be able to provide us with clear and candid advice. Due to the

number and nature of ATIPP requests, that is becoming increasingly challenging. These amendments will allow officials to provide us clear and candid advice.

**Mr. Silver:** Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the Minister of Highways and Public Works, my question was for the Premier.

There has been no public consultation on this bill. There have been no briefings provided to the opposition members of this House. This government didn't even inform legislators that they would be debating this bill yesterday.

Yesterday the government began debating the changes to the access to information act. They have not called it for debate for later today, and I suspect they will not bring it forth again this session. Rather, on the last day with no further discussion, this bill will be passed using what is affectionately known as "the guillotine clause".

The government has a choice in this matter. There are eight days left to talk about these changes if the government will allow it. Again, to the Premier: Will the government allow debate on this bill to begin on Monday afternoon?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Every government in Canada deliberates in confidence, and that is the Cabinet process. They are in receipt of sensitive and private information — I've alluded to this before — and it could potentially be harmful if it were to be released to the public. For full and fair consideration of options, Cabinet needs to be able to receive information in confidence, which allows them to make decisions with all the facts.

If the public service can't provide information with some form of confidentiality, then Cabinet will deliberate without knowledge of the full facts. Cabinet ministers take an oath of office to keep information in confidence. If this is to occur, then it only makes sense to treat the information the same way.

**Mr. Silver:** Briefings of half-facts get out — surely the government can provide the rest of the information.

It seems the Premier doesn't want to answer these questions. The Liberal caucus does not support these changes. The Yukon's Information and Privacy Commissioner does not support these changes. They are a step backward and only serve to keep information from the public, period.

The minister has said the Government of Yukon responds quickly to information requests. It will be even quicker after these changes are passed, because there will be no information to release. We are more than two-thirds of the way through the sitting and this bill has been debated for less than 30 minutes.

Will the Premier, in the interest of being open and accountable, ensure that these changes are fully debated beginning on Monday of next week?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I'd like to take this opportunity again to compliment and acknowledge the wonderful work of this caucus and the ministers of this government in the responsibility they have in administering and running their departments, and I have the full confidence in the ministers to be able to stand up in this House and speak on the issues for which they are responsible.

When it comes to the debate in this House — as I've said many times — it really does boil down to the time management

of the people on the other side of the House — how much time they are willing to spend. We have examples of spending hours talking about teddy bears and \$5,000 items in budgets.

Really, you know, there is an opportunity for the people on the opposite side of the House to be responsible for time management. When it comes to consultation, Mr. Speaker, I can think of numerous select committees that this government has moved forward with. I believe that in the time that we've been going forward, only one select committee has arisen, other than the Yukon Party's select committees. For example, anti-smoking, human rights, off-road vehicles, *Landlord and Tenant Act*, whistle-blower — these are all select committees that this government put forward and went out to public consultation to hear exactly what Yukoners' concerns were.

#### **Question re: Old Crow land development**

**Mr. Elias:** According to recent newspaper advertisements, the government is providing land for homes and jobs for Yukoners, and the Minister of Community Services has been very thorough in identifying communities that have received support for new subdivisions like Dawson City, Haines Junction, Destruction Bay, Lake Laberge and it also includes Carmacks, Mayo, Watson Lake, Teslin and of course, Yukon's capital city.

Earlier this year, I gave notice of a motion in this House urging the minister to partner with Old Crow to address the need for a new housing development. Despite this, the minister hasn't made one single reference to Old Crow in her words about subdivision development during this sitting.

Can the minister please explain this omission? Is it an oversight? An accident? Or is residential land development in Old Crow not on the minister's priority list?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I would like to thank the member from Old Crow for bringing forward this area of importance to his respective community. Indeed, as I have articulated over the course of the last number of months, the government takes great pride in making land available and working with communities and First Nation governments. We certainly remain committed to providing land for all Yukoners when it comes to recreational, residential, agricultural, commercial, and industrial purposes, and of course respecting the interest of many others. So we do remain committed to working with all governments across the territory, and we certainly look forward to working with First Nations such as the Vuntut Gwitchin government on making land available.

**Mr. Elias:** Well it seems the Ingram subdivision was a priority. I wonder whose riding that's in? This government celebrates the fact that it has invested over \$100 million in land development projects over the last three years in our territory. I can name a few people who are not celebrating in my riding.

Here's what our community of Old Crow has done this year — we've hired a geologist to assess land slide impacts and a report and recommendations are now complete. We have completed a geotechnical study on the uplands of the Crow Mountain, and the report is in progress. The Old Crow zoning bylaw has been prepared and the community housing plan has been updated. We have completed the design of energy-

efficient, timber-frame houses suitable for Old Crow's environment.

We've just recently completed another housing summit that consulted the people of Old Crow, and right now we have five new housing units in progress. There are families in Old Crow forced to facilitate three generations under one roof, because there is no infrastructure to build new homes on.

Can the minister please elaborate on how her department will assist our community of Old Crow in the development of the new residential lots?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** For clarity, to begin, we on this side of the House have not received a formal request from the Vuntut Gwitchin government to proceed with an actual subdivision land development. Certainly, if the member opposite has any correspondence on file that he wishes to share with me, I would be very open to receiving that correspondence. As I articulated before, we are very committed to working with all governments. We remain committed to working with First Nations in discussions on undertaking development projects in every corner of the territory. We certainly remain open to discussing all future opportunities with all governments. We take making land available in the territory very seriously, and that's why we have committed over \$35 million in support of land development projects throughout every community in the territory.

We certainly look forward to working with the Vuntut Gwitchin government on many priorities within their community — drinking water upgrades, rural road upgrades and many other initiatives, as I have articulated. We certainly remain committed to working with them on land development, if that is a priority as well.

**Mr. Elias:** In our community of Old Crow, we have an approved capital plan, and we have an approved community sustainability plan that has this government's signature on it. In there, it says we should partner on new subdivision planning and development in our community of Old Crow.

Considering that such a large sum of public money has been committed to infrastructure projects, the decision-making processes in this expenditure must be similarly public. There should be a mathematical formula used to define the communities lucky enough to receive new housing infrastructure. Assuming that's the case, this formula must place a minus sign in front of the community of Old Crow. The community's strategic plan clearly identifies a need and an intention to establish a new subdivision. It is the government's responsibility and obligation to partner with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation to satisfy this need. Can the minister please describe the processes her department uses to make decisions about awarding housing subdivisions to communities, and can the minister inform my constituents when they can expect a line item in the next budget to support the development of a new housing subdivision in Old Crow?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Again, Mr. Speaker, we look forward to working with the Vuntut Gwitchin government on a whole host of capital priorities.

We look forward to working with them on land development, if that is the priority for the government. As I articulated, we have not received a formal request from the government. I know that through the Premier's office, they are working on an intergovernmental accord to renew and if that is one of the areas — absolutely. Our government has a great track record of working with communities throughout the territory, and we look forward to sitting down with the Vuntut Gwitchin government to discuss opportunities, which would include the possibility of entering into a development agreement for land, once the planning and subdivision approvals are in full swing.

There are quite a few steps within the process of making land available, but we look forward to working with the community of Old Crow and the government.

#### **Question re: Teacher staffing formula**

**Mr. Tredger:** Teachers can make a big difference in students' lives when they're in the classroom and in their schools. I regularly hear from many parents and teachers about the challenges our schools face in meeting students' needs. It is much more difficult for teachers to improve the lives of our young people — our future leaders, workers and active citizens — if they're sequestered in the department office.

Students' needs are not well served when teachers are removed from their classrooms. As of September 30 of this year, more than 10 teachers have been removed from schools and centrally assigned to the Education department office in Whitehorse. They joined the almost 150 personnel already there.

Given the immense needs in our schools — which have been acknowledged by both sides of this House — how can the Minister of Education justify moving teachers out of schools, away from students and into a central office?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I agree with the member opposite. We need to invest in our teachers, and that's what we've done with the recent Yukon Teachers Association collective agreement. On top of the 5.75-percent increase to their wage, we're looking at adding hours — hours for professional development and hours of instruction — increasing those by 15 hours for professional development and 15 hours for instruction. Another highlight of that agreement is, of course, classroom size being decreased across several grade levels.

We are working with the Yukon Teachers Association to enhance the student achievement to increase student success. With respect to the member opposite's question about teacher time in the schools, we're also looking into utilizing technology to host the meetings, so that particularly those teachers from rural Yukon don't have to travel into Whitehorse for meetings. We can use technology to conduct those meetings, so increasing that student-teacher time together is something we know will lead to increased student success.

**Mr. Tredger:** The staffing formula sets out guidelines; the minister must respond to the needs of students. I've heard the minister talk about the staffing formula. He insists we have the same number of teachers in the system. Those teachers may be in the system; however, not all of them are in our schools. The numbers might look the same, but the reality on the ground is much different.

Will the Minister of Education return Yukon teachers to classrooms and to our children where they are most needed?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Again, we are of course investing in our teachers. We recognize the important role they play as educators in the school system and addressing the student-teacher contact time is very important, as evidenced in the recent collective agreement that we signed with the Yukon Teachers Association — plans to increase the instructional hours by 15 hours per year and plans to also increase professional development time by 15 hours per year. Some of the figures that I have from last year are that we had 480.51 full-time equivalent teachers in the public school system. On top of that we had 127.44 FTEs educational assistants and an additional 33 remedial tutors.

So we are investing in staff members who affect the achievement and the success of our students. This year we have added an additional 15 term paraprofessionals to the school system in response to special needs that were identified in the first month of the school year. So we're investing in the resources it's going to take to increase and improve on students' success throughout the education system.

#### **Question re: Emergency preparedness**

**Mr. Barr:** With current temperatures in the minus 30 to minus 50 range throughout the territory expected to continue into next week, Yukoners are reminded of how even simple tasks are made difficult in such a deep freeze. But what happens if there is a lengthy power blackout during extremely cold weather? Do we have the plans in place and resources to care for our citizens in all of our communities?

This is just one emergency scenario. Other scenarios for Yukon could be earthquakes, telecommunication outages and highway closures. Government working with stakeholders, including the public, needs to be prepared in the event of a disruption to the supply of food, pharmaceuticals and other essentials and have the necessary stockpiles.

How prepared are we to protect and care for our citizens in the event of a serious emergency?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I would first off just like to thank all of the members — our first responders on the ground who tend to emergency events such as what we have seen in the Yukon over the course of the last year alone, such as flooding and many other events.

The Yukon Emergency Measures Organization coordinates the Government of Yukon response and works with all stakeholders and other governments and agencies involved in a number of types of disasters and emergency-related events. As I have stated on the floor, we have an emergency coordination plan. It details coordinated actions and responsibilities within all departments. Our municipal governments, of course, also play a key role in providing emergency planning and response.

Through recent examples, such as the flooding in Mayo and Upper Liard and the tremendous efforts that were made to protect Marsh Lake properties from flooding this past summer — they all demonstrate the Yukon's level of preparedness when it comes to emergency events, and I applaud each and every one of these individuals for the very important work they do.

**Mr. Barr:** Years back, the federal government unveiled a national strategy for critical infrastructure to build a safer, more secure and more resilient Canada. The national strategy and resulting action plan is designed to advance more coherent and complementary actions among federal, provincial and territorial governments among the 10 critical infrastructure sectors: energy and utilities, finance, food, transportation, government, information and communication technology, health, water, safety and manufacturing.

What resources has the federal government provided the Yukon in order to advance critical infrastructure resiliency in the territory?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Unfortunately, I don't have that list right in front of me. What I can say is that the Yukon government, for which I am partly responsible, in collaboration with my colleagues on this side, continues to invest in emergency responders. One only has to take a look at the supplementary budget that we are debating on the floor of the Legislature. There are new investments in structural fire in the Fire Marshal's Office that will assist primarily municipalities and unincorporated communities throughout the territory. That, coupled with the comprehensive grant includes a structural fire piece for the first time ever in Yukon's history. Those two pieces of investment are almost \$4 million over the next number of years, showing we value the important services of fire departments throughout the territory.

We continue to invest in emergency medical services by developing new facilities like the new emergency response centre that will be housed in the centre of Whitehorse, which will also complement the services delivered at the Whitehorse General Hospital. We will continue to invest in training and ensure that our first responders have the training and the equipment and the infrastructure to do their jobs.

**Mr. Barr:** I would ask at this time that the minister responsible please forward the list.

It is my understanding that the Yukon was a recipient of federal funds for a jointly funded critical infrastructure resiliency program. The program objectives involved auditing how prepared we are to withstand emergencies — developing plans and obtaining resources to ensure essential food and medical supply, power, transportation — and how government continuity would be able to function in the event of a major crisis. There is no sense that clear plans are in place.

For months now there have been several staff vacancies in critical infrastructure resiliency and emergency preparedness. Will the minister tell Yukoners in clear terms the actions she has taken to build critical infrastructure resiliency in the territory and how Yukon is fulfilling its side of the bargain to advance the national strategy for critical infrastructure?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I want to point out that emergency preparedness starts with individuals and our own homes. It starts with our own families and escalates from there to the communities, the municipalities and then to the Yukon government, working in collaboration with agencies and other governments throughout the country.

When Yukon resources and capacities are exceeded, Yukon can call and they will indeed continue to call on assis-

tance from federal, pan-Canadian and international — United States state governments — partners through mutual assistance agreements that are in place. Every municipality and every Yukon government department is required to have emergency management plans in place specific to their responsibilities and their mandates. Every lead agency in every department is also responsible for developing hazard-specific responses or contingency plans related to their organizations.

Recent events, such as this spring's floods and washouts and fires and telecommunication outages, have very much demonstrated how prepared the readiness of local and Yukon government agencies are to respond to emergency events. Yukon government will continue to invest in collaboration with Canada and many other partners to ensure that we have the training and the infrastructure and the resources necessary to do their jobs.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I move that the Speaker do now leave the Chair and that the House resolve into Committee of the Whole.

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

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker leaves the Chair*

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Chair (Ms. McLeod):** Order. Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

The matter before the Committee is Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, in Bill No. 7, *Second Appropriation Act, 2012-13*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

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

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

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 7, *Second Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, in Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture.

#### Department of Tourism and Culture

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** As Minister of Tourism and Culture, it is my pleasure to introduce the *Supplementary Estimates No. 1* for the 2012-13 fiscal year. Before I begin with the details of this supplementary estimate, I would like to say a few

words about the different aspects of the Department of Tourism and Culture and its mandate.

There are three key roles outlined in the department's mandate. First, the department is tasked with generating long-term economic growth and increasing export revenues for the benefit of Yukon people through the development and marketing of the Yukon tourism industry. This is a significant challenge that offers significant rewards. More than four percent of Yukon's GDP is directly attributed to tourism. In 2011, Yukon hosted 310,000 visitors from around the world, including 33,000 overseas visitors. This year between January and September, the territory has already welcomed more than 308,000 visitors. This is a four-percent increase compared to the same period last year. With Yukon's growing winter tourism sector and more visitors expected in the coming months, Yukon is on track to exceed last year's visitation.

Germany continues to be the Yukon's largest overseas market, representing approximately 26 percent of overseas visitors. Whitehorse is a small city in North America with direct flights to Germany. In fact, Condor brought 4,000 visitors to Yukon this year, contributing \$8 million to \$10 million to Yukon's economy. More than 232,000 travellers arrived or departed from Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport between January and September of this year. This is an 11-percent increase compared to the same period last year.

The visitor information centres operated by the department provided travel information and visitor services to over 231,000 visitors this summer. These visitors have a real impact on Yukon. Over one-quarter of all Yukon businesses generate some of their revenue from tourism. Each year, tourism generates \$197 million in revenue for Yukon businesses. Clearly, tourism has the potential to continue to provide significant economic opportunities for many Yukoners.

The second aspect of the department's mandate reflects the Yukon government's commitment to maximize the benefits from preserving, promoting and interpreting our historic resources and visual, literary and performing arts. In working toward this goal, there have been a number of notable achievements.

This fall, the department hosted the Canadian Conservation Institute's workshop about materials for exhibit, storage and transport, providing training to 18 heritage workers from seven communities. The department also 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.

The department provided funding to the Northern Cultural Expressions Society to enable the carving programs that help emerging artists to develop the artistic, social and business skills required for personal success. The success of the department initiative supporting the arts is also important to note. According to the 2006 census, Yukon has one of the highest concentrations and diversity of artists and artisans in Canada, second only to Nunavut.

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 and ensembles to tour creative works nationally and internationally. Also 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 Department of Tourism and Culture also works in partnership with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, municipal governments, First Nation governments and other government departments. In June the department co-hosted "Frozen Pasts", the Third International Glacial Archaeology Conference with Kwanlin Dun First Nation. The symposium explored Yukon's ancient cultures and our changing environment.

The recent Tourism open house was another good example of how effective partnerships are enabling the department to achieve its goals. The Tourism open house was really groundbreaking for Yukon's tourism sector, drawing people from non-profit organizations, other governments and from across the spectrum of private sector tourism businesses. The event provided a unique opportunity for Yukon government service providers to meet face to face with current and future clients. In order to collaborate effectively, it helps to know one another well. It helps to put a face to a name and it helps to know exactly who to talk to when we need assistance or have an idea.

While participating in specialized training sessions, gathering for informal conversations about business approaches or pitching new ideas during a speed-dating session, I believe that all of the participants came away with a renewed confidence in the foundation we are building to strengthen Yukon's tourism economy.

As a department, as an industry, and as a territory, I believe we can make Yukon a must-see destination for visitors around the world. With this supplementary estimate, the Department of Tourism and Culture has a total increase of \$1.8 million with a \$1.1 million in O&M and \$727,000 in capital.

I would like to now highlight a few of the key changes reflected in this budget. There is \$17,000 for three historic properties assistance program projects carried over from last fiscal year, 2011-12. I am very pleased to inform members that the historic properties assistance program is indeed celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. This important funding program has helped individuals, community groups, societies, Yukon First Nations and businesses to become involved in the heritage preservation process. The funding makes technical and financial assistance available to those who wish to undertake preservation restoration, development, and/or interpretation of their historic properties.

Projects that have been funded include exterior restoration, cemetery stabilization, biographies on prominent Yukoners who have left their mark on the territory's historical record, and historical building foundation replacement and roof repairs.

There is also a \$109,000 revote in O&M for the heritage and culture capacity development project funded through the northern strategy trust. This Yukon-based training program is a partnership between the department, the Vuntut Gwitchin and Yukon College. Focusing on skills development, the training is designed for First Nation citizens interested in gaining essential knowledge and competency skills to work in Yukon's heritage sector. There is also \$21,000 for museum projects underway at the Binet House in Mayo and the George Johnston Museum in Teslin.

The Museums unit provides technical and funding support to Yukon's museum sector that includes interpretive centres, First Nation cultural and heritage centres and the umbrella organization, the Yukon Historical and Museums Association.

Moving on to tourism, the department's Tourism branch has an additional \$545,000 in O&M in this supplementary estimate. This includes a revote of \$183,000 for the tourism cooperative marketing fund. The tourism cooperative marketing fund assists in the marketing of Yukon tourism products and services from across the territory to prospective visitors around the world. The fund is administered by the Product Development and Research unit. This unit provides a variety of client services targeted at the tourism industry in areas of training, collaboration and tourism development counselling.

Working in partnership with non-governmental organizations and stakeholders, the department's product development initiatives provide real benefits to the tourism industry. The department provides workshops, counselling and on-line resources to support industry efforts and educational needs for tourism operators. Industry training topics include working with travel trade, ecotourism and sustainable development; marketing; customer service and funding sources.

The Product Development and Research unit also participates in government committees and working groups to ensure that tourism interests are considered in Yukon government planning, resource development and environmental assessments.

This budget also includes \$470,000 to support the Yukon visitor tracking program that began this summer. This is an exciting two-year project with \$250,000 recoverable from Canada through the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency. Through this initiative, the Yukon government is working with the Yukon tourism industry to learn more about our visitors' expectations and changing travel patterns.

Following a public tender process, a joint industry and department committee selected a contractor for the 2012-14 Yukon visitor tracking program. The year-round visitor tracking program will provide the tourism industry and government with a better understanding of our visitors and the economic benefits they bring to Yukon.

The survey uses traditional exit survey methodology while utilizing new technology that makes the survey more engaging and more accurate.

The initiative helps to ensure that the Yukon government remains indeed industry-led, market-driven and research-based in its approach to tourism. In the long term, these new survey

techniques will help us refine our approach to ensure we can receive timely, effective and reliable visitor information.

Moving on to capital, there is a \$727,000 increase to the department's anticipated capital expenditures. There are a number of noteworthy changes within this amount. The increase in the department's capital budget includes progress on an exciting project at Yukon Archives. Yukon Archives preserves outstanding and irreplaceable documentary records of our territory's history and development for the benefit of all Yukoners. The archives facility, built in 1990, is near capacity and additional storage space is required. An expansion of the Yukon Archives facility will include increased storage space for paper records, as well as a separate cold-storage environment for photographs and for films. Following tender processes this summer, two contracts have been issued for work on the Yukon Archives building over the next year.

A local architecture firm has been contracted to create, design and construct specifications for the expanded storage. This includes plans for a mechanical solution to improve control of temperature and humidity in the existing facility. Construction work is scheduled to begin in spring of 2013.

Another local contractor was awarded a contract to install new siding and 10 triple-glaze windows to improve the aesthetics and energy-efficiency of the Archives building. The records of Yukoners are indeed very important for understanding our past and this specialized storage will ensure that Yukon's irreplaceable documentary heritage is preserved for future generations to discover.

Also reflected with the change to the department's capital appropriation is an additional \$112,000 for work at the new Haines Junction Visitor Information Centre. This includes final interior finishing work at the centre, housed at the new Dä Ku Cultural Centre in Haines Junction.

An important component to Dä Ku is the Doug Smarch Jr. art piece, "Ice and Flowers", installed this summer. This beautiful piece consists of 16 translucent acrylic masks suspended from the ceiling, flower designs inspired by the Southern Tutchone beadwork and a circular base filled with local river rocks.

As a centrepiece of Yukon government's visitor services at Dä Ku, the commissioned piece proudly represents Yukon First Nations and their connection to the land and respect for the environment.

In addition, Yukon government is making available the work of 40 other artists at Dä Ku for permanent and rotating displays. Pieces from the Yukon permanent art collection will also be exhibited at the Dä Ku Cultural Centre.

A small but particularly notable change within the capital estimate in this supplementary budget is the \$25,000 for the Yukon First Nation sculpture commissioned for Yukon Bay at the Hanover Zoo. As you know, Madam Chair, I had the pleasure of travelling to Germany this past summer. On the trip, I met with zoo officials and representatives from the Fulda tire company, Condor Airlines, as well as German and Swiss tour operators specializing in Canadian tourism products. While in Germany I had the opportunity to discuss economic develop-

ment and marketing platforms helpful to Yukon. I also attended Gold Rush Days at Yukon Bay at the Hanover Zoo.

As part of Gold Rush Days, we presented the Keith Wolf Smarch spring bear sculpture, which was very positively received. Yukon Bay is a theme park that features northern wildlife and Klondike-inspired buildings such as replicas of the Palace Grand Theatre and the Yukon Sawmill company office. The zoo welcomes more than 1.2 million people every year and Yukon Bay raises awareness of Yukon in German-speaking Europe. This supports the Yukon government's efforts to attract visitors to Yukon from this market.

During Gold Rush Days, 27,000 people came to the theme park, each having the opportunity to see exhibits designed to inspire them to travel to Yukon and see the real thing for themselves. Gold Rush Days was so successful that the zoo is hoping to make it an annual celebration and it's planning more activities for next year.

Madam Chair, seeing that I'm just about out of time, I'll leave further comments for other questions. Thank you.

**Mr. Barr:** I would like to first start by thanking Department of Tourism and Culture's officials who are here to help us look at this supplementary budget and I also commend them for their hard work that is ongoing.

The department also does a fine job in promoting the Yukon and its important part of our economy.

I did have a few questions before we get through the supplementary budget line by line, some of which the minister has already answered in the area of the latest update of the numbers of tourists visiting and how they are coming to the Yukon as well as the statistics of the direct flights from Germany to the Yukon, so I won't ask those. I thank the minister for filling this side of the House in on those statistics.

I was wondering, with the winter tourists who are coming and it has been increasing — specifically from Japan — what is the minister doing to continue to facilitate the growth of folks coming to watch the aurora borealis?

In the same question, while I was at the TIAY conference a few months ago, there was some discussion regarding the shoulder seasons and how we in tourism and culture can increase the numbers of folks coming to the Yukon during our shoulder season time.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I'll take this opportunity to finish up my remarks from my initial statement. I was just about to conclude. I'd like to conclude with a few words about the staff of the Department of Tourism and Culture. The staff of the Department of Tourism and Culture work across a wide variety of professional and technical areas. In one part of the department, staff at the paleontology program may be spending the summer with placer miners collecting new fossils that help us better understand Yukon's ancient past.

At the same time, Yukon's art conservator will likely be working to preserve a new piece added to the permanent art collection and an archivist from Yukon Archives may be working with a Yukoner to help them understand how their family participated in the Klondike Gold Rush.

In another area of the department, staff of the Tourism branch may be following up on leads from the Canadian Tour-

ism Commission's GoMedia Canada Marketplace, an event where 125 international and domestic media, as well as 170 tourism industry members gathered right here in Whitehorse. These staff members engage in their work with enthusiasm and quiet confidence. Through their work they help strengthen both our economy and our communities. I am extremely proud to have the opportunity to work with them.

The tourism industry remains integral to the lives and economic well-being of many Yukoners, and visitor statistics for Yukon this year show that indeed tourism is growing. From January to September there was a four-percent increase in border crossings from last year for the same period. This is a notable increase, given the economic challenges in the U.S.

Further contributing to the growth in tourism is an 11-percent increase in the number of passengers arriving and departing from the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport from January to September.

The member opposite was asking about the winter tourism economy in Yukon. There are a number of things that we are doing that are broader than just winter, but the Department of Tourism and Culture is implementing the overseas travel destination awareness project to mitigate the possible effects of the global recession on Yukon visitation. Supported by CanNor funding, this project is intended to market Yukon as a year-round quality travel destination to overseas markets. The investment made through the project has resulted in a significant increase in visitors from Japan and Australia and an investment in tourism packages by Korea's largest tour operator.

Our primary channels for consumer trade media relations and meetings incentives, conventions and events are in Canada. So the markets we are attracting are Canadian markets, United States, and German-speaking Europe — Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Some of the secondary markets we are attracting are the Australian market, the U.K., Japan — and that is specific to trade, media relations, PR and consumer CTC campaigns and trade-cooperative marketing.

Now, Tourism Yukon will focus on five strategic opportunities over the next three years. They will, first, deliver a consistent and compelling Yukon brand; integrate Yukon brand guidelines across all marketing activities, and they will communicate Yukon's unique attributes to tell our brand story that connects visitors to memorable Yukon experiences.

The second one is that it will create advocates for the Yukon brand and experiences; it will develop and implement a global media strategy; it will develop and implement digital strategy; it will also develop Explorer Quotient implementation and integration plans, and it will also work with industry to promote industry standards that align with the market- and trade-ready criteria.

The third priority is to consolidate, integrate and maximize the efficiency of marketing resources. This will seize the emerging marketing opportunities. It will integrate and review strategies and activities of organizations and projects funded by Tourism Yukon. It will also refine and implement the market investment model and strengthen and/or leverage strategic partnerships across all channels. It will also explore ways to

more efficiently integrate product development, research and visitor services into marketing planning.

The fourth strategic priority is to engage stakeholders. We want to invest in community tours, programs and initiatives that are relevant to industry. We want to encourage investment into Tourism Yukon's marketing initiatives across industry. It's our priority to collaborate with industry to develop export-ready product and to leverage marketing investments through partnerships.

The fifth strategic priority for the department is to nurture organizational excellence, to enhance frequency and quality of communications with industry and other Yukon government branches and departments, to foster team collaboration by developing and implementing communication, performance, development and internal planning processes that empower team members. We want to encourage and support members of the Tourism branch to become more educated on Yukon tourism products and experiences by connecting with Yukon operators, communities and other stakeholders through community visits, workshops, events and familiarization tours.

We want to leverage internal resources to develop organizational growth and a succession plan that enables sharing, mentoring, training, education and hands-on experience across channels and markets.

Finally, we want to build clear objectives and performance measures into the tourism marketing strategy and tourism marketing plan that flow down to the individual personal performance plans of each of our valuable employees.

**Mr. Barr:** I have a lot to ask today. There are a lot of serious concerns from Yukon people who are concerned about, for example, the Peel watershed and the lack of response from the Minister of Tourism and Culture. When I listened to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources speak the other day in the House regarding the importance of mineral extraction and exploration in the Peel watershed, we would see, if we look back in the *Hansard*, that he referred to the millions of dollars that outweigh the money that Tourism and Culture brings in from that same watershed — the Peel watershed — by tourism — for example, wilderness tourism and big game outfitting.

He spoke of the importance of those; however, he seemed to focus more on that it was important to recognize the importance of mining.

The minister opposite lacked a response, saying tourism and culture has been a mainstay in the territory for generations of people over years and years of dollars. That does not go away. As has been stated by the minister opposite, it has held its own in this world's economic recession and we've actually seen some increases. Why would the minister opposite not quote the fact that there has been \$8 million to \$10 million from Germany alone this last season and many visitors who have come to the Yukon?

And I might say that they come for the vast wilderness that we do have in the Yukon, to recognize that that is a commodity we don't even have to develop — we just have to maintain it to ensure it for generations to come. Can the minister please comment on what he's doing to work with his counterparts to

ensure that we do not just have corridors in such a pristine wilderness as the Peel watershed?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I want to start by thanking the member opposite for that question. It's definitely an important question and one that has been slightly polarized, but the Tourism and Culture branch has been working with the other departments on land use planning and will continue to do so.

Having said that, I think it's important to note what the Department of Tourism and Culture has done and is doing to contribute to the world focus that's on Yukon right now.

In 2011, Yukon hosted over 300,000 visitors from around the world and, as I mentioned, including 33,000 overseas visitors. I have mentioned that over four percent of Yukon's GDP is directly attributable to tourism. It is important to repeat that each year tourism generates \$197 million in revenue for Yukon businesses. Over one-quarter of all those businesses generate some of their revenue from tourism. Last year the department hosted 49 familiarization tours resulting in \$11.4-million worth of media stories about Yukon tourism activities — \$11.4 million. I've mentioned that Germany continues to be the Yukon's largest overseas market, representing approximately 26 percent of overseas visitors. It is important to note and repeat and repeat and repeat that Whitehorse is the smallest city in North America with direct flights to Germany. Condor brought 4,000 visitors to Yukon just this year, contributing an estimated \$8 million to \$10 million to our economy.

The department operates visitor information centres in six communities each and every summer. This year the centres provided travel information and visitor services to over 231,000 people.

The Yukon government has installed interpretive signage panels at over 180 sites on Yukon scenic routes and points of interest throughout the entire territory. This government provides \$1.2 million to 13 museums and seven First Nation cultural centres that present our culture and history to 100,000 visitors each year. We can't forget the Yukon government's Beringia Interpretive Centre and the MacBride Museum, our Yukon's most-visited museums, each welcoming just over 20,000 visitors per year.

The Yukon government recognizes that the Peel watershed region has environmental, ecological, heritage and cultural significance, as well as being rich in renewable and non-renewable resources. The Yukon government understands that these values need to be carefully managed and protected with balance.

Throughout the Peel planning process the Department of Tourism and Culture has provided information to Energy, Mines and Resources on tourism sector values and activities. As part of this support to the planning process, the department also provided inventories and information on archeological, historical and paleontology values. The Department of Tourism and Culture will continue to work collaboratively with Energy, Mines and Resources and other Yukon government departments as the planning process continues.

I think it's important to note that my colleagues on this side of the House sincerely appreciate the collaboration be-

tween the departments, and I thank all the staff for their participation into this matter.

Yukon government is committed to finalizing and implementing a land use plan for the Peel region that protects the environment and respects all sectors of the economy. The Government of Yukon would like to hear from all stakeholders about how the plan can best address the full diversity of needs and issues in the Peel watershed region. Ultimately, this land use planning process will provide certainty for all of the various users and stakeholders of the area and will protect and manage the important values of that region.

We all know that the Peel region has significant tourism and heritage values that must be carefully managed and protected in a manner that allows a variety of land users. Madam Chair, that's balance. The Yukon government is presenting for feedback a new management approach that provides new options for active management of multiple land uses while protecting tourism and other values.

The Yukon government looks forward to hearing from our stakeholders about how we can best balance the needs of all the regions' interests.

**Mr. Barr:** I would first like to thank the minister opposite for reminding me of the cultural value that lies in the Peel watershed and also to state for the record that there's no money value that can be put on that aspect, when we think of the sacredness to the First Nations in that area of the Yukon — and not only that area, but any area of the Yukon that First Nations hold close to their hearts. We've heard elders speak when we're up at Cache Creek — I don't recall seeing any of the Yukon Party there — after inviting us all to sit down and discuss the importance of the cultural aspects of the Peel, in particular.

I would like to acknowledge just briefly that I did not hear the minister opposite speak to the final recommended plan, and I would ask him to support the final recommended plan before we move on to the new options the Yukon Party has come up with.

As we in the Yukon recognize, the millions and millions, year after year, of continued economic spinoffs to this territory — as he mentioned — one-quarter of the businesses depend on — it's not going to go away. It's not going to be boom and bust. It's not going to be boom and bust. It continues to flow. I would ask that the minister speak loudly and clearly with his colleagues and remind them of this when they are formulating our economic strategies for generations to come, not just when there is a fluctuation of the minerals and commodity markets, let alone the environmental aspects — our water — and work with the Minister of Environment to discuss these issues.

When we speak of our watersheds, we don't get that back, and that's a large part of what visitors come to see — something that is untouched.

I was listening to the minister speak in regard to museums. Is there any Yukon government assistance for the Dawson museum, which has lost staff to the federal cutbacks? He also previously spoke about how there are training and funding opportunities for people. How is that remark going to help the people

who have lost their jobs due to the federal cuts, not only in Dawson, but in other parts of the territory?

I might add that there are hundreds of thousands of dollars in just the jobs alone in Dawson that will not be spent in the local businesses.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for appreciating the cultural component of Tourism and Culture. It's an extremely important one and one that I pay a lot of attention to. In fact, culture and tourism, when mutually combined, can strengthen the attractiveness and competitiveness of places, regions and countries. Culture is an increasingly important element of the tourism product, as it creates distinctiveness in a crowded global marketplace. At the same time, tourism provides an important means of enhancing culture and creating income that can support and strengthen cultural heritage, and it can support and strengthen cultural production and creativity.

Some of the benefits culture and tourism can bring to communities include things like creation of jobs and businesses and expansion of a local economy. It creates opportunities for partnerships. It attracts visitors interested in history and preservation. It increases historic attraction revenues and preserves local traditions and cultures. It generates local investment in historic resources, builds community pride and heritage and increases the awareness of the significance of an area or a site. Cultural tourism is one of the largest and fastest growing global tourism markets, and culture and creative industries are increasingly being used to promote destinations like Yukon. Culture creates authenticity and distinctiveness in the global tourism market. It's what makes you unique. Tourism experiences that connect visitors to local cultures are so extremely important. The involvement of the local community is an important factor in achieving visitor satisfaction. Local communities are not just the host for tourism; they participate directly in the tourism experience by helping to create a sense of place, a sense of atmosphere, that affects how visitors feel about a place.

I might mention one organization that I am so proud that the department supports — the Adäka Cultural Festival and Society. Just last spring I made an announcement that they received \$35,000 for the festival that took place in June. This is another important component to our community in which the Department of Tourism and Culture and this government makes investments.

The Cultural Services branch has a budget of \$11.1 million for O&M and an additional \$1.7 million for capital projects. The Cultural Services branch is responsible for historic sites, museums, arts, archives and heritage resources, which includes paleontology and archeology. Heritage Resources has a budget of \$1.15 million for all aspects of land-based heritage resources, including archeology, paleontology, place names, and scientists and explorer licensing.

The Historic Sites unit has been allocated \$1.7 million for the research, preservation, management, development and interpretation of the Yukon's historic sites and routes. The department's Museums unit has a total budget of \$2.45 million to enable continued partnerships in support of Yukon's vibrant museums and cultural centres.

There is \$100,000 in new funding that is being provided to the new Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre to assist with its programming and operational needs and there is \$100,000 that is budgeted for the new Dä Ku Cultural Centre in Haines Junction to support programming, operational needs and long-term development of that centre, and the Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre is allocated \$449,000 to enable its continued programming for tourists and Yukoners.

This funding includes \$60,000 for exhibit and facility upgrades. The arts section is receiving \$3.7 million this year to enable continued support of Yukon's dynamic art community. The department is supporting the Old Fire Hall — I might add that there was some great music there last night — with \$150,000 to enable artists and community groups to showcase and market performing arts, literature, visual arts and crafts.

The Government of Yukon recognizes Yukoners are concerned that the Parks Canada budget reductions may impact tourism activities, as well as winter recreational activities. We understand that the work of Parks Canada goes far beyond simply managing parks. Parks Canada is an important partner in managing heritage resources and providing tourist activities. Officials at the Department of Tourism and Culture will continue to meet with the local Parks Canada staff to explore possible approaches to mitigate the impact of these reductions. Parks Canada has always worked very closely with the Department of Tourism and Culture, and this working relationship is now refocused on addressing these reductions.

Madam Chair, I have brought this issue to the direct attention of the minister responsible for Parks Canada, the Hon. Peter Kent. I have highlighted the concerns Yukoners have about the possible impact these reductions may have on our important tourism sector to Minister Kent. I'm confident that Minister Kent recognizes the commitment of the Yukon government to find solutions that will help enable us to continue to provide high-quality tourism experiences.

As Minister of Tourism and Culture, and with the Department of Tourism and Culture, I can assure you that Yukon government is actively taking steps to identify potential solutions to address the impacts of these changes at Parks Canada.

As I have mentioned, I've written to Minister Kent and will be following up on that correspondence.

**Mr. Barr:** I thank the minister for his responses. I'd like to go back to the spring for a moment. I did raise the issue of dropped inquiry calls to the 1-800 number that is advertised in many Yukon travel brochures and websites. I appreciate that the minister looked into this issue and said it was unfortunate, but not possible to answer 100 percent of the calls in person, because it is handled by staff at the visitor information centre, and they may be busy with other clients.

I wonder if there is a made-in-Yukon solution that can be found here. There are other departments with 1-800 numbers — social services emergencies, wildland fire, Turn-In-Poachers, the 511 highways information, 611 health information line, and my understanding is that some call response is handled by Outside companies. Across all departments, what does government pay for 1-800 services, staffing and contracts,

and I wonder if there could be a solution that centralizes all responses for various departments?

So my question is: What does the Department of Tourism and Culture spend on the 1-800 service?

Does he know what other departments spend on these types of services? Will he look into offering more Yukon services to a centralized local call centre?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I might add to the comments of the member opposite that as Minister of Tourism and Culture, I'm not necessarily sure that it would be appropriate that the HealthLine or 911 take calls for visitors wanting to visit Yukon from around the world, but what I can tell you is that we want to talk to people who are interested in coming to the Yukon. We answer lots and lots of calls and e-mails every day with requests for information so it is something that is extremely important to the department.

Madam Chair, I can also add that the department organized and hosted the Canadian Tourism Commission GoMedia Canada Marketplace, as mentioned earlier, just this last May. The event was indeed attended by 125 international and domestic media as well as 170 tourism industry members.

Just think for a moment what kind of an impact that will have on our territory.

This year the department launched the year-round Yukon visitor tracking program that will assist Yukon's tourism sector in developing marketing strategies and making investment decisions to meet today's changing economic climate.

I've mentioned that the new visitor information booth at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport was in operation from May to the end of September of this year and it provided information on Yukon communities to over 10,000 visitors. We all know that the department opened the new Haines Junction Visitor Information Centre located within the Dä Ku Cultural Centre. The centre showcases the work of 41 Yukon artists, while providing travel information to Yukon visitors.

The department signed an MOU with the l'Association franco-yukonnaise in August 2012 that outlined a number of strategic initiatives specific to the development of French-speaking markets in Canada and overseas.

In 2012, Yukon Archives celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and hosted more than 175 participants of the Association of Canadian Archivists for their conference just this last fall. The national conference supports the archivists who ensure our history is preserved for future generations.

It's important to note that in October, the department hosted the Canadian Conservation Institute workshop materials for exhibit, storage and transportation that provided training to 18 heritage workers from seven different communities.

Yukon government also announced \$389,000 in funding for Yukon Archives to support preserving Yukon's past, and the department improved visitor access and interpretation at three of its major sites through trail and bridge improvements at Fortymile, enhanced interpretive facilities at Herschel Island and a third interpretive building at Fort Selkirk.

Tourism Yukon's marketing framework takes a channel marketing approach segmented at media relations, travel trade, consumer and public relations, meetings, incentives, conven-

tions and events. Tourism Yukon is currently in the development and organization stage of a number of strategic media relations and PR initiatives that, when fully implemented, are poised to have significant and positive impacts on the generation of unpaid media coverage from Canada, the U.S. and international markets.

Tourism Yukon's primary strategic media PR initiative will be the implementation of its global-media relations strategy. Key objectives incorporated into the global strategy include the following: the integration of North American media relations activities within consumer and trade platform; the integration of North American and overseas media relations and PR initiatives; activation of appropriate social media initiatives as outlined both in the global media relations strategy and the recently developed digital strategy.

The successful implementation of these new initiatives is expected to enhance communications with media context, thereby increasing the potential to generate on-line, traditional print and electronic unpaid media coverage.

The travel trade channel is critically important to Tourism Yukon, particularly in the overseas markets. Many international visitors to Yukon choose to book their vacations through a travel agency. Travel agencies typically purchase from a tour operator who packages and promotes Yukon tourism products and experiences. Our support of the travel trade varies depending on market, but generally includes some of the following activities: attending key travel trade marketplace to meet with key accounts and identify potential new travel trade partners; providing up-to-date product and planning information; encouraging the travel trade to carry and promote Yukon products and experiences; supporting fam tours — that's the familiarization tours — for product managers and sales agents to increase their awareness and sales of Yukon travel experiences; and creating strategic cooperative marketing partnerships and promotions to enhance destination awareness and generate sales and revenue.

Tourism Yukon's marketing efforts that reach consumers both on-line and off-line are designed to increase awareness of Yukon as a travel destination, build a desirable image of Yukon and drive the purchase of Yukon tourism products and experiences. Consumer marketing activities are focused on specific targeted market segments within key geographic markets.

Tourism Yukon utilizes a variety of communication vehicles that target consumers, including advertising, digital, social media, direct mail, consumer shows, partnerships and cooperative marketing. Tourism Yukon will continue to partner with the Yukon Convention Bureau to promote the Yukon as a MICE destination — MICE, for *Hansard*, stands for meetings, incentives, conventions and events.

The 1-800 line at the Department of Tourism and Culture is handled internally by the visitor information centre. All of the inquiries are responded to by a trained travel counsellor. The only cost to the 1-800 line is the line itself. We have increased the capacity of the number of voicemail systems that it can handle. All calls receive personal callbacks from a trained counsellor. Thank you.

**Mr. Barr:** Thank you for the responses. As I look at the NDP's tourism platform and I look at the Yukon Party platform, I see that there is some common ground. NDP's tourism platform: "Successful tourism depends on good infrastructure, healthy communities and a clean environment." Good infrastructure will develop high-end attractions, support direct services for small operators, increase and enhance destination attractions for meetings and conventions — the minister just commented on MICE — sports infrastructure to attract tournaments and training camps. It goes on to speak to how it helps communities build business capacity and competitiveness, address labour shortages, increase training and develop attractions and events that benefit all Yukon community. Also, the clean environment provides increased land certainty for wilderness tourism operations.

When I look to the Yukon Party's tourism platform, it speaks to continuing to implement the *Yukon Museums Strategy* in collaboration with museums, First Nation heritage and cultural centres and community interpretive centres.

I've heard the minister speak to the Haines Junction cultural centre — and I know about Teslin's cultural centre and Dawson's cultural centre — but I know there has been correspondence in regard to the community house in Carcross, specifically regarding the visitor information centre plans that are soon to be coming forward for our visitor centre in Carcross, but also the community house which will address healthy communities. When we speak to museums and cultural centres, I've heard the minister speak to a large percentage of the paleontology that is in drawers in Whitehorse for no one to see. There are intentions by Carcross-Tagish First Nation that they be housed in a museum-type space in Carcross that will host people and also enhance part of the Yukon Party's platform. Seeing that there has been correspondence, I would like an update from the minister opposite as to where these two endeavours are regarding the community house and visitor information centre. I understand regarding with the visitor information centre, there had been folks out in Carcross just recently — about a month and a half ago. Where might they be looking at building that in the downtown area?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The Department of Tourism and Culture provides a variety of client services targeted at the tourism industry in areas of training, collaboration and tourism development counselling. The department provides workshops, counselling and on-line resources to support industry efforts and educational needs for tourism operators. The industry training topics include working with travel trade, ecotourism and sustainable development, marketing, customer service and funding sources. The department also works with tourism non-governmental organizations and other industry stakeholders to create efficiencies in industry development.

Working in partnerships with non-governmental organizations and stakeholders, the department's product development initiatives provide real benefits to the tourism industry. The department also participates on government committees and working groups to ensure that tourism interests are considered in Yukon government planning, resource development and environmental assessments.

It's important to note that across Yukon, 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, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and the Selkirk First Nation. The Yukon historic sites inventory lists over 3,500 records of historic resources, such as gravesites, engineering features, buildings and structures. Seven locations across Yukon have been designated and protected as territorial historic sites under the *Historic Resources Act*. According to the 2006 census, Yukon has one of the highest concentrations and diversity of artists and artisans in Canada and, as I mentioned earlier, only second to Nunavut.

The Government of Yukon recognizes the social and economic importance of preserving First Nations' history and culture. The Department of Tourism and Culture works in partnership with Yukon First Nations to help turn our shared vision for cultural and heritage centres into reality. This year the department is providing over \$500,000 to directly support operation and programs at seven Yukon First Nation centres. In 2004, the Yukon government announced a First Nation cultural heritage centre funding program to help Yukon First Nations preserve and protect their culture. The Government of Yukon provides both financial and program support to the First Nation cultural heritage centres currently operated in Yukon. New cultural centres are being currently considered by the Ross River Dena Council and the Carcross-Tagish First Nation.

The Government of Yukon continues to work in partnership with the Kwanlin Dun First Nation and the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Society to further advance their vision for the cultural centre. To date, Yukon government has invested over \$3 million in that specific project, including \$100,000 from the Department of Tourism and Culture. The department is also working closely with the First Nation to identify other sources of potential funding to assist with additional costs of operating the new centre.

Kwanlin Dun First Nation received federal infrastructure funding for the new construction and site development of that cultural centre. The daily operations of the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre are managed by the newly formed Kwanlin Dun Cultural Society. The Department of Tourism and Culture's Museums unit is supporting the centre's development and is working with the society on its long-term plan to include programming and the cultural content. In addition, the department is providing assistance to develop training opportunities for the staff at the centre.

Yukon government continues to work in partnership with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations to further advance their vision for the new Dä Ku Cultural Centre. The visitor information centre provides important visitor information while emphasizing the role that arts and culture have in the lives of Yukoners. The facility also supports Yukon artists by showcasing a variety of works from the 24 artists, including a feature piece by Doug Smarch Jr. of Teslin.

When we look at product development, the department has laid out some objectives. We look at advancing Yukon's tour-

ism products to meet and exceed standards. The objective is to increase the number of market- and trade-ready tourism businesses and to generate awareness of and support for market- and trade-ready businesses. Our tactic is continued counselling for entrepreneurs, one on one, including being market and travel trade ready in all workshops and to introduce new market and/or travel trade ready businesses and products to the marketing unit.

Another part of the product development goal is to assist with tourism capacity and product development in all regions. The objective is to expand tourism industry intelligence, analytical tools and services to support tourism capacity and product development and also to ensure tourism interests are represented in all planning, resource development, environmental assessment, labour initiatives and so on.

We want to develop a new product development strategy and an annual implementation plan and we want to engage in interdepartmental groups, cross-government initiatives and public sessions. Our approach is to improve and enhance the tourism product development and research sections of the website and also to continue to provide business and resource counselling to entrepreneurs. We want to review existing programs and services to identify gaps and trends and to collaborate with the tourism industry to develop a new product development strategy and plan.

Another goal is to stimulate and increase tourism products and enhance the visitor experience. Our objective is to contribute toward the development of new or improved tourism products that enhance the visitor's experience. Another objective of that is to support the tourism projects through the product development partnership program — or the PDPP. We want to fund projects that meet with the goals and objectives of that PDPP, and we want to promote the PDPP to encourage uptake, innovation and partnerships in projects.

Another extremely important component to the department's goals is that of research. We want to generate, distribute and communicate relevant and timely tourism research to guide marketing and development decisions here in Yukon. Our objective is to expand Yukon-based industry intelligence, analytical tools and services in support of marketing and product development.

Our objective, again, is to communicate timely and relevant information to Yukon's tourism industry stakeholders and decision-makers and to continue to undertake visitor studies. In order for us to do that, we need to partner with the CTC on the implementation of a diverse range of research projects that align with our strategic plans. We need to integrate CTC research with Yukon visitor research to further define and align Yukon's market segments. We need to continue to post research and visitor statistics to the [www.tc.gov.yk.ca/research](http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/research) website. We need to share information in a timely manner with industry associations and interested stakeholders. We need to track return on investment to determine the impact of Tourism Yukon's marketing campaigns.

Getting back to Carcross, the Carcross Visitor Information Centre has been located in the Carcross pavilion for the last two summers. To address the space limitations of the Carcross

pavilion, the Yukon government will be issuing a request for proposals seeking options for a permanent visitor information centre location. The Department of Tourism and Culture is committed to continue to provide visitor information services in Carcross, and we look forward to finding a permanent location for that centre.

**Mr. Barr:** I was hoping to hear the minister's response in regard to correspondence and moving forward with the community house in Carcross for CTFN and the possibility of a museum, the health of the community, moving potlatches out of the community centre. I would also like to just briefly state that in my own communication with the visitor information centre, the people who work there have verbally expressed to me that they have some ideas I would hope the minister would explore in regard to positioning of the visitor information centre, which would be directly over by the *SS Tutshi* or even comingling that structure — to have it close to the water.

I understand also that Carcross-Tagish First Nation has some ideas that would collaborate with that, so I would encourage the minister to respond and if the next time he does get up — maybe he forgot or he doesn't know or I'm not sure — I would like an answer regarding the status of the community house in Carcross.

Now I would like to ask — no, I'm going to ask something else. In utilizing the tourism cooperative marketing fund to build partnerships with industry that improves marketing efforts for both government and industry — that's part of the Yukon Party's platform in tourism. What partnerships are now in place, and are these P3s — public/private partnerships — and have the partnerships improved marketing? How, and how is it measured?

I would like to speak to the recent release by the Minister of Tourism and Culture when he was down in Seattle with Holland America signing a three-year cooperative marketing agreement with them to increase the number of cruise tour visitors to the Yukon. I believe the amount was at \$50,000 annually over the next three years and it says that the money will support a number of marketing initiatives aimed at increasing the number of cruise tour passengers. What are those initiatives and will it be advertising only? I'm wondering in that regard — I know that the Frantic Follies is one of the specific tourism opportunities that had been included in the packages. Were there any discussions in renewing those package tickets in the minister's discussion with Holland America?

**Chair:** Before we proceed, would the members care for a break?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

**Chair:** Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. We're going to resume debate on Bill No. 7, *Second Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, on Vote 54.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I sincerely appreciate the member's question. The Tourism branch has \$10.38 million identified for



operation and maintenance and an additional \$730,000 for capital projects. The Tourism branch is responsible for visitor services, product development and research, as well as marketing operations designed to grow tourism revenues for the territory. The product development and research unit has been allocated \$1.5 million to increase tourism industry knowledge, provide business counselling services and support for stakeholders. There has been \$700,000 budgeted for the tourism cooperative marketing fund. This fund helps tourism businesses market Yukon tourism products to prospective visitors around the world.

There has been \$1.9 million budgeted to support the Visitor Services unit, which operates the information centres that provide vital traveller and visitor information in communities across the Yukon and \$43,000 has been budgeted to market Yukon's tremendous opportunities for sport tourism.

The tourism industry remains integral to the lives and economic well-being of many Yukoners. Visitor statistics for Yukon this year show that tourism is growing.

As I mentioned, from January to September there was a four-percent increase in border crossings from last year for the same period. This is a notable increase given the economic challenges in the United States. Further contributing to the growth in tourism is an 11-percent increase in the number of passengers arriving and departing from the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport from January to September.

So far this year, the department has approved 99 applications to the TCMF from Yukon tourism businesses and tourism organizations. Applications were approved for print and on-line advertising, familiarization tours and attendance at consumer and trade shows totalling \$635,000 of the \$700,000 budget.

The Government of Yukon is working with the Yukon tourism industry to learn more about our visitor expectations and changing travel patterns. I spoke earlier about the visitor tracking program that will provide the tourism industry and government with a better understanding of our visitors and the economic benefits they bring to Yukon. This initiative helps to ensure that the Yukon government remains industry led, market driven and research based in its approach to tourism.

The Government of Yukon is undertaking an assessment of the annual tourism marketing program administered by the Department of Tourism and Culture. The marketing program assessment will establish key performance indicators to measure the appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness of marketing campaigns, initiatives and programs. The assessment will be done annually to guide the allocation of Yukon's marketing budget.

The member opposite was asking about my trip last weekend to Seattle to meet with Holland America to sign a cruise tour marketing agreement. The Yukon government's participation with Holland America Line leverages our resources to increase awareness of Yukon as a destination in visitation. Holland America brings many economic benefits to Yukon, including visitor spending, employment for Yukoners and support to businesses and non-profit organizations. Cruise tours provide unique opportunities for visitors to explore a variety of memo-

orable Yukon experiences in the Whitehorse, Kluane and Klondike regions while travelling through the territory.

Yukon government and Holland America have signed a three-year cooperative marketing agreement as part of an ongoing partnership to increase visitation to Yukon. It's these partnerships that are so incredibly important to this department. This is Yukon government's very first cooperative marketing agreement with Holland America. The \$50,000 annual, three-year agreement will generate an equivalent marketing value of \$300,000 for promotions targeting both U.S. and international visitors.

Holland America is the largest tourism operator here in Yukon. They contribute between \$40 million and \$60 million annually to Yukon's economy. Wouldn't it be nice to increase that?

Seventy percent of all Holland America Line cruise tours travel through Dawson City, strengthening the economic base of that region.

As the on-line world continues to rapidly evolve, so does Tourism Yukon's digital marketing effort. Travelyukon.com will re-launch in the next two years, with an enhanced focus on core experiencing, engaging photography, video, relevant user-generated content and compelling product offers. Tourism Yukon has developed a digital strategy that lays out a plan to implement digital marketing activities across all distribution channels. The strategy focuses on website, social media, e-marketing and direct-to-consumer marketing in the digital space. Tourism Yukon will implement enhanced website and social media marketing in the coming year. There will be a conscious shift to focus more on leading the Yukon tourism industry to become more digital marketing-savvy and build relationships with new audiences through the social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

The primary objective of this strategy is to indeed increase the number of conversations and exposures that Yukon receives. Every digital initiative undertaken by Tourism Yukon should create increased awareness of Yukon; it should provide information that moves consumers along the path to purchase; and it should answer the specific needs of a segment enticing them to make the decision to travel to Yukon.

**Mr. Barr:** I would like to go back for a second — it will probably take more than a second — regarding the comments made earlier around the Northern Cultural Expressions Society and recognizing that culture is a huge part of this program — also Economic Development, Health and Social Services, Education and Justice — that this program dovetails with all of those departments, realizing that the federal dollars to include the beginners program is not being renewed. I understand there has been more discussion regarding increasing the funding to allow for the beginners program to reinstate and ensure a continued flow in the cycle of this program. It's kind of like the cycle of life — the child, adolescent, adult, elder, and it just continues with the education. Only the Journey Far carvers are still there. It needs the introduction of new young carvers for this to be ongoing, so I can't express the importance of increasing the funding level. I'd like to know the status from

the minister opposite regarding what has transpired in the last month since this was brought forward in the House.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** It was very enlightening to have individuals come from the Northern Cultural Expressions Society and spend some time in our gallery and our being able to give a tribute to them. I think it gives them a real sense of appreciation for the work that they do within that organization.

The Government of Yukon recognizes the value and importance of the vision of the Northern Cultural Expressions Society. They use carving as the foundation to provide opportunities for youth at risk to channel their energy to develop a blend of life skills, artistic expression and business development. The Northern Cultural Expressions Society continues to receive important support from the Yukon government and from the Government of Canada. The Government of Canada is indeed providing \$482,000 this year for the cultural resilience project, which provides youth at risk and adults with an opportunity to learn about cultural traditions.

The Yukon government has provided an additional \$345,000 in funding to the Northern Cultural Expressions society this year. This funding has enabled that organization to hire an executive director and move forward on its organizational and business planning.

Northern Cultural Expressions Society has also received \$50,000 from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada for the new healing totem recently raised on the Whitehorse waterfront. I think the track record speaks for itself. The Department of Tourism and Culture has worked with the society to research funding options and determine the society's funding needs. Department staff will be supporting Northern Cultural Expressions Society's efforts to re-engage with the federal government in order to identify opportunities for long-term funding. Tourism and Culture has also been working with Northern Cultural Expressions to identify options for longer term Yukon government funding. No decisions have been made yet, but the work is ongoing.

I might add that the department is supporting the society's efforts to research that future funding and other options that will enable the group to continue to achieve its very important artistic, social and cultural mandate. We want to ensure that Yukon's heritage resources are properly documented, researched, conserved and protected in a manner consistent with the *Historic Resources Act* and regulations, the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* and with First Nation land claims agreements. We want to document, research, plan, conserve and manage Yukon's historic sites so that they may be protected, developed and interpreted for the appreciation and enjoyment of Yukoners and visitors in a manner consistent with recognized conservation principles and standards. We want to enable and support the development of visual, literary and performing arts in the Yukon through the delivery of services, program administration, research, liaison, financial programs, policy initiatives and art collections. We want to help acquire, preserve and make available Yukon's documentary heritage, including records of the Government of Yukon, in accordance with the *Archives Act* and land claims heritage agreements.

We want to help ensure that Yukon's material, cultural and natural history found in Yukon museums — cultural, heritage and interpretive centres — is properly planned, researched, developed, managed and, indeed, protected.

According to the 2006 census, Yukon has one of the highest concentrations and diversity of artists, artisans in Canada, second only to Nunavut. Last year, the Yukon government added 10 works to the Yukon permanent art collection and that value was \$2.48 million. The collection now has 345 pieces on display in 24 public government buildings.

If I may, Madam Chair, I would like to talk a little bit about the objective of the Advanced Artist Award. I know the member appreciates the arts community in Yukon, and many of us here saw him performing just last night.

The objective of the Advanced Artist Award is to assist advanced Yukon visual, literary and performing artists practicing at a senior level with innovative projects, travel or educational pursuits that contribute to their personal artistic development and to their community. The program serves as a foundation for much of the wide array of cultural products and events in the Yukon.

The intended results and outcomes of the Advanced Artist Award are to encourage artistic creativity to enable artists to develop their skills and to improve the ability of artists to promote their works or talents. Awards to artists represent the research and development portion of arts funding. This is the risky or experimental portion of an artist's development; for example, the writing and editing of a manuscript that may be later published, songwriting or studio work for an album that may later be manufactured, or the creation of a body of work that may result in an exhibition.

Eligible applicants include Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada who have lived in Yukon for at least one continuous year prior to the award deadline. In addition, an applicant may be considered to be an artist working at the advanced level. An advanced artist is an individual who has specialized training in his or her artistic field, who is recognized as an advanced artist by his or her peers and has a history of public presentation of his or her work.

Projects that are eligible for funding include projects which further develop a particular art form or explore a new area within the artist's field, short-term educational pursuits, post-secondary or post-graduate study related to a specific project, or travel to attend a specific event related to the artistic development of that applicant.

I was happy to support a press release in July that — well, I'll read a portion of the press release to you: "Advanced Artist Award fosters professional development. Eleven advanced artists will share \$37,855 through the Yukon's artist Advanced Artist Award for their literary, performing or visual arts development". I said in that release, "We are blessed to have the talented individuals who embrace the arts and strive to make a positive impact in Yukon." I go on to say, "Their contributions help to celebrate the territory as a unique jurisdiction within Canada, helping to grow public awareness about northern talent and artistic excellence."

The Advanced Artist Award supports professional artists looking to advance their practice through their personal artistic development. Artists apply to undertake innovative projects or educational pursuits that may include learning through workshops, courses or working with a mentor. They may also pursue artistic development through critique, collaboration or exploration. As recently as August of this year, I also supported another news release: “Arts fund supports community arts engagement”.

“Fourteen arts organizations will share \$126,077 through Yukon’s Arts Funds in support of group projects that inspire community engagement through discovery, experience and exploration.” I quoted for this news release: “These group projects bring members of the community together and offer opportunities to learn something new. They help us discover a deeper appreciation for the arts and share in group dynamics that can energize and inspire.”

The arts fund supports group projects that foster the creative development of the arts in Yukon. Applications can include arts-related projects submitted by arts collectives, organizations, industry associations, and other eligible groups undertaking an activity related to the literary, visual or performing arts. The objectives of the touring artist fund are to increase the touring opportunities for practising professional Yukon artists.

The objectives are also to facilitate access to the work of Yukon artists by Canadian and international audiences and to facilitate the growth and development of Yukon artists through providing opportunities for increased national and international exposure.

I was also happy to support a press release in September of this year: “Yukon’s Touring Artist Fund reaches across borders.” Five professional artists shared just over \$32,000 through the Yukon’s touring artist fund to reach out to new audiences as well as foster opportunities for professional career development.

I quote in this press release: “By touring to other jurisdictions, Yukon artists expand their reputation and their repertoires. Their work enlightens new audiences to our unique northern talents, culture, history and lifestyles. Travel and performance by Yukon artists is both an opportunity to further develop their artistic strengths and to serve as ambassadors for the entire territory, profiling what Yukon has to offer to tourists and citizens alike.”

**Mr. Barr:** At the risk of listening to more press releases read into the record — I think we could use our time a little better in this House, as has been stated by the Premier. At this point, I would like to acknowledge that, although I have other questions, I’m going to not continue any further. I will turn it over to other members of the House, particularly the interim Leader of the Third Party. I believe he has some questions.

**Mr. Silver:** I’d like to thank the officials today for coming in and sharing their time with us. It’s greatly appreciated. We know they’re busy. I’d like to thank the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes. I know that he has touched on the Parks Canada cuts and the minister spoke of some of his

correspondence with his federal counterparts. I was wondering if the minister could table some of this correspondence.

We went to great lengths in this House to communicate to Yukoners our unanimous consent urging the federal government and Parks Canada to rethink its decisions regarding cuts in the Yukon. Maybe sharing any further conversations since that day will give Yukoners hope that there actually is some progress on this file. I haven’t heard of any progress, myself personally — not from the lack of trying. Are discussions with Canada ongoing or has Canada simply said no? What options, if any, are there on the table to help facilitate the opening of these facilities in 2013?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the Member for Klondike for his question. I know how passionate he is about his second home, Dawson City. Pertaining to the letters that he asked for — my correspondence with the federal government pertaining to Parks Canada — I’ll be happy to table those next week.

The Government of Yukon shares the concerns of Yukoners about the impact these reductions may have on our tourism industry, heritage resources and recreational activities. The Yukon government is actively taking steps to identify potential solutions and address the impacts of these changes at Parks Canada. As the member opposite knows, I’ve written to Minister Kent about this issue and department officials have met and will continue to be meeting with the local Parks Canada representatives to identify any possible mitigation.

**Mr. Silver:** For the record, I was born and raised in Nova Scotia but my first home is Dawson City. Lately, it has been feeling like this is my first home — this seat, actually — but, for the record, it is Dawson City.

Once again, as far as any further communications that the minister does have with his federal counterparts, I would be very appreciative to know about those. I mean this sincerely, not just from a political standpoint. It seemed like we did have some promises from our MP that there was going to be some progression. The time is ticking down on this file and, if there is going to be any further correspondence or any kind of progression that the government sees, we would be very appreciative to be a part of that. So I thank the minister — he’s nodding. So I thank him for his support.

Moving on, as the minister for departments such as Tourism and Culture, I imagine that the minister and his officials do an awful lot of travelling. Does the Department of Tourism and Culture keep figures? I’m sure they do, on the amount of money that it spends on airfare. If so, and I imagine they do, I was wondering if I can get a breakdown about how much money is spent and maybe even a breakdown as to what percentage is given to the three major airlines and if there is actually a policy in place as to how that gets decided.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I appreciate the question coming forward from the member opposite. I think he can appreciate that with any government or business to create more revenue and more interest, there is an investment that needs to be made and we definitely see the support of our air carriers to Yukon as providing investment to the territory.

The Government of Yukon continues to work with tourism operators, travel trade partners and air carriers to enhance

Yukon's air access. The Government of Yukon supports and encourages air carriers through partnerships, joint promotions and by sharing information on the tourism industry. Yukon is well-served by two, year-round carriers and two seasonal carriers, which provide a variety of options for visitors and Yukoners to travel to and from Yukon. The Department of Tourism and Culture proactively supports and promotes Air North, Yukon's airline, and domestic and international markets through participation and familiarization tours, attendance at consumer shows and trade marketplaces, introductions to trade, joint activities and funding programs.

Air Canada service to Yukon is critical to the success of the department's international and domestic marketing efforts in leisure, business and conventions. WestJet provided seasonal service to Whitehorse from Vancouver from May to October, and has confirmed their intention to offer seasonal service in 2013, providing an additional travel option for visitors.

Condor, whom I met with when I was in Germany, offers once-weekly direct air service from Frankfurt to Whitehorse from May to September. Condor has confirmed that they will indeed add two additional flights to Whitehorse for the 2013 season, an increase in capacity of 540 passengers.

The employee travel the member opposite was asking about is indeed budgeted within our O&M budget. That information is publicly available. Travel funding for employees is captured in the other lines throughout the O&M budget.

**Mr. Silver:** I thank the minister for the answer there. This sounds like great news. It sounds like — as I understand it — the policy is that domestic flights are to go to Air North and international travel will go to Air Canada, seeing there are no flights for Air North to go internationally.

We did sit here in the spring and debated the motion, where we all do support Yukon's airline, Air North. Just to clarify — the minister said a breakdown of domestic flights, and then he compared that to the international flights. So just to reiterate: I wonder if he could speak to that specifically. Is this the policy, where most of the domestic flights will go to Air North and therefore the international goes to the international market and to Air Canada?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Madam Chair, all government employees, whether in Tourism, Highways and Public Works, ECO, Community Services, Health, Education and so on are booked through the Department of Highways and Public Works so that may be an opportunity to provide a question to the Minister of Highways and Public Works at that time.

**Mr. Silver:** Okay, I'll wait for my opportunity to talk to the Minister of Highways and Public Works.

Moving on, I have another question about the Yukon visitor tracking program. I see a considerable increase for the Yukon visitor tracking program: a \$470,000 increase to the Yukon visitor tracking program. Fifty percent of this is recoverable from Canada.

Can the minister explain what the Yukon visitor tracking program is and when the results of this project will be made public?

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Prior to me answering that question, I would like to introduce a friend and true supporter of the great work that the Department of Tourism and Culture does — Connor Whitehouse — to the gallery. Can my colleagues join me in welcoming him to the gallery, please?

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** In answering the question for the member opposite, the Government of Yukon is working with the Yukon tourism industry to learn more about our visitor experiences, more about the visitor expectations and more about changing travel patterns by our visitors.

The year-round visitor tracking program will indeed provide the tourism industry and government with a better understanding of our visitors and the economic benefits that they bring to Yukon. The initiative helps to ensure that the Yukon government remains industry-led, market-driven and research-based in its approach to tourism.

Following the public tender process that I spoke to earlier, the joint industry and department committee selected a contractor for the 2012-14 Yukon visitor tracking program. That survey uses traditional exit survey methodology while adding innovative components such as self-administered tablets and the use of indicator sites. In the long term, these new survey techniques will help us refine our approach and ensure we can receive timely, effective and reliable visitor information. Anyone who was through the Whitehorse airport or at the visitor information centres this summer will probably remember being stopped and asked questions by a surveyor. That information will be compiled and will be extremely valuable to the department and to the government as we move forward.

**Mr. Silver:** I believe they were in the communities as well. I believe there were a few different people with their laptops out there at the ferry terminal at Dawson City as well. We're looking forward to — I don't know if he has answered that question — I don't think he did — as to when this project would be made available to the public specifically. I'll maybe give him another chance to reiterate that.

But I'll move on. This project was done by a contractor and, in the end, there was only one bidder for this project. We were wondering why that other bidder was disqualified. The bid wasn't even opened. Why wasn't the project re-tendered when it came down to only one eligible bidder?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** In answering the question, I'll be fairly brief. The tendering process — there was an RFP that went out; two contractors submitted documents to the tender. There was one contractor who qualified for that contract, and that's what I can report as Minister of Tourism and Culture. That RFP was indeed put together in relationship with the Department of Tourism and Culture and the Department of Highways and Public Works. The Minister of Highways and Public Works may have a little bit more information on the exact process.

**Chair:** Is there any further general debate on Vote 54? We will proceed to line by line.

*On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures*

**On Cultural Services**

**Mr. Barr:** Can I have a breakdown of this amount, please?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for his question.

A revote is requested to cover three outstanding 2011-12 commitments under the historic properties assistance program. This revote is requested for a heritage and culture capacity development initiative, which is funded through the northern strategy. This project is delivered through Yukon College. That one is specifically for \$109,000. The revote that I mentioned earlier was for \$17,000. There is also a revote that was requested for commitments made in 2011-12 that were still outstanding at year-end for the Binet House in the Village of Mayo for \$8,000 and the George Johnston Museum of the Teslin Historical and Museum Society for \$13,000.

The revote request is for the arts fund projects approved for various arts groups, but not expended by year-end. That was for \$286,000.

There was \$9,000 that we have approved for funding through the touring artist fund for various arts projects, not completed again by year-end. There was \$50,000 — this is a revote for the Artist in the School program and covers a transfer payment to the Yukon Art Society; \$50,000 was an internal transfer, and additional one-time funding has been identified for the museum assistance program. This funding will be used for museum infrastructure projects.

**Cultural Services in the amount of \$542,000 agreed to**

**On Tourism**

**Tourism in the amount of \$545,000 agreed to**

*On Total of Other Operation and Maintenance*

*Total of Other Operation and Maintenance in the amount of nil cleared*

**Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$1,087,000 agreed to**

**On Capital Expenditures****On Corporate Services**

*On Office Furniture and Equipment*

*Office Furniture and Equipment in the amount of \$5,000 agreed to*

*On Information Technology Equipment and Systems*

*Information Technology Equipment and Systems in the amount of \$27,000 agreed to*

*On Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space*

*Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space in the amount of \$123,000 agreed to*

**On Cultural Services**

*On Historic Sites*

*On Historic Sites Maintenance*

*Historic Sites Maintenance in the amount of \$4,000 agreed to*

*On Forty Mile*

*Forty Mile in the amount of \$10,000 agreed to*

*On Yukon Sawmill*

*Yukon Sawmill in the amount of \$30,000 agreed to*

*On Museums*

*On Military and Industrial Artifact Assessment*

*Military and Industrial Artifact Assessment underexpenditure in the amount of \$50,000 cleared*

*On Mammoth Exhibit Development*

*Mammoth Exhibit Development in the amount of \$25,000 agreed to*

*On Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre*

*Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre in the amount of \$5,000 agreed to*

*On Archives*

*On Archives Preservation Projects*

*Archives Preservation Projects in the amount of \$348,000 agreed to*

**On Tourism**

*On Visitor Information Centres*

*On Capital Maintenance and Upgrades*

*Capital Maintenance and Upgrades in the amount of \$162,000 agreed to*

*On Travel Equipment, Displays and Production*

*On Purchase and Maintenance of Displays*

*Purchase and Maintenance of Displays in the amount of \$25,000 agreed to*

*On Special Initiatives*

*On Scenic Drives Initiative*

*Scenic Drives Initiative in the amount of \$13,000 agreed to*

*On Total of Other Capital*

*Total of Other Capital in the amount of nil cleared*

**Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$727,000 agreed to**

*On Revenues*

*Total Revenues in the amount of \$127,000 cleared*

**Department of Tourism and Culture agreed to**

**Chair:** We're going to move on to Vote 11, the Women's Directorate.

Committee of the Whole will recess for 10 minutes while we wait for officials.

*Recess*

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole will now come to order. We're going to begin general debate on Vote 11, Women's Directorate.

**Women's Directorate**

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** It is indeed an honour to be here in the Assembly today to be able to present the 2012-13 supplementary budget for the Women's Directorate. I'd just like to extend my thanks to our official, who has joined me here today, and also to all of the staff in the Women's Directorate, who do an incredible job, day in and day out.

There is an overall increase of \$1,117,000 to the 2012-13 budget. This brings the Women's Directorate budget from just over \$4.8 million to approximately \$5.82 million, with the changes being primarily attributed to a total increase of \$108,000 in operation and maintenance, which represents really a compilation of revotes, some deferred funding costs and additional monies to cover unexpected legal fees — also a

total increase of just over \$1 million in capital expenditures. This increase represents two revote expenditures.

Speaking to the operation and maintenance portion of this supplementary budget, the Women's Directorate has an increase due to a revote of \$11,000 for the Victims of Crime social marketing campaign also entitled, "Am I the Solution?"

The campaign, as members opposite hopefully have grown to become familiar with, uses social media, workshops, public discussion to prompt discussion on the rates of violence against women and children and the norms that support it. Building on the success of the campaign's initial focus on men, the campaign is also targeting youth and single mothers as well. Earlier this week, I was very pleased to be able to join with women's organizations to help kick off the 12 Days to End Violence Against Women campaign, which takes place in November as part of the Women Abuse Prevention Month. This year's theme was entitled, "Real Yukon men can end violence against women." Of course, it begins on November 25, starting with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and ends December 6 with a National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. We certainly hope that all members will be attending the upcoming vigil on that day.

The Women's Directorate is very pleased to assist women's organizations toward developing activities and participating in the 12 Days campaign. During the launch at the Old Fire Hall, there were a number of speakers and it was a very well-thought-out and well-organized launch of the campaign. It also included the White Ribbon campaign.

I just want to again thank the contributors to the calendar that was prepared through those efforts, for which our caucus was pleased to help cover the costs of the calendars that were distributed to every MLA in this Legislature. I just want to congratulate the organizers of that initiative and thank the various members who participated in that calendar. I know they're hanging up in all of our offices as we speak.

During the event, the Women's Directorate was also pleased to launch the Silhouettes project as part of the "Am I the Solution?" social marketing campaign.

For those who had the opportunity to attend the launch at the Old Fire Hall, Silhouettes is a series of five wooden panels that were prepared by a local carpenter and then were effectively brought to life by a local visual artist who really did a great job. Through the use of these respective panels, the statistics on violence against women and girls has been articulated. They have also helped depict the stories of women who have been the victims of violence and subjected to violence.

It's another tool within the overall social marketing campaign and it's a means of reaching out to Yukoners in a way that serves as an interactive display of conversation that needs to take place when it comes to violence against women. That particular public display will be circulated to public schools and other public spaces over the next number of weeks.

I want to thank the Women's Directorate and I also want to thank the subcommittee, which really took great pride in developing the concept and researching the content for each one of the silhouettes, including members of Les Essentielles, Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, Kaushee's Place — and of

Faulkner Women's Centre, Kaushee's Place — and of course the Women's Directorate as well.

The operation and maintenance budget increase also includes a revote of \$18,000 for the family violence and violence against women prevention initiatives funding for year 2 of the funding. This revote will cover 2011-12 outstanding commitments of two-year agreements.

Another revote of \$78,000 is for the northern strategy; aboriginal women's program represents another increase. This revote is primarily in support of the further implementation of the 2007 Yukon Aboriginal Women's Summit recommendations on various projects. Again, I recently had the privilege of attending the recent YAWS 2, as they have come to be known. When the original summits were held in the community of Watson Lake and the community of Whitehorse, there were really a number of recommendations that were provided by the various aboriginal women's organizations, as well as individual women throughout the territory.

So the purpose of this recent summit that was held here in Whitehorse at the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre was really an opportunity to reflect on the progress that has been made by women's organizations and the Yukon government working in collaboration with the communities throughout and to be able to look at the progress and further prioritize items for continued action.

In the operation and maintenance portion of the budget, the Women's Directorate has also an increase of \$20,000 for legal fees to prepare various agreements for Betty's Haven, otherwise known as Kaushee's Place's second-stage housing initiative. It's a flagship project for the Yukon government and it has been an initiative that has been in the making for many years. I want to congratulate the Yukon Women's Transition Home Society for their ongoing work to see this project come to fruition. At the end of the day, it will provide 10 units of transitional housing for women and children who are seeking transitional housing for anywhere from 12 to 18 months, providing them with stable, safe and affordable units.

There is also a decrease of \$19,000 for deferral for year 2 of the 2012-13 family violence and violence against women prevention initiatives funding. That pretty much completes the operation and maintenance portion of the supplementary budget changes totalling \$108,000.

Moving on to the capital portion of the supplementary budget, it totals just over \$1 million. First, there is a revote of \$9,000 to replace a printer and, second, more importantly, there is an increase of \$1 million for Kaushee's second-stage housing initiative. This is a revote to cover costs of services for the design/build team to supply suitably zoned land and professional design services for second-stage housing.

This pretty much sums up the supplementary budget for this fiscal year, and I certainly look forward to taking any questions from members opposite at this time.

**Ms. White:** I'd like to thank the officials of the Women's Directorate for the excellent briefing I received. It was informative and answered all my questions, so I have kind of a different line of questions to go on.

So if the mandate of the Women's Directorate is to provide leadership and education in gender and diversity analysis for the Government of Yukon, and directorate policy personnel provide research and analysis for other government departments to enhance the effectiveness of legislation, policies and programs, how are the Hallowe'en Highways and Public Works anti-drinking and driving campaign posters not flagged as stereotyping images of women's sexuality inappropriately?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I'd like to thank the member opposite for the question raised. As part of the ongoing work of the Women's Directorate, they play a very key role in the use of gender-inclusive and diversity analysis to look at impacts of policies, programs and legislation when it comes to advancing women's equality. We do so in a number of ways.

We offer employee training sessions every year on how to apply the gender impact and diversity analysis to policy and program development. We also provide support to departments in gender-based research and writing, and we continue to explore ways to expand our outreach approach.

With respect to the issue opposite, I don't want to specifically respond to an issue that belongs to Highways and Public Works and certainly that is a question that can be raised with the Department of Highways and Public Works. I do know, as has been articulated through media outlets, that the Department of Highways and Public Works, just like all departments, certainly take feedback and appreciate comments that have come forward by members of the public and organizations and so forth. We as a collective body always strive to do better when it comes to marketing campaigns and reaching out to the public in an appropriate manner.

**Ms. White:** As it stands right now, do all departments across government have a responsibility to work with the Women's Directorate to ensure all government initiatives promote gender equality?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Building on what I have just already spoken to in terms of our outreach, I know that the Women's Directorate officials are also present at policy review committee — the Deputy Ministers Policy Review Committee. We also have, I believe, the communications review committee. There are a series of corporate-wide committees that certainly work on submitting policy-related initiatives. So it is certainly a two-way approach to gender-inclusive analysis. As I just mentioned, the Women's Directorate, through our respective officials, has done a great job in terms of providing those ongoing workshops and training sessions with each of the employees.

The onus is also up to the departments to bring respective policy initiatives to the Women's Directorate's attention as well. Again, I know that all of our Cabinet submissions are required to include information on how those decisions could have a differential impact on women. Women's Directorate reviews all of those Cabinet submissions. I would say that we have come a long way over the past several years, but there is always more work to be done. As government continues to carry on added responsibility in many different fields, so too does the workload of the Women's Directorate.

**Ms. White:** Just to be clear, does that mean advertising campaigns from other departments don't need to be cleared by the Women's Directorate to make sure that they have been viewed as not stereotyping and that they have had the gender impact and diversity analysis done on them?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** As I tried to articulate for the member opposite, we do have a communications review committee. I couldn't tell you on any given day what that particular committee oversees, just like I couldn't really tell you exactly what the policy review committee or DMRC sees. As you can appreciate, there is an awful amount of information and work that is put forth on these committees and many other committees throughout the Yukon. That is one way of being able to capture campaigns, potentially. Again, I'm not in communications myself — at least not on that specific committee.

**Ms. White:** I'm just going to try to find out: Was that poster cleared by the Women's Directorate before it was released for publication?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I would ask that the member opposite perhaps direct that to the Department of Highways and Public Works. I think that answer perhaps was addressed at the briefing, if I'm not mistaken.

I'm not in charge of the Department of Highways and Public Works, but through all of our respective work across the government, we very much endeavour — and I would like to just congratulate and thank the Women's Directorate for their good work on behalf of Government of Yukon. As one can appreciate, I can't speak for the Women's Directorate in terms of what they see on a daily basis, but there is an awful lot of information. Again, I would ask the member opposite to refer that question to the appropriate department.

**Ms. White:** I thought that in asking a gender-specific question, I was actually asking the right minister.

Is there a legislative mandate to provide gender impact and diversity analysis to all departments?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** For the member opposite's information, again, we do promote the use of gender-inclusive and diversity analysis to assess impacts of policies, programs, and so forth on women.

As I mentioned earlier, we offer training sessions on how to apply that impact and diversity analysis to program and policy development. The Women's Directorate also does a lot of other research work in terms of our public schools, reaching out to each of the individual classes — and they do a tremendous job at that, working in collaboration with the Department of Education. We support the Yukon government departments in gender-based research and writing analyses of policies and programs and we continue to explore ways to expand the outreach approach as well.

Cabinet submissions are actually required to include information on how those potential decisions can have that impact or differential impact on women as it pertains to that specific submission going to the policy review committee, as I spoke to earlier. There is a multitude of ways of how we reach out to different departments, how we interact with individual employees and how we interact with Cabinet as well.

I think the Women's Directorate has been very effective over the years: in terms of providing public education; in terms of heightening awareness of violence against women, for example; in terms of, as I mentioned earlier, working with the Department of Education and promoting diversity within our classrooms and among younger children.

The Women's Directorate also has played a very key role when it comes to working to advance housing initiatives in the territory. Betty's Haven is one of those and is reflected in this supplementary budget. We have identified approximately \$4.5 million in support of this housing initiative, and we're very proud of that ongoing work. Construction is underway on that specific facility. As I mentioned, it builds upon other second-stage facilities, such as the one in Watson Lake through the Help and Hope, or women's shelter, in the Town of Watson Lake. I know they have also subscribed to the community development fund, and they were successful expanding their second-stage housing for the first time ever in rural Yukon. I had the opportunity to tour that particular facility. It's tremendous. It's very great to have that facility in place there. I know we are working with the Dawson women's shelter, as well, to advance their shelter. That has been an ongoing issue of importance to their society.

Again, I had the opportunity to meet with the executive director there not long ago. We talked about ways forward.

Women's Directorate, again, has been collaborating with the women's shelter in Dawson, for example. Now — I think it was just through the community development fund — funding did go through to enable it to proceed with the expansion of their shelter. So it's another good thing.

The Women's Directorate also played a very key role in initiating the discussion and the dialogue about the family-focused housing initiative in the Riverdale area. I take great pride in that particular initiative, which now provides well over 30 units for single-parent families, of which the lion's share happens to be women and children. That has become a very safe, affordable, secure housing initiative for many families, and part of its success has really been a direct result of the housing coordinator, which has also been carried on, and which is reflected in the supplementary as well under Yukon Housing Corporation.

There has been a great coordinator in the position, and they've done a lot of great work in terms of promoting workshops and assisting each of the tenants on a day-to-day basis. They coordinate with other departments and other agencies in terms of providing that advice on financial aspects — being a good tenant — again, working with the Yukon College. There is a whole number of initiatives that this particular housing coordinator has been able to work on.

That is just one other example of how the Women's Directorate has been working effectively with other departments. Likewise, through the Department of Justice, *Sharing Common Ground*, has been very much involved with that specific initiative and is helping to provide that more responsive and gender-specific approach to addressing sexual assault in our territory.

A number of initiatives have been taken by the Department of Justice, such as the *Victims of Crime Strategy* in legislation

that was tabled in the Legislature not long ago. We have been working alongside the department officials and with women's organizations.

When it comes to women's organizations, this government has been very proud to be able to support women's organizations with ongoing funding. The women's equality fund, for example, provides up to \$300,000. When we took office there was no women's equality fund. There was some funding for two organizations — I think they were the Yukon Status of Women Council and Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre — and that was it. We have been able to expand that funding to numerous women's organizations throughout the territory and we've also been able to initiate and implement funding specific to prevention of violence against aboriginal women. Likewise, we've been very blessed to be able to work with aboriginal women's organizations on the implementation of recommendations that were put forth through the Yukon Women's Aboriginal Summit.

There was just recently a National Aboriginal Women's Summit held in, I believe it was, Manitoba, at which we had representation from Justice, Women's Directorate and also aboriginal women there as well.

Clearly, I think the Women's Directorate is making great strides, in terms of working effectively with all departments throughout the government. Education and the trades training — Yukon Women in Trades and Technology is yet another example of an organization we provide funding to through the women's equality fund — again, heightening awareness of the importance of the trades and how it is very important to engage young women at an early age and to be able to encourage them to get involved in the trades.

Recently, I had the opportunity of participating, actually, in the Young Women Exploring Trades conference. I really enjoyed that conference because I actually sat down at one of the tables and was able to develop skills, in terms of putting together an extension cord, which I am proud to say not only works, but has really come in handy this past few weeks.

It's but one, small example of the work that Yukon Women in Trades and Technology is undertaking on behalf of Yukon women — again, promotion, working with the trades across the Yukon sector, but it is another example of how the Yukon is working with education — working with Yukon College to advance this particular work. I'd be happy to elaborate on other ways that the Women's Directorate is working with the government departments and agencies, and I certainly have a lot more to share, but I certainly look forward to additional questions.

**Ms. White:** So with the minister just speaking about Betty's Haven, I'm super pleased to see how quickly construction is going on Betty's Haven — the second-stage housing — and I can only imagine the hope it must be infusing in local women's groups. Kaushee's was just able to confirm some funding with the City of Whitehorse and the forgiveness of nearly \$30,000 that they needed to pay for the taxes on their lot.

There is still, however, one outstanding issue around Betty's Haven, and that is the concern that currently there ex-



ists no funding for furnishing the tenants' apartments once they are constructed. I just really wanted to get this on the record right now: We think funding the furnishing of Betty's Haven is the right thing to do and we'd really like to see the government do that. Will the minister commit to finding the funding necessary to furnish these 10 housing units in the next year's budget for these women who are fleeing abuse?

I'm going to get a second question in there. I wanted to congratulate the minister and the department on the good work they do to support Yukon women's groups, especially with the social marketing they do around the 12 Days to End Violence Against Women and the "Am I the Solution?" campaign. Both are highly successful, and the newest element to the "Am I the Solution?" campaign has brought much visibility to the tough issues it tackles. I know that the posters have started conversations in my groups of friends, so I can only imagine it happens in many others. I just wanted to know if the department will be increasing the social marketing budget for the next fiscal year to continue and grow on the good work that has been laid out.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Going to the member opposite's question on Betty's Haven: This is something that the Premier and our colleagues on this side of the House and I are very much in support of. We've committed a total of \$4.5 million toward the building of this new second-stage housing initiative here in Whitehorse. It will see a 10-unit housing initiative that will provide that transitional, supportive, secure and affordable housing for women and children who are regrettably fleeing abuse, for a period of anywhere between 12 to 18 months.

The objectives of the partnership are to develop an innovative, environmental and energy efficient facility that fits with the site and the location to meet the safety, security and living needs of women and their children and to ensure that the management and the construction of the project is within our project and timelines of the \$4.5 million.

The project team involves the Women's Directorate, which is basically providing communication support and also helping manage the transfer payment agreements. The Department of Highways and Public Works is also providing technical advice in partnership with the Yukon Women's Transition Home Society, which will be the owner of the facility. As I mentioned, it builds on a number of other initiatives in support of families, whether it's second-stage housing in other communities or the affordable family housing initiative in Riverdale.

With respect to the member opposite's specific question about furnishings, I can tell him that the Women's Directorate has been working with the Yukon Women's Transition Home Society, Highways and Public Works, the Department of Health and Social Services and Management Board — the Department of Finance — to identify a number of funding avenues to provide that additional funding for furnishings. That is above and beyond the \$4.5 million for the actual construction of the facility itself.

There are a number of sources of funding that we have identified.

I know that the City of Whitehorse recently approved expenditures for the development cost charges and the building permit fees, if I'm not mistaken. That was for just over

\$28,000. We have also offered for the Yukon transition home to apply to the Government of Canada Revenue Agency for what would be half of the total GST costs on the land and design/build contract costs to the project. Basically that would be about 2.5 percent, obviously — half of the GST — of the \$0.45 million. So that estimates to be worth approximately \$110,000. That certainly will go a long way toward furnishings as well. I know that there was some discussion about approximately \$100,000 for furnishings, so that, as well as the contributions by the City of Whitehorse, will certainly help go a long way.

The Department of Health and Social Services provides ongoing operational support for Yukon Women's Transition Home Society, as they do with the Dawson women's shelters. They provide ongoing multiple-year funding in support of those initiatives. They have also indicated that they can help with any cash-flow concerns of the society to ensure that furnishings are purchased efficiently if indeed that is required. I believe we are working in an expeditious and effective manner, keeping in mind that we're also trying to keep within our budget of \$4.5 million. The GST rebate will go a long way in terms of assisting in this regard.

With respect to the question on the "Am I the Solution?" campaign, I have to say that over the years the Women's Directorate has launched a number of public education campaigns. I was the original minister responsible for the Women's Directorate a few years back and now, just recently in the past year, I have taken on this role as well. I'm very thrilled and honoured to take on this role as minister. This is really a very effective campaign. It is a social marketing campaign.

I would say it's perhaps the first of its kind in the territory when it comes to this specific issue. We have employed a number of different phases when it comes to this particular campaign, the first of which was really reaching out to men and, you know, approaching the issue of violence against women and children — girls, specifically — in a different light, in terms of how to approach that discussion with men — you know, asking men, "Am I the solution?" Asking ourselves, "Am I the solution?" Really, by being able to reach out to different individuals throughout the territory, by even having your portrait drawn is an effective way of being able to empower oneself to say, "Yes, I am part of the solution," and being able to help spread that word through Facebook. Last time I checked on Facebook, "Am I the Solution?" had, I think it was, boy, close to 900 likes, or friends, at that particular time. It has come a long way, and it is really helping spread the word about violence against women, some of the statistics and some of the actions that we as individuals can take as citizens in the territory.

As I just mentioned, the supplementary budget also includes some dollars again for the continuation of the campaign, reaching out to younger individuals and to single parents, as well. I know that we have done so by reaching out with organizations — I believe youth organizations specifically — to really effectively communicate with youth and to be able to obtain their feedback and their input as to how we can be more effective in reaching out and broaching this very important issue.

Seeing the time, I move that you report progress, Madam Chair.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Ms. Taylor that the Chair report progress.

*Motion agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I move that the Speaker do now resume the Chair.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Cathers that the Speaker do now resume the Chair.

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker resumes the Chair*

**Speaker:** I will now call the House to order.

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

#### **Chair's report**

**Ms. McLeod:** Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 7, *Second Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, and directed me to report progress on it.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** I declare the report carried.

**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 stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. Monday.

*The House adjourned at 5:27 p.m.*

#### **The following Sessional Paper was tabled November 29, 2012:**

33-1-57

Yukon Liquor Corporation Annual Report April 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012 (Kent)