

**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Wednesday, December 12, 2012 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

Prayers

Withdrawal of motions

Speaker: The Chair wishes to inform the House of some changes that have been made to the Order Paper. Motion No. 346 and Motion No. 347, standing in the name of the Member for Klondike, have been removed from the Order Paper as the actions requested in the motions have been taken.

DAILY ROUTINE

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

Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of the Yukon Arts Centre's 20th season

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I am pleased to rise today to pay tribute to the Yukon Arts Centre in recognition of its 20th season. As Yukoners know, the Yukon Arts Centre has established itself as a model for the development of the arts in the north. To truly appreciate this exceptional cultural facility, it is useful to know the motivation behind its beginnings.

Before the Yukon Arts Centre was built, performances and concerts were presented in school gyms and other less-than-ideal spaces. The seats were uncomfortable and the acoustics left something to be desired. A downtown visual arts gallery was appreciated, but it lacked the space and environmental controls required for mounting large-scale exhibitions.

Eventually, a group of like-minded Yukoners composed of arts and community leaders came together to imagine a new space for Yukon's already vibrant arts scene. In 1992, the Yukon Arts Centre was built next to Yukon College.

This centre is an incredible facility. It houses a 400-seat theatre, the only A-class public art gallery in the north, and provides incredibly diverse cultural programming. The theatre's exceptional acoustics and lighting enhance musical and theatrical performances. In winter, Yukoners warm up to their favourite events, including great shows at the Frostbite Music Festival and the movies of Available Light Film Festival.

Throughout the year, audiences enjoy programming ranging from popular Canadian bands and contemporary dancers to concerts featuring Yukon's young musicians. In the public art gallery, renowned Canadian artists are exhibited next to our homegrown artists. Exhibitions featuring First Nation carving, beadwork and new media celebrate tradition and explore innovative and contemporary north aboriginal arts.

The Yukon Arts Centre mandate also extends beyond the building itself and into the communities where Yukoners are engaged through performances and public outreach programs.

The Old Fire Hall became a satellite venue in 2007 and is now a very popular downtown space for a wide range of activities.

The Arts Centre has spearheaded some of Yukon's biggest, most successful cultural initiatives, including Yukon's cultural component at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver. The Sewing Our Traditions: Dolls of Canada's North exhibition, curated by Yukon Arts Centre public gallery staff, is just one example of the exceptional programming that was produced for the Olympics.

Sewing Our Traditions is also an example of Yukon Arts Centre's collaborative spirit and the commitment of its staff to work with local and national partners. Such partnerships and activities stem from the determination of the Arts Centre's boards, staff and volunteers to develop and foster a creative economy and to be a cultural, social and economic force in the north.

2011-12 attendance figures show that almost 64,000 people enjoyed a performance, an exhibition or a community engagement program at the Arts Centre facility. The Arts Centre's programs reached thousands of Yukoners and the Government of Yukon is proud to support this exceptional facility with a \$778,000 annual contribution.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge the individuals who originally envisioned a new space for the arts in Yukon, and those who have followed through on their vision by delivering 20 memorable seasons at Yukon Arts Centre. Thanks to the energy and persistence of the Arts Centre's founders and the passion, commitment and creativity of its board, staff, supporters and volunteers, Yukoners have an amazing space to enjoy at the Arts Centre. Thank you.

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Elijah Smith

Mr. Elias: I am honoured to be able to rise today on behalf of all members and recognize the 100th anniversary of the birth of Elijah Smith. I think it's fitting to recognize the contributions of Elijah Smith in this 40th year of *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*.

The Elijah Smith name is well known to all of us. The Government of Canada named its building in Whitehorse after him. There is a Whitehorse elementary school named in his honour. The Yukon Teachers Association awards a bursary that carries his name each year. But Elijah Smith was so much more than a name; he was a man who breathed life into the movement that brought equal rights and self-determination to First Nation people in the Yukon and other parts of Canada.

He demonstrated a strong commitment to the belief that First Nation people should enjoy the same rights and freedoms as all Canadians and that those rights and freedoms must apply equally to his peers and to the children who came after him.

It was Wednesday, July 17, 1912, on the shore of Hutshi Lakes, in the traditional territory of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, when Elijah Smith was born to Annie Ned and Paddy Smith. He grew up traditionally on the land and began to work as a big game outfitter early in life.

Along with thousands of other Canadian First Nation citizens, Elijah Smith volunteered to fight in the Second World

War. He spent six years serving Canada overseas, where he settled down, in a way. He married a British woman while he was stationed over there, and they had two children.

Smith couldn't stay away from the Yukon, though, and he returned to the land that his ancestors had inhabited for millennia. Elijah then met Irene, and they raised three daughters — Phyllis, Doris and Linda — and five sons — Mike, Dennis, Howard, Dwayne and Steve. But this homecoming was not the joyous one he had looked forward to, for he soon felt that he was now a second-class citizen.

His military service had meant that he had to give up his legal status and rights as a First Nation person, but he was still an aboriginal person, in fact, and thus, was barred from many public establishments.

Imagine that for a moment. He risked his life for Canada, but he couldn't celebrate his country's hard-won freedom with his comrades-in-arms. This injustice stung Elijah. As a result, he committed the rest of his life to rectifying it, not just for himself but for all First Nation people. He began his efforts as the Chief of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation.

During a meeting about the *Indian Act* with the Department of Indian Affairs in 1968, Elijah delivered a stirring speech that included the following words: "We, the Indians of the Yukon, object to being treated like squatters in our own country. We accepted the white man in this country, fed him, looked after him when he was sick, showed him the way of the north, helped him to find the gold, helped him to build, and we respected him in his own rights. For this, we have received little in return. We feel the people of the north owe us a great deal, and we would like the Government of Canada to see that we get a fair settlement for the use of the land. There was no treaty signed in this country, they tell me. The land still belongs to the Indians. There was no battle fought between the whites and the Indians for this land."

Then in 1969, he founded the Yukon Indian Brotherhood and was its first chief. Four years later, he was the founding chairperson of the Council for Yukon Indians.

It was that year — 1973 — when Elijah travelled to Ottawa with a large delegation of Yukon First Nations chiefs, which included Chief Charlie Abel from Old Crow, Chief Johnny Smith from Kwanlin Dun, Chief Danny Joe from Selkirk, Chief Jimmy Enoch from Burwash, Chief Ray Jackson from Champagne and Aishihik, Chief Dan Johnson from Carcross, Chief Clifford McLeod from Ross River, Chief Percy Henry from Dawson City, Chief Dixon Lutz from Liard, Chief George Billy from Carmacks, Chief Sam Johnston from Teslin and Chief Peter Lucas from Mayo.

This trip marked the turning point for the settlement of aboriginal title and native rights in Canada. The group presented the historic document, *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*, to then Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and his Minister of Indian Affairs, Jean Chrétien. It was at this point that negotiations began between Canada and the Yukon First Nations in earnest.

Elijah was the chief land claims negotiator for Yukon First Nations through the 1970s and he remained active in land claims negotiations until he was killed in an automobile acci-

dent on the Robert Campbell Highway. He was driving to Ross River to discuss land claims with elders there. That was Tuesday, October 22, 1991.

One of Elijah's greatest contributions was the positive influence he had on many people around him; in particular, children.

Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow — the name of the document was no accident, Mr. Speaker. His focus on children was clear, and he recognized a key to success was preparing the younger generations for both the benefits and challenges that land claims and self-governance would bring.

It should come as no surprise that he helped found the Yukon Indian Hockey Association and sat on its first board. He loved hockey and the positive effects it had on Yukon First Nation youth. He was a regular "rink rat", in fact, and he had his favourite seat up at Takhini Arena.

You know, Elijah Smith may have been an aboriginal person, but he was also a cowboy at heart. He maintained a ranch out by the Takhini River bridge, where he kept about 50 horses. That was one of the places that he became the grandfather of countless kids. He mentored so many of us, teaching us traditional skills and values through hard work and life out on the land.

His approach to teaching youth was practical. He believed in providing gentle guidance that was tempered by hard lessons. If a tent was put up crooked, he would let the wind blow it down on the occupants in the night. He said to his students, "If they want to eat, they have to cook."

Elijah went beyond traditional teachings. He passed on what he learned about politics, the law and negotiations to many others — people like Harry Allen, Dave Porter, Bill Wilson, Dave Joe and Mike Smith.

In 1976, Elijah received the Order of Canada, but he almost turned it down. He said, "I wouldn't get excited over it. It might be all right for a white man that's hunting for medals, but I'm not." It's sort of funny — Elijah's life was not about fame or fortune, and it wasn't about medals or awards; it was about making the world better for his fellow First Nation people, Yukoners and all of the children who would follow in his footsteps. It was about making things right, equal and just. *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow* — our territory is filled with the children of tomorrow.

After Elijah Smith's death, a former Yukon Deputy Premier and member of the Kaska First Nation, Dave Porter, said "The sound of Elijah's booming voice will echo forever in the Yukon, and that's why I stand here before you today in this centenary year of Elijah Smith's birth to make sure that statement remains true."

I've got a short story about Mr. Porter. Mr. Porter recalled his entry into aboriginal politics in 1978, when there was a vacancy on the Council of Yukon Indians' executive. He decided to run, and then later on Mr. Porter heard Elijah was also going to contest the seat. Mr. Porter heard Elijah was also going to contest the seat and he said, "I was obviously pretty worried because it would have been no contest. Elijah would have won." At the last moment, just before the election, Elijah got up, pulled his name out of contention, walked over to Dave

Porter, shook his hand and said, "I think you're going to do a good job, young man." He shook his hand and that was his way of endorsing him. It's important to maintain our recognition and continue celebrating the lifetime of work and accomplishment that Elijah Smith gave, not only to Yukon First Nation people, but to all Yukoners.

In 2013, the vision of Elijah Smith and the 12 chiefs from around our territory will be celebrated on the 40th anniversary of *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow* and the 20th anniversary of the signing of the *Umbrella Final Agreement*. There was a dream 40 years ago and it is thriving today.

In recognition of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Han Construction Ltd.

Ms. White: I rise on behalf of the Legislative Assembly to pay tribute to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in of Dawson City and their construction company, Han Construction Ltd. This month, the Conference Board of Canada published its report, *Framing Sustainable Options for Housing in Canada's North*, and Han Construction was one of the four case studies used to illustrate building northern housing to higher energy standards.

There is no one simple answer to the problems of providing housing that is adequate and affordable in Canada's north. It continues to be a challenge to build quality housing. Han Construction routinely builds its community's housing above the requirements of the applicable building codes and standards. Over the last 14 years, the company has designed and built over 40 energy efficient houses in Dawson. They work closely with their First Nation citizens to customize floor plans to suit their needs.

To build skills capacity, the company has a First Nation apprenticeship policy and has lately opened it up to non-First Nation candidates. With CMHC and the Yukon Housing Corporation, they were part of a project to design and build a house that would consume 50 percent less energy than a home built to the model national energy code for houses and to be more culturally appropriate for a remote northern First Nation community. They were successful.

Housing is more than facts and figures. It is an issue that literally touches people where they live and raises great passion. Recognizing that, it was important to have the community as a meaningful element. One of the main goals of the project was to work with the community in a workshop or charette that brought together local residents, municipal and territorial representatives, architects, planners and engineers — all with a diverse range of skills and expertise. This brought a strong sense of community ownership and connection with the project. That connection continues as new owners construct and maintain their own houses or rent from the First Nation, making for productive partnerships in the community.

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have shown us that it is possible to both envision and implement sustainable and affordable northern housing solutions that build upon the collective efforts and expertise of northerners.

Most notably, long-term planning, community engagement and the use of innovative designs, technology and respect for aboriginal culture make it possible to increase the quality, structural integrity and health of First Nation housing.

We congratulate Han Construction and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in on their successes and innovative approaches to housing needs in the Yukon.

Speaker: Introduction of visitors.

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Speaker: Under tabling returns and documents, the Chair has for tabling the Human Rights Commission annual report, dated April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012.

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, I have a number of documents for tabling, the first of which is the Yukon Child-care Board annual report, dated April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012; the Yukon Health and Social Services Council annual report, dated April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012; the Yukon Hospital Corporation 2011-12 annual report; and the health care insurance program's statement of revenues and expenses.

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I have for tabling the 2011-2012 Fleet Vehicle Agency annual report.

Ms. Hanson: I have for tabling a study by the Institute for Research on Public Policy, entitled *Financing Long-Term Care in Canada*, dated June 2012.

I also have for tabling a study by the Parkland Institute in February 2012, entitled *Delivery Matters: The Impacts of For-Profit Ownership in Long-Term Care*.

I also have for tabling a document entitled *Asking the right questions: A guide for Municipalities considering P3s* — public/private partnerships.

Finally, I have a publication on the world's first freedom of information act, Sweden-Finland, dated 1766.

Mr. Silver: I have for tabling a press release dated December 11, 2012, from TIAY, the Tourism Industry Association of Yukon, entitled *Yukon's Tourism Industry Takes Action on Parks Canada Cuts*.

Speaker: Are there any reports of committees? Petitions.

PETITIONS

Petition No. 10 — received

Clerk: Mr. Speaker and honourable members of the Assembly: I have had the honour to review a petition, being Petition No. 10 of the First Session of the 33rd Legislative Assembly, as presented by the Member for Watson Lake on December 11, 2012. Petition No. 10 meets the requirements as to form of the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

Speaker: Accordingly, I declare Petition No. 10 read and received. Pursuant to Standing Order 67, the Executive Council shall provide a response to a petition which has been read and received within eight sitting days of its presentation.

As Petition No. 10 was presented on the 67th sitting day of the Legislative Assembly, the Executive Council response to

Petition No. 10 shall be provided on or before the 75th sitting day of the Legislative Assembly.

Speaker: Are there any petitions for presentation?
Are there any bills to be introduced?
Are there any notices of motion?

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to implement and act on the recommendations of the Department of Health and Social Services' *Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of Mining Activities near Keno City, Yukon*, delivered September 30, 2012.

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

THAT this House urges the Minister of Environment to demonstrate leadership to Canada and the world by immediately beginning the process of developing a Yukon climate change act.

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

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Taiga clinic funding

Ms. Hanson: In January of this year, the Taiga clinic opened in Whitehorse as a pilot project funded by Health and Social Services. According to patients, this clinic has been a success. The clinic has a physician and a mental health nurse, and had a mental health outreach worker, all working nine to 12 hours per week. In its 12 months of operation, the clinic has had five — count them: five — contracts with Health and Social Services of one to three months' duration. Its current contract expires on December 31 of this year.

A constituent called me yesterday, deeply concerned that his care team at the Taiga clinic cannot tell him if they will be in operation in the new year. Will the minister please tell this House if the government will continue funding the Taiga clinic?

Hon. Mr. Graham: The question is almost as if the member opposite was reading my mind, and I consider that fairly difficult, since sometimes I don't even know what I'm thinking.

The referred care clinic was established in recognition of the recommendations coming out of the Task Force on Acutely Intoxicated Persons at Risk. The referred care clinic supports a number of complex patients who are without the services of a general physician. We call them "orphan patients." They may also present with compounding difficulties such as mental illnesses or pain-management difficulties.

Historically, the focus group has exerted great pressure of the Whitehorse General Hospital emergency department. The intent behind establishing the referred care clinic was to take some of the pressure away from the Whitehorse General Hospi-

tal, as well as to provide a better quality of care for these patients.

It's fortuitous that this question would come at this time because my department and I just met at noon hour today. This was one of the items on the agenda, and the doctor in charge of the referred care clinic was called, I believe, just after our meeting at noon hour to inform her that yes, we will be continuing with the clinic.

Ms. Hanson: It is indeed gratifying to hear the minister indicating his support for this project. I guess what the question really is, is this ongoing funding? Is it interim funding?

When I spoke to the director of the clinic this morning, the question was: Will the government be providing us with — well, it's great news to hear it's going beyond December 31. They have already lost the mental health outreach worker because of the month-to-month uncertainty of the funding provided so far. Is the minister indicating to this House and to those patients and to the professional care staff who have provided such good service for these — as he has already outlined — people with probably the most complex needs in our community — the most vulnerable citizens. Is this ongoing funding?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, the funding at this time, as the operator of the referred care clinic was informed today, will go until April 1 — March 31, 2013. During that time frame, I will be taking a proposal to my Cabinet colleagues to expand the referred care clinic beyond the 12 hours a week that it is currently operating to something more than 12 hours.

We understand how difficult it is for people to work on a continuing basis with uncertainty. So what my proposal will be to my colleagues is that the referred care clinic go on beyond a few months in duration — hopefully, as long as three years — in order for us to compile all the information that we really need to determine if the referred care clinic is actually meeting the needs of the patients we hope to meet.

Question re: *Pharmacists Act*

Ms. Hanson: The Yukon *Pharmacists Act* has not been reviewed since 1970. The Pharmacists Association has written to the government to suggest a number of important and overdue changes. Pharmacists can lessen the burden on hospitals in times of increased demand and provide preventive health services at lower costs in the long term. One of every nine emergency visits is due to a drug-related cause and over two-thirds of these are deemed preventable.

Chronic conditions are becoming more prevalent and drug therapies more complex. Pharmacists are the best-suited professionals to judge the appropriateness of drug therapy and monitor treatment. Because Yukon's legislation is so out of date, pharmacists can't contribute all they have to offer to our health care system. In the end, it's the health of Yukoners that suffers.

Will the Minister of Health and Social Services respond favourably to the request of the Pharmacists Association and review this important piece of health legislation?

Hon. Mr. Graham: It's very gratifying to me to be able to stand up today and agree with the member opposite that

the pharmacists do play a very important role in the health care of Yukon citizens. At the present time, we are reviewing, not only the act, but a number of other issues surrounding the pharmaceutical industry in the territory.

Once we have made some progress on those consultations — both with the pharmaceutical association and my department and others — we will be happy to bring that forward.

Ms. Hanson: Mr. Speaker, it is somewhat scary to be so much ad idem with the minister opposite. I just want to ask the minister to clarify one aspect of this, because one of the aspects of the flaws in this outdated legislation that can be dangerous to Yukoners is the fact that currently Yukon doctors outside of Whitehorse can diagnose, prescribe, dispense and make a profit on certain medications. This is an obvious conflict of interest, and when prescriptions are not verified by a pharmacist, patient safety is put at risk, so I can understand that a process may be put in place now to begin to review all the matters related to the pharmacy legislation.

My question to the minister: Will he commit to fixing this flaw that creates a conflict for doctors and puts patient-at-risk as a priority?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, this issue will form part of the review, but we also have to be very cognizant of the fact that, in many of the small communities, it would not only be impracticable, it would also be impossible to have a pharmacist stationed there. As we proceed with the information technology systems that we hope to implement in the next few years, perhaps it will be easier, but we were aware of the number of difficulties and we will be addressing the issue as we proceed.

Question re: Whistle Bend contract

Mr. Silver: Mr. Speaker, I have some more questions for the Minister of Community Services about the Whistle Bend subdivision. So far the minister has delivered expensive lots that are not selling very well, infrastructure that the city won't assume responsibility for because they know they are deficient and a lawsuit with a Yukon contractor. I'll add another item to the list today: a project that is millions of dollars overbudget. The original contract for the deep infrastructure for this project was under \$16 million. Add in the cost overruns, the legal fees, hiring another contractor to do the same work, and we're well over the \$20-million mark.

Can the minister tell the House what the original cost estimate for this part of Whistle Bend was and what the final projected costs are?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I have to clarify or correct the record for the member opposite. In fact, we're very proud to actually have, for the first time in many years, lots available over the counter when it comes to Whistle Bend subdivision. This is something that the City of Whitehorse and all communities would very much aspire to and have told us so — to actually have a variety of range of supply of lots available over the counter as, in fact, we are doing as well — providing an adequate supply and range of land options throughout the territory, not just within the City of Whitehorse.

I would also like to correct the record that the lots available are not overpriced — they are at development cost. They

are about 6.5 percent below market value. Whistle Bend subdivision is by far the largest single subdivision ever to be undertaken in Yukon's history and will go a long way toward addressing the demand for residential lots within the City of Whitehorse. We look forward to proceeding with phase 2 subdivision lots next year, with an additional 187 lots to be delivered.

Mr. Silver: For the record, the minister refused to answer the question, and the market value in Whitehorse, I have to say, is fairly high. This project is millions of dollars overbudget; the government should just admit it. I wonder what the cost will be to run the pumphouse over the winter for the one lonely house that operates from it. I'm hearing that it's as high as \$200,000.

Another question I asked yesterday that the minister refused to answer is why the project has not been turned over to the City of Whitehorse. Normally when subdivisions are completed, they are turned over and, in the case of Whistle Bend, this has not happened. This project was rushed and, as a result, there are problems with the infrastructure and that will probably require some of it to be dug up. If the government is so confident that everything is fine, can the minister explain why the new Whistle Bend subdivision has not been turned over to the city?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I would also like to clip the comments from the MLA for Klondike, and I will do that just after Question Period, and deliver them to the City of Whitehorse for the mayor and council to review, because it was the City of Whitehorse that, under the land development protocol agreement that was negotiated back in 2006 — which states that the Yukon government and the City of Whitehorse will work together on a subdivision, such as Whistle Bend and many other subdivisions, such as Ingram, in the City of Whitehorse.

The City of Whitehorse was responsible for the overall planning and design of the subdivision. We're very proud of the work of the City of Whitehorse, and we commend the number of individuals throughout the City of Whitehorse who contributed to the design of the subdivision, which formulated the design that was handed over to the Yukon government to deliver on.

The development agreement with the City of Whitehorse for the Whistle Bend subdivision stipulates how and when the infrastructure will be turned over to the city. We're committed to meeting our obligations under that specific agreement, as we are in every other agreement throughout the territory.

We have turned over to the city a number of pieces of off-site infrastructure in support of Whistle Bend, such as Whistle Bend Way, the Mountainview roundabout, Range Road water main, McIntyre Creek crossing — those are just some of the examples of the infrastructure that has, in fact, been turned over.

Mr. Silver: I'm glad the comments will be clipped. Maybe I'll get some answers from the city. The government has known about these problems since the summer, and so has the city. That is why they're refusing to accept this infrastructure. The government should be just open and accountable,

instead of trying to gloss over this and insist that everything is fine.

After being unable to get the lots on to the market for a number of years, the Government of Yukon rushed this project, and we're seeing the results of that rush. It is not a good situation. To make matters worse, the government is now withholding money from the contractor for work that he says has been completed. This is separate from another matter that is before the court, and the minister knows this. This Yukon company is owed over \$3.5 million, and the government needs to resolve this matter before this business goes under. What is the minister doing to resolve this dispute?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: The government has worked extremely hard to help meet the demand for building lots in the Whitehorse area and every community throughout the territory. The Whistle Bend project is extremely important to the Government of Yukon — that is, in fact, why these lots have come on time and on budget. Phase 1 lots were delivered; 111 lots went out the door this fall, and 187 lots will be out the door next fall.

We are working with the City of Whitehorse, pursuant to our land development agreement we have had in place with the city, on this project and on many other projects in the past. We will continue to work with the city to continue to meet the ongoing demands of residential lots within the city.

Within the Government of Yukon and the Department of Community Services, we have allotted over \$35 million in support of land development, and it is very unfortunate the member opposite doesn't recognize that and continues to vote against those very expenditures.

Question re: Climate change

Mr. Elias: There's a joke you'll often hear at an elementary school: What do you call a snowman in the summer? A puddle. You could rephrase that childish riddle to: What do you call a polar ice cap in 80 years? The answer wouldn't be as funny.

Scientists report that climate change projections made 20 years ago are coming true. At this rate, the Arctic Ocean will be free of ice by the end of the century. There are now calls to make the Arctic Circle a no-fly zone in a last-ditch effort to protect our ailing polar ice cap from sharing the fate of that playground snowman.

"... malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it, but in the end; there it is," Winston Churchill said about the truth. The Yukon is a small region that has the opportunity to set a big example by facing the truth about climate change. Is this government ready to set an example and adopt legislation that sets measurable standards designed to legally protect our imperiled environment?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I thank the member opposite for the question. It's indeed a relief to hear that the members opposite are concerned about climate change and have finally raised a question about it.

I would note that of course we are exceptionally committed to dealing with climate change in Yukon. I had the pleasure of releasing earlier this year our *Climate Change Action Plan* progress report, which includes a number of action items that

have been completed, are underway and as well charts out our future actions and targets going forward.

We have committed to a number of very measurable targets in a variety of sectors as well as concrete actions to support those targets. So, Mr. Speaker, we're taking action to adapt to climate change, to conduct scientific research to understand the effects of climate change on the north and the people of Yukon, and we'll continue to do so. I'm not sure if the member thinks that legislation will solve this. I would rather suggest that the actions we've committed to in our progress report will serve the Yukon well in adapting and meeting the challenge of climate change.

Mr. Elias: I was raising climate change while the minister was still in high school. I am disappointed, along with everyone on this side of the House — all parties included — that climate change has fallen off the radar, and it is disappointing. It's time for a sub-regional jurisdiction to say "stop" and demonstrate to the world that the Arctic is on the front lines of climate change. A made-in-Yukon climate change act would be viewed as a key commitment of the Yukon government in its effort to combat climate change, and I'm positive others would follow us.

Last weekend at COP18, the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Doha, Qatar, wrapped up and hope was expressed that a new climate change plan to replace the Kyoto Protocol would be implemented by early 2020. Fortunately, the Yukon doesn't have to wait seven years. We could do something now.

Will the Yukon government demonstrate to the world the courage and leadership required to tackle the challenges of climate change head on by introducing groundbreaking legislation to this territory?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I hate to inform the member opposite that legislation won't solve this issue. What will is action, and that's what we've committed to. We've committed to a series of actions in our *Climate Change Action Plan* and the subsequent progress report, which I released earlier this year, and those actions are what we believe will form the basis of a solution to meeting our challenge of dealing with climate change in Yukon.

It's unfortunate that the member opposite doesn't recognize the tremendous work done by the Climate Change Secretariat and other government officials in developing those actions and the action plan, which I released earlier this year. I think it was a tremendous body of work that was completed by officials in the government as well as supported by technical experts from outside of the government. I'm very committed to implementing this *Climate Change Action Plan* and the action items therein.

When it comes to participation in international fora, like the 18th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, We had a contingent of Yukon delegates go to the conference and express Yukon's position to Canada and to the world that we are feeling the effects of climate change already; that adaptation to climate change in Canada's north must remain a priority; and that Yukon has cold climate technology to share and we look forward to working with other jurisdictions to do that. That's

why we introduced in our budget last year over \$5 million to the Yukon Research Centre and the Yukon Cold Climate Innovation Centre, which unfortunately the member opposite voted against.

Mr. Elias: The Minister of Environment speaks about action. I want to remind the minister that the Yukon Party government was the last jurisdiction in this country to even have a climate change action plan, so if he speaks about action, I'm a little bit worried.

The Yukon would lead Canada with a climate change act that creates a new approach to managing and responding to climate change by establishing legally binding targets with reporting requirements designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions sector by sector; strengthening the Yukon's ability to respond to the reality of climate change through the institution of a climate justice fund; introducing new economic drivers and opportunities; fostering a pan-territorial strategy; establishing annual spending plans that support the delivery of methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and establishing statutory duties for all government department agencies and corporations to report on their annual plans on achieving the goals within the *Climate Change Action Plan* — lots for the minister to think about over the winter.

Will the minister investigate and at least commit to pitching the proposal of a Yukon climate change act to his Cabinet colleagues? Answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: It's becoming clear why the member left his Liberal Party and is cozying up to the NDP. They, too, believe that legislation solves everything. What we believe is that actions are necessary to deal with climate change in Yukon. That's why we have committed to a number of targets that will guide us as we move forward to deal with climate change. We have committed to a number of actions — concrete actions — that we see as being the key to dealing with climate change in Yukon. It's unfortunate the member opposite doesn't recognize the hard work of officials and government negotiators in Doha, but unfortunately I have to disagree with the member opposite on this issue. I look forward to continuing to implement the *Climate Change Action Plan* progress report, which I tabled in the House earlier this year.

Question re: Affordable housing

Ms. White: Yesterday, I read from an e-mail where a tenant in a trailer park is facing a 13-percent rent increase for her pad rent, which might cause her to lose her home. This summer, local newspapers ran a number of stories about tenants receiving rent increases of 40 to 75 percent. These rent increases force some Yukoners from their homes. Tenants and anti-poverty groups have long called for legal protections against price gouging.

The government's only response has been to limit rent increases to once a year, with no limit on the size of those increases.

Mr. Speaker, is the minister comfortable with tenants losing their homes because this government refuses to stop a small number of unscrupulous landlords from exploiting the tight rental market and raising rents through the roof?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Contrary to what the member opposite may believe, it's important to keep the matter of rent control within context. I think that within the current housing demands in the territory, it is important to continue to encourage our landlords to maintain and build rental units to support a healthy private rental market and that is in fact what the new residential, modernized legislation puts forward — balanced legislation.

Rather than adopt rent control in the Yukon — and, I might add, it's a policy that has been dropped by many other provinces and territories with only maybe four — I believe it's four — currently using some form of rent control. We are instead advocating and balancing the interest of landlords and tenants by limiting the frequency of rent increases to promote a healthy, private rental market.

Our government is working very hard to enhance the number of housing initiatives available for all Yukoners, from emergency housing to private home ownership, as well.

We're very much committed to ensuring that we do have a balance between landlords and tenants and we are very proud of the bill that is before the Legislature.

Ms. White: I'm sure that Yukon tenants appreciate the minister's hollow words and reassurances. Maybe she has an extra room to rent.

Besides New Brunswick, the Yukon is the only jurisdiction in Canada that allows tenants to be evicted for no reason at all. The government speaks of balance and fairness, yet there is nothing fair or balanced in allowing landlords to evict Yukoners from their homes for no reason at all. This government appears not to care about a tenant's right to have a secure roof over their head. Will this government step up and protect tenants from arbitrary and unfair evictions without cause?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: It wasn't that long ago — in fact, I believe it was on November 9 — that the members opposite — in fact, I think it was that very member who said the new act before the Legislature is 110 percent better than what we have currently, and, in fact, that they were really happy about this piece of legislation. My, what a few weeks will do in the Legislature.

The Government of Yukon is very pleased to put forth a balanced piece of legislation that balances the interests and protects the rights of both landlords and tenants. It does speak to ending a tenancy without cause. In fact, it adds new minimum termination provisions for landlords. It talks about six-months' notice for condo conversion, 18-months' notice for mobile home park closure, two-months' notice for all other terminations without cause — again, up from one-month's notice to two.

The Government of Yukon is proud of the bill that we have put forward. It's as the result of many months of hard work by the officials of Community Services, and we look forward to moving forward.

Ms. White: There are many lessons to learn, and I guess I should learn to temper my compliments. This afternoon, this government is calling a motion for debate about an error on one company's maps — a simple naming error, an error that could be addressed by a letter to the map company.

Instead, this House could be debating unfair rent increases and evictions without cause that jeopardize homes, the health and the well-being of many Yukoners. Will the minister support our call to debate the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* this afternoon before all other business — an issue of real importance to Yukoners who face unfair rent increases and evictions without cause?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: As I understand, of course, today is marked “motion day”. Certainly, pursuant to what the House Leader and all House Leaders have agreed to and what our caucus has put forward is that we have actually stood down on both motions. We are putting forth one motion of importance to our caucus and we are in fact proceeding with the budget. In fact, Energy, Mines and Resources, the Executive Council Office — millions of dollars of expenditures within this year’s supplementary budget have yet to be debated.

Also on the slate of the agenda for today’s House business is the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*. We have spent a number of days on the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* and we look forward to today possibly, given perhaps the members opposite’s use of their time. Only time will tell, Mr. Speaker, but again, we’re very proud of the bill that is being put forward that modernizes a piece of legislation that hasn’t been effectively touched in over 50 years.

Question re: Renewable energy strategy

Mr. Tredger: Liquid natural gas is a fossil fuel. If analyzed cradle to grave, it does not reduce greenhouse gas emissions and it is no prettier than diesel. It is being sold to Yukoners as a transition fuel with no clarity of what we will transition to or when.

There is no doubt we need to invest resources in planning our energy future. The Yukon Party seems to be planning a long-term reliance on LNG while abandoning renewable energy initiatives. This government is not following through on strategies to develop and diversify Yukon’s renewable energy infrastructure. Why has this government decided to not replace fossil fuels with cleaner, renewable energy sources?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Once again as unfortunately has become the pattern, the assertions made by the NDP member simply do not connect well with the facts. The government will continue to pursue energy sources identified in the *Energy Strategy for Yukon*, including supporting and encouraging the development of renewable energies.

But one thing that we have to do that the NDP seems to see no personal sense of responsibility for is actually doing the math: understanding the numbers and looking at how much something will cost. The costs of developing large-scale hydro are quite significant and also the permitting process leading up to it leads to roughly a 10-year planning horizon in terms of large-scale hydro opportunities, which is the estimation in that case.

Again, we will continue to encourage the development of renewable energies, including the finalization of net metering policies and power producer policies. But we, unlike the NDP, have to live in the real world.

Mr. Tredger: Had he done his homework, the minister opposite should know full well the true cost of LNG. This

government’s *Energy Strategy for Yukon and Climate Change Action Plan* are limited to government only.

This is not the kind of system change Yukon and the world need. The 2008 Building Canada framework agreement gives the Yukon government \$26 million per year for seven years. The 2009 Yukon infrastructure plan identified green energy as a priority and consultations and plans were pulled together that identified a whole host of territory-wide green energy projects. For many of these we are still waiting.

Other jurisdictions are investing in wind farms. This Yukon Party government is green-washing liquid natural gas. If Yukon invests in LNG infrastructure, the argument will then be that we need to get a good return on this investment. This is addictive type thinking. Why is this government not identifying and implementing strategic opportunities to pilot renewable energy?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: The member for the NDP is once again quite simply incorrect. If the member were to do his homework, as I’m sure he made his students do when he was a teacher, he would realize that the largest investment in green energy ever made in the Yukon was done by the Yukon Party — the investment in Mayo B with the investment of the federal government supporting that.

Again the member is incorrect. We are going to continue to support energy development.

I know the NDP has a real problem with math. I have to point out that the NDP is the same party that thinks less than three percent of the Yukon population equals a majority in the case of the Peel planning process when, according to the reports done for the Conservation Society, CPAWS and the Wilderness Tourism Association by DataPath — in fact the total number of people who commented during the last consultation represented in favour of the position the NDP claim they take was less than three percent of the Yukon population. The NDP sees that as a majority and the member’s imagination in the case of green energy is quite interesting to hear.

Mr. Tredger: An interesting interpretation of the use and structure of polling.

At the 2009 Northern Premiers Forum the three territories committed to developing an inventory of current and future renewable energy resources, the goal being to increase the use of renewable energy in the north. The report, *A Northern Vision* is a pan-territorial renewable energy inventory. Among other things, it acknowledges, “...ten years of experience in Alaska has demonstrated that wind-power technology can be successful...” New innovations have made wind farms economically viable.

Now that the suppressed wind study has resurfaced, we know that wind energy could play an important role in Yukon’s renewable and diverse energy future. Will this government commit to a minimum percentage of renewable energy as part of any new development?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, again, as I reminded the member, the NDP members consistently have a problem with their numbers, and don’t do their homework. The largest single investment made in the Yukon, in terms of development of renewable energy, was the investment in Mayo B, which

was, of course, the Yukon Party government and the federal government. As the member should know, wind energy, due to its lack of reliability of wind supply, requires backup energy production to fulfill those energy production needs. So that would need either diesel or liquefied natural gas to back it up.

Again, as I reminded the member, the NDP has a problem with math. In fact, in the case of the NDP's idea — fewer than three percent of Yukoners, which constitutes a majority of Yukoners — I was referring to the DataPath review of public consultation commissioned by CPAWS, Yukon Conservation Society and Wilderness Tourism, which identified 383 people who commented, plus a petition, for a total of 1,365 people — including non-Yukoners. Again, fewer than three percent of Yukoners indicated a position in support of what the NDP claim they did in terms of the Peel planning process. The NDP considers less than three percent to represent a majority, apparently — so this is quite a stretch, even for NDP math.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Motion No. 337

Clerk: Motion No. 337, standing in the name of Mr. Hassard.

Speaker: It is moved by the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin THAT this House urges the Hammond Map Corporation to correct errors in a number of its maps and atlases that misidentify Canada's tallest mountain, Mount Logan, as Mount Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

Mr. Hassard: It's a pleasure to rise today to speak on behalf of Motion No. 337. On October 4, 2000, then Prime Minister Jean Chrétien proposed renaming Mount Logan, Canada's highest mountain, which happens to be in Kluane National Park, after the late Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau. Despite the positive response Prime Minister Chrétien received from the then Liberal Premier of the Yukon, the vast majority of Yukoners were angered by this proposed name change. There was no consultation with Yukoners at all — none.

The proposed name change was perceived by Yukoners as reflective of Ottawa's colonial attitude toward the territory.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Yukoners were demanding constitutional change, that elected people should be running the territory. At the federal level, the Progressive Conservative and Liberal Party leaders had quite different responses to this demand.

Yukon's then Member of Parliament, the Hon. Erik Nielsen, and long-time advocate of provincial status for the Yukon, gained the support of Opposition Leader Joe Clark for offering provincial status to the territory. Canada's then Liberal Prime

Minister, the Right Hon. Pierre Elliott Trudeau's response was "not in my lifetime."

It was the short-lived Progressive Conservative government of Joe Clark that finally granted responsible government to Yukon through the 1979 letter of instruction to the Commissioner by then Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Hon. Jake Epp. The Liberal government of Pierre Elliott Trudeau was not in favour of constitutional development in the Yukon.

It was bitterly ironic, therefore, for a subsequent Liberal Prime Minister of Canada to want to rename Mount Logan after a Prime Minister who wanted to maintain Yukon's colonial status.

This proposed name change showed an appalling lack of respect for Yukon's history. An article in the *Northern Miner* at the time perhaps said it best. It stated: "A nation true to history does not strip its war heroes of their medals during times of peace or belittle the contributions of its pioneering builders during times of prosperity. Why then does the government of Canada want to strip Sir William Logan (1798-1875) of his mountain? Does it really believe that toppling Canada's greatest scientist from his lofty perch is the best way to honour the memory of former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau?"

Mr. Speaker, who was Sir William Logan? In 1998, Sir William Logan "...was named Canada's most important scientist and ranked sixth among the 100 most important Canadians in history, according to a panel of 28 historians and other professionals. Logan is best known as the founder of the Geological Survey of Canada, which was created in 1841."

The fledgling government of the day understood that development of an industrial economy would depend on a viable mining industry. The problem was, no one knew what resources lay hidden in Canada's vast, uncharted wilderness. Logan was keen to take on the job, even though he knew it would be an arduous undertaking.

He wrote, "In the spring and summer, mosquitoes and blackflies are a perfect torment in the woods, where the provincial geologist will have to spend the chief part of his year, as but a small part of the country is yet cleared. In addition to the geological features of the country, he will have to exhibit to the world the geographical. That is to say, he will have to make a map of the rivers and mountains. No correct one exists."

Among the most important accomplishments of the GSC under Logan was a publication in 1963 of *Geology of Canada*, which recorded everything then known about Canadian geology. It received national and international acclaim, as did Logan's magnificent geological map of Canada, which was published in 1869.

As a result of his outstanding works, Logan became the first native Canadian introduced into the Royal Society of London for achievements in Canada. From France he received the Cross of the Legion of Honor and in 1856 he was knighted at Windsor Castle by Queen Victoria. Despite his many accomplishments, Logan was a modest and somewhat eccentric man.

"I fancy I cut the nearest resemblance to a scarecrow," he once wrote, "What with hair matted and spruce-gum, a beard three months old ... a pair of cracked spectacles ... (and) a

waistcoat with patches on the left pocket, where some sulphuric acid, which I carry in a small vial to try for the presence of lime in the rocks, had leaked through.”

Into the wilderness, Logan carved a path that would be followed by others. His knowledge laid the foundation for later mineral discoveries and more comprehensive studies of Canada’s vast geological endowment. His contribution to his native land was summed up in the eulogy delivered by the Natural History Society of Montreal: “No man has done as much to bring Canada before the notice of the outside world and no man is more deserving of being held in remembrance by the people. Just as statesmen or generals have risen up at the moment of greatest need to frame laws or fight battles for their country, so Sir William appeared to reveal to us the hidden treasures of nature, just at a time when Canada needed to know her wealth in order to appreciate her greatest.”

Sir William Logan was a modest man. In his own words he said, “I have dined with lords and ladies, chatted with Queen Victoria, and been formally received by the Emperor Napoleon, yet my most cherished memories come not from the fine salons of Europe, but from a leaky tent, a bark canoe, my rock-hammer, compass and theodolite, and the vast and mysterious wilderness of Canada.”

As for naming a mountain after Prime Minister Trudeau — that was accomplished on June 10, 2006, when a formerly unnamed peak in the premier range of the Caribou Mountains in the interior of British Columbia was named after him. Accordingly, I would respectfully ask the Hammond World Atlas Corporation to correct errors in a number of its maps and atlases which misidentify Canada’s tallest mountain, Mount Logan, as Mount Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

Mr. Speaker, someone said in the Assembly here today that maybe someone should just write a letter. Well, that has already been tried with no success. I do hope that you all take this seriously and I look forward to hearing what you all have to say. Thank you.

Mr. Tredger: On behalf of the NDP Official Opposition, we support accurate mapping and will vote for this motion. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: When this motion came forward, I wanted to get up and speak to this a little bit, being that it is in my riding and I am the MLA for the largest mountain in Canada.

Mount Logan is the highest mountain in Canada and I did a little bit of research and found some interesting points here. We know we heard from my esteemed colleague from Pelly-Nisutlin here about Sir William Edmond Logan. It was named after him in 1890. He was the founder of the Geological Survey of Canada. Mount Logan is located within Kluane National Park and Reserve in the southwestern Yukon among the world’s largest non-polar icefield. Logan is believed to have the largest base circumference of any non-volcanic mountains on earth with masses containing 11 peaks over 5,000 metres — that’s 16,400 feet.

Because of the active tectonic uplifting, Mount Logan is still rising in height. Before 1992, the exact elevation of Mount Logan was unknown and measurements ranged from 5,959 metres up to 6,050 metres. In May 1992, an expedition climbed Mount Logan and fixed the current height at 5,959 metres. The temperatures are extremely low on and near Mount Logan on the 5000-metre-high plateau. Air temperature hovers around minus 45 degrees in the wintertime and reaches near freezing in the summer with a median temperature for the year around minus 27 degrees Celsius. Minimal snowmelt leads to a significant ice cap reaching almost 300 metres in certain spots.

In 1922, a geologist approached the Alpine Club of Canada with the suggestion that the club send a team to the mountain to reach the summit for the first time. An international team of Canadian, British and American climbers was assembled and initially they had planned their attempt in 1924, but funding and preparation delays postponed the trip until 1925.

The international team of climbers began their journey in early May, crossing the mainland from the Pacific coast by train. They then walked the remaining 200 kilometres — 120 miles — to within 10 kilometres of the Logan glacier, where they established their base camp.

In the early evening of June 23, 1925, Albert H. MacCarthy, who was the leader of that expedition, H.F. Lambart, Allen Carpé, W.W. Foster, N. Read and Andy Taylor stood on top for the first time. It had taken them 65 days to approach the mountain from the nearest town, McCarthy, summit and return with all climbers intact. There were no planes. There were no helicopters.

My esteemed colleague spoke a little bit about Sir William Edmond Logan, so I won’t go through his history. We know that he was the founder of the Geological Survey of Canada. He was quite an esteemed man himself.

Following the death of former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Prime Minister Chrétien, a close friend of Trudeau’s, considered renaming the mountain Mount Trudeau. However, opposition from Yukoners, mountaineers from across the world, geologists across the world, Trudeau’s political critics and many other Canadians forced the plan to be dropped.

A quotation I saw during that time in one of the papers said, “Ottawa’s snap decision to rename Canada’s highest peak after former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has angered those with personal ties to the mountain.” There were many complaints to the government of the day and Prime Minister Chrétien from former Yukoners, First Nations and others around the world. Even the Yukon politicians of the day in this Legislature had issues with that.

I want to read to you an article from Canadian Geographic, the 150th anniversary of the Geological Survey of Canada — when a group of climbers took celebration to a new level. Three of these climbers are from my riding and were well-known park wardens and well-respected in my community. They had decided to climb Mount Logan in the Yukon, whose actual height had never been measured. Surveyors had previously used a theodolite, a type of telescope, to measure the mountain’s height. I encourage members to look up that type of telescope. It’s very interesting. I did a little bit of research on it.

To get a more accurate measurement, the climbers lugged two GPS systems to the summit. Sponsored by the RCGS, Michael Schmitt, Lisel Currie, Leo Nadeay, Charlie Roots, J.C. Lavergne, Roger Laurilla, Pat Morrow, Karl Nagy, Sue Gould, Alan Björn, Lloyd Freese, Kevin McLaughlin and Rick Staley — those are names some of you might recognize — flew into Quintino Sella glacier to set up their base camp in May 1992.

On May 12, the team of members, surveyors, mountain guides and park wardens began the climb. This will attest to how hard this is — the adverse weather conditions. They faced steep slopes, battled storms, and bore the brunt of the heavy loads that included climbing and scientific equipment. GPS was not as developed in 1992 as it is today, so they needed two sets of GPS units, in case one failed. They also carried nearly half a ton of food for the entire climb.

On June 6, the first four parties strapped on their skis and headed for Mount Logan summit with one of the GPS systems. Their original plan was to set up the system at the summit and descend and then have a second party return four hours later to check the GPS readings. The weather was so good that day that the first party stayed on the summit for four hours. That's when one of the climbers pulled out the Royal Canadian Geographical Society's flag and posed for a photo that you can find on the Internet.

It turns out that Mount Logan is 5,959 metres high — I believe it is still growing — making its summit Canada's highest peak. Our community and the Kluane region were very proud of the accomplishments of those wardens. I remember the party we had for them when they came back.

On another note, a few years ago — 10, 12 years ago — our local helicopter pilot, Doug Makkonen, who works for Trans North Helicopters, got invited to go to Texas for the Helicopter Association International awards, where he received helicopter pilot of the year for rescues off of Mount Logan — and those are rescues in a helicopter without oxygen, at 18,000 feet. One of the stories I remember him telling me when Greenpeace went up there to send a message to G8/G20 leaders one time, they had to be rescued. I remember him telling me that Greenpeace wanted climate change to be put on there, and he asked them if the climate at Mount Logan had gotten the better of them with climate change.

This motion came forward, and I found it quite ironic because when they tried to rename it Pierre Elliott Trudeau Mountain, the locals would phone the warden service and the first question out of their mouth would be: How high is pet rock, sir? The wardens would get really irate. We quit doing that and bugging them.

I'm glad we urged the Hammond Map Corporation to correct the errors in a number of its maps and atlases that misidentify Canada's tallest mountain, Mount Logan, and when I went to Google maps, I was glad to see that it's identified correctly.

Mr. Silver: I'm pleased to rise and speak on this motion. This must be an important motion for the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin as we are running out of time here. I have done my best to stick to the issues of importance for Klondikers and for Yukoners, as we sit here in this session, in attempting to

merely represent my moderate approach — and the Liberal Party's moderate approach — to issues which are of concern to Yukoners that are sadly being polarized. But we are running out of time, so this must be an important motion.

I was just looking over all the lists of motions that the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin has put forward, and there is a long list. We start with Motion No. 23, which is asking the government to improve Yukoners' access to doctors and nurses, and there is a whole list of items there. We also have Motion No. 35, a comprehensive Yukon water strategy; a bunch of goals there as well — an excellent motion in my humble opinion. Motion No. 75 is asking for continued support of the rural electrification program, another doozy — another good one. There is a whole list of them here. I highlighted about 20 of them that I thought were very important and there was a whole list more and I can't really count how many.

I didn't have time to count all of these, but that brings us to today's motion, which is Motion No. 337.

As it is clear that the member thinks this is one of the more important issues, and the Yukon Party is supporting that — or so it appears from this side of the floor of the Legislative Assembly — I think that we should actually consider a friendly amendment to this motion today.

Amendment proposed

Mr. Silver: I move:

THAT Motion No. 337 be amended by adding the following after the word "Trudeau": "by properly identifying the mountain in question 'Mount Hassard'." Thank you.

Speaker: Order please.

The proposed amendment is not in order. The original motion asked for the Hammond World Atlas Corporation to correct errors in a number of its maps and atlases, which misidentifies Canada's tallest mountain, Mount Logan — the official name of the mountain — and they have identified it as Mount Pierre Elliott Trudeau, so the amendment proposed that the mountain be renamed Mount Hassard is not in order.

Amendment ruled out of order

Mr. Silver: We figured our amendment would be out of order, but for the record, nobody I know calls this mountain Mount Pierre Elliott Trudeau. Everybody I know calls this mountain Mount Logan, and if we were going to name it after a polarizing political figure, we might as well have one closer to home.

I move that we continue with other people talking about this particular motion.

Mr. Elias: Before this debate continues, I want to recognize a couple of things here. First of all, I agree with correcting errors in this territory with regard to all maps, but we have an agreement in this territory and we have a process already outlined, and it's called the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board. I'm sure the members are listening intently to the intelligent conversations that are going on in the House right now. The board's mandate is to fulfill their obligations and responsibilities under the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, which gives them

direction under section 13.11.2, section 13.11.3 and section 13.11.4. The board's responsibilities are constituted under the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, signed by the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Yukon government and the Government of Canada. The board's primary function is to consider and recommend the naming or renaming of places or features located within the Yukon with special reference to chapter 13, section 11 of the *Umbrella Final Agreement*.

The board's mandate does not include the naming or renaming of features or sites within the municipal boundaries or of transportation corridors that include highways and bridges.

I'm worried that the debate is going to go down a path that's going to be borderline disrespectful to processes already protected in our territory. I agree that if there are maps out there — especially in the Yukon — that are wrong, then we should try to fix them, but there's a process to be followed to do that.

I'm not going to try to know what the Geographical Place Names Board's agenda in the next few years will be, and I don't even know if they have reviewed the place names with the self-governing First Nations in southwestern Yukon or what the process is, or if it's on their agenda. Maybe it's already on the table; I don't know. But there's a process for this to take place and to make recommendations to the various governments and to Natural Resources Canada. I know this because we've done this in north Yukon, and we made a submission to the Government of Canada and to the Government of Yukon and to the First Nation governments on the areas of north Yukon that need to be changed — to aboriginal names. It was jointly agreed that some places would be left as named by explorers and some wouldn't be.

But there is a process that needs to be respected and recognized here on the floor of the House. I think that, under the assessment criteria for place-name applications, I don't even know if Mount Logan has been formally — or if anyone has asked to formally change the name of Mount Logan. I don't know if that has happened. We have to be respectful of the process outlined in the *Umbrella Final Agreement*. What I've heard in the last half hour has been a bit dismaying to me, so I felt it necessary for me to get on my feet. I think I'll leave it at that for now. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Our government's position with regard to government motion day has always been to try to find motions that we think we can get unanimous support for and actually be constructive with our time on Wednesdays.

We proposed a motion that we thought was a relatively simple one that could be debated quickly, passed unanimously, which then would enable the government — either the MLA for the riding or the respective minister — to forward that unanimous motion to the company that was in error.

I know the Member for Klondike isn't taking this seriously because it's not in his riding. I'm sure this is an issue that is important to the MLA for the riding, whose riding —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

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

Mr. Silver: We've been down this road before, Mr. Speaker. The member is obviously imputing motive, Standing Order 19(g), covers imputing false or unavowed motives to another member.

Speaker: Government House Leader, on the point of order.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: In my opinion, it's just a dispute between members. The Minister of Environment is expressing his opinion that he doesn't think the Member for Klondike is taking this matter seriously, so I believe it's just a matter of opinion between members.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: The member's statement was that the Member for Klondike was not taking this motion seriously because it was not in his riding. As such, it does impute a motive, and I ask the member to withdraw, retract and apologize, please.

Withdrawal of remark

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I withdraw my statement about the Member for Klondike and retract and apologize to him.

I'd like to get back to the debate.

Speaker: The Minister of Environment has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Again, the intention of the government here was to pass a motion very quickly on an issue that's important to the government caucus and to the MLA for the riding affected. It's a very small error that we haven't been able to get traction on with the company previously, so we thought that a simply passed unanimous motion would lend some weight to that dialogue. I would quickly point out that part of the impetus behind this was that a constituent of one of our MLAs was provided with an e-mail that indicated that, in a number of cases, the Hammond World Atlas Corporation has made several errors in their maps and atlases, in each case misidentifying Canada's tallest mountain, Mount Logan, as Mount Trudeau. We didn't want to get into a debate about whether or not Pierre Trudeau did a good job as Prime Minister. We simply wanted to correct the record. When I was a graduate student at the University of Northern British Columbia, I purchased these two maps and I had them on my wall and I noticed it as well. I wrote a letter to the company, as a student, and got no response.

I thought that we could, in fairly good nature, unanimously pass a motion here to lend some weight to that discussion but the angle we've gone on here is unfortunate. I would hope that the members would simply recognize that we do have a full suite of business today and we would like to carry on with it. Let's unanimously pass this motion and get on with business.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I'm going to rise very briefly in support of this motion. As my colleague, the Minister of Environment, noted, this was intended to be a very quick motion at the start of a day. Wednesdays are typically reserved for government private members' business; in fact, they always are —

either government private members or opposition private members — under the Standing Orders. Rather than calling two motions today, as the government private members have every right and opportunity to do under this, they were giving up the majority of their day in the interest of debating government business because there are a number of matters that have not had full debate, including the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and Executive Council Office — both called for later this afternoon and the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*.

I would also take the opportunity to remind the opposition private members that, in the interest of expediting debate, they could have given up their last motion day and did not choose to do so.

What we're talking about here is a symbol of our territory. It's important for a couple of reasons, when Brand Yukon is being promoted and when Yukon tourism businesses are trying to attract people. All of this is not helped by major landmarks being misnamed. As members of this House will probably recall, there have been times when previous major publications have mislocated towns or failed to note them or had roads in the wrong places.

This was an area, as my colleague, the Minister of Environment, noted — in fact, as a student, he had written to the map company and they had not paid attention. We've also heard recently from other Yukoners who have also written to the map company and have received no reaction to this correction of a mapping error. This was not intended to be a lengthy motion but we hoped a unanimously passed motion of this Legislative Assembly would actually get the attention of the Hammond World Atlas Corporation, which seems to be ignoring others who bring this to their attention.

It's also important when we're talking about education and awareness of the Yukon not to have our major landmarks in schools, whether it be universities or public schools across the country — when kids are learning about this country, if they learn about our landmarks wrong, or they think the Yukon is part of Alaska — as I have run into with relatives in southern Ontario or friends of relatives who aren't even aware that the Yukon is part of Canada or don't understand the territories. All of this — the Yukon and Northwest Territories for many years have not really been on the national radar screen and have been forgotten by a lot of Canadians. Particularly, from my personal experience, it seems that Canadians living in southern Canada are often ignorant of the Yukon, N.W.T. and Nunavut and our place in Canada. This is just one small part of supporting that.

I will close just simply noting that in fact when the then Prime Minister of Canada, Jean Chrétien, had decided unilaterally to rename Canada's tallest mountain and the Yukon's largest mountain to honour a former Liberal Prime Minister, there were a number of Yukoners who showed up during Prime Minister Chrétien's visit on Main Street to protest that decision. There was a photograph, I believe taken by photographer Richard Hartmier, that was blown up into a rather large poster and I, not then an MLA, was part of that group of Yukoners who had come forward to protest that and to ask the federal government

to indeed continue to leave Yukon's mountain name as Mount Logan.

With that, I will wrap up comments on the motion as we are certainly hopeful that there won't be any further delays caused by out-of-order amendments or that type of thing, that members will treat this seriously. Let us actually deal with it and get on with other business.

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

Mr. Hassard: I thought this was going to be a quick motion too, so if we could just vote I'd be happy to carry on with the business of the day as well. Thank you.

Speaker: Are you prepared for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Graham: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Kent: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Agree.

Ms. McLeod: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Agree.

Mr. Hassard: Agree.

Ms. Stick: Agree.

Ms. Moorcroft: Agree.

Ms. White: Agree.

Mr. Tredger: Agree.

Mr. Silver: Agree.

Mr. Elias: Agree.

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

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

Motion No. 337 agreed to

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Clerk: Motion No. 342, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Nixon.

Speaker: It is moved by the Minister of Justice

THAT the Yukon Legislative Assembly, pursuant to section 17(1) of the *Human Rights Act*, does appoint Janet Wood, Marius Curteanu and Joseph Prentice as members of the Yukon Human Rights Commission for terms of three years effective December 12, 2012.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I'd like to thank the previous members, Mr. Jean-Sebastien Blais, Ms. Gloria Baldwin-Shultz and Ms. Juanita Wood for serving on the Human Rights Commis-

sion. I would like to mention briefly the three appointees to the commission who were put forward by the all-party Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees, as per Standing Order 45.3.2(a).

Janet Wood has a spectrum of experience that will serve her well on the commission. She received her certified management accounting designation in 1991. She has also taken courses in administrative law, conflict resolution, human resource management, strategic planning, investment management and public practice. Ms. Wood worked for the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board. She was then self-employed in the practice of public accounting where she engaged with a diverse group, including workers with varying cultural and educational backgrounds and many small business employers. Ms. Wood served on both the Yukon Law Foundation and on the Workers' Compensation appeals tribunal.

Mr. Curteanu has a solid background in understanding the challenges facing new Canadians. Both his career and educational background demonstrate a strong interest in human rights. He has 15 years of experience in immigration, education, multiculturalism and human rights. He has worked in the area of immigration for several years in Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon. Mr. Curteanu has a bachelor of arts degree in political science and sociology. He also has a master's degree in international economic development.

I think that many of us in the Legislature will know Mr. Prentice from his many volunteer activities. He has volunteered for his church and has served his community as a volunteer coroner. He is one of the friendly conductors in the Whitehorse waterfront trolley. With respect to his educational background, Mr. Prentice has a bachelor of arts degree in English, a diploma in public sector management, a Master of Public Administration degree and a diploma as a private investigator.

Mr. Prentice has many years of work experience in the area of corrections, serving as a parole officer, probation officer, manager and policy analyst.

Speaker: Does any other member wish to be heard? Minister of Justice, closing comments?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: No further comments and I appreciate the support from all members of this Legislature.

Motion No. 342 agreed to

Motion No. 349

Clerk: Motion No. 349, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Nixon.

Speaker: It is moved by the Minister of Justice

THAT the Yukon Legislative Assembly, pursuant to section 22(2) of the *Human Rights Act*, appoint Max Rispin and Heather McFarlane as members of the panel of adjudicators for terms of three years effective December 12, 2012.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I would just like to again talk for a few moments about the appointees to the panel of adjudicators. I think many members of this Assembly are familiar with Mr. Rispin's background. He's a long-time northerner, having lived

in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon. His professional background includes a teacher's degree from Wellington Teachers College at Victoria University in New Zealand.

After immigrating to Canada, Mr. Rispin was employed as a teacher and a principal before becoming the emergency measures coordinator for Northwest Territories. Mr. Rispin has volunteered with a number of charities and committees. He has served on the Health and Social Services Council; Crime Stoppers Yukon; chair of the Yukon branch, executive committee of St. John Ambulance; and northern, national vice-president of the Association of Public Service Alliance Retirees. Mr. Rispin previously served on the Human Rights Commission, and Mr. Rispin will bring his past experience and a strong commitment to human rights to the panel.

I'd now like to provide some information about Ms. McFarlane. I'm sure some of us have met her at courses and workshops at Yukon College. She's a long-time Yukoner, who is well-known in our community. She has a bachelor of arts with a major in history and philosophy, a Master of Library Science and has worked for several years as a librarian. Ms. McFarlane left the library to start her own business, the very popular retail jewellery gift store, McFarlane Trading Company, which she ran here in Whitehorse from 1980 to 1990. Beginning in 1991, she ran the McFarlane Trading Company in Skagway until 1997. Since then, Ms. McFarlane has been able to devote more of her time to researching the history and genealogy of Knappdale, which is a region in western Scotland.

I invite all members to welcome both Mr. Rispin and Ms. McFarlane to the panel of adjudicators.

Speaker: Does any other member wish to be heard?

As no other member wishes to be heard, Minister of Justice, your closing statement.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Again, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the support of all members in this House moving forward with the panel of adjudicators. I believe that we have a solid group of people working on this board. Thank you.

Motion No. 349 agreed to

Motion No. 315

Clerk: Motion No. 315, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Cathers.

Speaker: It is moved by the Government House Leader

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Rules, Election and Privileges, as established by Motion No. 6 of the First Session of the 33rd Legislative Assembly, be amended by:

- 1) rescinding the appointment of Jim Tredger; and
- 2) appointing Jan Stick to the Committee.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I'll be very brief in speaking to this motion. The only reason this motion is coming forward is that the NDP House Leader has indicated that they would like to change who represented their caucus in this particular seat on the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges.

So, at the request of the Official Opposition House Leader, we are bringing this procedural motion forward.

Speaker: Does any other member wish to be heard? Government House Leader, closing statement, please.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I said everything in my opening statement.

Motion No. 315 agreed to

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 please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Vote 53, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, in Bill No. 7, *Second Appropriation Act, 2012-13*.

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Chair: Ms. Stick, on the point of order.

Unanimous consent re: Bill No. 51

Ms. Stick: According to Standing Order 14.3, I would like to request unanimous consent to move to debate of Bill No. 51, *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*.

Chair: Ms. Stick has requested unanimous consent that we dispense with debate on Vote 53, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and, instead, continue debate in the line-by-line examination of Bill No. 51, which is the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*.

Request for unanimous consent denied

Chair: We will debate Vote 53, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. However, before we do that, do members wish 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 Vote 53, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources in Bill No. 7, *Second Appropriation Act, 2012-13*.

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Before I begin introductory remarks, in light of the request that was made by the NDP House Leader regarding debate earlier on this afternoon to move to Bill No. 51, the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*, I would simply note for members that we do have Energy, Mines and Resources and the Executive Council Office both called for debate this afternoon. As far as the length of time spent on those departments, the members have a large degree of control over how long that takes. So if they wish to get into that other bill this afternoon, they can choose to do so.

It's my pleasure to introduce the 2012-13 *Supplementary Estimates No. 1* for the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. This supplementary budget reflects adjustments to the 2012-13 budget as Energy, Mines and Resources works to responsibly manage and support sustainable development of Yukon's energy and natural resources and facilitate integrated resource and land use.

For this supplementary budget, Energy, Mines and Resources requests an overall \$10.086-million reduction of operation and maintenance expenditures and an increase of \$194,000 for capital expenditures, for an overall reduction in appropriations of \$9,792,000. In addition, the supplementary budget reflects a reduction of expected revenues and recoveries for this year in the amount of \$10,475,000.

Energy, Mines and Resources contributes to the Yukon government's commitment to build a strong, diversified economy that will benefit all Yukoners. Energy, Mines and Resources' work reflects our steadfast commitment to responsibly manage resource development and to enhance its many social and economic benefits. I am pleased to remind you that the Yukon continues to be a bright spot for economic strength in Canada.

Statistics Canada released the provincial and territorial economic accounts of 2011 on November 19, 2012. Yukon led the country with a gross domestic product growth of 6.5 percent in 2011.

What is important to note — particularly in the context of some of the debate we often hear in the Assembly — is that members here and some members of the public often forget the situation that the world is in right now with the worldwide economic downturn. Canada has done fairly well at surviving the worldwide recession but as people, including the Bank of Canada's Governor Mark Carney, have noted there are a number of risks to that continued success and Canada needs to be mindful of those risks. That of course begins with the federal government but goes down to individual citizens, as Mr. Carney has often spoken about the importance of people being mindful of household debt and the risks that increased interest rates could cause to increased cost of repayment of mortgages, loans and so on.

It's also notable, as you would probably be aware, that Governor Carney was recently headhunted by the United Kingdom to take over as the head of their bank, and that is the first time that a non-British citizen has held that role. London remains an important financial capital and so my point in that context is that the advice from Governor Carney should be

taken seriously. We should always keep in mind as we talk about the Yukon context that we have remained not only insulated from the effects of the worldwide economic downturn, but we are in the very rare situation in the world of seeing economic growth during this time period. That 6.5 percentage growth in gross domestic product led the country.

When we look at the Yukon situation compared to the rest of Canada and Canada compared to the rest of the world, it is certainly better in my opinion to have the challenges associated with a strong economy than to have the very dire problems associated with having an economy in collapse or in the case of the situation of countries such as Greece or Spain, where the country itself is on the verge of potentially defaulting on its debt obligations. The sovereign debt default situation could cause instability, not only in the Euro, but a ripple effect around the world could be problematic for everyone, potentially including the Yukon. Therefore our focus will continue to remain on supporting the Yukon's economy and responsibly managing it and mitigating the effects of any areas where there are increased pressures caused by that strong activity.

For the previous two years, the Yukon has experienced record-breaking numbers for claim staking and mineral exploration. The last three years are the three highest years in terms of overall mineral exploration spending in the Yukon. This is in part due to the high spike in gold prices that occurred as a result of the worldwide economic downturn and at times when people chose to invest their money in gold, coupled with the Yukon having the coincidence of a few discoveries such as the White Gold property. That notably sparked a strong interest in exploration spending. We saw the 2012 numbers in excess of \$320 million; this year it has returned closer to \$150 million, which still would make it the third-highest year for exploration spending, but a very significant drop from the unprecedented boom in exploration spending in 2011.

This year the industry is concentrating on further exploration of their staked properties and identified targets. We are seeing the industry mature and settle in for the long term.

We are continuing our work on clarifying roles and responsibilities in Yukon's main regulatory agencies, especially with regard to water and quartz licensing. The goal is to make the entire process more consistent and coordinated for everyone in having a clear understanding of who does what and how, in the interest of ensuring that the process not only functions smoothly, but that there's neither unnecessary duplication or problematic gaps in the roles of regulators.

The results of our efforts are reflected in jobs and thus the quality of life of Yukoners. Over 2,500 people are directly employed in placer mining operations and mineral exploration projects throughout Yukon and over 750 people are employed in hardrock mines. Mineral production contributed a total of roughly \$420 million this year in terms of its value to the Yukon. The impact is clear: when people are employed, businesses have customers, employers have revenue to pay staff and employees have steady paycheques to support their families. Of course, for every job in placer mining, mineral exploration or hardrock mining, there is also a consequential effect in terms of the service and supply sector, restaurants and so on.

I recall a number of years ago that the Yukon Chamber of Commerce had done some modelling work and they claimed that the impact of a dollar spent in the Yukon was roughly four-fold in terms of its effect within society. Again, it's certainly notable that although there are a lot of people who have jobs as a result of the strong mining sector that may not realize directly to what extent the increased needs of a restaurant or retail store or service and supply sector is being fuelled by that economic activity in the mining sector.

The other notable thing in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is that our Yukon Geological Survey is celebrating 20 years of service to Yukoners. The survey provides baseline information on Yukon's geology and mineral potential to support exploration efforts and land and resource management decisions. Some of the mineral discoveries made in the last few years have originated with quality information provided by the Geological Survey.

The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is continuing its tradition in another area of supporting and working with the Yukon's agriculture sector to support the continued growth of our farming sector of the economy.

The Agriculture branch is celebrating 25 years of service in the Yukon, including 25 years of publishing the InFARMation agricultural newsletter. Demand for local food is continuing to grow, and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources continues to support local farmers by measures, including participating in monitoring for animal and plant diseases, providing meat inspections, providing advice to farmers in aspects of farm management and working to make agricultural land available to farmers. It's notable, in terms of where the Yukon's farming sector was even 10 years ago, that we've seen significant growth in market gardening and growth in areas, including hay production and oat production, as well as notably the most significant single contributor to the Yukon's food supply being the Yukon Grain Farm, which my constituents, Steve and Bonnie MacKenzie-Grieve, own and they employ a number of people to support that operation. Their products, including potatoes and carrots and other vegetables, such as broccoli and beets, have been very noticeable in Yukon stores. I had the honour in November of presenting them with the well-deserved award as Yukon Farmers of the Year and presented a tribute to them earlier this sitting of the Legislative Assembly, in recognition of their continued contribution to the growth of Yukon's production of locally grown food.

I also want to recognize the work of the Fireweed Community Market and the people, largely through volunteer efforts, who make that operation happen and the small-scale businesses and individual farms, as well as crafts and value-added food production that show up every week throughout the summer and provide food to Yukoners.

It has certainly been an excellent showcase for Yukon's potential. There are a significant number of customers and people who make it a weekly event, where they purchase at least some of their food and food products. I want to acknowledge the work of everyone who does that and who makes it a success, year after year. Supporting local farmers builds Yukon

communities, supports good family nutrition, boosts our local economy and provides food security.

Another high priority for government is meeting the demand for agricultural land, which is important to supporting the growth of this sector of the economy. I also want to note that, earlier this year, I had the honour and the pleasure of hosting the agriculture ministers from across the country, including federal minister Gerry Ritz and ministers from almost all of the provinces, as well as the other two territories, at which time we had a number of positive discussions about Canada's food supply and the opportunities and challenges faced.

As well, we reached agreement on the multilateral approach of the new funding agreement, Growing Forward 2, which is the successor funding agreement to the first Growing Forward and is a contributor of a significant amount of money to the Yukon and indeed, to every province and territory. In our case, we use it to support the needs of Yukon's farming sector, including supporting programming and supporting development of infrastructure.

A high priority for this government that my colleagues and I identified in the 2011 general election was supporting land availability and housing. The government continues to work hard to make land available to meet this demand.

It's notable, as my colleague the Minister of Community Services has noted, that we now have for the first time in a while a number of lots available for sale over the counter for Yukoners who choose to buy them. That includes lots in Whistle Bend, lots in Grizzly Valley, lots in Watson Lake and lots in a number of other communities. While there remains more work to be done, we have seen a significant change even in the last year in the increase in availability of lots to meet that demand of Yukon citizens.

The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is also working with communities to encourage and support their consideration of zoning amendments to increase opportunity for development and subdivision of private land. On private lands outside of municipalities, subdivision of agricultural and rural residential lots helps to address the demand for both agricultural and rural residential lots. Local area planning in Carcross, Marsh Lake, Sunnyside/West Dawson, Fox Lake and Mount Lorne has the potential to result in additional development areas being identified as well as providing certainty of land use for the community and community residents. Energy, Mines and Resources is also pleased to be working with First Nations to support their efforts to make settlement land available for residential and recreational purposes if they choose to do so, most notably in the Whitehorse and Teslin areas.

In cooperation with the City of Whitehorse, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is also conducting a review of vacant, surveyed lots within the city, which are owned by the Government of Yukon and could be made available through tender or lottery.

I'd like to review how the supplementary budget reflects the work of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources to realize the vision of a robust and sustainable Yukon economy focused on responsible management of our resources.

Energy, Mines and Resources leads and participates in resource planning on many levels, including land use planning, local area planning, planned land dispositions, planned forestry, planned agriculture disposition — and a lot of this involves considerable First Nation and public participation, as well as participation in some cases of municipalities and local advisory councils.

Resource development projects are subject to comprehensive assessment processes to ensure that environmental and socio-economic impacts are identified and mitigated even before projects can be undertaken. Virtually all of Yukon's resource sector activities, whether they are agriculture, energy, forestry, lands, minerals or oil and gas, fall under a federal or territorial regulatory regime. In some cases, First Nation or municipal laws may also apply.

The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources Client Services and Inspections branch works diligently to ensure that all requirements under legislation and regulations are enforced in a timely and professional manner. One thing that I again want to point out, because it has often not been acknowledged by members of the Official Opposition, is that in fact this branch is independent of the minerals branch of the sustainable resources branch and of energy and corporate policy in the interest of ensuring that those inspectors do remain independent and are not themselves the regulators.

Client Services and Inspections branch plays a crucial role in Energy, Mines and Resources' ability to ensure that Yukon will never again face environmental legacies like the Faro mine. I want to note for the record the fact that that really remains the example of what not to do and in fact is the largest environmental liability on the Government of Canada's books — larger even than the Sydney Tar Ponds. Careful scrutiny by qualified inspectors is applied to activity authorized under mining, timber and lands legislation and regulations. In the case of the mineral side of things, I also want to note and emphasize that one thing that has changed dramatically now that the Yukon is managing resource development, compared to when the federal government was doing it, is that we take security for mines that are developed.

In the case of mines such as the Yukon Zinc mine, we have also taken security for the reclamation of the road. The amount is set by our staff on the basis of determining what they believe would be necessary by government to fully reclaim a mine or a road if a company were to suddenly cease operations and government were left responsible for the remediation, cleanup and final closure.

Consultation and engagement, our work in land use planning, Yukon's development assessment process, our regulatory and policy regime and the monitoring and enforcement work are all essential to achieving economic growth and environmental protection.

Madam Chair, I believe you're signalling me that my time at this point is up, so I will sit down.

Mr. Tredger: I thank the minister opposite for his brief introduction. I just want to talk about a couple of things before we get into the questions.

I would like to welcome the staff from Energy, Mines and Resources and I would like to thank all the staff who work at Energy, Mines and Resources in all the branches for the work they've done and are doing for Yukoners each and every day. It is much appreciated, and I look forward to continuing to work with them.

When it comes to Energy, Mines and Resources, I think it's important that we begin at the beginning when we're talking about relationships. I've had the good fortune to have grown up in a small town, and in a sense the Yukon is a small jurisdiction. When all is said and done, we have to get along. When the resources are gone, we have to get along. People in communities know what it means to depend on one another. They know what it means to build trust; they know what it means to innovate and take advantage of their opportunities.

In the Yukon we are blessed with strong communities, both within and outside of Whitehorse, with vast resources and riches with an incredible legacy left us by previous leaders. If I can just quote a little bit from the Chief Medical Officer of New Brunswick — and he is talking about health in our communities, “The key initiative of creating and maintaining healthy environments however requires ongoing attention: we must continue to invest in what truly makes people healthy. This requires the effort of an entire community led and supported by a whole-of-government approach.”

That is not always easy; it's not always quick; it takes resolve and determination. Furthermore it is part of our mandate to advocate and provide meaningful information so that people, organizations and governments have the knowledge necessary to make the appropriate decisions when faced with balancing the potential benefits and harms of a given situation.

We must consider all — in this case the entire population, present and future — give thoughtful advice for actions that will promote fair opportunities for individuals, families and communities to enjoy. Underlying all we do, when we spend our resources — when we mine them or when we use them — we need to do so as a community and with our communities.

The relationship is all-important. So when we take a department like Energy, Mines and Resources, which is critical to going forward, I believe that we can involve everyone — we can work with industry, and we can create in the Yukon a prosperous and vital population second to none in the world. That is what the NDP stands for, and that is what the NDP will continue to work for.

Also key is our relationship with our First Nation governments. As I mentioned the other day, the First Nation governments and the Yukon government and the Government of Canada embarked on a brave, new way of doing business — a way that was built on respect, trust, consultation and cooperation.

I know this House needs no reminder, but all Yukon First Nation final agreements are constitutionally protected. More importantly, leaders in the Yukon — First Nation and government leaders — saw the wisdom of that way. So as we move forward in our progress to take advantage of the resources we have, it would be a serious mistake not to consider the treaties and agreements and the trust and spirit we have built. The NDP

believes in respect, trust and a mutual relationship with First Nation governments.

The NDP also believes that the benefits of the resource extraction and industry accrue to all Yukon people. With industry, there may be, of course, economic benefits, which should have a positive impact. However, we cannot simply assume that more money equates to a healthier population. The money needs to be utilized strategically for the health of our communities.

Again, from the Chief Medical Officer of New Brunswick — and she's referring to a particular industry, in a particular place, the shale gas industry, but I think it has implications for all industry in the Yukon — I quote: “While large-scale development of a shale gas industry in New Brunswick may offer an economic growth opportunity for the province, it will be important to ensure that the overall health gains are greater than the losses. Economic status of individuals and communities can be an important determinant of their health; however, there are many other factors resulting from industry development that can have strong negative impacts. Unless proper controls are put in place, there is a risk of spoiling any benefits from economic gains through adverse health outcomes.”

What research and studies have shown us is that in order to gain maximum benefit local citizens need to be involved. They need to be consulted and they need to be empowered. This has benefits both for industry, as well as community and individuals in communities. Industry is becoming aware of this. In Yukon, Victoria Gold Corporation is developing Dublin Gulch and is working closely with local community and First Nations. Those people feel like partners in the project. The same is true for the Predator Group and their development of the Brewery Creek property. Local people are involved and feel a partnership.

Another company which has committed to working with and involving Yukon people is Northern Cross. These companies have shown it can be done with proper oversight, with proper foresight and with proper planning.

I'm not saying it would be easy, but it can be done. Hat's off to those companies for pioneering the way.

Madam Chair, a big fear of local Yukon people — and I'm afraid to say especially local First Nation people — is that they will be left aside; they will be sitting and watching as trucks roll in and out of their communities and territories. So the NDP stands for fair and equitable sharing of our resources. We, the Yukon people, own these resources. It is a legacy gifted to us now and for our children.

The NDP will stand for Yukoners and we will fight for our share and fight to ensure that all Yukoners benefit and have a say in the development and extraction of our non-renewable resources. We can and must ensure the industry is viable.

As well we are stewards of the land; we are responsible for our environment; we need to listen to the elders. We need to enrich opportunities for people to be on the land; to involve our communities and elders, renewable resource councils, hunters, trappers, NGOs like the Yukon Fish and Game Association, the Yukon Trappers Association — citizens who spend time on our land and waterways. This is our opportunity to establish and

formalize oversight, first-hand observations and early warning systems to recognize and mitigate changes to our environment, whether they come because of climate change or because of activity on the land. All Yukoners, government, industry and communities need this information to make informed decisions. We are stewards of our land; we need to look at renewable energies. We have been blessed. Our leaders had the foresight to develop hydro.

We are reaching the end of the current part. How will we go forward? My concern, the NDP's concern and the concern of many people who have talked to me is that we will end up being dependent on a non-renewable resource subject to the rise and fall of commodity prices. But we have the opportunity to build economical and viable wind farms. We can develop systems and put them in place and recognize and acknowledge the effects that we're having. It's our responsibility to get our power in a renewable way — a way that isn't subject to the whims of the marketplace — and to provide cheap and reliable power for future generations. Now is the time to develop wind farms and to explore options.

The final part that I've noticed talking to many people is the belief and trust in systems in place, the belief that our concerns will be addressed fairly and openly, that communication and consultation is open to all and becomes part of the way we do business in the Yukon.

There is a need for real local involvement now and in the future. Processes must be finalized with reassurances that there are no shortcuts being granted, that there is no backdoor entry for the privileged few.

People are asking for regular audits that evaluate the effectiveness of our systems. Are they working? Have we determined that the recommendations and the mitigation efforts proposed by the government and by YESAB are working? Are they being enforced? Is there reassurance of the protection of our communities and our land and the safety of our labour force and proper stewardship of the environment? There is a need for regular audits and evaluation of systems in place. We need to consider the cumulative effects of many projects in an area. Are there enough resources to provide our inspectors the ability to provide oversight and inspection of projects?

I will talk or ask questions about YESAA and land use planning a little bit later. Right now I would like to talk a little bit about security. The minister opposite mentioned it. A very recent Supreme Court of Canada decision on a Newfoundland case, *AbtibiBowater*, was about how the company operations were closed due to financial issues. Other creditors, banks and investors, for example, get their money first from the project. The government and taxpayers were put to the back of the creditors' line. If there is any money left over after the investors, banks and other creditors, then the public gets the cash to do the cleanup.

The Yukon has come a long way, as the minister opposite referenced, to address the concerns of environmental liabilities caused by mines and industrial activity and to protect the taxpayers. My question for the minister: Will the government be reviewing its regulations, laws and amounts of security to ensure that Yukon and Canadian taxpayers are not left on the

hook? Will the minister, if he is conducting this review, report back to this House at the next session?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: First of all, with regard to the amount of security held, what I would point out to the members is that the amount of security held is something that is reviewed regularly by our very competent staff. It's done on the basis of how activities at mines, which ostensibly is what the member is referring to, change if additional work is done — or I should say if additional phases are undertaken. The mine would then be required to post appropriate security and our competent staff would determine what would be appropriate in that area. So, it is something that is regularly reviewed. I would point out in fact the amount of security we have held in this fiscal year has increased based on changes to operations. It's also important to note, as I have previously explained to members in this House, one of the things that is really very important about the Yukon's security structure is that companies can get some of the security held by government back if they complete remediation work on an area. So, if a certain area is done and they have effectively completed reclamation and done appropriate reseeded and so on, they can get money back for that area.

The reason why it is so important — although I know some of the members of the opposition previously suggested we should hold all security until the end — to give companies back a portion of security if they complete reclamation work is that it encourages them to complete that work at the earliest opportunity, which allows it to reseed as early as possible.

A real example of where this would have achieved a significant difference in the outcome we have here today is if the Faro mine had been progressively reclaimed we would not have the liability that we do at this point in time. The liability there is the result of acid rock drainage, which is specific to that type of rock and is a combination of the workings being left exposed to oxygen and to water at the same time. That combination leads to the decay of the rock, which then led to acid rock drainage and has left us with the largest single environmental liability on the federal government's books sitting here the Yukon, because the federal government and the federal regime did not adequately ensure that that mine was operated responsibly and reclaimed at the earliest opportunity.

At this current time, we are holding in excess of \$47 million in security for mines in the Yukon, including Alexco, Carmacks Mining Corporation, Golden Predator, Kaminak Gold, Ketzka River, Kudze Kayah, Minto, Sa Dena Hes, Selwyn Chihong Mining, StrataGold Corporation and Yukon Zinc. In total, that's in excess of \$47 million and that is \$39 million held pursuant to the *Quartz Mining Act* and \$8.2 million — actually, almost \$8.3 million — held pursuant to the *Waters Act*.

As far as the appropriateness of those amounts, that is something that is regularly reviewed by technical staff. Each mine of course — the type of rock and the conditions on-site — have different reclamation requirements. I do have confidence in staff and the work that they do. They are, on an ongoing basis, keeping a very close eye on what is going on with each of the active mine sites and they reassess as appropriate. If they

believe additional security is required, then that process is begun.

As I pointed out to the Member for Mayo-Tatchun in Question Period, the problem with wind farms is, what do you do when the wind isn't blowing?

If the members take a look at the windmills on Haeckel Hill they will see that there are a number of occasions when they will be stopped. If there isn't wind and if you don't have backup generation source, then it leads to a situation where you have brownouts or perhaps even the system failing due to a lack of energy.

For every megawatt of wind that is put in, a megawatt of something else is needed to back it up, and that is why for significant sources of new generation it is not economical to use wind as an option, but we remain committed to encouraging people through net metering and the independent power producer policy — both of which we are working on finalizing and look forward to having in place. Those are intended to further support the growth of the system but, quite simply, it is not viable to use wind as a major energy source because the cost recovery takes a long time and for every megawatt purchased you need to have a megawatt of another energy capacity.

Without returning too much to topics that have been debated in this House on a number of occasions, I'd point out to members that when they talk about moving away from the use of fossil fuels, it's all very well and good to talk about a desire to move to renewable energy sources and move away from the use of fossil fuels. Certainly, that's something I think every member of this House and every member of the government would like to see — an economy at some point in the future that was more dependent on renewable energy.

Every member of this Legislative Assembly, to the best of my knowledge, drives a car or a truck. Every one of those vehicles, to the best of my knowledge, uses fossil fuels. Everyone in this Assembly uses Blackberries or computers or cellphones, all of which use minerals and all of which use the products of oil and gas activity to build them. If members look in their houses for things that are made of plastic, look in their closets for things that are made out of polar fleece — that's an example of a popular fabric that is dependent on the oil and gas sector.

It's all very well and good to talk about a desire, through innovation, to move to an economy that doesn't use non-renewable resources like oil and gas, but until someone actually comes up with viable technologies to replace it or members themselves choose to resort to walking or using a horse and buggy instead of a vehicle, we have to recognize that the reality is that the Yukon's economy — as do the economies of Canada and the United States and, really, all of the developed world — includes a need to use oil and gas resources.

Liquefied natural gas, in fact, is one that has had some benefits — as my colleague, the Minister of Environment, has pointed out. In fact, the United States has seen a significant drop in its carbon emissions as the result of bringing more liquefied natural gas into its energy and electricity production in the U.S. and replacing the much dirtier coal fuel that is powering a lot of their electrical plants. Certainly there are some

fairly large emitters in Canada, including, if memory serves, the Nanticoke coal-electricity production plant in Ontario, which was by far the largest emitter of carbon of all industrial customers in the country. I can't recall the numbers off the top of my head, but I do recall that out of the top 10 biggest emitters, that one plant was a very significant portion of the combined total of all 10 top emitters of CO₂ in the country.

My point is that if we're using oil and gas from somewhere, there cannot only be an economic benefit to Yukoners to have it done responsibly here but, because we all live in one world, chemicals dumped into the ecosystem anywhere can spread around the world and pollute the environment. Nuclear disasters such as Chernobyl — if members recall, as I recall very vividly — I was not that old at the time when the Chernobyl disaster occurred, and I recall riding across the ice on Lake Laberge on my bicycle and seeing rain clouds and remember hearing on the radio reports that there was some chance that radioactivity from Chernobyl could spread over as far as Yukon. I didn't really understand at that age — I believe I was about nine at the time — what that meant, but it reminded me of the fact that radioactive pollution or other pollution anywhere in the world can affect us all, even if we don't have it here. So responsible development, whether it's energy resources or mineral resources — if we do so responsibly here we can provide not only economic benefit to our citizens, but we ensure that we are not being locally responsibly and globally irresponsible in our approach — or should I say, perhaps, locally overcautious and globally irresponsible in our approach.

As long as we're depending on oil and gas resources or mineral products that are coming from countries with atrocious human rights records or that have unacceptable environmental standards, we're simply being content to allow unacceptable activities to occur in someone else's backyard in countries where they are so desperate for economic opportunities that they don't manage it responsibly, rather than ensuring here that we actually do what it takes to make sure it's developed responsibly and responsibly reclaimed at the end of its life.

The member made reference to a specific court case in another jurisdiction about the priority the government had for a lien. I'm not familiar with that particular case, so I'm not going to comment on it, but I would note that the Yukon's legislation is different. The provinces and territories individually have legislation applying to things like the placement of liens on property. In the case of Yukon, we have a *Miners Lien Act*, which applies and establishes the precedence for repayment of debts.

A big part of the point of why we hold security is that if we hold security — that is cash or cash equivalents — in the case of a mine collapsing or shutting down unexpectedly, we are not left trying to recover money through a court process but have the money in hand and, because the money was posted as security, there isn't any question about whose money it is — who it belonged to; the Government of Yukon on behalf of the people of the Yukon — and we would retain the ability to use that money to complete the reclamation work, as outlined in the closure plan. Again I should emphasize the fact that the amount of money held in security is based on officials' and experts'

assessment of the amount of money that would be necessary to complete a full reclamation of a project.

There are a few others I would like to touch on. In the *Supplementary Estimates No. 1*, the operation and maintenance expenses are \$10,086,000 less than the 2012-13 main estimates, bringing the revised 2012-13 budget to \$76,422,000. Due to the federal fiscal constraints and budget cuts, Parks Canada did not renew the agreement for the Parks Canada library, which reduced the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources budget by \$10,000.

Under Sustainable Resources we will also be seeking some revotes, which includes \$12,000 to continue the Marsh Lake and Carcross community land plans. Local area planning is important to ensure the orderly development of land, minimize land use conflicts and provide communities with greater certainty over how land in their respective areas is to be managed.

I'd like to again point out, as I believe I've mentioned to members in this House previously, that our agenda for local area plan development right now is busier than it has been at any point in the past. We also have more land that is currently under planning in local area planning processes than has occurred in the past and that is because we're ramping up our efforts for two specific reasons: to recognize the additional pressure that may be placed upon rural areas near Whitehorse and in areas such as West Dawson, Sunnyside and Carcross by Yukon's increased population and increased populations in those areas and we also want to provide the opportunity for development to occur, but with community input at an early stage to protect other values and interests of key importance and to also set aside areas, like community green spaces, that would not then be developed at such point in time if development of new residential, agricultural or commercial lots occurs in the area.

Other matters in the budget to which I'd like to refer are that we also have a \$64,000 revote being requested to continue work on the northern strategy bark beetle outbreak project. The purpose of this project is to reduce forest fuels in affected communities and lessen the risk of wildfire, restore access to areas of cultural importance and support developmental capacity for forest-based enterprises.

As part of our commitment to promote agriculture, we're also seeking a revote to meet our commitments in the Growing Forward agreement. Growing Forward is a policy framework for the agriculture sector that includes funding to improve innovation, competitiveness, market development, food safety and long-term growth. For Growing Forward we are seeking \$216,000 to match federal funding and \$50,000 in outstanding commitments at year-end to various funding applicants. This amount is 60-percent recoverable from the Government of Canada.

As we complete the fifth and final year of the Growing Forward agreement, some highlights of Growing Forward-funded projects include wildlife damage prevention, including fencing and guardian dogs, community garden and farmers market support, on-farm infrastructure support, including value-added processing facilities for cheese-making and shearing wool, agriculture training, internships and mentorship fund-

ing, food safety training and contributions to improve food processing.

As I noted earlier, federal, provincial and territorial ministers of agriculture recently reached an agreement on Growing Forward 2, a new five-year agreement. The total revotes we are seeking for sustainable resources are valued at \$342,000.

To support the Yukon government's commitment to develop forestry, we are also seeking an increase in funding of \$200,000 for 2012-13 and 2013-14 to support the forest inventory project. This funding is 100-percent recoverable from Canada as part of a strategic investment in northern economic development. An updated, comprehensive forestry inventory will provide information for making forest management and harvesting decisions to ensure the sustainability and long-term health of Yukon forests.

Under Energy Corporate Policy and Communications, we are seeking a \$10,000 revote for analysis pertaining to Yukon Energy Corporation's general rate application. The Yukon government shares Yukoners' concerns about Yukon Energy's and Yukon Electrical Company Limited's announcements that they are seeking to increase rates. It's important to emphasize that the quasi-judicial Yukon Utilities Board sets the utilities rate, and government has to allow them to continue their work and monitor the work they do.

As I've indicated a few times in this House, one of the key messages I have given to the Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation emphasized our concern about the rising cost of power — and emphasized that our priorities for the system are to ensure that they responsibly manage the system, including performing appropriate maintenance; that the risk to ratepayers and taxpayers is responsibly managed; and that we are taking careful steps to appropriately plan for future needs while remaining very much focused on the cost of power rates and the financial risk to ratepayers and taxpayers. Of course, in specific reference to the member's call for more wind energy, wind energy would be an additional cost. It would have to be reflected either in rate increases, or else it would have to be subsidized by significant appropriations of public dollars to subsidize that development — if large-scale wind were developed — which, again, is a key part of why we are focused on encouraging others to develop that, either through net metering projects or through independent power producer facilities.

I believe you're indicating to me that it's time for me to sit down, Madam Chair.

Mr. Tredger: I guess my quest for renewable energy — what I'm asking is that the government keep an open mind. Yukon's wind resources match the seasonal loads. Wind resources are most favourable in the winter, when the demand is highest, and the spring, when hydro resources are the lowest. There may be a match there. We've learned that if fully costed and fully used, wind costs about 15 cents a kilowatt. That makes it very cost-effective. We do have commitments to the broader world. We are on the cusp of some serious climate change, and governments around the world are taking action. We are in a fortunate position. We are also at the end of a sup-

ply chain, so it makes anything renewable that can be produced here much more effective.

There have been innovations made in energy and energy management that may match our system so we do not need to buy.

The minister stated as a fact that for every kilowatt produced of wind or renewable energy, we need a kilowatt of LNG or diesel. I don't find that accurate and I've read studies to the contrary.

However, we'll leave renewable energy for now, other than issuing a plea to the government to use its resources to make us fossil-fuel free as soon as possible. No, it won't happen overnight; yes, I will continue to drive my vehicle; yes, we can begin now, we must begin now and we need to begin with steps now so in the future we can be fossil-fuel free.

We were talking a little bit about securities and securities held. Can the minister give me a progress report on the state of the reclamation of BYG at Mount Nansen, as well as how much has currently been spent and the projected cost of the cleanup of that project?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I was just checking to see if we have that information about Mount Nansen that the member requested in front of me, which I don't believe we do at this point, but we will look for that and, if not, we will get back to the member about the work that is underway. Mount Nansen is of course one of the type 2 sites on which we are performing work on behalf of the federal government.

I don't want to spend all afternoon debating with the member about wind energy and other elements, but I point out that again we remain committed to supporting the development of renewable energy and encouraging it. That includes wind as well as hydro and looking at other energy sources like solar and biomass. However, there is the part of it that does come down to dollars and cents and someone has to pay for it. That means if there is an increased cost and wind — despite the member's assertion — is not a reliable energy for large amounts of supply because you do have to back that up with other energy capacity, the simple fact of the matter that is that, again, for every megawatt that we have of wind energy supply, there needs to be another megawatt of something else to back it up. These things have been looked at.

We will continue to do analysis, but so far what we have seen in the work done by the department or by Yukon Energy Corporation is that it certainly does not appear that large-scale wind is currently a responsible choice if government is focused on minimizing the cost to ratepayers and putting downward pressure on electricity bills, which we are. Unless there's a desire to do large-scale subsidization, which again due to the current fiscal framework and the fact that — as members have been reminded in the past — although the Yukon remains in a very healthy economic position, we do know that the territorial funding formula rate of growth is going to cease to be as high as it has been in recent years and, in fact, it will be declining to a one-percent rate of growth, which is less than the rate of inflation.

Because of those challenges, we have to be mindful of our money. It's not a time to go spending on new Watson Lake

sawmills that end up not being viable, as the NDP did, or other wild projects that may suit the members' ideological beliefs, but really are not viable.

I want to emphasize to the member: I'm not going to stand here and say, and this government is not going to say, that we won't consider other energy sources if the best information we have from experts changes, but when the best information we have available is, in fact, that the cost of wind per megawatt is significantly higher than the member claimed it was, and that it does require backup with another energy source, and due to the size of the Yukon's grid — we're not in the same situation as a large grid in a province, where new energy sources and new components can be added, and there are a lot more sources, so it's a lot easier to add or subtract energy without having a significant impact. We're looking at investments of multi-million dollars in any new energy capacity development, and that money has to come from somewhere. It's either going to come from the ratepayers, or it's going to come from the public purse.

That's why we've been very clear with the Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation — that we think everyone needs to be very careful and prudent and focus on the areas that are most likely to be successful to ensure that we're not spending large amounts of money in future years and doing a lot of work on considering many, many potential energy supply options and then passing that bill on to the ratepayer or to the taxpayer. We need to be mindful and we need to be focused.

Mount Nansen — in the fiscal year in 2011-12, in answer to the member's question — \$760,000 on care and maintenance, \$50,000 for regulatory approval, \$365,000 for consultation, \$560,000 for site investigation, \$1,260,000 for site remediation, \$150,000 for monitoring, \$754,000 for project management, for a total of \$3,899,000.

In 2012-13, to date, on care and maintenance there is — pardon me — I believe that's estimated and not to date. That's the estimated expenditures for this fiscal year, as of our current estimates for the project.

For 2012-13, Mount Nansen, estimated expenditures would be for care and maintenance, \$2,519,000; for consultations, \$381,000; site investigation, \$654,000; site remediation, \$3,231,000; monitoring, \$110,000; project management, \$1,181,000, for a grand total of \$8,076,000.

Yukon, Canada and Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation have reached an agreement on the option for mediation on the Mount Nansen site. Assessment and Abandoned Mines branch has procured an engineering team to prepare the design for the selected option. Assessment and Abandoned Mines is managing care and maintenance activity at the site to protect environment and human health and safety. Management and remediation of type 2 sites is funded by Canada's federal contaminated sites action plan. Assessment and Abandoned Mines is currently in discussions with Canada to improve the process for the provision of annual funding agreements, and the selected option for mediation of the Mount Nansen site is expected to allow for a walk-away closure once it is completed.

On the area of energy self-sufficiency I would note that in this budget we're seeking \$40,000 for two net metering pilot projects: one with the Kluane First Nation and one in Whitehorse. These projects will assist with the implementation of the net metering policy. Net metering will allow applicants to produce their own energy and feed excess energy provided into the grid for a credit. In Oil and Gas and Mineral Resources, we anticipate a decrease in expected spending of \$10.653 million for assessment of abandoned mines to reflect the amended type 2 mine sites agreement with Canada. This decrease reflects a \$2-million reduction for Clinton Creek and an \$8.5-million reduction for Faro.

For Clinton Creek, this is a contingency amount applied for in anticipation of construction work associated with long-term management occurring this season. This work has been deferred to next year. It is anticipated it will be completed in the 2013 summer field season and the \$2 million is as a result not required for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

The \$8.5-million reduction for Faro includes moving \$4.5 million of the project allowance into contingency in the areas of field investigation, water treatment plant mitigation and project management. This is an administrative move from lines in Yukon's budget to the Government of Canada's budget. Money is still available to the project should site conditions warrant. This project allowance is in place to give project managers some flexibility to respond to conditions that can't be predicted, while still allowing the Government of Canada sufficient oversight of expenditures to meet their own accountability requirements to central agencies.

The remaining \$4 million is deferred to next year to complete the detail design of a water treatment plant. Phase 1 design will be completed by the end of fiscal year 2012-13 and final design is expected to be ready for procurement in fiscal year 2013-14. This amount will now form part of the expected funding submission for 2013-14.

The 2012-13 revised vote for type 2 mine sites will be \$39,332,000. This amount is fully recoverable from the Government of Canada and recoveries are adjusted to reflect this change.

Yukon Geological Survey is requesting \$34,000 to purchase a forklift for their core library and we are seeking to re-profile those funds from operation and maintenance to capital. We are requesting \$28,000 for the Yukon Placer Secretariat, an amount that is 100-percent recoverable from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to enhance the Yukon Placer Watershed Atlas and have the fish habitat design, operation and reclamation workbook and worksheets professionally designed and formatted.

The Yukon Placer Watershed Atlas — <http://mapservices.gov.yk.ca/PlacerAtlas/> — is a web-based mapping and information management tool that provides support to placer miners, government officials, environmental assessment practitioners and the public.

The total operation and maintenance decrease for Energy, Mines and Resources in this supplementary is \$10,086,000.

Capital expenditures: Under capital expenditures, we're seeking a revote of \$12,000 to the Yukon Geological Survey's

systems integration project to consolidate and integrate several datasets and improve web access to data for mining exploration companies and the public.

We are also seeking a revote of \$239,000 for the joint First Nation/Yukon government land management project. This funding is required for Teslin Tlingit Council to complete the land development project in Teslin. In this project, Energy, Mines and Resources staff has been working in partnership with the Teslin Tlingit Council to make both settlement and Yukon government land available to the public. Energy, Mines and Resources is continuing its work with the Department of Community Services, First Nations and municipalities across the territory to ensure that there is an established inventory of land available to Yukoners. With this *Supplementary Estimates No. 1*, the 2012-13 revised capital vote will be \$1,688,000.

Moving on to revenues, this supplementary budget includes adjustments to the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources anticipated revenues. We are reporting a decrease in expected royalty revenues of about \$200,000. That amount had been over estimated based on the information available to us in August when the budget was prepared.

This decrease is due to decreasing oil and gas production in the Kotaneelee gas field — which, as I reminded members in the past, despite the fact that many people were not aware of it, the wells in the Kotaneelee gas field have provided tens of millions of dollars in revenue to Yukoners, including \$10.46 million that has gone directly to First Nations who have concluded a final agreement.

Moving to recoveries: We will be recovering \$200,000 from CanNor for the forest inventory project, as I have described. As I noted previously, we are also recovering \$10,000 from Parks Canada for library access, as there was no agreement renewal, due to the federal fiscal constraints and, in addition, on a revote, there is a recovery of \$160,000 from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for the Growing Forward agreement, which I've also described.

Under recoveries, members will also see \$10,653,000 less than anticipated from the Government of Canada for work on type 2 mine sites, as I have outlined already. Also, as noted, we'll be recovering \$20,000 from Fisheries and Oceans Canada for contract worker associated with placer mining.

The supplementary budget provides an update on some of the government's work to build a sustainable, strong and diversified natural resource economy that benefits all Yukoners. For the benefit of all Yukoners, Energy, Mines and Resources will continue its work toward strengthening the Yukon's investment climate as well as continuing to improve our management of our resources, encourage private sector investment and provide a regulatory clarity and certainty.

This supplementary budget supports the work of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources to lead the responsible management of Yukon's natural resources and ensure Yukon receives net economic and social benefit from the use of resources. I also want to note that in terms of direct benefit from projects, it's important to note that in the case of the Minto mine that because that mine is 100 percent on category A settlement land, the First Nation has been paid over \$12 mil-

lion in royalties alone from that mine. While the Yukon government collects and administers that royalty, we transfer 100 percent of it to the Selkirk First Nation. Again, there has been over \$12 million since the mine has begun operation in royalties alone. There are also additional direct revenues that Selkirk First Nation receives from the Minto mine due to matters such as their agreement regarding their road, which does cross settlement lands, and some other contracting arrangements.

Another matter that is not included in that is the money that was provided for community economic development by the mine to the community of Pelly Crossing through the First Nation, which has been used for the development of their water treatment facility. This summer the Premier, the Minister of Environment and Economic Development, the Minister of Tourism and Culture and Justice and I attended their ceremony to officially name the facility and recognize that contribution.

In addition to that, there has also been significant training of First Nation citizens done by the Minto mine. First, it was Sherwood Copper and now it's Capstone.

As I get toward the bottom of my notes about this budget, I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the staff of Energy, Mines and Resources in each and every one of our branches.

I recognize and thank them for the work that they do each and every day to operate not only the department, but fill a key role in making sure that the Yukon economy — and client services to a great number of Yukon citizens — proceeds smoothly. The high quality of work that they do is something that I'm proud of and I think that really all Yukoners should be proud of the professionalism with which they perform their jobs and the manner in which they fulfill their duty to Yukon citizens.

I will leave it at that for now.

Mr. Tredger: I thank the minister opposite for his answer on BYG and Mount Nansen. I was pleased to hear that an agreement has been reached. Does he know the projected or future costs of the plan that was decided upon?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: As to the member's specific question about the anticipated future costs of Mount Nansen — I was looking for that information. I have a stack of paper regarding a number of matters, and I don't believe I have that specific information with me. We can look into it, and if we have a number on that, we'd be happy to share that with the member, but I don't — in the notes I have with me, I haven't been able to find that information regarding the anticipated costs. So we'll look into that and I'd be happy to advise the member via letter what the current status of that is. What I can indicate for the member is in fact that the cost will be dependent on the design work and that design work has not been concluded yet, so at this point, we don't have a final estimate figure. I would be reluctant to guess without more information in front of me exactly when we will be able to provide that information to the member.

I will certainly note his request. We'll see if there is additional information that I can provide him by a letter for him in the near future and, if it's not something we are able to respond to expeditiously, then we'll certainly undertake to look into the

matter, to note the member's interest in that, and to reply with more information and an update on the anticipated costs of completing the closure of Mount Nansen once we are in a position to do so.

Mr. Tredger: I thank the minister opposite for his answer and look forward to getting that information.

Alexco and various of their subsidiaries have been in consultation with the territorial government as well as with the federal government on reclamation and mining in the Keno-Elsa area. They were to have a closure plan, which was due this fall. I have not seen it and yet I know they are already mining and making plans for opening up old areas like Onek and Lucky Queen.

Concerns have been expressed about jurisdictional responsibilities: where the federal responsibility ends and where the Yukon government responsibility takes over and who is liable for that. My questions to the minister: When will we see the closure plan and will it be made public? Can you give us a brief update on what is happening in that area and on jurisdictional responsibilities?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: First of all, one of the benefits of the agreement reached by House Leaders at the start of this session was to allow electronic devices to be used in here. I'd like to thank the department and the Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources for providing me additional information about the Mount Nansen project.

I can tell the member that at this point I can confirm that we're in the detailed design stage. The final number will likely change from the estimate I'm about to provide the member, but the closure cost for Mount Nansen is currently estimated to be at about \$35 million. So again, I want to note and caution the member that that number is likely to change, but that is the current estimate.

As for the question he asked about the reclamation and closure plan for Alexco's projects, there are two elements to the existing mining operations that they are doing, which have been permitted. The reclamation and closure plan exists and has been completed. For any additional work, before they would be able to do additional work on additional projects that might be permitted at the end of the quartz mining and Water Board processes, they would be required in those cases to also have a reclamation and closure plan in place.

The part that I believe the member is referring to that is outstanding is the regional plan for the historic liabilities. That, as I've pointed out a few times in this House but is always worth mentioning, is the fact that Alexco is in a very unusual and almost unique situation as a mine.

I'm not aware of other cases in Canada where this type of thing has occurred where an ongoing problem, as the member may be aware, where for years the mine had been dormant and was not being reopened or reactivated — part of the reason for that when it was in receivership was that the environmental liabilities that were performed by the former United Keno Hill Mining Company and predecessors in the area were something that new companies were not eager to undertake. These were liabilities which they were not responsible for after signing on to development — taking on the legal liability for environ-

mental liabilities and legacies that were none of their making. They had no more information about it than the government may have had, so they are performing a dual role. They have responsibilities to the Government of Canada and that relationship is between them and the federal government, wherein the company is performing additional work to identify historic environmental liabilities and perform reclamation work as agreed to by them and Canada.

Though we are certainly aware of what goes on, that direct relationship for the regional activities remains between them and the Government of Canada. Of course, the reason for that, as members may know, is that, as was the principle in the devolution transfer agreement, Yukon wanted to be sure that we did not take on the financial responsibility for environmental liabilities that occurred under the federal government's watch. We are willing to, as we have done with type 2 sites, including Faro and Mount Nansen, perform the work and exercise that management for the federal government and exercise greater local control over what occurs, but we don't want to leave Yukon taxpayers and the Yukon public holding the bill for activities that occurred, in some cases, decades or a century ago under the federal government's watch. Again, in that case, to clearly state for the member, the regional liabilities that exist in that regional plan are being done by Canada and the company so we're not in a position to provide very much more information about it than I've indicated and that was provided to the member at the Energy, Mines and Resources briefing.

As the discussions between Canada and Alexco continue and as it gets closer to the final regional plan, we'll remain very interested, because it, of course, affects the Yukon environment and other areas that we hold responsibility for. But we don't have that direct relationship with the company on that specific plan.

I think that's all the information I have to answer the member's specific questions.

Mr. Tredger: I have just one more question on securities. Climate change is creating some concern and some problems. I know the weather pattern changes have created some need for restructuring at Minto and the melting permafrost caused some slides and some berm instability.

As well, Clinton Creek's — which again is a type 2 mine — maintenance has been affected by climate change and melting permafrost. In light of the fact that, after having spent over \$8 million in the last couple of years and now looking at another bill of \$35 million — which is about \$43 million for BYG and Mount Nansen, which was a relatively small mine — the minister has informed us that for all other mines in the Yukon the total amount of security is \$47 million. Many of those mines are much bigger than BYG and Mount Nansen and I understand they are using modern methods, but they are also bigger and creating a bigger footprint.

Given the changes happening with climate change, the changes in technology and stuff, will the minister re-evaluate the amount of security held? How is it determined to ensure that \$47 million is indeed enough considering the costs of BYG, a relatively small mine, and Faro, which is a relatively large mine?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: In the case of the member's specific question, the amount of security that is held for mines is reviewed periodically and it's certainly reviewed at least every two years. If there are any significant changes, including new applications or new permits or change in conditions on the site which, of course, receive ongoing monitoring by staff of Client Services and Inspections — if those conditions change, then the security would be reviewed. It is the technical experts who make that evaluation and it's based on the full anticipated costs of achieving reclamation if a company were to suddenly cease operations.

The specific answer to the question from the member is that, while I do continue to have confidence in the staff and the work they're doing and I appreciate the member's concern, I do need to emphasize as far as the amounts of security and the work that it isn't just dependent on the square footage of a mine, what is required to reclaim it. Things that affect that include structures that are on-site, any tailing ponds or dams or structures, and the type of rock is also very important.

A mine like Faro is very different from a mine like Minto, in that the existence of the sulphides in the Faro project — that base rock was the cause of acid rock drainage. In the case of mines that don't have a sulphide that would be susceptible to breaking down when exposed to both water and oxygen, then the same issues don't occur. There is also the fact that if reclamation is completed earlier, fewer problems can develop as a result of that, because the job is finished. It's revegetated and the natural environment takes over, and it can be returned to a more normal state, and eventually grow back in and back over. Really, what is important to note in this — it isn't just about the square footage of the area. It isn't just about the amount of rock removed. It is based on technical staff doing an evaluation of what they believe would be necessary in terms of earth-moving and other elements related to stabilization and closure and the cost of re-seeding, the cost of removing infrastructure and so on and so on.

That's a calculation that is going to continue to change on the basis of changes that occur, including costs of contracting work being done, which would have an effect. When security is being reviewed, if it has become more expensive to hire a loader or an operator to have earth-moving take place, those costs and the current best estimate of how much they would be is what these calculations are based upon.

I understand the member's concern. It's one that staff and I are very mindful of; but I do have confidence that staff are doing the job they are expected to do. One thing I would also note, in terms of this total amount of security, is that we are currently in the process of finishing a re-evaluation of the security being held for Capstone's Minto mine, and there will be an update shortly on the amount of security held by government. Because of additional work they have been doing this year, government will be taking additional security based on the assessment that staff members have done.

Mr. Tredger: I'll come back to a number of other items on mining in a minute, but I would like to talk a little bit about agriculture. I'll begin by thanking the Agriculture branch for the excellent working relationship they have with local area

producers. The producers I have talked to asked me to thank them for the efforts they have made to facilitate small-scale farming, and farming as a sideline, and the sustainability of the industry. There is some concern about farm-gate sales, but they are working with the department on that. Food security is an ever-growing issue for all Yukoners. We realize we are at the end of a long supply chain, so it becomes important — and far more important — that Yukon people have access to locally grown food and locally stored food.

The community of Carmacks and Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation has developed an excellent greenhouse program that goes a long way to providing some food for the area. Many of the local farmers share their produce with Yukon people, but there is a need that has been identified for some time: a need for a fixed abattoir and a food storage facility so that food can be stored and that will facilitate things for Yukon farmers.

I think of the Bradleys at Pelly River Ranch, who were the farmers of the century. One of their problems when they do butcher their cattle is that they have to bring them into town and sell them door to door. That means somebody has to leave the farm, leave the ranch for periods of up to three and four weeks. If there was a fixed-base abattoir, that would make the small scale farming more feasible. The food storage I think almost speaks for itself. We can grow a lot of produce in the Yukon, but it's from a limited season. It's critical that we do develop food storage. I know there is hope on the Mayo Road where there is some land that has been set aside.

When I looked at the Growing Forward agreement, I see there's an increase in the supplementary budget of a fair amount of money. I'm hoping that maybe with some of that will be plans for a fixed abattoir or food storage. I would ask the minister if he would give us an update on those plans.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I thank the member for the question. I would like to note and welcome his interest in agriculture. If I can step back a bit in terms of 10 years ago when I was first elected, I found that there wasn't a lot of conversation in this House about agriculture and I often felt like — with the exception of the minister responsible and myself as MLA representing most of the Yukon's farmers — there wasn't really an interest in Yukon agriculture, so I thank the member for his interest and support of the industry and the support of efforts of farmers to grow the industry, including addressing key infrastructure needs.

In terms of the lease to which the member referred, I was pleased earlier this year — the time goes by so quickly, it seems like it was last year but it was only this spring that I had the honour and pleasure to approve the lease to Yukon Agricultural Association out on the Mayo Road of a parcel that has a 30-year lease term. The lease is non-assignable; they're required under the terms of the lease to manage it in the interest of all Yukon farmers and to ensure that services provided on-site are on an equitable fee-for-service basis. The purpose of that site was to facilitate the development of infrastructure that may include the development of a permanent meat-processing plant and cold storage, among other possible uses. We are currently working with farmers and the Yukon Agricultural Association to determine what activities might be completed early in

2013, as well as to work with them and support them in determining next steps for site development.

Another key thing that I would like to emphasize with the site is that we deliberately provided a larger area than is currently needed because we wanted to provide for the growth of Yukon agriculture in the future and for future governments and future generations. Although we are certainly in a different situation than Calgary, one example that struck me and I know struck some of my former colleagues in caucus was, in the case of Calgary, that the setting aside of the Stampede grounds was done at a time when there was not a need for those sites, but if there hadn't been the vision by those in office at the time to recognize the need to provide for future growth of the activities — in that case, the Calgary Stampede — that might require additional grounds. It's really questionable whether the Calgary Stampede would have continued to be as successful as it is and developed into such a major draw for that area.

That is, of course, an imperfect analogy, but the intention of this was to provide an area that can meet the immediate needs of Yukon agriculture for infrastructure development and having a central location, on which things can be done, even including potential storage of mobile equipment that currently has to be stored at someone's place because there hasn't been any central agricultural land for the industry to use. This area is intended to be something that is — if you'll pardon the pun — “grown into” and will really allow the Yukon agriculture sector now and in the near future, and in the medium- and long-term, to have the space to grow, as necessary, at the time and to have infrastructure and site development that meets the needs of supporting Yukon agriculture.

So I would like to thank the Member for Mayo-Tatchun for his positive comments in that area. As far as the specific parts that he noted, those are things that are subject to the reference I made to the fact that we're currently working with farmers in the Yukon Agricultural Association to determine a site development plan. So the details of exactly what that will include have not been finalized at this point in time, but it is something that is a priority for me and for this government in this mandate, and it is something we have committed to.

In the 2011 election campaign, we made a number of commitments to Yukon agriculture, including to support the development of infrastructure that improves food security and supports access to markets. Members will also see that that same commitment is currently reflected in the program objectives for the Agriculture branch, so there will be additional work on this.

The one thing I would note, in terms of the short-term work on taking office this term, two things that we advanced very quickly on with regard to Yukon agriculture: to provide the land and get it set aside and under lease to the Yukon Agricultural Association; and to provide additional funding, on an annual basis, to the YAA to help them engage in providing more support for the growth of Yukon agriculture, including working toward the development of infrastructure and other needs of Yukon agriculture. We are also in the process of working with the Fireweed Market on a request for funding they have made to support their operations.

We are doing that positively and will determine the best way to continue to responsibly and effectively support the operation of the Fireweed Community Market, which as I noted earlier, really has done a tremendous job in making it easier for a broader number of the Yukon public to buy Yukon produce that they might have been able to get at the farm gate, but it was certainly a lot less convenient and their choices and opportunities were a lot less evident to them. As a result of the great job that farmers and others who participate in the Fireweed Community Market have done, it has really provided a lot more people with awareness of the availability of Yukon agricultural products and the ability to buy them from a friendly farmer.

Under Growing Forward, another thing done with regard to food safety and security is the food safety strategies initiative, which provides the design, implementation and building of partnerships in the development of food safety strategies for all agri-food commodities. These are strategies related to food safety education and training and food safety compliance, and livestock and agri-product traceability are included under this initiative.

Another thing I'd like to note with regard to the abattoir is that the red-meat mobile abattoir is something that was purchased in a previous mandate. I'd like to thank the then minister, Archie Lang, for his support for that project. It's one that a number of my constituents were among the most involved in requesting the government purchase a mobile abattoir as a cost-effective, flexible solution to providing them the ability to get meat inspected. We're going to work with farmers to determine how to best build on that, whether it be through docking facilities and additional processing or through fixed processing facilities. That is something very much on our list of priorities and we look forward to determining with farmers the ways we can best do things, including investing in the infrastructure. It really is that infrastructure, in many cases, that is an important component for the growth of Yukon farming.

We recognize the importance of shared infrastructure that has included in the past the purchase of mobile infrastructure, including a No-till drill and fertilizer. We're going to continue to work with Yukon farmers and organizations representing them to determine what investments and purchases of equipment and development of infrastructure are likely to be most effective in supporting the growth of Yukon's agriculture sector.

I hope that the Member for Mayo-Tatchun and others will recognize and acknowledge the fact that there are some parts of infrastructure, including certain processing and storage facilities, at such a point as we do invest in them — one of the reasons why it has taken so long for farmers to get support in the past is that with some of them we know very clearly it's going to take some time for the Yukon agriculture sector to grow into fully utilizing the facility and having it self-supporting. There are areas where what we're hearing from farmers, and based on our own review, is that there are certain components of infrastructure that if government doesn't work with them on finding solutions to address those gaps in the infrastructure, it's very hard for the industry to ever get past a certain point.

We are very much committed to supporting the growth of local food production to not only improve local food security, but of course to provide local access to food when we know where it came from and we know that it's grown in a healthy manner because that is something that is of increasing interest to a greater number of Yukoners — and as well, of course, to other Canadians who are seeing the value in purchasing local food when they know more about where it came from and know that it is healthy for them and their families.

A couple other things I'd like to touch on under Growing Forward: all federal, provincial and territorial governments reached agreement in September, as I mentioned, at the ministers' meeting that I hosted here on the next multilateral agriculture policy framework, Growing Forward 2. The strategic goals of the agreement are to develop an agriculture sector that is competitive, innovative and market-driven. Negotiations are currently underway on our bilateral agreement with the federal government that does require us, of course, to implement agricultural programs within the framework of that overall agreement, but we do appreciate the fact that we have had indications that there will continue to be flexibility provided to the Yukon and to other territories to address our unique needs. It would be premature for me, since we have not concluded that agreement, to get into a lot of detail about that.

We do appreciate the recognition by Minister Gerry Ritz and his colleagues of the importance of recognizing that the Yukon, N.W.T. and Nunavut are in a different situation in terms of growth of our agriculture sector than all of the provinces. Some of them in the past have seen a lot more funding for programs and things that we don't need to the same extent and would be spending money for the sake of spending money, in some cases to do additional work in those areas, but in many cases, the infrastructure we need for joint usages are really our best target for funding.

The agreement provides funding for Yukon agriculture projects and is mainly targeted toward producers and processors. Farm groups, non-profit organizations and federal, territorial, municipal and First Nation governments are also eligible. We have been in consultation with local industry groups to review the programs to determine what we might adjust under Growing Forward 2. The new agreement is funded 60/40 Canada/Yukon cost-shared basis. Canada has allocated \$888,000 per year and the Yukon government needs to allocate \$592,000 per year to fully match federal funds though it's not mandatory that we do this. In some past years we have made up all of our contributions through staff and other existing in-kind support that they've allowed us to count in that.

This helps Yukon leverage federal dollars to support additional agriculture development. It's also important to note that we are seeing a significant increase in funding under Growing Forward 2 in what we're receiving from the federal government. It's roughly \$296,000 per year in increased federal funding. We are very much appreciative of that, especially at a time when the federal government is tightening their belt. With the exception of the territories, there has not been an increase overall in federal funds of any significant amount. In some cases the provinces are making do with less funding, particularly due to

changes around the business risk management funding programs that receive a lot of uptake in provinces but are really not applicable here in the Yukon. In the case of one of the programs we offered, we had exactly two people sign up under it, and the program was neither needed nor receiving any significant level of utilization.

Examples of projects eligible for funding under Growing Forward have included reclamation of farmland, wildlife damage prevention, market development initiatives, and I believe I've covered the rest of these, so I won't repeat them again. We talk about new infrastructures and equipment projects, and some that may potentially be funded under this include cooler and storage facilities for meat and poultry products, processing facilities to capture value-added opportunities and improvements to the systems that support the mobile abattoir.

I hope that has answered the member's question. As I noted, there are some parts of this that are currently works in progress, so I'm not going to get too much into speculating at this point in time, except to note that it remains an active file and a priority file, and that there have been ongoing discussions between department staff and industry associations and discussions among industry associations, farmers and me about next steps in this. We look forward to announcing additional efforts and investments when we're in a position to do so.

Mr. Tredger: "Yukon Grown" is a premium brand. One only has to go to the markets — Stewart Valley market or the Dawson City market or the Fireweed Community Market — to realize how valuable it is to Yukoners. Yukon farmers and gardeners have invested a considerable amount in that brand, whether they are farmers or whether they are local gardeners.

However, growers and food producers are concerned. The Member for Watson Lake produced a petition, showing considerable interest in genetically modified organisms and attempts to keep them out of the Yukon and protect the Yukon brand. In the last sitting of the Legislature, the 32nd sitting, a petition was delivered with over 1,700 signatures on it. This is of considerable interest to many Yukoners. It's also of economic interest. To protect our premium brand, we need to ensure that genetically modified organisms are not in the Yukon.

My question for the minister: When can we expect a decision and determination from this government? When can we assure our growers that their investments are safe? When can we assure our consumers that there will not be genetically modified organisms for sale in the Yukon, either to grow as seeds or to sell as produce?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: First of all, there are currently no genetically modified organisms grown in the Yukon. It's not anticipated that there's anything it would make sense for anyone to try to grow in the Yukon. I'm not in a position at this point to respond to the petition that we just received and was just tabled. There will be a response to that petition, as per the Standing Orders, within eight sitting days of its tabling, which will be sometime during the spring sitting.

As far as the topic the member outlined, at this point in time we'll have to consider the petition. I need to have further

conversations with the department and my caucus colleagues before making any pronouncements about this matter.

I would note that in fact it's important to note as well that this has been a divisive issue within the Yukon farming community. There were some fairly heated exchanges between farmers that spilled over on to the front page of the paper. I would really encourage Yukon farmers and the agriculture community to talk to each other about this issue. When we have polarization within the Yukon farming community between some who are very much against any restriction and others who are very strongly in favour of it, we would really prefer if there were a sincere effort on both sides to try to come to as much of a consensus as possible within Yukon's agriculture sector around this issue. That being said, we do appreciate the concerns Yukoners have expressed. We are interested in their concerns and we will give them due consideration, but I'm not in a position today to fully or formally respond to the petition except to say that we'll look at it.

Out of respect to the Yukoners who have expressed a concern regarding the potential use of genetically modified organisms at some point in time in the Yukon we will certainly give that full and fair and serious consideration and respond to their request in due course.

Withdrawal of remark

Mr. Silver: Before I start with some questions on debate here, I would like to stand on a point of order.

Earlier today, I did make a statement which I regret — a statement which may contravene Standing Order 19(k). In speaking to my amendment to the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin's motion, I called the member "polarizing". I misspoke. I do not believe this to be so. In making such statements, I have personalized the debate and I would like the comment struck from the record. I do apologize to the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin.

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Mr. Silver: Moving on to Energy, Mines and Resources, I have a question about liquefied natural gas.

As we look forward to Economic Development under this category in the short term and maybe even for long-term solutions to energy crises in the Yukon, what would the capital cost be to develop a processing plant/storage facility in Whitehorse? Who in the minister's opinion would be bearing that cost? Would it be government? Would it be Yukon Development Corporation or Yukon Energy Corporation? Could the minister speak to that please?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: To begin with, I appreciate the member's question. At this point in time, I can't give the member a number on this. There are some estimates. They've also undergone some evolution and determining the actual cost of the actual needs for a liquefied natural gas facility in the Yukon and the cost is something that requires work not only by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, but by the boards and staff of Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation. At this point in time I'm not going to give the member much of a specific answer on the numbers for that, other than to note that the cost is something that I'll get back to

the member on at a later date when we have a little more clarity around that number.

I think I could give the member a preliminary number fairly expeditiously, but I don't have that right in front of me and I'm not going to quote it from memory. I'd rather be sure I'm correct on that figure before I provide it to the member. There has been some evolution of the expected need for an LNG facility. What I can tell the member in terms of cost is that the expectation is, if there are major customers coming on, such as Victoria Gold — as occurred in the case of the Minto mine hooking up to the grid — companies would be required to pay for a portion of public infrastructure so Yukon citizens and Yukon ratepayers were left with a net capital benefit in exchange for whatever might be received through revenue from a company over the year.

Some of that is not finalized at this point, but that is what I can say as far as a statement: it's our expectation that if there are any major industrial customers coming on to the grid it would be similar to what happened at Minto, which was required to pay 100 percent of their spur line costs to hook up with the main line. They were also required to make a contribution to the line that went north from Carmacks to Stewart, which provided a contribution to the public infrastructure. If memory serves, they contributed \$7 million as a capital contribution to that line project, in addition to paying 100 percent of their costs.

As far as how that would apply to Victoria Gold or other projects if they were to hook up, what that would translate into is they'd be expected to pay all of the costs of hooking up to the main grid. If there was additional infrastructure, such as liquefied natural gas generation required to service them, we would require a capital contribution.

One of the things that our focus is as a Cabinet and caucus that we've made clear to the Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation, is we need to very carefully look at any potential deal of that nature and be confident that it's providing net benefit to the Yukon and Yukon citizens. We also have to be very mindful of the risks that would be entailed if a project were to cease to operate, because we don't want to see a situation where Yukon ratepayers or taxpayers are left holding the bag, as happened in the case of Faro, and were required to pick up a large bill.

Because we already have significant growth of our residential energy requirements and there will be a need for some energy capacity to occur, we also want to carefully look at if there is a net benefit to Yukon and its citizens in having a company pay part of the costs of purchasing energy facilities and having a net benefit left over for Yukon citizens at the end of that. If we believe that it is in the best interests of Yukoners to do that, then we are certainly prepared to consider it. Again, I can't emphasize enough that we've stated clearly to boards of the corporation that we are very much looking for their thoughtful analysis and advice on when it makes sense to make such a move and how we can do so in a manner that responsibly manages the risks to ratepayers and taxpayers and ensures that, if there is an opportunity that will provide net benefit in the long run, we are not failing to look at that and appropriately

take advantage of it. We are also very mindful to what would happen if everything did not proceed as foreseen with a project and what the downstream cost of that would be or what the result of that would be.

That's about as much as I can really say on that matter to the Member for Klondike right now. As I've indicated before, one of the things I've been focused on upon taking office is working with the corporations to strengthen the structural relationship to create a more structured protocol and work with them around strengthening the relationship between the corporations and government on things that are big policy matters or have big costs associated with them. What that boils down to is, from a structural perspective, ultimately the Yukon government is the sole shareholder of Yukon Development Corporation, which is the parent corporation of Yukon Energy Corporation

The structure is one that was established in a previous era, and I won't take a lot of time this afternoon explaining the history behind it but, because of the specific references in the *Umbrella Final Agreement* to Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation, it's one that we believe we're best to work within and to strengthen the structure to make it work and function better. We believe there is room for improvement. We also think that, in this area, energy provides a significant opportunity for Yukon citizens, and the energy policy and decisions in the energy area really have both short- and long-term implications on our ability as a territory to seize on opportunities to continue to grow and to do so in as responsible a manner as possible.

I won't add much else on that topic, except to note to the Member for Klondike and again referencing previous comments from the Member for Mayo-Tatchun that, based on the current numbers and work that has been done, both utilities — both Yukon Electrical and Yukon Energy — believe that converting over from diesel generation to either liquefied natural gas or a liquefied natural gas and diesel blend is a more cost-effective and lower carbon-emitting way of producing energy.

In the case of Watson Lake, in fact, with no significant growth in the demand in that area, Yukon Electrical is currently in the process of moving toward using a diesel and liquefied natural gas blend through conversion kits on their existing generators because that's going to provide a cheaper source of fuel. Without getting into too much detail on individual mine projects — I'm not sure of the various confidentialities — I know the case of one mine that is looking at potentially coming into production and is currently moving toward that. I won't say much more than that, but the indication they gave is that they have looked at similar technology, and they believe that if they were to put conversion kits on diesel generators — that would allow the use of liquefied natural gas to be used in conjunction with diesel fuel in those generators — that the conversion kits would be paid for within four months by the reduction in the cost of fuel for those units. Those are some of the numbers that we're dealing with, both from the work that has been done within Yukon government and work done by private companies — both YECL and this other company that, again, I'm not sure to what extent I should identify them because of that project.

But the general policy potential implication is that converting a diesel generator to a mix of LNG and diesel, based on the work that has been done by a couple of companies, has identified that they think there would be significant cost savings.

Of course, when that is applied in the context of the Yukon system and publicly owned assets, as we look at both replacing the two diesel generators that YEC owns that are reaching the end of their operational lives and meeting the new growth of the system that, at this point in time, the work we've done and the work that Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation and their boards have done makes it look like it is probably the most cost-effective to meet a significant portion of that new capacity with liquefied natural gas or an LNG-diesel blend.

Mr. Silver: I thank the minister responsible for the answer. That is a good segue to the IPP policy. It's a quick question. I'll add it on to another question too — but if the member can remember that. We're looking for a date for the policy, if he can talk to us a little bit about that. The minister spoke at a mining summit a couple of weeks ago and the members of that group actually spent quite a lot of time in the afternoon pretending to be legislators and spoke about the needs and the variables within the industry that can be changed and the ones that can't be changed.

In that, there is a lot of talk about an IPP policy. I was surprised to hear, too, that a lot of the people involved in the industry and involved in energy in the Yukon and also hedge fund individuals as well all saying the exact same thing — that a tie in to another grid somewhere is something that they believe they should be working on in an agency format, and not necessarily the government, but they asked specifically for the government in that capacity — as the minister is well aware — for variables like access roads. They talked about toll roads and also the IPP policy. Could the member maybe address when we will be seeing an IPP policy? Before I sit down, seeing as time is running out, I would like to speak a little bit about a question that I asked on April 12 in this House on the Slinky mine up in Dawson City. I agree with the minister responsible that Slinky is a very interesting case because the municipality encroached on their lot, not the other way around. It was a situation where the rights for mining were there and then the municipality stretched its boundaries and came into that area. It is still a contentious issue in Dawson.

I do know, though, with the new mayor and council, and also speaking to very capable placer miners who have an excellent rapport in reclamation work, that they have an appetite to actually do some work here. The idea is to get in and get out; mine the road, which is the only place where there actually is good gold there, according to the placer miner experts that I have talked to, and I know that the miner who is there now doesn't have the capacity to do this to a standard that the town can all agree upon. However, there has been, like I say, some other placer miners in the area who have done extremely competent work in reclamation of placer mining areas.

When I asked this question in April, I asked if there was a desire from the minister to work with the administration to build policies that would provide certainty for all land users,

but more importantly as we go forward in this, is there an appetite to actually help facilitate a final process here?

In answering my question, the minister responded by saying, "Certainly discussing how we might take steps together to improve how land is managed collectively between the municipality, the City of Dawson and the Yukon government is something that I am more than happy to do. We certainly are willing to talk about where there may be solutions to reduce land use conflicts."

Of course we're talking to the fact that the government is allowing for the mining to go forward, but they are also allowing for development of that land residentially as well at the same time.

So there is a little bit of a conflict here and I really believe that the only way to go forward is communication and cooperation among different levels of government. I know that the City of Dawson is willing to come forward on that effort; I know that I am as well and I also know that the industry is. The question to the minister there: Can we look forward to some kind of continued conversation to that extent?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Yes. I appreciate the member bringing up the concern. As he may know, the owners of the mine are actually constituents of mine when they're not constituents of his. So I appreciate the challenge that they have faced and heard the situation from them personally, as the Member for Klondike noted. The claims were there before the city boundaries were expanded and there is a conflict in the area. It would be premature for me to speak to outcomes at this point in time beyond saying that there have been conversations in the past with the city about the potential for reaching an agreement whereby everyone would stop suing each other and there could be a realignment of the road to improve the road safety as well as residential lot development in the area.

We did face a situation earlier this year where we attempted to facilitate an agreement to avoid everyone duking it out in court on that situation. At that point in time the municipality was not interested in standing down on their legal action, regardless of what else may occur, so we have had officials from Energy, Mines and Resources up in Dawson as recently as two weeks ago, talking to staff of the City of Dawson about the possibility for a solution. I'm going to again emphasize that if there were to be any financial commitments on the part of the Yukon government to move a road, any such commitment would require Cabinet approval, so I won't get ahead of myself by committing to outcomes in here. To the best of my understanding, any potential agreement would require an agreement by the City of Dawson to look at the potential for residential lot development in the area.

With that in mind, that is something the member may wish to talk to municipal council and constituents about, in principle.

Certainly, if there was a way to reach an outcome that both the City of Dawson and the owners of the Slinky mine would see as resolving a conflict and improving the situation, and if we could improve road safety at the same time, and lead to lot development and cost recovery of money that went into the road as a result, I think it's fair for me to say that that's a solution we'd be interested in talking about. I probably shouldn't

go much further in terms of speaking to possible outcomes beyond to say that we will remain interested in working with everyone to create a more harmonious situation.

As I'm sure the Member for Klondike is aware, in the case of the City of Whitehorse, we have done a withdrawal of lands from further staking for quartz mining of 74 percent of the City of Whitehorse, which was based on supporting the official community plan, while allowing for the potential of development of areas of high mineral potential that are not in conflict with greenspace areas or the ski trails, which, as the members will know, have existing claims on them and, in fact, Crown grants, which are a very old form of tenure that gives surface and subsurface title to those who own them.

Those conflicts have not gone away and we have not taken away anyone's rights in doing so, but we have taken a step to avoid future conflict being created.

In the case of the City of Dawson, there is a section of Dawson where quartz staking is not allowed. Of course, there are automatic prohibitions in the *Quartz Mining Act* regarding encroachments on curtilage, which is the area around a house and property and on areas that have been landscaped or areas that are currently under agricultural production, whether fields or gardens. So there remains to be a number of steps, which for the majority of Yukon history have been key factors in preventing those conflicts. In the case of Dawson, if the municipality of Dawson believes that there are additional areas within their boundaries where future potential conflicts could be reduced by a withdrawal of the ability to stake quartz claims, we are open to that conversation.

We are certainly very prepared to talk to them about what they see as issues and what they see as solutions. It's also important to note at this point that in addition to the blanket prohibitions on quartz claims staking near houses and developed property, that placer staking is not allowed within municipalities. In fact, the conflicts between subsurface tenure holders and surface tenure holders can be referred to the Surface Rights Board. It's a situation where, while not minimizing those challenges, such as the Slinky Mine situation to which the member referred, in fact there are a lot more conflicts between owners of titled surface properties than there are between surface and subsurface — whether it be arguments over a fence or the neighbour's dog or music being too loud or the house being painted the wrong colour or all of the many things that can lead to clashes between neighbours. Again, as we've demonstrated and as I've indicated, we have taken some steps to reduce the potential for further conflict between surface and subsurface tenure holders.

We are interested in talking more about where there may be opportunities for more of that to occur.

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

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Cathers 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: Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 7, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, and directed me to report progress.

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

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

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

Motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

The following Sessional Papers were tabled December 12, 2012:

33-1-63

Yukon Human Rights Commission April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012 Annual Report (Laxton)

33-1-64

Yukon Child Care Board April 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012 Annual Report (Graham)

33-1-65

Yukon Health and Social Services Council 2011 – 2012 Annual Report (Graham)

33-1-66

Yukon Hospital Corporation Annual Report for the year ended March 31, 2012 (Graham)

The following documents were filed December 12, 2012:

33-1-41

Health Care Insurance Programs: Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for Fiscal Years 2000/01 to 2011/12 (Graham)

33-1-42

Fleet Vehicle Agency 2011–2012 Annual Report (Istchenko)