

**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Thursday, March 21, 2013 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

Prayers

Speaker's statement

Speaker: On behalf of all the members here, I would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to the many Yukoners who are here in the public gallery today to observe today's proceedings.

Just like in the other legislative assemblies across Canada, guests are not permitted to participate in the proceedings in any fashion. Please do not demonstrate your approval or disapproval for anything you hear today. Thank you for your cooperation.

INTRODUCTION OF PAGES

Speaker: It gives me great pleasure to announce that the following students will be serving the House as legislative pages for the 2013 spring sitting. They are: Tyanna Harder, Pierre Lefebvre and Will Sternbergh from Porter Creek Secondary School; and Sruthee Govindaraj, Sean Clarke, Garrett Moonen, Mel Acosta Moya and Sarah Ott from Vanier Catholic Secondary School. Today with us we have Sruthee and Sarah. I would like to ask all members to give them a welcome.

Applause

Withdrawal of motions

Speaker: The Chair wishes to inform the House of changes that have been made to the Order Paper. The following motions have been removed from the Order Paper, as they are currently outdated: Motion No. 72, standing in the name of the Leader of the Official Opposition; Motions No. 263, 276, and 299, standing in the name of the Member for Klondike; and Motions No. 269 and 348, standing in the name of the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin.

Also, the following motions have been removed from the Order Paper as they refer to a bill which has now passed this House: Motions No. 279 and 379, standing in the name of the Member for Riverdale South; and Motion No. 281, standing in the name of the Member for Klondike.

Motion No. 317, standing in the name of the Member for Takhini-Kopper King, has been removed from the Order Paper as it refers to a bill which is no longer on the Order Paper of the House of Commons of Canada.

Motion No. 350, standing in the name of the Member for Riverdale South, has been removed from the Order Paper as the action requested in the motion has been fulfilled.

Motion No. 358, standing in the name of the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin, was not placed on today's Notice Paper as it refers to a bill that has now passed this House.

Finally, Written Question No. 3, standing in the name of the Leader of the Official Opposition, has been removed from the Order Paper as it is now outdated.

DAILY ROUTINE

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

Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of Annie Smith

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today on behalf of all members to pay tribute to an icon of Yukon's First Nation sewing and beading community. She is well known across Yukon, beyond our borders and even internationally.

Annie Smith is a citizen of Kwanlin Dun First Nation, lives in Whitehorse and was born in 1925 at the location where the Robert Service Campground is situated today. For more than 60 years, Annie has created countless items from moosehide, including jackets, vests, skirts, mukluks, slippers, mitts, gloves, purses, booties and, of course, dolls. Her work is so remarkable that two of her dolls are part of the Yukon permanent art collection.

As a child, Annie lived on the land with her family, travelling to their camps, hunting, fishing and working the traplines in locations across southern Yukon, including Champagne, Klukshu, Marsh Lake, Carcross, Little Atlin and Whitehorse areas. She received many traditional teachings during this time and that is when she first learned how to sew.

Through the years, Annie has worked to keep her sewing as traditional as possible, as she has been taught, doing her own scraping, tanning and smoking of the moosehide, as well as making her own sinew to sew the pieces together.

Annie has drawn and collected a wide variety of floral and animal patterns, which people love and recognize far and wide.

Even today, at the age of 86 years old, Annie is still busy sewing, especially in the spring for graduation and, of course, again in winter for Christmas.

Annie has also given a great gift to Yukon by sharing her skills and her patterns with others. She taught her own children to sew while on the land. One of her daughters has commented that some learn by just watching her. She was their television when they lived on the land.

Annie has also shared her knowledge and skills with others by travelling to communities and schools and working with various First Nation organizations to foster cultural activities, such as fishing, hunting, tanning, language and crafts.

Annie loves and takes pride in what she does, and Yukoners take pride in her.

Last summer I was very proud to present Annie with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal. This was a well-deserved recognition for all that Annie Smith has contributed to Yukon and to Canada as a whole. Today, I'm also very proud to be able to show off another of Annie's wonderful creations. It is a tradition that the Finance minister wears a new pair of shoes to deliver the budget. Today I am wearing a new pair of mukluks made by Annie Smith. They are fashioned of home-tanned caribou and home-tanned moosehide, trimmed with beaver fur. I am told that the beaver represents the qualities of strength and hard work. A First Nation tradition was to pat a

newborn baby's back with the tail of the beaver and to rub the front paw on the baby's hands so that they will grow up to have a strong back and be hard workers, just like beavers. These are qualities that all of us should aspire to.

The mukluks also feature a colourful beaded floral design symbolic of Annie's time living on the land, and a dog team — another symbol of Yukon's rich culture. I am very proud of these new mukluks and so grateful to Annie for their creation. I will always treasure these mukluks.

Annie Smith is here in the gallery with us today and with her, as well, is her daughter and former Commissioner of Yukon, Judy Gingell. I would ask them both to stand so we can recognize their presence here today and their many contributions to Yukon.

Applause

In recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Government of Yukon and the Independent Member for Vuntut Gwitchin to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

March 21 is observed annually to focus attention on the problems of racism and the need to promote racial harmony. This year's theme is "Racism and Sport". This theme highlights the fact that racism in sport still remains a disturbing occurrence in many parts of the world, but it also raises awareness of the role that sport can have in bringing people together and highlighting their similarities over their differences.

Sport has increasingly been recognized and used, as a low-cost, high-impact tool in humanitarian development and peace-building efforts by the UN, non-governmental organizations and governments.

Sport is a powerful tool to strengthen social ties and networks and to promote ideals of peace, fraternity, solidarity, non-violence, tolerance and justice. Here at home, Yukon continues to take steps to prevent racial discrimination in its own right. Racial discrimination is one of the prohibited grounds for discrimination in our Yukon *Human Rights Act*. The act says: "It is discrimination to treat any individual or group unfavourably on any of the following grounds: (a) ancestry, including colour and race; (b) national origin; (c) ethnic or linguistic background or origin".

Here in Yukon we celebrate the increasing diversity of Yukon people. There are a number of activities going on today in Whitehorse to celebrate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Yukon Cultures Connect is partnering with the City of Whitehorse, Yukon Human Rights Commission, Family Literacy Centre and the United Church to present a day of free activities today from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre, where I had the opportunity to spend my lunch hour. "Circle of Promises" is an interactive talk that will cover topics such as: "What are aboriginal rights?" and "What is Idle No More about?"

From 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Canada Games Centre, we can celebrate the cultural diversity of our community through family activities, such as aboriginal sport demos, multicultural story tent, arts tables and more. From 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the

United Church there will be a screening of the documentary *A Sorry State*, followed by a panel discussion and Q&A. Filmmaker Mitch Miyagawa's family has received three government apologies for past racist injustices. I encourage all members of the public to attend these events to celebrate this day and to remember where we have come from and where we have yet to go.

Ms. Moorcroft: When March 21 is a sitting day for the Yukon Legislative Assembly, it gives us an opportunity to pay tribute in this House to the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. On behalf of the Official Opposition, I rise to acknowledge the United Nations *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* and the work of human rights defenders, who daily take a stand for equality, justice and dignity for all citizens of the world.

Today marks the one-year anniversary of the City of Whitehorse signing on to the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination.

Yukon's *Human Rights Act* recognizes that every individual is free and equal in dignity and rights. A primary objective of Yukon's *Human Rights Act* is to discourage and eliminate discrimination — all discrimination. Whether because of race, gender or sexuality, all discriminations divide communities and seek to exclude individual people in harmful, hurtful and unjust ways.

Statistics about poverty, education, health and incarceration rates reveal that deep inequality in our society is often colour-coded — that is to say, based on a person's race. Racism is part of our human history. Racism is personal. It is perpetuated in behaviours like ridicule, degrading treatment and name-calling, whether written or spoken. These are the behaviours that must change.

We all participate in making change. As elected officials, we pay tribute to ending racial discrimination here today. The city has joined a coalition and each one of us in our daily lives can help end racism wherever it is evident.

In his 1964 trial, Nelson Mandela said, "I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal for which I hope to live and to achieve. But if need be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

The United Nations theme for this year's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is "Racism and Sport." The best values of sport — self-discipline, respect for one's opponent, fair play and teamwork — can help integrate marginalized groups and teach individuals the values necessary to prevent and resolve social tensions and conflicts.

The elimination of racism is about the expansion of acceptance, inclusion and belonging for all. In our community today, there is a variety of ways to stand up for your beliefs in respect and the value of diversity. Right now at the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre, where I spent time along with the Member for Riverdale South and the minister over the lunch hour, people

are gathering to learn about aboriginal rights. Later this afternoon, at the Canada Games Centre concourse, the City of Whitehorse celebrates diversity with the Family Literacy Centre and Yukon Cultures Connect/Yukon College. There will be aboriginal sports demonstrations, a multicultural story tent and tables, and people can learn more about mayor and council's commitment to fighting racism and discrimination.

Tonight at 7:00 p.m. at the United Church there is a screening of local author Mitch Miyagawa's film, *A Sorry State*, about his family receiving three government apologies for past racist injustices. Governments can apologize for past wrongs. What is most important is that governments learn from past mistakes and end racist and discriminatory practices.

Mr. Silver: I rise today on behalf of the Liberal caucus to pay tribute to the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination marks March 21 to commemorate the anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre. On that day in 1960 in South Africa, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration protesting racially discriminatory laws. The United Nations first proclaimed this day in 1966 and called on the international community to support efforts in eliminating all forms of racial discrimination. Canada was one of the first countries in the world to support the UN declaration, thereby making a commitment to develop and promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all through the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Canada is a country to be proud of. However, our pride is diminished when we do not use our individual and collective voices to oppose racism or discrimination for any reason, for that matter. Discrimination between human beings based on the grounds of race, colour, ethnic origin, or sexual preference is an offence to human dignity. The world has come a long way since the Sharpeville massacre, but the struggle to end racism is far from over. This day aims to remind people of racial discrimination's negative consequences. Racism is rooted in fear of what is different. The time has come for society to truly understand that through our differences, there is potential for mutual enrichment. Diversity should be treated as a gift and not as a threat.

I urge all Yukoners to take responsibility for our freedoms and to take a stand against discrimination whenever and wherever it happens. Each and every day, by our individual actions, let us do our part to promote equality, justice, and dignity for all people and bring an end to discrimination in our society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In recognition of World Water Day and Canada Water Week

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to recognize that this is Canada Water Week and to make note of the activities taking place in Yukon this week to encourage each of us to be responsible water stewards. The Government of Yukon is committed to ensuring the quality of our natural resources for present and future generations. All provinces and territories take part in this yearly coast-to-coast-to-coast celebration.

This year, territorial and provincial premiers launched a new annual Excellence in Water Stewardship Award to honour organizations that demonstrate excellence, leadership and innovation in water stewardship in their jurisdictions. I will be announcing the Yukon winner tomorrow on World Water Day in an evening ceremony at the Yukon Beringia Centre.

Canada Water Week is featuring a number of other events in Yukon this week for the public to enjoy, including classroom presentations, an art and writing contest for youth, an art and film show at the Beringia Centre tonight and tomorrow night, readings, music, arts and crafts at the Family Literacy Centre, information displays and a free family swim at the Canada Games Centre, and a tour tomorrow of the Whitehorse Rapids power generation facility. The Yukon government has been working with Yukon Energy, the Yukon River Inter-tribal Watershed Council, the City of Whitehorse, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and the Yukon Water Board to present these and other activities.

Canada Water Week is also supported by the Council of the Federation, which provides leadership on issues important to all Canadians. Premiers recognize that a sustainable water supply is crucial to our social, environmental and economic well-being. This is why the premiers established a water charter in 2010 that recognizes the collective obligation of Canadians and their governments to be responsible stewards of water.

I want to acknowledge the work done by the Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation, World Wildlife Fund Canada, Living Lakes Network Canada, and the Canadian Freshwater Alliance to help all of us understand the importance of water during Canada Water Week. It is essential that Canadians gain increased understanding about their water's contribution to their health, security and prosperity, and its role in supporting critical ecosystems that lay the foundation for their livelihoods and thriving communities.

Canada Water Week is one way to raise awareness of the value and importance of water, as well as the associated costs and challenges. I encourage members of this House and all Yukoners to take part in Canada Water Week events. There are many ways to have fun learning about all the things we do in Yukon to help look after our water and why it is so important to do so.

Ms. White: It is my pleasure to rise on behalf of the Official Opposition and the Liberal caucus to pay tribute to World Water Day and Canada Water Week. Water, alongside fire, earth, wind and air, has been honoured as one of the key elements, from time immemorial. Understandings of the world of human philosophy, of religion, and of nature are based on water as a fundamental element. Water has always and continues to play a critical role in our existence on this planet. Water is vital to feed the world and to guarantee the health of its people.

While our scientific understanding of water and of the complex systems it supports has greatly evolved, water is still one of the key starting points in our world view and still occupies a central place in our lives.

Water not only represents life, in our world it represents energy and power and is a major component in many industrial activities and is used in natural resource extraction. It is these connections — these linkages — that led the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to recommend, in 1992, the creation of an international day to celebrate fresh water. In response to that recommendation, the United Nations General Assembly designated March 22, 1993, as the first World Water Day. World Water Day is held annually on March 22 as a means of focusing attention on the importance of fresh water and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. That first happened 20 years ago this week.

There are lots of indicators that one can review to see how we are doing on the environment. Are we acting sustainably? Are we conducting our economic growth with an eye on the long-term benefits and effects? Have we cleaned up the environment, or are we still polluting more than the planet can endure in the long term? In a report by Worldwatch Institute, entitled *State of the World, 1993: A Worldwatch Institute Report on Progress Toward a Sustainable Society*, Worldwatch noted that we have entered a new era, in which reversing environmental degradation is the key to future economic progress. While there have been some victories in curbing pollutants, reducing ozone-depleting substances, addressing acid rain and the protection of arable lands, for example, the report noted that at the time, in 1993, despite these gains, environmental degradation continued.

Today, ongoing human activities have reduced groundwater tables and brought about other forms of water scarcity. Water licences that sold for \$10 in Australia in 1993 are now worth millions, as fresh, clean water becomes more scarce. Drought and massive drawdowns by the oil and gas industry for hydraulic fracturing in the Horn Basin in northern B.C. resulted in water restrictions being imposed. Farmers and ranchers in Alberta are facing similar problems. The Great Lakes are being drawn down faster than the water is being replaced as a result of industry and sanitation. Indian cities routinely have rationing equivalent to brownouts with their water supplies. India has 16 percent of the world's population and just four percent of the world's water. Glacier melt is at an all-time high.

These are just a few of the ongoing challenges we face with regard to fresh water. In the Yukon, even before the first World Water Day, water was a top priority for many. Water and its management formed an important part of the First Nation final agreements that were being negotiated. Chapter 14, Water Management, states, "The objective of this chapter is to maintain the Water of the Yukon in a natural condition while providing for its sustainable use."

The men and women who championed land claims in the Yukon had the foresight and the vision to acknowledge the important linkage between water, life and development. They articulated a vision of how we can protect our water, our health and our lives, while permitting responsible and sustainable development. That chapter and that journey began nearly 40 years ago.

Today, water is still a top priority for Yukoners. We have competing pressures for clean water, for protection of salmon

habitat, for oil and gas development, for mining activities, for tourism and recreation and for energy.

The harsh reality is that we cannot pretend any longer that water is an abundant and infinite resource. In the Yukon, we are blessed with an apparent abundance of water, but like all resources, it is finite. We must act with the interests of not only the here and the now in mind, but also in the interests of our children, of their children, and of their children's children and for all others who follow.

As Worldwatch identified, and as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development saw, our lives and our economic prosperity are linked to fresh water. We can choose to go forward and plan to manage this precious resource for our future, or we can continue to squander it. The choice is ours.

I would like to ask all of us from this day forward to make every possible effort to effect the positive change we need to see in our water resources. In the words of Chief Seattle: "Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect."

Mr. Elias: It's a pleasure for me to rise and pay tribute to Canada Water Week. As we are all well aware, it's Water Week in Canada and so our attentions are currently well tuned to the value that this resource provides us. When we think of water, we most often think of our natural resources like rivers, lakes and oceans. We think of protecting them and how we might responsibly use them.

Water is a source of recreation and I think we all enjoy swimming at the Canada Games Centre from time to time. When the ice clears, many of us will haul our canoes and kayaks and other watercraft out on Yukon lakes and rivers.

Water is a form of transportation. Paddlewheelers once knit this territory together when they plied up and down the Yukon River. Today, it's how the world ships goods between continents.

Water is a source of food. There's nothing that beats a fresh trout cooked over a campfire, or a filet of salmon on a bed of rice.

Of course, water is used by all manners of industry for all sorts of purposes. It helps the exploration drills up on Eagle Plains stay cool. It's a source of harvest for large-scale fishing operations. It runs through the dam to power this building.

When we think of water, we think of it most commonly as external to ourselves, as contributing to our state of being and our environment. The theme of Water Week this year is "I love my water body." Of course that is meant to metaphorically represent the adoration we all hold for our lakes, rivers, oceans and seas, but we should also take it literally. After all, each of us is a body of water. A baby contains the most water of us all — up to 78 percent. That drops in adulthood. As a grown man, I'm about 60-percent water. As bodies of water, we are directly linked to and dependent on bodies of water around us. We can't consider ourselves separate from those elements and our environment.

Water is not only about the environment and industry. It's about health. We're only as healthy as the water around us. Water Week brings this most important resource to our attention just briefly every year, but you know, our brains are 75 percent water, so we would do well to keep water on our minds well beyond this week — because a lot of decisions about water will be made very soon in this Assembly.

As Yukoners, we are a part of the land and a part of the water. Martin Luther King, Jr. said in 1963, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." Over the course of time, thousands of Yukoners have said that water matters to them, and I salute each and every one of those Yukoners who stand to protect water in this territory.

In recognition of National Social Work Month

Hon. Mr. Graham: It's a pleasure to rise in the House today on behalf of all members to honour social workers everywhere, but especially here at home in our territory. Every year in March, social workers celebrate their social ideals and values and share them with the rest of the country. The theme adopted by the Canadian Association of Social Workers this year is "Social Workers Defending Social Programs for a Stronger Canada".

Social workers in Yukon are embedded in the fabric of life here. They work in hospitals, in private clinics, in government departments and First Nation governments. They work directly with Yukoners in need, from infants to seniors. They help Yukoners build on their strengths and overcome their challenges in order to have a much better quality of life. Social workers address physical, mental and emotional needs. They help analyze proposed policies and advise on potential implications. They help raise everyone's awareness around social inclusion and poverty reduction. They play a vital role in ensuring a vital, healthy, inclusive society.

Their work can be very difficult, but they don't turn away from the most trying situations. They often see people at their very worst, and it's no wonder that social workers can burn out at a very young age. Yet, there are always students in the social work program at the college. During my time there, I found that there were always strong-willed, great-hearted individuals, willing to take on any challenge in their determination to serve their fellow Yukoners in the best possible manner.

I also would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge two women with whom I worked for a number of years at the college, and who have worked in the field of social work for many years. Yukon social work instructors Dana Jennejohn and Janice Wiens were recognized at a local event last night with distinguished service awards from the Canadian Association of Social Workers. This award was presented to them for their work with the Association of Social Workers in Northern Canada, promoting the profession of social work, which includes teaching social work students in both the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Social work can be a very tough profession, but it can also be one of the most rewarding ones. On behalf of my government and all members here in the Legislature, I would like to say congratulations to Ms. Jennejohn and Ms. Wiens, and thank you to all of the Yukon social workers in whatever capacity

they may serve. We need them and we appreciate very much the service they provide.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Speaker: I'd like to introduce and welcome a friend and colleague, the Hon. Jackie Jacobson, Speaker of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly. I'm glad you're able to take a couple of minutes out of your hockey commitments to be able to come and join us.

Applause

Speaker: I would also like at this time to introduce Ted Staffen, the former Speaker of our Legislative Assembly, and thank him for coming by. It is always a pleasure to see you, Mr. Staffen.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any other visitors to be introduced?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce a constituent and a near neighbour of mine, Mr. Murray Martin. I'd like members to welcome him here today.

Applause

Hon. Mr. Dixon: We have with us today some visitors from the Yukon Chamber of Commerce: the chair of the Yukon Chamber of Commerce, Darielle Talarico; the chair of the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, Carla Mather; the chair of the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce, Philip Fitzgerald; and Murray Arsenault who I believe is on the executive of the Yukon Chamber of Commerce; and Peter Turner, whom I don't see at the moment, but who was here a moment ago, is the president of the Yukon Chamber of Commerce.

Applause

Mr. Hassard: I would like to ask you all to help me introduce a friend of mine, Mr. Wayne Huffman.

Applause

Ms. Hanson: I would ask the House to welcome to this Assembly today François Picard. François has joined the Official Opposition as our new chief of staff and we are very pleased to have him as part of our team.

Applause

Mr. Silver: On a point of personal privilege, I would like to invite everybody to help me welcome a long-time Yukoner and recent retiree — and she doesn't rub that in too much — May Blysak.

Applause

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Speaker: Under tabling returns and documents, the Chair has for tabling the *Yukon Human Rights Panel of Adjudicators 2011-12 Annual Report*, which is being tabled pursuant to subsection 22(8) of the *Human Rights Act*.

The Chair also has for tabling the report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Yukon Legislative Assembly —

2013: Capital Projects — Yukon Hospital Corporation. This report was distributed to the members and to the public on February 26, 2013.

Finally, the Chair has for tabling a report from the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly on the absence of members from the sittings of the Legislative Assembly and its committees dated March 21, 2013.

Are there any further returns or documents for tabling?

Ms. Hanson: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling a document presented today as a river of names, containing the names of 7,500 people who support the *Final Recommended Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan*. This document has been made available electronically to members of the Legislature.

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

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 8: Introduction and First Reading

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I move that Bill No. 8, entitled *Third Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 8, entitled *Third Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 8 agreed to

Bill No. 9: Introduction and First Reading

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I move that Bill No. 9, entitled *Interim Supply Appropriation Act, 2013-14*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 9, entitled *Interim Supply Appropriation Act, 2013-14*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 9 agreed to

Bill No. 10: Introduction and First Reading

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 10, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2013-14*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 10, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2013-14*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 10 agreed to

Speaker: Are there any further bills for introduction?

Are there any notices of motion?

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to immediately and fully enforce Education policy on sexual orientation and gender identity in all Yukon schools; and

THAT this House urges the Yukon Government to direct the Minister of Education and department officials to immediately take action to ensure all schools are inclusive and deliver human rights education to all Yukon students.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT Piers McDonald, chair of the Yukon Energy Corporation, and David Morrison, president and chief executive officer of the Yukon Energy Corporation, appear as witnesses before Committee of the Whole from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, 2013, to discuss matters relating to the Yukon Energy Corporation.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to work with the City of Whitehorse, other levels of government and the Great Northern Ski Society to facilitate a long-term and sustainable solution for funding the Mount Sima recreation area.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to:

(1) ensure students are able to attend school free of discrimination based on sexual orientation;

(2) ensure schools provide safe, welcoming, inclusive and affirming learning environments for all students;

(3) ensure all policies in place in Yukon schools comply with the Yukon *Human Rights Act*; and

(4) enforce its sexual orientation and gender identity policy in all Yukon schools, including Vanier Catholic Secondary School.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to:

(1) release all input received from the Peel land use plan consultations that ended February 25, 2013;

(2) publicly commit to respecting the results of the consultation; and

(3) move forward expeditiously with consultations with First Nation governments that are parties to the land use plan.

I also rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT it is the opinion of this House that:

(1) demand for skilled tradespeople is on the rise across Canada;

(2) the original decision not to include a new tech and trades wing at the new F.H. Collins school was short-sighted; and

(3) the Government of Yukon should correct this earlier mistake by including a new tech and trades wing in the new F.H. Collins school project.

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

THAT this House urges the minister responsible for the Women's Directorate and the Minister of Justice to as soon as practicable conduct a series of territory-wide open public discussions on the issue of violence against women, with the goals of:

- (1) becoming the jurisdiction with the lowest rate of violence against women in our country;
- (2) securing a comprehensive approach to and a holistic view of addressing violence against women in our territory;
- (3) addressing the root causes of violence against women in our territory including, but not limited to, economic inequality, lack of education, lack of affordable housing, substance abuse, poverty, and the lack of specific territorial legislation; and
- (4) developing a Yukon Violence Against Women Act.

I also rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to work together and complete a comprehensive hydrogeological mapping of the areas within the Eagle Plain Basin that have, or may have, active oil and gas exploration and/or development, so as to ensure that:

- (1) the Yukon government fulfills its responsibilities within the First Nation final agreements under section 14.8.1; and
- (2) Yukon First Nations' rights to water, as guaranteed by the same section, are respected.

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

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Dawson City and Watson Lake hospitals

Ms. Hanson: This February, the Auditor General delivered a scathing report on Yukon Hospital Corporation's management of capital projects. He also indicated that the Yukon Party government's approach to these hospitals has been determined by politics, not evidence. In addition to being behind schedule and overbudget, we now know that both Watson Lake and Dawson City hospitals' annual operating costs will triple — all this with no evidence that patients will get better care.

This approach is unacceptable. Yukoners are telling me they don't trust this government to spend their tax dollars wisely.

Will the minister end the Yukon Party government's irresponsible approach of spending without proper planning by agreeing to make future health care decisions based on demonstrated health care needs of Yukoners?

Hon. Mr. Graham: It's a pleasure to be able to answer the first question in this session. It's entirely unexpected.

As both the Yukon Hospital Corporation CEO and I mentioned during our public response to the Auditor General's re-

port, we accept the Auditor General's criticisms. We see those criticisms as a good starting point for us to revise some of the things that have happened in the past. We see this as an opportunity to go out and do further consultations, not only in these two communities, but around the territory, because we think that health care in the Yukon has definitely changed over the last few years since these two facilities were being constructed and we see this as an opportunity to improve health care, not only in these two communities, but in others as well. So we will continue an informed dialogue with residents, not only in these two communities, but in the rest of the territory as well.

Ms. Hanson: You know, Mr. Speaker, it's reassuring that the minister does recognize that the government has failed to properly manage the construction of these hospitals, but it's not enough. The Yukon Party government has clearly shown us it cannot responsibly manage big capital projects. What is shocking is that even as these two projects were going over-budget and falling behind schedule, the Yukon Party government tabled the Yukon Hospital Corporation's plans for a brand new, \$330 million-plus hospital for Whitehorse.

Mr. Speaker, this is not how to develop sustainable health care. Yukon people want and deserve health care that puts patients and their families first and generally keeps them out of hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, the challenge to the minister is this: Will the Minister of Health and Social Services rein in the Yukon Hospital Corporation before taxpayers are faced with yet another hospital boondoggle?

Hon. Mr. Graham: As I said in my opening, it is a pleasure to be able to answer these questions, and I like to answer intelligent, well-thought-out questions. Unfortunately, too many times they are preceded by a lot of misinformation and facts that aren't clearly thought out.

First of all, the Government of Yukon was not responsible for building those two hospitals. Those two hospitals were the responsibility of the Yukon Hospital Corporation. Furthermore, the plan submitted by the hospital was just that. It was a concept plan that was submitted by the hospital because they were trying to do their due diligence. They were attempting to do some forward planning. If they didn't do that, we would be taken to task for not doing our planning. The Hospital Corporation was attempting to provide some concepts and some idea of where they hope to go in the future. We appreciate that. It doesn't necessarily mean we are going to do it, but at least we have a concept of where they would like to go — perhaps not where the government would like to go.

Question re: Catholic school sexual orientation policy

Mr. Tredger: The Department of Education will not permit or tolerate any homophobic behaviour or bullying, whether by commission or by failing to act to end such behaviour. That's what the policy says. Over two weeks ago, the minister talked to the bishop and an offensive church policy which calls homosexual activity "wrong" and "immoral" was removed from Vanier's public website, but the next day the bishop made it clear that removing the policy from the website wouldn't change behaviour. Now the minister has released his

recent letter to the bishop in which he wrote that Yukon's educational policies and laws must be met and respected at Vanier and at all schools. The minister is stating the obvious, and quoting a law without taking action to ensure enforcement is no solution.

What is the minister doing to enforce our laws and ensure that our schools are safe, diverse and inclusive environments for all students, parents and staff — and maybe more importantly, what is the minister prepared to do if our laws continue to be broken?

Speaker: Order please. The member's time has elapsed.

Hon. Mr. Kent: In my dialogue with the bishop and others involved with the Vanier school community, we've talked about the fact that students need to feel safe, welcome, protected and respected at the school. That's something that everyone agrees upon.

In a letter that I sent to the bishop earlier this week, we discussed opening a dialogue on this issue, working with the school community. I met with the bishop for an hour this morning on this issue, and I intend to meet with the Vanier School Council next week. I am going to engage the school community in this, seek their input and advice and work to ensure that students feel safe, welcome, respected and protected.

Mr. Tredger: For over a month we have heard stories of gay students being bullied, of lockers defaced with obscenities and that policy and law have not been followed. Students have been told that if they don't like it, they can leave. Many teachers, indeed, have left the school and more are asking for transfers. The minister's lack of urgency and lack of action on this issue is disturbing. We are talking about the lives of our children and the atmosphere in a work place.

Yukon law and educational policies are progressive and on the side of diversity and human rights. In spite of the law and the involvement of the department, teachers, parents and students for over a year, an atmosphere that is not inclusive or respectful has been created. Students and parents want more from the minister than a letter proclaiming the law must be followed.

What concrete steps has the minister taken to immediately correct the atmosphere at Vanier to ensure that all students have the right to learn and grow in an inclusive environment, free of discrimination and homophobia?

Speaker: The member's time has elapsed.

Hon. Mr. Kent: As I mentioned, a dialogue has begun with the school community and those involved at Vanier school. I met with the bishop for an hour this morning. I'm committed to meeting with the school council next week. We have to engage the entire school community on this. This is something that I know is very important to me as minister. I've been working very proactively on this file for the past number of weeks. Of course, with the spring break and a number of senior officials and others out of town, I had to wait until some returned to seek their advice. I've reached out to colleagues in other jurisdictions in the country. Saskatchewan and Alberta — I spoke to ministers over the past two weeks, as they also have publicly funded Catholic education systems.

I've been very active on this file. I intend to continue to be very active on this file as we look to make sure that all students, no matter what school they go to, feel safe and welcome in their schools.

Mr. Tredger: Every year, the Members of the Legislative Assembly wear pink, wear symbols and pay symbolic tribute to ending homophobic bullying in our schools. Symbols are not enough. As parents, educators and role models, we want our children to trust us, to tell us what is going on in their lives. We tell them not to keep their feelings trapped inside. If they are being bullied, put down or violated, they need to speak out. The consequences of silence can be very grave. Suicide rates among gay students are seven times the national average.

Suicide rates among gay students are seven times the national average. Bullying research shows when those in charge are made aware of a situation, they must act. Students have gathered the courage to stand up to break the code of silence. We know the minister wrote a letter and met with the bishop, but that is not enough. Will the minister show some real leadership and support our students, parents and staff immediately, and take action to correct the situation?

Hon. Mr. Kent: I would encourage the Member for Mayo-Tatchun to listen to my answers. I've said during the previous two answers that I am committed to ensuring that we have safe and welcome learning environments in all of our schools.

I met with the bishop on March 5; I met with the bishop this morning; and I intend on meeting with the school council and engaging other members of the school community next week. So this is obviously something that is top of mind for me. It's an important issue. I think we need to ensure — and that's a commitment — a common ground that we can work from — that safe and caring and welcoming learning environment. That's what I intend to keep doing.

Question re: Peel watershed land use plan

Mr. Silver: Mr. Speaker, February 25 was the deadline for submissions on the revised *Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan*. Yesterday the government released information on how many people had participated in the public consultation process. Unfortunately, it kept the most important information to itself — what people think of the new plan. Were they for it, or were they against it? What did people think of the old plan? Were they for it, or were they against it?

Of course, the minister has this information and has chosen not to release it. According to the government — and I quote: "All feedback received during the consultation will be posted" on the www.peelconsultation.ca website.

Will the minister be open and accountable and release this information that people want to hear about? What plan did the public support?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking all those people who did take the time to provide their comments. There were many individuals and many groups as well.

During this time now, we are reviewing those comments, because that is part of the responsibility — you ask for a consultation and people provide comments, and that is exactly

what we are doing. We are also compiling those comments, because they have come in many forms, from Post-it notes to voicemails, to letters, to e-mails and comments on the website. We are putting that all together. That will come out shortly, Mr. Speaker.

We will also have a *What We Heard* document, which will summarize the comments that we heard.

We continue to consult with the four affected First Nations as we speak, and we will continue to do that. We will continue to live up to, as we have, all our obligations described under the *Umbrella Final Agreement*.

Mr. Speaker, as we have said in this House, we are seeking a balanced plan — a plan that both ensures we have our pristine wilderness, but we also respect all sectors of our economy. We are looking forward to moving this through the final stages and for closure to this land use plan.

Mr. Silver: Mr. Speaker, while all the input on the government's redesigned Peel plan has not yet been released publicly, the minister, of course, does have that information readily accessible. He could, if he was willing, tell Yukoners how many thought the government should stick with the original plan, written by the Peel Watershed Planning Commission after much public review and scrutiny, and how many thought the government should go with the new plan that was written by the Yukon Party behind closed doors before public consultation even began. Perhaps it doesn't matter what the results are. The first round of consultations — the government seems to be ignoring those results anyway. If they don't like what they hear this time, will they be doing the same thing? According to the government's website, it — and I quote: "continues to meet and work with affected First Nations during the ongoing First Nation consultation process, which will end on March 25, 2013."

Will the minister confirm that the government will not be meeting this target date for concluding consultations with First Nations on the Peel plan?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: As the member opposite knows, the period of public consultation concluded on the 25th. He mentioned that earlier. In that public consultation we have been very, very clear about what we wanted. We asked Yukoners to provide thoughtful, well-considered information and input, and many Yukoners did just that.

We heard from a range of folks from around the world — those on one side wanted to see a significant degree of protection and others wanted to see the area opened for opportunity for economic development. We heard from stakeholders, like wilderness tourism operators and outfitters who are interested in seeing no new activity in the region, and, of course, we heard from individuals and companies who have interests in the mineral claims in the regions, who value those claims and don't want to see them expropriated.

We're going to take all of that valuable input into consideration and do exactly what the Premier said in his last response — develop a plan that is fair and balanced and respects the wishes of Yukoners.

Mr. Silver: Despite the fact that the largest tourism organization in the Yukon has endorsed the original Peel plan,

the Minister of Tourism and Culture has been silent. Instead of advocating for tourism values, he has fallen behind the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources' plan to open the entire region to potential development.

A vocal critic of the government's plan was the owner of Midnight Sun Outfitting. He attended a meeting with the Energy, Mines and Resources minister and told him that he didn't like the plan. The same outfitter appeared in a photo with the Minister of Tourism and Culture on the minister's Twitter page. It shows the minister and the outfitter at an Outside trade show promoting the Peel as a great wilderness place for hunting. Under the government's plan, the area will be open to industrial development and its value as a wilderness hunting area will be diminished. The Minister of Tourism and Culture is happy to promote the Peel as a wilderness area outside the Yukon. When he's here in the Yukon, he sits silently while his colleagues push a plan for the development of the same area. I have simple a question, and that is why?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: There is a simple answer — the member is wrong. In fact, the Minister of Tourism and Culture, like every member of this government, has worked collaboratively as part of this process and will continue to do exactly what the Premier committed to in the 2011 election campaign at the leaders forum on September 27 — that is, to seek a final plan that protects the environment and respects all sectors of the economy.

As members know, the Premier used strong language during the election campaign to express our concerns about the commission's proposed plan, including characterizing it as picking winners and losers and using strong words to explain why we considered it financially unaffordable and to express our vision for seeking a final plan that was fair and balanced to all users. We will continue to honour that commitment. We very much look forward to finishing reviewing the comments received from Yukoners during this consultation period. We also will consider input received from non-Yukoners, but, as was noted in the press release yesterday, the form letter and petition campaign saw 86.5 percent of the feedback from outside of the Yukon. Our primary focus is on what Yukoners think.

Question re: Violence against women

Mr. Elias: There's a disturbing trend in the rates of violence against women in the Yukon — they're going up. Statistics Canada has recently stated that between 2007 and 2011, the rate of police-reported assaults against women in the Yukon rose from 3 percent above the national average to 4.6 percent. First Nation women and women between 15 and 24 years of age experience the highest rates of violence.

These are hard truths we face. They are difficult to accept year after year after year. The hardest truth of all, however, is that very little is changing.

I'd like to applaud the minister and the numerous community groups for their contributions and efforts to date, but I think we can all agree that there is more — much more — to be done. What are the government's plans to improve their efforts in addressing the growing rates of violence against women in the Yukon and effectively starting to reduce them?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: First, I want to thank the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin for bringing attention to this very alarming rate and this very important issue of violence against women.

Our government certainly recognizes that violence against women remains a significant issue and continues to be a barrier to women's equality across the spectrum here in the Yukon and certainly across the world. We know that rates of violence, particularly against aboriginal women — as the member opposite has alluded to — is significantly higher in the north than the rest of the country, and we are very much aware of that fact, along with the fact that more work is required on all of our respective parts to address and to bring an end to violence.

We also know that, working together as a government with community partners and other governments and community agencies, and we as individual men and women in the territory, we all have a role to play. We are making a difference to support women who have experienced violence and we are working toward ending this violence that affects each and every one of us in so many different facets.

Our government continues to take action in the areas of prevention, crisis response and long-term support for women who are victims of violence. We will certainly continue to engage with all Yukoners in the important discussion of violence and what it is that we can do as a collective to address this.

Speaker: Order please. The member's time has elapsed.

Mr. Elias: Too many women live in a constant state of fear of violence in our territory and this creates a negative cost to our society. To be sure, there are organizations and facilities that exist to support and assist them. But those are just places women take refuge when we fail in other areas. Poverty, health care, substance abuse, affordable housing, employment, education and policing — all these issues and more contribute directly to the levels of violence in our communities. This is not simply an isolated issue.

To effectively address it, we need to step back and take a more comprehensive approach and collaborative effort with all governments from all regions.

What is the minister doing to lead the whole Yukon government, local municipalities, other Canadian provincial and territorial governments and the federal government in developing a comprehensive plan to drive down rates of violence against women in our territory?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, over the last several years, our government has played a very important role in reducing those very barriers to impeding women's equality across the territory. We are addressing those key barriers that influence women's vulnerability to violence.

As a collective — as the Government of Yukon — we continue to work on enhancing women's housing security, for example, through the creation of policies that provide victims of violence priority access to affordable housing. We have proceeded with construction of new, secure and affordable safe housing, such as the family-focused housing initiative here in Whitehorse, as well as Betty's Haven, which provides second-stage housing here in Whitehorse, and which also exists in Watson Lake.

We are working on developing creative and culturally responsive education materials on violence prevention; working to provide better support for those with substance abuse problems with the Department of Health and Social Services; working to advance women in the workforce through providing education and training through the Department of Education. We're collaborating and enhancing resources available to women's organizations throughout the territory to support them in their work to advance women's equality in the north. When it comes to violence against women, it is all of our responsibility to take action.

Mr. Elias: Our statistics are going the wrong way and our territory's collective goal should be to become the jurisdiction with the lowest rate of violence against women in our country.

In 1994, the United States adopted the *Violence Against Women Act*. The act effectively centralizes and strengthens the U.S. ability to comprehensively address this issue with a wide variety of national funding initiatives, programs, services, and most importantly, judicial changes. As a result, from 1993 to 2010, the rate of intimate-partner violence in the United States dropped 67 percent; homicide rates of females dropped 35 percent. Imagine rate drops like that in the Yukon.

Last month, the U.S. reauthorized this act and strengthened it to include specific protections for lesbians, gay, bisexual and transgender victims of violence. The unique interests of First Nation women were also addressed.

Will the minister go to the Yukon public to explore the idea of a Yukon violence against women act that would unite, centralize and strengthen women's efforts?

Speaker: The member's time has elapsed.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: As the minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, I will continue to work with each and every one of my colleagues on this side of the Legislative Assembly. I'll continue to work with aboriginal women's organizations. I'll continue to work with municipal governments, First Nation governments, the federal government and certainly our sister territories on addressing this very issue of importance.

Our government is taking action to address violence experienced by women in our communities and we wholeheartedly recognize there is a whole lot more work to be done.

Through public education, through policy work — again, through training initiatives, providing affordable housing, providing training, education, and so forth, we're working to do just that on a number of different fronts.

When it comes to addressing violence against women, we have introduced amendments to the *Family Violence Prevention Act*. We have expanded that definition of violence to allow for emotional abuse, which also includes stronger penalties for convictions of family violence. We're also working in the Department of Justice, following through with recommendations of the *Review of Yukon's Police Force*, a framework for coordinating our respective response to sexualized assault and domestic violence.

I appreciate the level of interest, and I appreciate the attention that the member opposite has brought to this issue and we'll continue to do that work.

Question re: F.H. Collins Secondary School reconstruction

Ms. Moorcroft: Since the first announcement many years ago, the saga of replacing the aging F.H. Collins Secondary School has been characterized by broken promises, delays, setbacks, postponed construction schedules, changes to tenders, geothermal heating proposals — in, then out, then in again — and confusion over gym demolition. Now the government is going back to the drawing board. It has thrown away the design. The location is different. The jobs will need to be re-tendered, and who knows when the school will be open for our students? Quite frankly, the public has no confidence in the Yukon Party government's ability to properly manage important capital projects.

What will the Minister of Highways and Public Works do differently this time to avoid the ongoing history and mess of Yukon Party government's mismanagement of capital projects?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Mr. Speaker, I will address this question as Premier and Minister of Finance.

Through this process, and after the work was done, this project went to detail design. From detail design, we had two independent estimators both look at this project to give the government an estimate as to cost and value to have this construction work done. What we saw was a low bid that came in over 20-percent — almost \$10 million — overbudget. On a school that we had already initially budgeted \$52 million for, it increased that total budget to over \$56 million. There is a lot that I can do with \$10 million. I can provide money for health care. I can provide housing for seniors. We can build more roads and bridges. We have money to build other schools as well.

This is about the money and the fact this government is not going to start a project that is \$10-million overbudget before we even start the construction.

Ms. Moorcroft: The Yukon Party government has a long history of huge project cost overruns, of building without demonstrated need and spending millions on planning without any end product. That is not fiscal responsibility.

In three separate audits over the last five years, the Auditor General has consistently found that when it comes to major capital buildings, the Yukon Party government does not do proper planning and design work.

This government has already spent \$5 million on the F.H. Collins design, and it is now going back to the drawing board — millions wasted, jobs lost, and yet another hit to Yukon families and the public purse.

After years and years of mismanagement, millions of wasted money and no plan to improve project oversight, how does the Minister of Highways and Public Works plan to restore public trust, get F.H. Collins back on track, and put our children first?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: This government is going to look at designs of schools that have already been constructed and done so economically. We will look at these designs from other

jurisdictions. As well, we'll ensure that these designs meet the needs from an engineering perspective — snow load, geotechnical. We'll incorporate the work that has been done through the building committee. A lot of work is done. We are not going to be starting from square one in this project, but we will have a look at other options out there. We're confident that we will be able to deliver a school that will meet the expectations of Yukoners and do so in a financially and fiscally responsible manner.

Question re: Peel watershed land use plan

Ms. White: During the election campaign, the government tried to avoid talking about the final recommended regional land use plan. When they were pressed, they said that they had concerns. A year ago, the government tried to change the principles on which the plan was developed — a move that undermined the process and broke agreements with the four affected Yukon First Nations. Then the government put out for consultation this new version of the plan and buried the recommended plan in the background.

The government has tried to direct the public and has tried to force the First Nation governments into accepting its new plan, all in violation of First Nation final agreements. When will this government stop trying to manipulate the process and implement the *Final Recommended Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan* as it was written?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I have to ask the member when the NDP will stop manipulating the facts in a way that fits the NDP interest but does not reflect what the facts actually are.

As the member knows very well, during the 2011 election campaign, at the leaders forum on the environment on September 27, the Premier made several strong statements expressing the Yukon Party's views about the work done by the commission, including characterizing it as picking winners and losers. He also committed to seek a final plan that respects all sectors of the economy and protects the environment. We will continue to do exactly that, and we are continuing to follow the process outlined by the UFA as we have from the start.

I would again remind members that, in fact, the concerns and the themes that are expressed through the work here today and the potential modifications are, in fact, the first time that government indicated to the commission that it wanted a plan more similar to the *North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan* was in 2006.

That has been said several times throughout that time period. We have proposed potential modifications that we believe are a better approach to not only protecting the environment, but allowing for economic use while capping the maximum footprint of development at significantly less than one percent. We have sought public input and we look forward to reviewing that input in the process of finalizing the land use plan.

Ms. White: I thank the minister for his opinion.

The minister is clearly doing all he can to change the plan. In the opinion of the four affected Yukon First Nation governments, they believe the minister is wrong. The communities of Mayo, Fort McPherson, Dawson City, Whitehorse and Old Crow also believe that the minister is wrong. The public has told the minister he is wrong. At this rate, the courts will also

be telling the minister he is wrong. Citizens see a government that is intent on creating economic uncertainty and conflict with First Nation governments.

Will the minister honour the law and the people? Will he implement the *Final Recommended Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan* as it was written?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: What we will do is continue to work within the process outlined in the *Umbrella Final Agreement* to develop a land use plan for the region. We were very clear throughout this process that we wanted to hear from Yukoners about their thoughts on the suite of proposed modifications that could go into a revised land use plan, as indicated by the *Umbrella Final Agreement* is possible for governments to do.

Of course, we will review the input the public has given us over the last very long public consultation we had and we will provide that information to the public, of course, via the website in due course, once we have annotated it and made it in a form that we can put on the website.

Of course, we'll consider the input from all Yukoners and ultimately arrive at a land use plan that we feel balances the competing interests in the area and works for all Yukoners — one that provides significant protection for key areas, while also managing the impact and footprint of activity in other parts of the area.

Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, we want a land use plan that is fair and balanced and works for all Yukoners.

Ms. White: Mr. Speaker, it is apparent to the people that this government has not acted in good faith. They have stonewalled the planning process. They try to change the principles on which the plan was founded. They have tried to sell their plan and not consult on the recommended one. They have treated First Nation governments, Yukon citizens, and the planning commission with disrespect and they have tried to direct public opinion instead of seeking it.

Again, will this government stop this charade, stop creating conflict and legal battles and implement the fair, balanced and publicly supported *Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan* as recommended by the commission and the First Nation governments?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I would again remind the members that there are forms of government around the world where unelected commissions hold vast power over large areas of land without democratic oversight.

None of those forms of government are called democracy. We were very strong in the phrasing that the Premier used at the leaders forum on the environment on September 27, 2011. We were elected by the public to a third consecutive majority. After that, we have continued to honour the commitments we made in the election campaign. We have followed the process outlined under the UFA and will continue to meet all of our legal obligations.

I would point out to members that in the recent feedback received, as outlined in the statistics, 80 percent of the feedback was through petitions and form letters; 86.5 percent of that feedback was from non-Yukoners. While we will give fair consideration to all comments, make no mistake — we were

elected by Yukoners, for Yukoners. We were not elected to represent the citizens of Pasadena, Düsseldorf or Toronto.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BILLS

Bill No. 10: *First Appropriation Act, 2013-14* — Second Reading

Clerk: Second reading, Bill No. 10, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Pasloski.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I move that Bill No. 10, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2013-14*, be now read a second time.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 10, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2013-14*, be now read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Honourable members, it is my honour and privilege today to table the 2013-14 budget, another \$1-billion budget and the second budget of the 33rd Yukon Legislative Assembly.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the constituents — my constituents of the riding of Mountainview; it is certainly an honour and a privilege to represent them here in this Legislative Assembly.

The 10 previous budgets tabled by three successive Yukon Party governments have helped make the economy of the territory one of the strongest in Canada and have placed Yukon in an enviable fiscal position.

The Government of Yukon's budget for 2013-14 is \$1.23 billion. The operation and maintenance budget totals \$977.35 million, of which \$88.696 million is recoverable. The capital budget is \$252.772 million, of which \$53.98 million is recoverable. This is the fifth Yukon government budget that exceeds the \$1-billion threshold, more than doubling the budget when the Yukon Party government took office in 2002. The 2013-14 budget, like its immediate predecessor, has a healthy \$72.878-million surplus.

Some of the funding pressures the Government of Yukon is facing that I noted in my 2012-13 Budget Address are even more relevant today; namely, the Building Canada plan expires in 2016 and still no replacement fund has been announced by Canada; the territorial health system sustainability initiative expires in 2014 and to date there is no federal commitment to expand the initiative beyond that date.

Funding by the Government of the United States for the Shakwak agreement to upgrade and maintain the south Alaska Highway and the Haines Road was removed from the U.S. government's 2012 transportation bill, which means that \$280 million to \$340 million estimated to complete the work is no longer in place.

Yukon's growing population will require the construction of more schools, as well as the expansion of the Whitehorse General Hospital. Yukon's expanding economy will also re-

quire more Yukon government investment in energy, transportation and communication infrastructure.

In my mandate letter to ministers, I pointed out that while the Yukon's economic outlook is extremely positive, we must be cognizant that the percentage increase in our territorial formula financing agreement for subsequent years will be significantly lower than in recent years. Some of this funding pressure can be accommodated by increased revenues from the private sector, due to Yukon's strong economy; however, we must continue to live within our means in meeting our platform commitments.

Having a healthy surplus now will assist our government in responding to these potential emerging priorities and pressures.

Mr. Speaker, 2013 is a year of important anniversaries — anniversaries that changed the course of history and made Yukon what it is today. The list of anniversaries is impressive. It is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Yukon College and the 40th anniversary of the presentation of *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*, the foundation document of the Yukon First Nations' land claims. It is the 30th anniversary of the running of the Yukon Quest and the 20th anniversary of the signing of the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and the first four Yukon First Nations' self-government and final agreements. Finally, it is the 10th anniversary of the devolution transfer agreement and the new *Yukon Act*, transferring the control and management of Crown land and resources from the Government of Canada to the Government of Yukon, effective April 1, 2003.

The story of Yukon College began on June 11, 1963, with the opening of the Yukon Vocational and Technical Training Centre located at what is now the Yukon Education building. Then came university-level courses and campuses in the communities until increasing public demand for post-secondary education led to the creation of a territorial college in 1983 — another key date under the auspices of the second Yukon Party government.

Our current Yukon Party government has a 2011 platform commitment to ultimately transform Yukon College into a northern university, the first university north of 60. We are also committed to providing land and resources for the development of the centre for northern innovation in mining at Yukon College. A proposal has been submitted to our government and to the Government of Canada through Human Resources Development Canada and CanNor to fund the centre over the next five years. Yukon College is continuing to play a pivotal role in educating and training Yukoners for Yukon opportunities. One can only imagine the advancements Yukon College will make over the course of the next 50 years.

Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow was presented to the Prime Minister at the time, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, in Ottawa by Elijah Smith and a delegation of Yukon First Nation leaders on February 14, 1973. This document is the founding document for the settlement for Yukon First Nation land claims. It is credited with helping to start the comprehensive land claims process here in Canada. *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow* started a 40-year journey in the territory to

settle land claims. While Yukon still has three settlement agreements outstanding, the 11 settlement agreements it has achieved represent almost half of the 24 modern treaties in Canada.

In celebrating the 40th anniversary of *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*, it is important to recognize that Yukon First Nation land claims have been put forward as early as 1901 or 1902 when Chief Jim Boss of the present day Ta'an Kwäch'än Council outlined his concerns dating back to the time when some of the early effects of the Klondike Gold Rush and development were being experienced by Yukon First Nation people.

It is the 30th anniversary of the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race, the toughest sled dog race in the world. The dog teams — including the malamute standing atop Yukon's coat of arms — are iconic symbols of the spirit of the north that celebrate the history of mushing in the territory as one of the first modes of transportation associated with the gold rush, trappers, traders and mail carriers who played a key role in the early development of the territory. It is this legacy that inspired the creation of the Yukon Quest 30 years ago and why we continue to celebrate its running today.

It is the 20th anniversary of the signing of the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and the first four self-government final agreements for the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, the Teslin Tlingit Council, the Na Cho Nyäk Dun, and the Vuntut Gwitchin on May 29, 1993.

These agreements were ratified and signed off under the stewardship of the Yukon Party government led by Premier John Ostashek.

In addition to providing ownership and management of Yukon First Nation lands and resources, as well as self-governing powers, these agreements establish key mechanisms for cooperation in areas such as wildlife management, land use planning and the assessment of development projects under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*.

A host of boards and committees involving both First Nation and Yukon government appointees — and sometimes federal representatives — play a key role in planning Yukon's future. Yukon is indeed fortunate to have settled 11 of 14 land claims in the territory.

The recent appeal by the Government of Yukon to the Supreme Court of Canada in relation to the Yukon Court of Appeal's Ross River Dena Council ruling regarding the staking of mineral claims under the free entry system and areas of unsettled land claims demonstrates just how important these land claim settlements are.

Without land claim agreements, governments — federal, provincial, territorial and First Nation — as well as industry have to seek clarity from the courts regarding consultation and accommodation requirements for First Nations on development activities within First Nation traditional territories.

Having 11 of 14 land claims settled gives Yukon a distinct advantage over other jurisdictions in Canada that do not have such treaties. This is the 10th anniversary of the devolution transfer agreement and the new *Yukon Act* that transferred the control of the management of Yukon land and resources from

the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to the Government of Yukon, effective April 1, 2003. Devolution gives the territory similar legislative responsibilities as provinces in managing Crown land and resources. Devolution, together with the settlement of Yukon First Nation land claims and Yukon Party government policies and administration, put Yukon on the pathway to prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, April 1, 2013 will mark 10 years since the Yukon Party government took over control and management of territorial Crown lands and resources. Our sister territory, Northwest Territories, is about to embark on the same devolution journey with the recent signing of a devolution agreement in Yellowknife on March 11, 2013. We wish them Godspeed in their journey and hope that their agreement will be as beneficial to the people of the Northwest Territories as Yukon's devolution agreement has been for Yukoners in the last decade.

Over the course of these last 10 years, Yukoners have experienced significant progress and advancements economically, environmentally and socially as a consequence of devolution and Yukon Party government administration. Yukon has posted nine consecutive years of real GDP growth and has exceeded the national growth rate in eight of those nine years.

Yukon's real GDP growth rate of 6.5 percent in 2011 was the highest growth rate of any Canadian jurisdiction. Growth in 2011 was built on the strong growth of 5.7 percent for 2010 and an incredible 7.7 percent for 2009 when the rest of Canada — and indeed the world — saw their economies contract. The Yukon government's budget in 2003 and 2004 was \$550 million. Over the last 10 years, our budget has more than doubled, primarily because of devolution.

While government spending did increase significantly over this time period, public sector contributions to GDP decreased from 39 percent to 30 percent, while the private sector's contribution to total GDP has been increasing, primarily because of the growth in the mining sector.

In 2011, mining and oil and gas were 23 percent of the GDP, with total GDP amounting to \$2.3 billion. Yukon's GDP for 2012 is projected to reach \$2.5 billion, more than double that of 2002.

A decade ago Yukon's population was 30,000 people. Now it's more than 36,000 people. Ten years ago our labour force was 17,000. Now it is at 20,000. In 2002, our unemployment rate was 9.5 percent. Now it is 6.5 percent.

Mineral exploration in 2002 was sustained mainly by placer gold production, which was estimated at \$25 million. In 2012, the value of mineral production is estimated to be about \$450 million, up from \$402 million in 2011. In 2002, mineral exploration was less than \$10 million, while in 2011, it reached a record high of \$300 million. In 2011, Yukon experienced its second gold rush in the largest staking rush in history, with more than 114,000 new quartz claims staked. While it is recognized that this high level of staking is not sustainable, current estimates for exploration in 2012 are about \$150 million, the third highest level on record.

In 2012, over 80 exploration projects were active in the territory, with over 30 of them spending at least \$1 million each. Yukon has seen nearly \$1.3 billion in exploration invest-

ment over the last 10 years. There are currently three producing mines in the Yukon, six projects in the permitting stage and 10 at the advanced exploration and feasibility stage.

Oil and gas development is also looking promising. Apache Resources has reported the discovery of one of the largest shale gas deposits in the world — approximately 48 trillion cubic feet in the Liard Basin that straddles the Yukon-B.C. border. Another example is Northern Cross in the Eagle Plains area, which we see as a positive sign that there is interest in the territory's oil and gas resources in both northern and southern Yukon.

Tourism continues to be a mainstay of the Yukon economy, currently generating more than \$200 million annually in revenue for Yukon businesses, with 30 percent of all businesses receiving some revenues from this industry. Tourism performance has continued to remain steady with increases in visits and growth in this sector in each of the past 10 years.

The decade of devolution has been good to Yukon and good to Canada, ushering in a decade of progress and prosperity.

Promoting a strong, diversified, private sector economy has been a consistent tenet of successful Yukon Party governments since 2002. Our objective has been, and continues to be, to develop an economy that is less dependent on government spending and more reliant on the private sector. As I mentioned earlier, Yukon's economy is trending in this direction, with the public sector's contribution in 2011 decreasing from 39 percent to 30 percent, and the mining and oil and gas sectors increasing to 23 percent of GDP. Our government believes it is important to create new wealth as opposed to redistributing existing wealth.

The territory's appeal for mining investment is also trending in the right direction. The *Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies 2012/2013* recognized Yukon as the eighth leading jurisdiction in the world for mining, up from 10th last year. Availability of skilled labour, infrastructure, investment security, political stability and low levels of regulatory uncertainty are all factors in achieving this rank.

Our government recently authorized two new mining operations to go into production: Alexco's Lucky Queen and Onek mining properties located in the Keno Hill silver district.

In view of the fact that prospectors and junior mining companies are facing challenges in raising capital for the upcoming field season, our government is investing \$770,000 — a \$200,000 enhancement to the Yukon mining incentive program, or YMIP, to help sustain mineral exploration this year. Yukon mining incentive program typically leverages private sector investment of four times what the government provides. YMIP led to many significant discoveries, including the White Gold area.

Under the devolution transfer agreement, the environment liability of the abandoned Faro mine is owned by the Government of Canada, who agreed to fund the Faro mine remediation project, which is coordinated by the Yukon government. To date, our government has relied on annual funding secured through an annual workplan and budget. As the Faro mine remediation project gets ready to implement the remediation

plan, a greater degree of certainty regarding the multi-year scope, schedule and budget of this project is needed to enable the project to succeed.

In 2013-14, Canada and the Yukon government are expected to finalize a five-year plan to secure the necessary funding to allow the project to proceed through the YESAB and permitting processes.

The Yukon government leads efforts to address environmental issues at the Faro mine. This includes managing ongoing site operations for care and maintenance and developing and implementing a long-term remediation plan. The 2013-14 budget allocates \$20.347 million to the Assessment and Mines branch to develop and implement cost-effective approaches to protect the environment and human health and safety at the former Faro mine, while maximizing training, employment and business opportunities within Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, historically, the major markets for Yukon's resources, primarily lead-zinc from the Faro mine, is the Asia-Pacific region — first to Japan, and then to Korea.

Although the Faro mine is now closed, the Asia-Pacific theatre is still the major market focus for Yukon resources. In January of this year, the Minister of Economic Development travelled to Beijing, Hong Kong and Tokyo on a trade mission to Asia highlighting Yukon as a modern territory with extraordinary mineral resources and untapped business potential.

In September of last year, I was in China as part of the Council of Federation mission and signed a five-year agreement, the Yukon-Shaanxi sister province agreement, with Governor Zhao.

For the past several years, the Yukon Party government, thanks to the efforts of my predecessor, Premier Dennis Fentie, and his Minister of Economic Development, Dr. Jim Kenyon, has worked hard to increase China's awareness of Yukon as a desirable place to do business. In particular, Yukon and Shaanxi Province have developed a special bond with numerous visits already taking place and the sister province agreement I signed on September 18, 2012.

The sister province agreement encourages exchanges and cooperation in areas of trade, investment, resource exploration, mining development and tourism. Establishing a formal relationship is considered an important element in Asian culture and this agreement is an opportunity for us to take our relationship with Shaanxi to the next level.

I have already mentioned how important tourism is to the Yukon economy and Yukon business. In this regard, I would like to thank Yukon's Member of Parliament, Yukon's Senator, and the Tourism Industry Association for all of their hard work in seeing that two of Yukon's major tourist attractions, the *SS Klondike* and Dredge No. 4 will have guided tours this coming summer.

The Department of Tourism and Culture is providing \$19,000, working in partnership with the Selkirk First Nation to fund wilderness interpretation training and employment for three Pelly Crossing residents this summer to perform maintenance and provide guided tours to visitors at the Fort Selkirk historic site.

There are a number of other economic and tourism projects with Yukon First Nations. The Teslin Tlingit Council is developing a comprehensive tourism strategy for the Teslin region. In February the Department of Economic Development reviewed the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in regional economic development plan. The Carcross-Tagish First Nation is receiving \$88,748 to continue the creation of a world-class trail network by the construction of a trail that will run from the McDonald Creek trail and connect with the lower Wolverine Creek and Fox Creek trails to take users back to Carcross. April's issue of *Outside* magazine, a major outdoor magazine, has named Carcross and Whitehorse as the top destinations for mountain biking. Our government continues to invest in Destination: Yukon to grow Yukon tourism revenues as well as in the Yukon visitor tracking program and in consumer websites that play an important role in promoting and highlighting Yukon as a travel destination to the world.

Supported by CanNor, Tourism and Culture is conducting an archeological site inventory in partnership with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Na Cho Nyäk Dun as well as Energy, Mines and Resources and Economic Development to assist the placer mining industry in meeting regulatory and YESAA requirements. Total funding for this project is \$479,000, with \$253,000 being provided in the 2013-14 budget.

Another collaborative venture with the placer mining industry is the Yukon paleontology program's Klondike gold fields initiative. This two-year program supports the Yukon government's acquisition of important ice-age fossils for the public benefit, with \$168,000 being provided in the 2013-14 budget to carry out this initiative.

Our government is also supporting the Northern Cultural Expressions Society with funding for the next three years for the carving programs that will help emerging artists develop the artistic, social and business skills required for personal success. Funding of \$345,000 is being provided in the 2013-14 budget to support the work of this society.

In addition, our government is providing \$200,000 to enable 80 Yukon performing, visual, literary, culinary, and fashion artists to be showcased in Ottawa this spring for the 10-day Northern Scene festival.

While I've referred to 2013 as being a year of anniversaries, 2014 will be the 50th anniversary of the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous Society, and in recognition of this event our government will be providing an enhancement of \$25,000 for a total of \$75,000 to the society.

Our government has also been successful in attracting some major conferences to the territory. This May, over 200 museum delegates and exhibitors will be attending the Canadian Museums Association's annual conference in Yukon.

This event will be followed in October by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North hosting their annual conference here in Whitehorse. This conference is expected to attract 300 delegates and focus on economic and social issues pertaining to Canada's north. The Centre for the North is an initiative of the Conference Board of Canada that began in 2009, with the goal of bringing aboriginal leaders, businesses, governments and community advocates together to identify

challenges and opportunities and to decide how these challenges can be met.

Both mining and tourism are largely dependent upon Yukon's transportation infrastructure — our primary roads, our secondary roads, rural roads, resource roads, bridges and airports. While the funding for the Shakwak project was removed from the United States government's transportation bill, Yukon government still has in reserve \$48 million of U.S. funding for Shakwak construction work over the next two to three years. Accordingly, we will be spending \$4 million this year on permafrost remediation to stabilize the north Alaska Highway and improve the drainage capacity and replacement of deteriorating BST service with hot mixed asphalt on the Haines Road. A further \$13.5 million will be spent on pavement overlay for the Haines Road. Our government is allocating \$4.35 million for rehabilitation of existing pavement on sections of the Alaska Highway, totalling 10.7 kilometres, with either full pavement overlay or recycling pavement into base course and resurfacing with BST.

The Campbell Highway will be undergoing reconstruction from kilometre 10 to 190 with an allocation of \$8.5 million. This is a high-standard road that provides a safe route for a mix of industrial and private traffic currently using this highway. Another \$1.5 million will be utilized to carry out surface repairs on other sections of the Campbell Highway.

The Atlin Road will see clearing, reconstruction, BST and revegetation from kilometre 22 to 36 at a cost of \$2.805 million.

Our government has been working collaboratively with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation government to fund the Yukon government contribution to the 2014 winter road project, and the 2013-14 budget allocates \$700,000 for this purpose.

Other highway improvements include \$2 million for the second year of a two-year project to reconstruct and resurface the Hot Springs Road; \$500,000 to complete safety improvements, such as guardrail replacement or repair, rock-fall protection and sub-grade improvements on primary highways; \$500,000 for Alaska Highway Whitehorse corridor planning; \$500,000 for aggregate production and surfacing on the Silver Trail; \$1.25 million for surfacing, spot repair and erosion control on the Dempster Highway; \$500,000 for the resource access road program; \$200,000 for the rural road upgrading program; \$1.35 million for improvements to the North Canol Road; and \$870,000 for surfacing and safety improvements for various secondary roads.

Bridge work includes \$1.88 million for rehabilitation of the bridges at Stewart River, Yukon River at Carmacks, Haldane and Wagon Creek. A further \$500,000 has been allocated for rehabilitation design of the Nisutlin Bay bridge.

Mr. Speaker, \$2.353 million will be invested in Yukon-wide aerodromes to address airside deficiencies. Projects include airfield levelling, brushing, safety and security improvements, as well as lighting, navigational aid upgrades, installation of run-up pads, and application of EK35 runway enhancements at Burwash, Dawson and Mayo.

While mining and tourism are going to continue to be the major strengths of the Yukon economy over the course of the

next two decades, other sectors such as oil and gas, agriculture, forestry, value-added manufacturing, film and sound, communication, information technology and knowledge-based industries will all help diversify the Yukon economy.

A diversified economy is a strong economy. As I noted previously, Yukon has substantial reserves of oil and gas in the Eagle Plains area of northern Yukon and the Liard Basin in southeast Yukon, not to mention the potential reserves offshore in the Beaufort Sea. The provision of affordable, clean energy is one of the territory's biggest challenges. While our long-term goal is to focus on larger scale hydroelectric power, our near-to medium-term goal is to focus on the development of the natural gas industry, in particular liquefied natural gas or LNG.

I would like to mention with respect to our longer term goal that our government met with Governor Parnell in January to discuss a feasibility study of connecting the Yukon grid to Skagway and southeast Alaska together with a fibre optic cable for communication redundancy.

In the near term, our government is currently consulting on a draft regulation to oversee gas processing plants in the territory. Gas processing plants, which include LNG storage facilities, require specialized regulation to allow for comprehensive oversight of their construction and operation.

This regulation would apply to LNG electrical generation facilities, including any which may be developed by utilities or mining companies that choose to use LNG to generate electricity instead of diesel.

Our government is also committed to engaging Yukoners in public dialogue regarding the potential development of the shale gas industry in northern Yukon in conjunction with the Vuntut Gwitchin government and, in southeast Yukon, in conjunction with the Liard First Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the agricultural industry helps to diversify the Yukon economy. Last year's annual agricultural ministers meeting was held in Whitehorse, co-hosted by Yukon and Canada. Our government recently signed the *Canada-Yukon Growing Forward 2* multilateral agreement. The original Growing Forward initiative helped bring Yukon-grown meats to local restaurants through the mobile abattoir and meat inspection services. Its project assisted farmers by funding cooperative farm equipment, assisting farmers in making direct sales by supporting the farmers' markets, improving environmental performance through the adoption of beneficial management practices, increased safety of fuel storage and improved access to water sources.

We are pleased to report the signing of a 30-year lease agreement for a 65-hectare parcel of land on the Mayo Road to enable the Yukon Agricultural Association to proceed with planning for a central agricultural facility to serve the industry and the Yukon public. It is also important to note that Yukon government's agricultural newsletter, *InFARMation*, marked its 25th anniversary in April 2012.

The forest industry is another contributor to economic diversity. Our government, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in government, the Dawson District Renewable Resource Council, and the regional forest industry worked collaboratively together to develop a strategic plan — the *Dawson Forest Resources Man-*

agement Plan. Forest management plans provide the framework to ensure certainty for the land use, sustainable harvest, and economic opportunities while integrating ecological, traditional heritage and other community values.

Similarly, last July the Champagne and Aishihik Yukon forest management implementation agreement was renewed to provide an updated vision for achieving forest-based social and community economic development objectives. The Liard First Nation has also recently expressed an interest in working with the private sector and the Yukon government to revive the forest industry in southeast Yukon.

Our government is enhancing the family-friendly focus of the Gunnar Nilsson and Mickey Lammers Research Forest by adding a forestry-themed playground.

Our government is also investing in film and sound. Yukon Film and Sound Commission will be attending the Association of Film Commissioners International locations trade show on June 28 and 29, 2013 in Los Angeles in order to promote Yukon as a location for filming. In partnership with the Northern Film and Video Industry Association, Yukon Film and Sound Commission is providing \$30,000 to manage, market and deliver experiential training and coursework in factual documentary series production for up to 10 teams of Yukoners.

Our government is also sending six Yukon music industry businesses to the Canadian Music Week in Toronto this month to further develop their skills. *Gold Rush*, season 4, will be shot in the Dawson area this year, and Yukoner Werner Welcher will be filming his three-part series, *Call of the Wild*, for OMNI Television.

Our government is funding the Cold Climate Innovation Centre for the next four years in the amount of \$558,000 per fiscal year. The commercialization of climate change technologies will provide important economic opportunities for Yukoners and contribute to the diversification of Yukon's economy. We are participating, as well as being co-chairs, of the Northern Communications and Information Systems Working Group and have recently initiated the Pan-northern Connectivity: Ensuring Affordable Communication Projects, with funding to be provided by CanNor.

The project will provide strategic and implementation plans for northern Canadian telecommunications connectivity, building on our initiative to improve the communication environment in Yukon with our counterparts in the north.

The Department of Economic Development is also actively engaged with the CRTC's view of Northwestel's regulatory framework, modernization plan and other related matters.

While our government has questioned some elements of Northwestel's modernization plan, we believe that there will be significant and ongoing benefits to Yukoners as a result of that plan — in particular, 4G wireless and upgraded Internet in every community.

Mr. Speaker, on the 10th anniversary of the devolution transfer agreement, I believe it is fitting to review the Yukon Party government's track record in relation to environmental protection. Because of devolution, the Yukon Party governments were the first Yukon governments to be in a position to

protect and preserve Yukon's environment and wildlife without direction from Ottawa.

It is a fact that successive Yukon Party governments have done more to protect and preserve Yukon's environment and wildlife than any previous Yukon government.

Prior to withdrawing any land for protection within the Peel watershed region, Yukon currently has 12.68 percent of its land protected, second only to British Columbia. Since assuming office in 2002, Yukon Party governments have identified six territorial parks and seven habitat protection areas. The protection of additional lands in the Peel watershed region will likely make Yukon the leading jurisdiction in Canada, in terms of environmental protection of its land area. Whatever the amount of land that the Yukon government protects in the Peel watershed region, it will never be enough to satisfy the demands of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, or CPAWS. CPAWS has a grand design for Yukon that is called Y2Y, or Yellowstone to Yukon. Y2Y is a joint U.S.-Canada non-profit organization that works with more than 110 organizations to implement a shared vision for conserving the biodiversity of 500,000 square miles, or a 1.3-million square kilometer region, stretching from Yellowstone National Park in Montana to the Peel watershed region in northern Yukon.

The Peel watershed region is, in fact, the northern anchor of this grand vision to create a corridor for Alaska grizzly bears to allow them to wander down to Montana.

Established in 1997, Y2Y has offices in Canmore, Alberta, and Missoula, Montana. Between 1997 and 2012, it raised more than \$46.5 million in conservation funding for the Yellowstone to Yukon region. In 2009, Y2Y was successful in having the Nahanni National Park and Reserve in the Northwest Territories expand to become the largest core protected wildlife habitat in the entire Yellowstone to Yukon system. In Yukon, Y2Y is working with the territorial chapters of CPAWS and the Yukon Conservation Society.

Y2Y's demands for new protected areas will not stop at the Peel watershed region. Its next targets for protection include the Wolf Lake ecosystem in south-central Yukon, including Teslin and the entire Upper Liard Basin in southeast Yukon, including Watson Lake. You can bet that the bumper stickers are already prepared.

Should Y2Y succeed in protecting all of these areas in conjunction with the existing parks — Ivvavik, Vuntut, Tombstone and Kluane — Yukon as we know it today will cease to exist.

Most of Yukon will be covered by parkland and the territory's resource-based economy would not be able to sustain itself nor our current population, resulting in a substantial loss of jobs and an exodus of people. No jobs means no people. CPAWS is not trying to save Yukon for Yukoners; it is trying to save Yukon from Yukoners. Yukoners have to ask themselves if this is what they want. Yukoners should be asking their territorial political parties if they support the Y2Y initiative. The Yukon Party, for the record, does not support the Y2Y initiative.

While we do not support the Y2Y projects or the CPAWS agenda of making the Peel region the northern anchor of the

Yellowstone to Yukon initiative, we do support environmental protection and are committed to preserving Yukon's wilderness beauty. We have created large protected areas and parks and we intend to create more. We believe environmental protection starts with effective regulation that sets high standards while allowing responsible use. This balanced approach is the best way to manage most areas of Yukon, including the Peel planning area.

Our proposed creation of restricted use wilderness areas in the Peel region allows for potential economic activity while capping the maximum footprint of all activity at significantly less than one percent. Doing this would ensure that 99.8 percent of the area remains pristine wilderness, while allowing for the potential of responsible use that provides significant economic benefit to Yukoners, preserving both pristine wilderness and economic opportunities for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that we find a proper balance that the final recommended plan failed to achieve. The mineral wealth of the Peel watershed region could sustain the territory for generations to come. The size and the value of the Crest ore deposit alone are astronomical. The estimated volume of iron ore in the conceptual pit — or just 15 percent of the total estimated deposit — is 1.68 billion tonnes. Based on the five-year average price of iron, this fraction of the deposit would have a market value of \$139.7 billion.

It would be irresponsible for any Yukon government to declare that this resource potential is off limits.

Future generations of Yukoners cannot afford to have this generation ignore the economic value of potential future development of large mineral resources like the Crest iron ore deposit. That deposit is a large strategic resource and the former commission acknowledged that it would provide over 100 years of economic benefit to Yukoners if it were developed. This government will not deny Yukon's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren the potential of economic benefit from responsible resource development. Providing financial compensation for direct or indirect expropriation simply would not be possible, as it would be far beyond the financial means of any Yukon government, both now and in the foreseeable future. Accordingly, we are continuing to follow the planning process set out in the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, and we are now nearing the end of that process. After completing consultations with affected First Nations, we will be adopting a plan that protects the environment and respects all sectors of the economy.

When it comes to protecting and preserving the environment, the protection of the territory's vast water resources is high on our list of priorities. Our government is in the process of developing a water strategy. A draft of the strategy is currently out for public view. Once complete, the Yukon water strategy will help protect groundwater resources, ensure Yukoners have access to safe drinking water, promote the sustainable use of water, and improve the generation and use of water information by water managers.

The 2013-14 budget, like previous Yukon Party government budgets, continues to appropriate considerable financial resources to ensure Yukon communities have access to clean

drinking water. Numerous multi-year programs are being carried out by the Department of Community Services under the Building Canada plan to improve water and waste-water systems throughout Yukon, totalling \$23.244 million and a further \$3.519 million for the water and sewer extension project at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport.

Some of the larger projects include \$2.965 million for Faro water and sewer pipe replacement and pumphouse; \$4.191 million for the Haines Junction water reservoir and pump system upgrades; \$1.823 million for Watson Lake water and sewer pipe replacement and wet well; and \$1 million each for water treatment plant construction in Deep Creek and community water well upgrades in Mendenhall.

A number of individuals from Old Crow are being trained to operate the community's water treatment plant currently through an operators course being offered at the Yukon College.

Our government is utilizing its share of gas tax fund projects totalling \$1.865 million to upgrade solid-waste management systems and related recycling and composting in unincorporated Yukon communities. Projects include solid-waste management plans, construction of cells for household and construction waste and upgrades to the Ross River solid-waste facility. A further \$2 million has been made available under the Building Canada plan for solid-waste management system improvements.

Our government continues to invest in FireSmart and maintain historical funding levels. FireSmart programs reduce the threat of wildfire in and around communities and neighbourhoods across the territory. A new Wildland Fire Management aircraft contract valued at just over \$3 million has been approved to better protect Yukoners and Yukon communities. Two full-turbine air tankers will be deployed this fire season to complete the upgrade of our air tankers begun in 2012. These turbine aircraft are faster, so they improve response times; carry heavier payloads and meet current North American standards for air tankers.

I have already mentioned the remediation plans for the Faro mine. However, our government is carrying out remediation work as well at other sites; namely, \$800,000 for continued remediation of the Klondike River highway camp; \$350,000 for the initiation of phase 1 cleanup of the Marwell tarpit; and \$30,000 for initial work on the Dawson highway camp.

Our government is also allocating \$750,000 as part of the Whitehorse waterfront revitalization project, treating contaminated soils removed from the old shipyards site.

The 2013-14 budget has identified \$500,000 for the second year of four years of funding for climate change research projects. The Department of Environment's Climate Change Secretariat administers these funds that are 100-percent recoverable from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada through its climate change adaptation program. Nine projects are now underway in the territory that will help increase awareness of the risks associated with climate change and help develop creative and innovative solutions for our northern environment.

Since the development and release of our government's *Climate Change Action Plan* in 2009, considerable progress has been made on the priority actions identified. The progress report released in 2012 sets out significant work done throughout the government over the past three years.

Environment Yukon continues to conduct fish and wildlife inventory projects in support of population monitoring, harvest management programs, land use planning and habitat management. Environment Yukon has surveyed fish and wildlife population for over 20 years. These surveys focus on highly accessible areas and are conducted to address management concerns and answer questions of interest to hunters, trappers, outfitters, land use planners, resource developers and fisherman.

Over the course of last summer and winter, 34 inventory projects were completed. The department's Fish and Wildlife branch highlights report provides an overview and highlights of inventory activity, all of which are posted to the public website annually.

Our capital improvements are necessary to assist our conservation officers in carrying out their duties. Accordingly, the 2013-14 budget includes \$1.675 million to construct a new district office in Watson Lake in order to house Conservation Officer Services, fish and wildlife programs and seasonal parks staff.

Another \$219,000 has been allocated to provide an addition to the Carmacks district office in order to accommodate one new conservation officer and a part-time field operations assistant added to this district.

I am pleased to report that a new campground will be built on Atlin Lake. Yukon has held a campground reserve in this location since the 1970s, and we have now decided to move ahead with this new campground at this location.

The 2013-14 budget is allocating \$780,000 to carry out planning and begin construction of the new campground this summer. The Parks branch of the Department of Environment has completed the reconstruction and boardwalk of the very popular Five Finger Rapids recreational site to improve public access.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that the 2013 Environment Fair will be held on Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11 at the Canada Games Centre. This year's theme is "Born to Be Wild", and will have family orientated focus.

The Department of Environment co-hosted the Yukon North Slope Conference in October of 2012 in Whitehorse. The Yukon North Slope Conference is held every three years to promote public discussion among aboriginal people, governments and the private sector with respect to management coordination of the Yukon North Slope. The theme of the 2012 conference was "Arctic Wildlife Conservation and Co-Management Lessons Learned and Future Challenges", with 156 delegates from all levels of government in attendance.

Regional bedrock mapping and targeted studies will be undertaken to enhance our understanding of the onshore and offshore geology of the North Slope and offshore Beaufort Sea. The offshore in particular has potential for significant energy resources; however, the geology of the area is very poorly un-

derstood. This research will leverage over \$600,000 from Germany, France and U.S. research collaborators.

Achieving a better quality of life is one of our four main pillars of our 2011 election platform, "Moving Forward Together." One of the major commitments in that platform was to build a new secondary school in Whitehorse to replace F.H. Collins. We want to assure students, parents and teachers that we fully intend to meet this commitment. The bids on the design concept for the new F.H. Collins Secondary School that went out to public tender, however, came in 21 percent — almost \$10 million — above the government's pre-tender estimate. Our government is committed to the principle of fiscal responsibility and it is for this reason that we will not be proceeding with the tendered design concept. The Finance minister can find many priorities for \$10 million. Instead, we will use a design concept that has already been constructed successfully and economically in other jurisdictions. Another advantage of proceeding with this new campus-style design is that it allows students to continue their studies in the current facility and use their existing gym without interruption, while the construction of a new school begins in a timely manner.

I've already mentioned the centre for northern innovation in mining to be established at Yukon College.

Our government is also providing \$1.1 million in this budget for Yukon College to purchase a mobile trades training trailer for welding, electrical, millwright and piping training across the territory as well as rural dual credit trades training.

Yukon College will be receiving \$276,195 for the development of a new primary care paramedic program at the college, which means that students will no longer have to leave the territory to receive high-level emergency medical service training.

The Department of Education's rural strategy has allocated \$349,000 to enhance current rural programming and implement new initiatives designed to improve programming, address gaps and improve student achievement outcomes. A further \$750,000 is being provided to implement a replacement for the Yukon student information system. The Department of Education is continuing to support the Yukon Literacy Coalition's Family Literacy Centre with a \$200,000 contribution. Starting in 2013-14, our government is contributing \$75,000 over three years to the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. On February 5, 2013, Safer Internet Day, the Yukon government and the Canadian Centre for Child Protection launched a public awareness campaign to promote www.cybertip.ca. Interactive safety education materials have also been distributed to Yukon schools.

This year, the Justice minister's policing priorities were informed by recommendations from the newly formed Yukon Police Council. The council was created out of the recommendations following the *Review of Yukon's Police Force*. Our Minister of Justice has communicated five priority areas of focus for policing; namely, reduction of the victimization of children and youth, improving the response to sexual assault and family violence, addressing community safety issues, building relationships with First Nations and responding to vulnerable populations.

The arrest processing unit will be built this year adjacent to the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre as a replacement for the RCMP cells. This \$3.086 million initiative was one of the principal recommendations out of the *Sharing Common Ground* report and will allow the RCMP and the Department of Justice to achieve better outcomes for persons temporarily held in cells by allowing them access to health care if required at Whitehorse Correctional Centre and be monitored by specially trained staff.

The 2013-14 budget includes \$62,600 for a position to support the Yukon First Nations community police services, including oversight for 16 RCMP members presently funded under the First Nations policing program.

The First Nations community policing officer will act as a liaison between First Nation communities and RCMP M Division. Canada announced the cancellation of funding for First Nation policing coordinator positions across Canada last year. Yukon felt this position was critical and therefore has added the funding for a re-profiled First Nation community policing officer for the 2013-14 territorial policing budget.

Our government has been working hard to meet the housing needs of Yukoners and the demand for developed lots. The 2013-14 budget is appropriating \$7 million of \$12.638 million over three years for the construction of a 34-unit social seniors building in downtown Whitehorse. The construction of this new building will commence this year and be completed in 2014-15.

The Yukon Housing Corporation and the Women's Directorate continue to work in partnership to support a part time, on-site program coordinator for the Whitehorse affordable family housing complex in Riverdale. The program coordinator provides programming and support services for tenants who are single parents.

The construction of Betty's Haven second stage housing is on time and on budget. The second stage housing project will provide 10 units of housing for women who are ready to leave the transition home.

A total of \$4.5 million, with \$1.2 million appropriated in 2013-14, has been committed to the construction that will provide supportive, secure and affordable housing for up to 18 months to women and their children who are fleeing abuse.

A six-unit social senior complex is being planned for Mayo, with the site remediation and planning to be completed in this fiscal year and construction to begin in 2014-15. An allocation of \$359,000 has been made in the 2013-14 budget for this purpose.

Yukon Housing Corporation recently announced a new loan program targeted at working Yukoners to assist them in obtaining the down payment required to enter the housing market.

In May of 2012, our government announced a long-term partnership with Habitat for Humanity and the donation of land in Whistle Bend for homes. Two duplex lots in phases 1 and 2 are being gifted to Habitat for Humanity to continue its mission of providing affordable home ownership to Yukon families. Yukon government has committed to providing a lot in each of

the five stages of Whistle Bend to Habitat for Humanity Yukon.

As for Whistle Bend itself, \$25.665 million, including the \$165,000 for Habitat for Humanity lots, is being provided for the completion of phases 1 and 2, and \$500,000 to plan phases 3 and 5.

The Whistle Bend subdivision is the largest land development project ever undertaken in Yukon. Once complete, the Whistle Bend subdivision is envisioned as a neighbourhood for 8,000 residents, complete with transit service, a town square featuring public park land and retail shops, space for a school, plentiful green space and many kilometres of paved and unpaved trails. A further \$4.425 million is being allocated for industrial, residential, cottage, recreational and agricultural lots in Carmacks, Dawson, Mayo, Teslin and Watson Lake.

Community Services has commissioned a \$300,000 land development study to guide long-term, territory-wide investment in land development. The Land Development branch is meeting with communities and First Nations in 2013 to share survey findings and seek their feedback to guide implementation of key components of the study and to help them develop land release plans to meet their long-term needs. Our government is working with the City of Whitehorse to initiate a MacLean Lake lot feasibility plan and Long Lake subdivision feasibility plan with an investment of \$400,000.

The Department of Health and Social Services is proceeding with our platform commitment to replace the Alexander McDonald Lodge in Dawson City. The credit for this initiative rests with the former MLA for Klondike, Steve Nordick.

The McDonald Lodge replacement structure will be a single-storey, modular design/build continuing care facility with a 15-bed capacity to be built on the property currently occupied by the health centre and beside the new hospital. The 2013-14 budget is appropriating \$7.262 million for this facility that will provide enhanced programming, including respite and convalescent care.

Our government is also meeting its platform commitment to enhance home care. Additional home care funding will allow residents to remain home longer and reduce or replace the need for expensive acute care or long-term residential care services. Health and Social Services has budgeted \$429,000 for the enhancement of the home care program.

We are also increasing support services to children and adults with disabilities. Examples include \$50,000 for the Handy Bus; \$364,000 to support adults with disabilities day programming and residential services; \$200,000 to increase access to services and equipment for children with disabilities; and a provision for an additional speech and language pathologist position at the Child Development Centre.

The Continuing Care division of Health and Social Services recently achieved accreditation with exemplary standing throughout all programs and services. Accreditation Canada grants this highest award of excellence to denote an outstanding level of performance and organizational commitment to ongoing quality improvement.

In September 2012, Yukon Continuing Care conducted a three-day on-site survey as part of the ongoing quality-

improvement process through Accreditation Canada. All facets of work were surveyed, including standards in leadership, infection prevention and control, home care services, long-term care services, palliative care services and medication management.

Yukon Continuing Care met 96.3 percent of the standards set by Accreditation Canada, including all required organizational practices, and 97.4 percent of all high priority criteria. Mr. Speaker, this is a remarkable achievement.

Another good news story concerns nurse practitioners. Nurse practitioners will now be integrated into the health care system. Following amendments last fall to a number of pieces of legislation that recognize nurse practitioners, as well as passage of the regulations governing the profession, nurse practitioners are now able to practise in their full scope.

The first nurse practitioner was hired by Continuing Care. The recent Yukon Medical Association agreement supports collaborative care, including nurse practitioners within family practices, which will enhance the provision of primary health care within the territory.

The new five-year agreement negotiated in October with the Yukon Medical Association addresses a variety of initiatives and focuses on increasing access to health care while at the same time recognizing the need to guard social programs in the future.

The \$8.5-million agreement over five years addresses ongoing challenges with recruiting and retaining family practitioners, as well as access to physician services in rural remote areas, as already noted, with respect to collaborative care. A recruitment and retention officer started in January in order to focus the department's efforts on a variety of physician recruitment efforts. Our government is making it easier for doctors to learn about opportunities in Yukon through the newly launched www.yukonmed.ca website, which provides information on career opportunities, benefits, hospitals, physicians and communities.

While one of the department's priorities has been to find international medical graduates for Watson Lake, it is also important to recruit physicians for Whitehorse, and a few physicians have stepped forward to assist by travelling with the office to spread the word about Yukon. If you are going to recruit physicians, you have to have a place to put them. While the Auditor General has been critical of the planning around the community hospitals in Dawson City and Watson Lake, the people in those communities and in the surrounding areas are well aware of the value of these facilities.

Dawson City, Watson Lake and Mayo have all had a long history of access to hospital care that has eroded over time, leaving many rural Yukoners feeling like second-class citizens when it comes to hospital care. Moreover, access to hospital care for rural and remote communities, mining operations and other industries is a critical consideration in attracting workers, investors and new residents to communities.

Our government, in planning for the replacement of the Sarah Steele Building, supports a new facility that allows for the expansion and enhancement of alcohol and drug services and promotes the development of innovative response to addic-

tions and mental health issues. It also addresses key recommendations of the Taskforce on Acutely Intoxicated Persons at Risk. Program planning for the Sarah Steele Building replacement will include medical detox, a transition unit, youth detox and a youth in-patient or family unit. Initial funding of \$900,000 is being provided to carry out this work.

Non-governmental organizations, or NGOs, provide invaluable service in many areas that government simply isn't in the position to provide. In recognition of their service, \$460,000 is being provided to various NGOs to support the work and professional contribution of their staff. The Women's Directorate has committed \$150,000 per year for three years to support aboriginal women's organizations to develop three-year community-based projects to address the recommendations from the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Summit 2 in order to advance the social, economic and legal equality of aboriginal women in Yukon.

A women's equality fund amounting to \$300,000 per year is providing support for eight women's organizations focusing on direct services to women, research and advocacy and public education.

Community infrastructure is a key determinant in contributing to Yukoners' quality of life. This year's \$1.477 million increase for a total of \$18.055 million in the comprehensive municipal grant funding will strengthen municipal programs, services and infrastructure and improve the quality of life for all Yukoners. Projects to be announced in the 2013-14 Building Canada annual capital plan will continue to provide major benefits in Yukon communities. The full scope of projects totalling \$3.405 million will be announced this spring by Yukon and Canada.

Final work on the Whitehorse and Carcross waterfront projects will wrap up this season. These multi-year projects have resulted in the beautification and rejuvenation of these historically significant areas of these two communities. Now residents and visitors alike are drawn to these areas, creating economic benefits for the entire territory.

Beaver Creek is getting a major \$3.668-million facelift with the construction of a new Beaver Creek fire hall, EMS and search and rescue facility. This new facility will enable training, skills development and team building among emergency responders so that they are better able to help visitors, neighbours and families in the communities along the Alaska Highway.

The Ross River public works building will be officially opened upon completion later this spring. It will house the community's fire truck and other public works vehicles and a new water treatment plant. The two projects combined represent \$7-million investment under the Building Canada plan.

The emergency response centre in Whitehorse will be completed this fall with full operations starting mid-summer. This new centre will house a permanent, central ambulance station that will improve response times and enhance ambulance services. Our government is providing \$310,000 to purchase two new ambulances. Our professional responders are expected to field more than 5,000 calls in Whitehorse and 1,300 calls from rural Yukon in 2013-14. Similarly, we are

providing \$610,000 to purchase a new pumper-tanker and a new tanker for Yukon's territorial fire service as part of the Fire Marshal's Office's integrated territorial fleet modernization and upgrading program.

A further \$765,000 is being provided for a mobile live fire training trailer that will improve firefighter training for exterior and interior fires. Investments in volunteer fire department gear and equipment upgrades will be another \$387,000. In addition to capital enhancements, our government is investing \$1.71 million in the Fire Marshal's Office to increase the number of deputy fire marshals, training for volunteer firefighters, and continue public awareness campaigns about how to safeguard home and family from carbon monoxide and structural fire.

Some communities have to contend with floods as well as fires. Our government is providing \$750,000 to find a permanent engineering solution for the winter flooding abatement along the Mayo River to safeguard the community, as well as erosion control in Upper Liard to protect homes on the south side of the river as a result of damages from the floods in 2012.

Libraries play an important role in our community life, and our government is relocating the community libraries in Beaver Creek and Carmacks to the schools. The Department of Education has budgeted \$130,000 for renovations to the schools to accommodate the library moves. It is interesting to note that Wi-Fi access is now available in seven community libraries, as well as Whitehorse, with three new locations planned for the coming year.

The e-book program is also widely successful with over 800 books in use now with several hundred more being added in the coming year. There are now over 600 users who have borrowed items over 5,200 times.

Sport and recreation are not only important to community life, they affect the lives and health of individual Yukoners. This year, our government will continue to invest \$1.635 million to support the continued achievement of Yukon sport and recreation organizations, athletes, coaches and officials, all of whom contribute tremendously to building healthy and vibrant communities throughout Yukon. This annual funding provides vital support to sport and recreation programs for Yukoners of all ages and abilities.

In order to increase participation and access to sport in the territory, our government is renewing our sport bilateral agreement with the Government of Canada which will flow nearly \$1.7 million over three years, starting in 2012-13 to continue to support the efforts of local sport organizations and communities. The Government of Yukon will contribute \$934,000 and Canada will contribute \$755,000. The funding will directly benefit organizations like the kids rec fund, sport governing bodies and community sport and physical activity leaders, all of which provide programs that support participants, coaches, officials and our young rural and aboriginal athletes.

We are also supporting Team Yukon's participation in the 2013 Canada Summer Games and to prepare Team Yukon for the 2014 North American Indigenous Games that will be held in July. Major games are a critical element in Yukon's athlete, coach and officials development programs which create new

opportunities for athletes to excel and grow and to build Yukon's sports system by developing the skills of our coaches and our officials.

Our government is fulfilling its commitment to construct a new Ross River recreation centre. Work is scheduled to begin in the spring.

The 2013-14 budget is appropriating \$6 million of this new \$7-million energy-efficient and accessible recreation centre. The centre will be an important gathering place for youth and community members that will promote activity and healthy living. It includes a hockey arena and multi-purpose areas suitable for sport and recreation programming.

In speaking of active living, I am pleased to report that our government has met another one of our 2011 platform commitments. We are investing \$250,000 in active living programs to implement the renewed Yukon active living strategy and to boost physical activity levels among Yukoners of all ages and to help combat childhood obesity.

Practising good governance is another pillar of our 2011 election platform. Good governance means implementing cooperative governance and forming partnerships.

Yukon will chair and host the annual Northern Premiers Forum meeting this spring. I will be meeting with my two territorial colleagues, Premier Bob McLeod of the Northwest Territories and Premier Eva Aariak of Nunavut, to discuss issues of common interest and priorities outlined in the pan-territorial northern vision. These include issues relating to Arctic sovereignty and security, sustainable communities in the north and intergovernmental relations.

Yukon is looking forward to working closely with the federal government to ensure the Canadian chairmanship of the Arctic Council is successful. Canada officially takes over the chairmanship from Sweden in May and is committed to ensuring that the territories have a key role for the next two years. Meetings will be held in all three jurisdictions, and we have had many discussions with Canada to ensure that the priorities it has outlined for its chairmanship are aligned with ours. As interest in the circumpolar countries and the Arctic increases, Yukon will be at the forefront of this activity.

This summer, Yukon will host the 2013 Ministers of Local Government Conference in Whitehorse. The key focus will be the highly anticipated federal infrastructure funding program to replace the Building Canada fund, which expires in 2016.

Yukon will host Operation Nanook 13 in August. Primarily a Canadian Forces annual northern sovereignty operation, the Yukon component of Operation Nanook will involve a scenario whereby a massive forest fire is threatening Whitehorse. Much like the forest fire of 1958, this exercise will give the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada managers, Canadian Forces personnel, and our partners an opportunity to test and improve our joint capacity for timely and integrated emergency response.

On June 1, 2013, the official grand opening celebrations of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations' Da Ku Cultural Centre will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of their signing of the self-government and final land claims agreement. This building was funded through the federal MRIF program with

equal, \$4-million contributions from all three levels of government, plus a \$5-million investment by Parks Canada. The centre houses both Parks Canada's information centre and the Yukon visitor information centre. It is a shining example of cooperative governance.

Good governance means developing and implementing appropriate legislation and regulations. Community Services is currently developing the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*. The new residential tenancies office has been created and a new director has been hired. A consultation on matters contained in regulations, including minimal rental standards, will take place later this year. Community Services is working toward having the legislation ready to proclaim and a new office opened in the fall of 2013.

The *Employment Standards Act* is being amended to ensure that Yukon workers have job protection and access to new federal benefits in the event that they must look after critically ill children or must endure the tragedy of missing or murdered children.

The land titles modernization project that was announced in the spring of 2012 has completed its preliminary consultation schedule and is now in the process of continuing on to phase 2 of the project. The advisory group consulted widely with stakeholders and was able to report their findings to the Minister of Justice at the end of December. The information will be used to inform the drafting of new legislation into a system drawing up specifications of a new land titles computer system and business practices. The public may access the reports on the consultation through the Department of Justice's website.

Mr. Speaker, in this sitting of our government, we will be introducing amendments to the *Building Standards Act*, the *Fire Prevention Act*, and the *Electrical Protection Act* related to oil-fired appliances to improve public safety. Regulatory provisions will require that oil-fired appliances are installed by a qualified oil burner mechanic, installation of smoke alarms in all Yukon residences and installation of carbon monoxide detectors in all residences, including rental units, with fuel-burning appliances or attached garages.

Action is being taken to provide training to increase capacity in the local oil-fired appliance industry, strengthen the regulatory regime and raise public awareness of heating system safety.

Good governance means the delivery of effective programs and services to Yukoners.

There will be a \$270,000 increase in the homeowners grant due to an increase in home ownership in Yukon, a very positive sign. Our government is investing in a review of 911 services to determine the feasibility of expanding the service beyond the existing coverage to improve emergency response capabilities.

The good energy program is intended not only to highlight the benefits of more efficient and new technology to the public and to provide savings immediately, but also to act as a catalyst for additional behavioural changes on the part of Yukon consumers.

Between 2007 and 2011, over 4,300 households have reduced their energy loads and costs through the purchase of En-

ergy Star certified appliances. Over 29 percent of Yukon households have participated in Yukon government energy efficiency programs one or more times. Total lifetime electrical savings for the good energy program is over three million kWh saved, enough to power 247 Yukon homes for a year.

In keeping with the spirit of the good energy program, our government will be investing \$2 million in the main administration building for planning and design for mechanical, electrical, and structural upgrades to reduce energy consumption, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and address public code issues.

Good governance means making improvements in project planning, leasing, and maintenance practices. To this end, the Property Management division of Highways and Public Works has developed a set of portfolio management approaches to measure real property assets that seek to match demand for property with available supply, dispose of liabilities and increase the value of assets, and strategically procure and manage real estate to minimize the real estate costs to government. This initiative has led to efficiency improvements in the project planning, leasing and maintenance practices.

Good governance means improving government corporate information systems, finance, human resources records, land information, data warehouse, and record management and storage. Our government is investing \$7.318 million to improve the corporate information systems and \$1.115 million for the records program improvement initiative, which is improving record management practices across the government to a standard that will support the management of digital records.

Good governance means providing services to Yukon's francophone community. For the first time, our government has established the French Language Services Directorate as a separate budget vote. Accordingly, our government is investing \$289,000 to introduce three pilot projects related to French language service delivery in the health and social services sector and will develop a corporate four-year plan to achieve consistency with the *Languages Act* and the French language policy.

Yukon is embarking on a renewed relationship with the French community. Our partnership will focus on developing a more strategic approach to the delivery of French language services within the government to better meet the needs of French-speaking Yukoners.

Good governance means ensuring respectful workplaces in government and assisting Yukon government employees who have had an illness or injury that affects their ability to work. Our government is allocating \$250,000 for the Respectful Workplace Office to implement a new government-wide approach to dealing with conflict and disrespectful behaviour in Yukon government workplaces and \$350,000 to implement a new disability management program, developed in 2012, to help manage our rising rates of long-term disability. This program aims to help workers stay at home or have an early and safe return to work.

Good governance means being open, accountable and fiscally prudent. Being fiscally prudent is a hallmark of our Yukon Party government administration. Accordingly, in order

to reduce government interest payments, our government will contribute \$27 million toward paying down loans that the Yukon Hospital Corporation incurred to finance the Thomson Centre, Crocus Ridge and the Dawson City and Watson Lake capital projects. In doing so, this will substantially reduce the debt servicing charges by \$39 million in the long term and are reflected in the operation and maintenance transfers made to the corporation.

For the second year in a row, we have included in the budget a summary of the consolidated information for the Yukon government reporting entity. The consolidated financial summary includes not only the departments identified in the appropriation bill, but also all other corporations that are included in the Yukon government reporting entity — namely, the Yukon Hospital Corporation, Yukon College, Yukon Development Corporation, Yukon Housing Corporation and the Yukon Liquor Corporation.

Our decision regarding the redesign of F.H. Collins school is another good example of fiscal prudence. Our 2013-14 budget, like its predecessors, includes a multi-year capital plan that enables Yukon's private sector contractors to plan ahead in relation to our commitment to stable, predictable investments in key sectors of our economy. We are committed to a multi-year plan of expenditures concerning information technology of \$6.5 million, capital building maintenance of \$10.25 million, land development of \$30.79 million in 2013-14 and \$121.28 million in the following three years to 2016-17, and transportation infrastructure of \$57 million in 2013-14 and \$135.3 million in the next three years to 2016-17.

The 2013-14 budget is the second budget of our renewed mandate that continues the journey set out in our 2011 election platform, "Moving Forward Together". This budget, like its immediate predecessor, is meeting our commitments to Yukoners, budget by budget. The 2013-14 budget is designed to manage the challenges that a growing, prosperous economy brings. This is a good budget for Yukon and for Yukoners.

I commend the 2013-14 budget to all members of this House. May God bless Yukon, may God bless Canada, and God save the Queen.

Motion to adjourn debate

Ms. Hanson: I move that debate on second reading of Bill No. 10 be now adjourned.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Leader of the Official Opposition that debate on second reading of Bill No. 10 be now adjourned.

Motion to adjourn debate on second reading of Bill No. 10 agreed to

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

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

Motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

The following Sessional Papers were tabled March 21, 2013:

33-01-68

Yukon Human Rights Panel of Adjudicators 2011-12 Annual Report (Speaker Laxton)

33-01-69

Auditor General of Canada, Office of the, Report to the Yukon Legislative Assembly, 2013: Capital Projects – Yukon Hospital Corporation (dated February 26, 2013) (Speaker Laxton)

33-01-70

Absence of Members from Sitings of the Legislative Assembly and its Committees: Report of the Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly (dated March 21, 2013) (Speaker Laxton)