

**Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Tuesday, April 16, 2013 — 1:00 p.m.**

**Speaker:** I will now call the House to order. Instead of a prayer today, I will ask all members to join in a moment of silence for all people affected by yesterday's horrific act of terror at the Boston Marathon. In particular, we wish a speedy recovery to the injured, and our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the families and friends who have lost someone.

*Moment of silence observed*

**DAILY ROUTINE**

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

**TRIBUTES**

**In recognition of National Public Safety Telecommunications Week**

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I rise today on behalf of all Members of the Legislative Assembly to pay tribute to emergency dispatch personnel in the territory during National Public Safety Telecommunications Week.

The men and women in the fire and emergency medical services and the RCMP dispatch centres provide critical service to our communities every hour of every day of the year. These highly-trained specialists are the vital link between public and first responders across the territory. On a minute-by-minute basis they answer calls from citizens across this great territory and are the compassionate and professional voice that assists in sending help and returning order and safety to those who call.

RCMP dispatchers located here in Whitehorse manage hundreds of radio and electronic transmissions each and every day and provide around-the-clock coverage to the entire territory. Fire and emergency medical services dispatch professionals coordinate responses and resources using an integrated radio system that links first responders and many other government emergency and support services across our territory.

These dispatchers form a critical link in our territory's emergency response system, as they not only provide a vital connection between the public and their emergency responders, but maintain a minute-by-minute status list of all RCMP members who are working or who are available for dispatch, helping to ensure both the safety and availability of our first responders.

They provide responses in both official languages and can access other languages common to visitors and territorial residents. For citizens across Yukon, emergency services dispatchers and fire, police and ambulance services are a voice of calm, hope and assistance to citizens who need help.

As we well know, they also provide a wide range of information and support to our first responders across the territory. Theirs is a complex, demanding world with an enormous weight of responsibility. We appreciate all that they do.

Please join me in recognizing and thanking those among us who are truly a 24/7, minute-by-minute lifeline to our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**In recognition of Celebration of Swans**

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** Today it is my pleasure to pay tribute on behalf of all Members of the Legislative Assembly to the Celebration of Swans. This year, the celebration began on Saturday, April 13, and will run through until Sunday, April 21.

The Celebration of Swans is Yukon's premier bird festival, bringing many people out to great swan viewing areas to welcome spring to the north. The Celebration of Swans is the largest birding event in Yukon. People of all ages and cultures make their way to Swan Haven on M'Clintock Bay to witness the spectacle.

There are always first-timers out, some of them new to the Yukon and some lifelong Yukoners as well. Activities during the Celebration of Swans teach us about the importance of early spring open water while viewing the birds at a respectful distance. Most Yukoners now know that swans disturb easily so they keep their dogs leashed when near open water. The swans need to rest and feed so they can safely make it to their nesting grounds in central Yukon and Alaska.

I would like to note how supportive Yukon media are in the Celebration of Swans. The wildlife viewing team really appreciates the good work of radio, print and TV reporters to spread the word, not only about events, but also to remind us how fortunate we are to be able to enjoy the spring migration virtually on our doorsteps. In fact, the Celebration of Swans will be a national story on television and radio later this week, thanks to the CBC.

M'Clintock Bay and the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre welcome about 10 percent of North America's trumpeter swans during their spring migration. When these birds arrive in March, most Yukon rivers and lakes are locked under ice, but at M'Clintock Bay they find shallow, open water filled with much-needed food.

Because the surrounding ice provides good sight lines from approaching predators, this spot offers everything that a migrating bird needs, a place to rest and feed. But it's not just Trumpeter swans that come visiting, there are tundra swans, Canada geese, goldeneye, mallards, canvasback, scaups, northern pintails, redheads, mergansers, ring-necked ducks, buffleheads and herring gulls — not just at M'Clintock Bay but on other open waters at Johnsons Crossing, Carcross and Tagish narrows. I would note that there are no baby swans to see at this time of year. If you see what looks like a baby, it's a duck. For those who cannot make it out to see the waterfowl firsthand, the very popular swan cam is back this year thanks to Yukon Energy Corporation and Peter Heebink. The camera is located very close to the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre on the northwestern shore of M'Clintock Bay at the north end of Marsh Lake. To access the swan cam you can just go to [www.yukonenergy.ca](http://www.yukonenergy.ca) and click on the swan cam link. There is a lot happening during this Celebration of Swans.

Yukoners can find out what is happening by visiting the schedule of events available on-line at [www.wildlifeviewing.gov.yk.ca](http://www.wildlifeviewing.gov.yk.ca) or perusing the Yukon Cele-

brates Spring 2013 brochure that arrived in their mailboxes at the beginning of April.

In closing, I would note that while Environment Yukon's wildlife viewing program coordinates the Celebration of Swans, this event would not be possible without help from many different community organizations and businesses. I would like to recognize l'Association franco-yukonnaise, the Carcross-Tagish First Nation, Marsh Lake Community Association, Environment Canada, Whitehorse United Church and the Kluane First Nation. I would also commend the businesses around town that have recognized the Celebration of Swans in their window displays and products. Lastly, I would commend photographer Rick Massie for the spectacular photograph that graces this year's Celebration of Swans poster.

I encourage all members to visit Swan Haven this April or to participate in one of the many interpretive events during this year's Celebration of Swans.

**Speaker:** Introduction of visitors.

Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

## TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I have for tabling the Yukon Lottery Commission's annual report for 2011-12. I don't get to speak about the Yukon Lottery Commission very often, but I'll take the opportunity to thank Connie Reimer, the Dawson City resident who chairs the board of the Yukon Lottery Commission, as well as all the staff who support her and the good work that the Yukon Lottery Commission does throughout the year.

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

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motion?

Is there a statement by a minister?

This brings us to Question Period.

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: Mine safety

**Ms. Hanson:** Yukon Zinc, which operates the Wolverine mine, has been charged with failing to report a serious incident in which a worker drove a Scooptram mining vehicle into a sump pit filled with water while travelling through a flooded area. Both the employee at the centre of the incident and a former productions superintendent have said that safety issues at this mine run deeper than the failure to report. There are allegations that safety policies were disregarded, that the worker was berated for the incident and forced to walk two kilometres back to camp, and that an employee was fired for refusing to lie about safety violations. There have been two deaths at the Wolverine mine, from a tunnel collapse and from a truck without a secured parking brake.

Can the minister provide details about how mine safety allegations are being investigated? What new corrective measures are being implemented to ensure that operations at the

Wolverine mine are safe and not risking the health and lives of workers?

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

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I want to reiterate our position. The government takes the issue of mine safety in the territory very, very seriously. When Occupational Health and Safety officers learn about any safety issue at any Yukon workplace, including the mines operating in this territory, they investigate the scope of the issue and determine if follow-up is appropriate. In the case of the Wolverine mine on September 11, 2012, the Yukon Workers' Compensation Board received notice of a very serious incident at the Wolverine mine, where a worker — as the Leader of the Official Opposition has stated — inadvertently had driven a piece of mobile equipment into an underground sump. Unfortunately, the incident had occurred almost three weeks prior to Workers' Compensation being notified. Workers' Compensation investigated. They did write corrective orders. They also issued an administrative penalty for failure to report a serious incident.

The details of the incident, of course, I can't report here in the Legislature, but that was the action taken by the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board.

**Ms. Hanson:** I thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, in December, in response to my questions about how we are ensuring mines operate safely and minimize risk to the lives of workers, a Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board official said, and I quote: "It can be done well; it can be done safely. There are a lot of risks, and a lot of hazards to deal with, but one doesn't have to take a haphazard approach. ... Something gone wrong can affect quite a number of workers, and I can tell you that none of us wants a Westray on our watch."

Yukoners will remember that the Westray mine operation had a direct link to the Faro mine. It is a history we do not want repeated. The latest report from the chief inspector of mines indicated a mine emergency response trailer was designed and ordered and was to be equipped and ready for June of last year.

Is this emergency response trailer in place? When did it become fully operational, and has it been used?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that information immediately available, but I will undertake to get the information and provide it to the member opposite in the Legislature as soon as I possibly can.

**Ms. Hanson:** I appreciate that answer, Mr. Speaker. There is no doubt that the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board views mining safety seriously, and I acknowledge that there have been new safety officers trained, mine rescue courses organized and rescue equipment purchased. I am perplexed, as I said earlier, about this trailer. This government has indicated it will permit mining companies to hire up to 50 temporary foreign workers each. There are serious concerns about how prepared the Yukon is to ensure that these workers are safe on the job, especially those who come from lands with different safety standards and who often do not speak English. As this government moves to allow mining companies to hire temporary foreign workers, Yukoners want to know that steps

have been taken to ensure these workers are fully aware of their rights and responsibilities to work in a safe environment and know who to turn to when they encounter unsafe practices.

Will the minister share the information related to the Yukon's occupational safety and health regime that is provided to temporary foreign workers when they arrive to work in this territory?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I know that, with respect to our temporary foreign workers program, it hasn't been introduced yet, as I've said on the floor of this House earlier in this sitting. When it is introduced, there will be partnerships with Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board. It's one of the unique features of our annex, or the Yukon temporary foreign workers program.

While I don't have details, I'm certainly willing to provide them to the Leader of the Official Opposition, either in a future Question Period or perhaps through some correspondence once we are finished. I will get the details that she was asking for, but I will get them to her at a later date.

**Question re: Yukon supplementary allowance**

**Ms. Stick:** Mr. Speaker, on April 9, the minister stated, and I quote: "The Yukon supplementary allowance is a separate benefit for social assistance clients who are excluded from the work force based on age or infirmity, and that is a monthly rate that was doubled in 2008, from \$100 per month to \$200 per month, and has since been indexed as well."

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the amount is \$250 and it has not increased since 2008, nor is it indexed. If you read the social assistance regulations, you will see that the Yukon supplementary allowance is specifically excluded from indexing. Since then, the cost of food and shelter has increased significantly. Folks who rely on the YSA to make ends meet are feeling the squeeze. Will the minister agree to review the Yukon supplementary allowance and ensure that it is significantly indexed to at least match the rising cost of living?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Mr. Speaker, as I have stated previously to the member opposite, the review of the Yukon supplementary allowance is currently underway, and we expect at that time to address not only the issue stated by the member opposite, but also to take into consideration a number of other issues that have since come up during the brief review that we have undertaken to date.

**Ms. Stick:** This is a question about poverty. Poverty is caused by insufficient income. We have talked about the increasing demand on the food bank and how the Salvation Army is providing 1,500 more meals a month. Perhaps some of the increasing demand is coming from these very individuals. In Yukon, the gap between rich and poor is growing. The cost of inequality is starting to show. We know this government has no anti-poverty strategy apart from a new interdepartmental lens to look at the problem. We need to ensure that the supports that are there are adequate.

Will the minister agree to review the Yukon supplementary allowance and make sure that it is sufficient to prevent more people falling through the cracks?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** The lead-up to the eventual question makes a person want to answer all of the allegations in

there, but it would take all day to do that because of the number of erroneous assumptions made.

I've already said that we're in the process of reviewing the Yukon supplementary allowance to deal with a number of issues enumerated, plus some others that we have found within the system itself.

The greatest weapon we have to fight poverty is a strong economy — people with jobs and people with income to support themselves and their families. That's what we're attempting to do, Mr. Speaker, and we have proven, over the last few years especially, the strength of the economy here in the Yukon.

We've done such things as index social assistance, and we've made changes to a number of other areas — for example, the Yukon supplementary allowance. The income exemption is one of them. So we are making progress in some areas, but the best defence against poverty is a strong economy and a good job.

**Ms. Stick:** Mr. Speaker, we're talking about individuals who are permanently excluded from the workforce, who are infirm and unable to work. The minister had suggested that these individuals could look at other avenues of income.

"The Canada Pension Plan is a perfect example where they are eligible for assistance under the Canada Pension Plan," the minister said.

The minister went on to say: "...what we find is that social assistance is a top-up to other sources of income."

In fact, to be eligible for the CPP disability pension, an individual must be under 65, must have stopped working due to a medical condition, paid into CPP for at least four of the last six years or paid into CPP for 25 years. An adult with FASD or a disability has few opportunities to do that.

When will the minister consider a guaranteed income for individuals who have an illness or disability and are dependent

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

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Not at this time.

**Question re: Energy supply and demand**

**Mr. Silver:** One of the predominant themes of this sitting is a lack of planning done by this government when it comes to major issues. We have seen this with the new F.H. Collins Secondary School, with the two new rural hospitals, with doctor recruitment, with the Peel watershed, with the housing strategy and, of course, when it comes to planning for our energy future.

We are facing a looming power supply shortage in the Yukon. We are fast approaching a power supply cliff, and even the minister himself has acknowledged that. One of the reasons we're in this situation is a lack of planning from the government.

A project the government is looking at in Skagway recently was trying to get money to fund a feasibility study. According to the Mayor of Skagway, the chances of the municipality getting a feasibility study funded are pretty slim. This is a \$140-million project that is years away from happening, if it ever will.

Has the Yukon Development Corporation spent any of its own money on this project?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** At this point in time, regarding the project that the member is specifically speaking to, the West Creek potential project, very preliminary discussions have gone on. The Premier and I, along with the Minister of Economic Development, did discuss the potential for this with Governor Parnell. The mayor may feel that there is not a good chance for a feasibility study of the project getting done. We heard a very different indication from the governor.

I would point out it is just one of the projects that is being looked at. It is one that certainly holds some potential, but what we see in fact, contrary to the member's assertions, is that the members simply don't do their research to understand the work that has been done and the planning that has been done to address matters, including capital project planning and addressing Yukon's current and future energy needs.

**Mr. Silver:** Over the last number of years, the Energy Corporation has spent millions of dollars on studies that have gone nowhere for various reasons. It is now chasing a \$140-million project in Skagway for which it can't even get its own government to fund a feasibility study. It spent over \$2 million at Atlin studying a project that the Government of British Columbia eventually turned into a park.

The corporation has also spent millions of dollars in Marsh Lake and Gladstone River on district heating, wind and biomass. Almost \$20 million has been spent on planning and we continue to run short on supply. When is this government going to move beyond studying projects and actually proceed with one that will increase our power supply?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Again what I would point out to the member is that, in fact, the project that he is referring to, contrary to the spin he is putting on it in Question Period, is one that we've identified as something that has potential years down the road. There would certainly be a lot of work required to see the West Creek project be actualized. At this point, no significant investment of money has occurred. It's at very preliminary stages. One of the next steps would be getting a clearer understanding of what the costs entailed would be should the West Creek hydro project come to fruition. Significant money has been spent, as the member has noted. I would again remind the member, as I have articulated on several occasions here in this House, that since being sworn in, in the fall of 2011, as minister responsible for Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation, the message that I have consistently relayed on behalf of government to both corporations is that we want them to be focused in their efforts and to focus any significant expenditures of planning money on projects that are likely to be permitted and that stand the best chance for providing solutions to Yukon's energy needs. That is what we have indicated to the corporations and will continue to indicate.

**Mr. Silver:** I know that the government is sensitive about this topic, and it should be. Instead of spending two years trying to sell Yukon Energy off to Alberta, the government should have been hard at work looking for ways to increase our energy supply so that we don't end up burning diesel.

The bottom line is that the Energy Corporation has spent more than \$20 million on studies and has little to show for it. Because these projects are all funded out of the Energy Corporation, they escape the scrutiny of the Legislative Assembly. With the amount of money being spent, I believe it should be done in-house by the government. There is a need for change in policy, both to improve accountability to the public and to protect ratepayers. Will the government consider moving these planning exercises into the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** It looks like the Member for Klondike has perhaps read the protocol that we put into place. We have updated the protocol between the Yukon Development Corporation and I, as well with the letter of expectations from me on behalf of the government to the Yukon Development Corporation, the parent for Yukon Energy Corporation. That includes making the minister responsible for policy and clearly delineating government's lead responsibility in that, so we are continuing to do work in that area.

Some of the other assertions that the member is trying to bring up in past spectres of events that went on in 2009 really are quite bizarre and rich, considering what actually transpired at that point. Those records are in the media and have been for years, and really, it's time we focus right now on where we are going from here, planning for Yukon's energy future, having the corporations focus their efforts on areas that are most likely to achieve successful results, and to focus on our priorities of minimizing the financial risk to taxpayers and ratepayers, ensuring that Yukon's electrical system remains strong now and for years to come.

#### **Question re: Literacy programs**

**Mr. Tredger:** It's Education Week, and it's a good time to talk about methods that work for our learners and our teachers. Reading Recovery and Wilson Reading are highly successful, evidence-based, research-proven and Yukon-tested programs for children identified with literacy issues — programs that are endorsed by teachers, students and parents. Evidence tells us that greater literacy means greater confidence and better educational and life outcomes for the child.

A reading child is far more likely to be engaged in learning. Teacher trainers and teachers need to be qualified in Reading Recovery and Wilson Reading methods, but last year the minister decided not to fund additional teacher training and announced the programs needed to be reviewed and re-evaluated.

How does the minister justify not putting the resources into Reading Recovery and Wilson Reading when we know these programs help many young children become literate?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I thank the member opposite for the question. Literacy is something that's very important to this government — to my government caucus colleagues, but to me personally as well. It's one of the things I identified during my election campaign as a personal priority.

With that, there are a couple of activities we've undertaken with respect to a literacy strategy. That work began in 2012 with the Minister of Health and Social Services and me at the New Horizons Education Summit, which was a focus on liter-

acy. The Department of Education has funded \$200,000 toward the Family Literacy Centre, located at the Canada Games Centre here in Whitehorse. One of the things with respect to reviews and evaluations that I find interesting from the member opposite is that throughout the Education debate there weren't very many programs that he talked about that he didn't want a review or an evaluation of, except for this one.

Perhaps the next time he is on his feet he can explain why this one doesn't require review and evaluation, when all of the other programs that we talked about during Education debate — not only in this sitting, but the previous one — did require that review and evaluation.

**Mr. Tredger:** For the minister's information, Reading Recovery and Wilson Reading have been reviewed regularly on an ongoing basis. I have reviewed a number of internal government reports and correspondence, and it's clear these literacy programs have delivered. Between 2006 and 2011, nearly 600 students have directly benefited from Wilson Reading. Many more in every Yukon elementary school community have benefited from Reading Recovery. There are numerous testimonials, including this one: "My son started off the year feeling very frustrated with reading. He so badly wanted to read with me and now, because of Reading Recovery, he can. The confidence he now has is absolutely wonderful."

Will the minister re-evaluate his decision not to fund teacher training of these successful literacy programs and re-strengthen funding in time for the 2013-14 school year?

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

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Of course, Reading Recovery and Wilson Reading continue to be funded by this government. There are staff-allocated positions throughout the staffing allocation formula when it comes to delivering those two programs.

But, again, I think it's important that we evaluate all programs. It can't just be this one — the member opposite, when he talks about evaluation, seems to pick and choose. I could go back through the Blues and bring forward numerous occasions where he asked me, as minister, to review and evaluate programs. That is what we do. I think those are important aspects when you're delivering educational or other programs throughout government.

We are going to continue and review and evaluate the success of programs such as Reading Recovery and Wilson Reading. We are continuing to deliver those programs to Yukon students.

#### **Question re: Dawson City hospital artwork**

**Mr. Barr:** We are fortunate to have such a thriving artistic community; for example, learning centres like the Northern Cultural Expressions Society and the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture, as well as collectives like the Yukon Artists at Work. The Dawson City hospital functional program report from 2009 emphasized the impact the design has on the delivery of quality patient care and mentions, numerous times, the importance of having local, regional and First Nation artwork throughout the hospital.

Can the Minister of Health and Social Services confirm whether or not the Yukon Hospital Corporation is procuring artwork from outside of the Yukon for the Dawson City hospital?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Mr. Speaker, I have requested some information from the Yukon Hospital Corporation with respect to artwork in the building. They have assured me that they did in fact consult with the community and with the First Nation; however, there were some extenuating circumstances, as I understand it, that have since led to some difficulties with obtaining the art in question. However —

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

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** — if the member opposite wishes to answer the question for me, I'm sure I would sit down and be quiet.

As I was trying to say, there were some difficulties that the Hospital Corporation is now attempting to overcome.

**Mr. Barr:** We all know that Yukon is home to many talented visual artists. We have artists ranging from those just starting out to those who are recognized internationally for their creativity and skill. Why, with this capacity to provide locally inspired artwork and with the recommendations contained in the Dawson City hospital functional program report, would there be a decision to source artwork for this northern community hospital from outside of the Yukon?

My question is this: Why won't the minister commit to sourcing only locally produced artwork for the hospital in Dawson City?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I have to thank the member opposite for his question, because he's absolutely right. There are a number of incredibly talented artists within the territory, and I think, as Yukoners, we're very fortunate to be able to showcase their work, not only within the permanent art collection, which goes through 350 works, forming an important cultural asset that reflects and really celebrates over four decades of art practised in the territory.

Coming up at the end of this week on Thursday, we'll be kicking off the artists and the artworks that will be attending Northern Scene in Ottawa. I'm glad that I'm going to be able to be a part of this, and the Government of Yukon is very pleased to have Yukon's performing, visual, literary, culinary and fashion arts showcased in Ottawa.

So the member is right. We have a number of incredibly talented artists in the territory, and we're very proud to show them off across the country and across the globe.

#### **Question re: Liquefied natural gas**

**Ms. White:** Many Yukoners believe that as citizens — as owners of the public utility — they must have the opportunity to participate in an open dialogue about Yukon's energy future. Many Yukoners believe that they must have a say in Yukon's energy future before we invest in more fossil fuel infrastructure and before we perpetuate our dependence on fossil fuels.

Over a year ago, Yukon Energy released a background paper and hosted a workshop on the LNG transition option in Yukon. Transition means shift — change, evolution, conversion. It implies a destination — a target, a long-term goal —

that is different from fossil fuels. Those long-term goals take planning. We are interested in the long-term energy plan this government is directing. Can the minister responsible tell Yukoners what will LNG be a transition to? Are we transitioning to another way of generating power, and if so, what is the timeline? Is it five years, 15 years or a generation away?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** First of all, the choice of the words “transition fuel” is the Yukon Energy Corporation’s phrasing. I think a better choice of words would be to refer to it as “a replacement for the role that diesel has played in the system.” Yukon has had, for many years — really ever since the transfer of assets from the old NCPC — diesel generators as part of the system providing, at some points, base supply and, at other points, surge capacity or the capacity to back up assets in the event of line disruptions and so on. Really, we see liquefied natural gas as appearing, based on the information we have at this point in time, to be the logical replacement when the Mirlees diesel units at Yukon Energy become time expired, as well as providing some additional system capacity.

We made it clear in the 2011 election campaign and remain committed to pursuing the long-term development of the growth of Yukon’s hydro capacity and believe there is potential in those areas, but permitting significant hydro projects does take many years. In fact, it would typically — because of the environmental process leading up to it — take more than the lifespan of one government, so we are setting the long-term vision in that area. Again, as I noted to the member opposite, replacement of diesel with LNG appears to be a cost-effective solution.

**Ms. White:** In 2012, while pursuing the LNG option, Yukon Energy also attempted to suppress a wind feasibility study, but was not fully successful. A redacted version was finally released last fall, and I tabled it in this House last week. Option means choice. Is LNG a fiscally responsible option? If so, in comparison to what? Yukoners would like to see the analysis.

One option is to start retrofitting diesel generators to burn LNG. Another option is to start our shift to renewables sooner rather than later. Can the minister responsible provide the cost-benefit analysis that lays out the full costs and timelines of setting up the infrastructure for LNG so that it can be compared to the costs associated with a renewable source of power?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I do have to point out for those who are listening and for those in the media gallery, as well, that we have the situation of the Member for Klondike standing up and suggesting that too much is being spent on studies, and the Member for Takhini-Kopper King suggesting we need to spend more on studying the feasibility of wind.

I would again point out that there have been significant dollars spent on researching various energy supply options. As I articulated to the Member for Takhini-Kopper King, I think a better choice of words in explaining the role of liquefied natural gas in Yukon Energy Corporation’s potential energy mix would be referring to it as a replacement for diesel’s role in the system. For many years, diesel has provided, in some cases, baseload, but in most cases, simply surplus energy capacity, the ability to handle surges in growth, and if there are parts of the

system that are shut down — such as a power line interruption — the ability to ensure that we continue to have energy on the system.

So again, there are diesel units at Yukon Energy that are becoming time-expired. There is additional growth to the system. It appears, based on the analysis work that has been done to date, that the most cost-effective option is to replace existing diesel units with liquefied natural gas units, because the capital cost of the units is roughly the same.

**Speaker:** Order please. The member’s time has elapsed.

**Ms. White:** I am thankful for the long memories and experience of many Yukoners. Ratepayers are bearing the brunt of this government’s energy management over the last 10 years. I just want the facts. The Yukon has a unique opportunity to be energy independent. There is amazing solar and wind potential that has not yet been systematically analyzed and realized by either this government or the public utility. Increased reliance on fossil fuel with planned dependence on commodity prices can make Yukon very vulnerable. The picture is much different with renewables. If LNG is a transition, Yukoners want to know to what and to when.

When will the minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources share his government’s energy vision with Yukoners? What is this government’s plan to reduce Yukon’s reliance on fossil fuels?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** First of all, one part of our energy vision is the *Energy Strategy for Yukon*. I would encourage the member to read it. I’d also encourage the member to read the Yukon Development Corporation protocol that I was referring to earlier in Question Period and the updated letter of expectation.

We have indicated that we expect the corporations to be focused in directing the resources to pursuing new energy supply options. I have explained to the member, though she failed to recognize it again in her last response, that really a better characterization of the work being done with liquefied natural gas is replacing diesel’s role in the system. We remain committed to the long-term development of our hydro resources, but there is a significant amount of lead time involved in doing so.

I have to remind the NDP — I know they don’t like it when we remind them of the past — that we still see the legacy on our power bills of paying for the NDP’s failure to properly manage the Yukon’s utility. They squandered millions of dollars in failed projects like Watson Lake sawmills and depleted Yukon Development Corporation’s resources to invest in things, including studying energy options and actually investing in energy options. Right now, we are dealing with the after-effects of their massive squandering of public resources on their pet projects. We are focused on dealing with things in a fiscally responsible manner.

**Speaker:** The time for Question Period has elapsed.

#### Notice of government private members’ business

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(7), I would like to identify the items standing in the name of government private members to be called for debate on

Wednesday, April 17, 2013. With the indulgence of the House, I am missing the proper number for the one motion.

I would ask the indulgence of the House to correct this after the standard break at the beginning of Committee of the Whole, but I believe the first motion is Motion No. 380, standing in the name of the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin. The second motion that we will be calling for debate is Motion No. 409, standing the name of the Member for Watson Lake.

**Speaker:** Does the Government House Leader know the subject matter of the motion?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Mr. Speaker, the first motion I referenced is with regard to tourism marketing. I do apologize to the House. I missed that piece of paper in coming down here. I believe the number is 380, but I will correct that in roughly 15 minutes if that is incorrect.

**Speaker:** The subject of the second one?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** The second matter is on the Order Paper. As I indicated, that motion is Motion No. 409, standing in the name of the Member for Watson Lake.

With the help of the Clerk, my memory had served me, though my paperwork had not in this case. The first motion is Motion No. 380 standing in the name of the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin. It is with regard to tourism marketing. The second motion, as I indicated, Motion No. 409, standing in the name of the Member for Watson Lake, is with regard to housing.

**Speaker:** We will now proceed with Orders of the Day.

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker leaves the Chair*

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Chair (Ms. McLeod):** Order. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Vote 8, Department of Justice, Bill No. 10, *First Appropriation Act, 2013-14*. Do the members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

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

### Bill No. 10: *First Appropriation Act, 2013-14* — continued

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee is resuming debate on Vote 8, Department of Justice, in Bill No. 10, *First Appropriation Act, 2013-14*.

### Department of Justice — *continued*

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** As we finished off yesterday, I just wrapped up talking about the SCAN officers and the employees and how dedicated they are at their work, and I think it's appropriate at this time to also thank the rest of the staff within the Department of Justice from probations to Community Wellness Court, to corrections and so on for keeping me well-informed, for being friendly during visits, and for conducting themselves in a very professional manner. I do appreciate their work and look forward to continuing to work with them.

I'd like to take a moment to discuss the Territorial Court judiciary. In this budget there is \$178,000 to implement the final year of the 2010 Judicial Compensation Commission, or JCC, recommendations. Members may have noticed that in the newspapers, the current JCC commissioner has taken out ads asking for public input into judicial compensation. This is in keeping with the *Territorial Court Act*, which allows public input into the JCC process.

Members may have also noticed that there is an advertisement out right now for a new judge to replace Judge John Faulkner, who retired effective last July, but then was appointed as a deputy judge. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Judge Faulkner for his past work on the bench as well as his continued service as a deputy judge and most recently as a coroner.

The Judicial Council will carry out their duties under the *Territorial Court Act* regarding the recruitment of judicial officers and then make recommendations to our government for appointment. This process is, as I've stated, underway now and should result in names sent to our government in the coming fiscal year.

Finally, I would like to give the House a brief update on our land titles modernization. I'm going to come back to the Land Titles Office in few moments. As members will recall, last April I announced that the department would initiate the modernization of the land titles system here in Yukon. This would see the Department of Justice draft new land titles and condominium acts, establish a new business process and significantly upgrade or replace the computer systems. I also established a steering committee that would see the modernization through to completion, made up of representatives from the legal community, surveyors, First Nations, representatives of the condominiums and developers along with government reps from the department and the federal government.

Madam Chair, their mandate included conducting consultations with the public so that their view could be represented in the modernization process. I was therefore pleased to announce a few weeks ago that we had published the *What We Heard* documents on our website. I would encourage members of the public, if they haven't already done so, to read through these documents as they are very informative about the state of our land titles, and in particular about condominiums in Yukon.

I'd like to thank the members of the steering committee for all their hard work so far and the countless hours they have devoted to this project. They have been invaluable in keeping the project on-track and giving their expert advice on all manner of topics covered by this project. I would also like to thank

my Department of Justice staff who worked on this file for their efforts as well.

The next phase of the project will be moving on to phase 2, which will see us begin drafting the legislation and choosing the computer system. I expect to have further announcements on this project in the near future. Our government views the land titles system to be a cornerstone of a strong economy because it ensures a strong legal foundation for title of private land.

Finally, I'd like to thank the hard-working men and women at the Department of Justice for their dedication in delivering justice services to the public. One of the rewards of this job is to meet so many interested and dedicated public servants. I've been to most of the offices and detachments in the Yukon, I have toured Victim Services, Community Wellness Court, SCAN offices, probations, Sheriff's Office, coroner's office, and more. I've been to WCC on several occasions and have been very impressed with the staff's professionalism and compassion. It takes a special kind of person to work with offenders and to help them in a transition to productive, contributing members of society. When I've toured the correctional facility, it's clear to me that the inmates recognize that the correctional officers at WCC are indeed there to help them.

I've also been to the Land Titles Office many times. Yukoners have placed tremendous responsibilities on this unit as, for most of us, our homes are the most significant investment we will make. We expect our land titles to be processed accurately and efficiently. I appreciate the work of our Land Titles Office. The staff continues to process an increasing volume of work using tools from the horse-and-buggy era. I know all of us in this Assembly truly appreciate their work.

I'm now prepared to hear other members and look forward to the debate on this budget. Thank you.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I'm pleased to rise and speak to the 2013-14 budget main estimates for the Department of Justice. As legislators, as residents of the Yukon and as citizens of the world, what we do in this Assembly and the budget decisions we make in the corner of the world we call home do indeed have an impact beyond our borders. We have the opportunity to stand out as a small northern jurisdiction, and we have done that in many respects.

We can live up to the highest standard in our respect for human rights, our standard of community-based policing and the response to crime — and I'll be speaking about the recent signing of the protocol for Together for Justice between the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society and the Watson Lake RCMP as an example of that. We have also demonstrated leadership in our support for victim services, and I think we can do more to show leadership in our delivery of correctional programming, to name but a few.

I would also like to thank the departmental officials who presented a briefing on the budget estimates and extend, on behalf of the Official Opposition, our appreciation to the Department of Justice workers throughout the department.

My questions for the minister will be, in some measure, following up on issues I raised last year, and on the information we find in these budget estimates.

One of the largest government capital expenditures in recent years was the new \$70-million Whitehorse Correctional Centre. I have questions related to capital and O&M expenditures at the facility.

On capital, there are budget funds of \$3.086 million in this year's capital budget for the new arrest processing unit, which will process intoxicated individuals taken into police custody. As we know, that unit was identified in order to move away from housing, in the RCMP cells, people who have been picked up for being intoxicated. In last spring's Justice debate, the minister said that the new arrest processing unit would "hopefully be ready and open by fall of 2012."

I would like the minister to explain why this work did not proceed as originally scheduled in 2012? How long will the construction take?

Also on the capital side of the budget, looking at Whitehorse Correctional Centre's physical facility itself, I would like the minister to tell us whether all outstanding work orders or repairs and renovations have been completed. Are there any outstanding contractor or subcontractor invoices? Have all the permits been completed and signed off?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for her question on the APU. We are looking forward to moving forward on this project. It will certainly be of great benefit to have the project completed.

Over the last year, the departments of Justice and Highways and Public Works conducted a review of the scope and design parameters of the arrest processing unit. The review was conducted to determine whether a modified design could be developed that reduces cost, yet still meets the high program needs and standards of the arrest processing unit. This review has led to a modification in design for the proposed APU, which will continue to meet the high standards for safe and secure custody. We expect that the tender process should be completed within the very near future. The Department of Highways and Public Works and the Department of Justice are working together to ensure that we are ready for the next building season. Questions specifically related to the contract I am going to defer to the Minister of Highways and Public Works, when he is on his feet defending his budget.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** One population that is overrepresented in the justice system and the correctional system is people with FASD and, as the minister indicated, the federal-provincial-territorial ministers of justice have been looking at this problem, and we need to know the numbers to determine what the extent of the problem is.

FASD is a disability, but many people with that disability end up charged with offences and placed into corrections. A more thoughtful approach is one that tackles the disability and the response to health and social services needs, rather than criminalizing people with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. The minister has stated that the proposed research methodology to study that prevalence of FASD has been drafted with some input from meetings with partners and stakeholders.

I'd like the minister to tell us who the department has worked with in putting together the research methodology and if he can give us an idea of the plan regarding the timing. What



are the target dates for that research being started and being completed?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for her question. This is a very important topic to us in corrections and one where we are working on a greater scale than just Yukon. The Department of Justice recognizes that a number of offenders in the adult justice system may have cognitive impairments, along with mental health and substance abuse issues, that may hinder their ability to successfully benefit from treatment and programs at Whitehorse Correctional Centre. There's a need to improve services, case coordination and outcomes for these offenders. There is very little empirical data available on the number of people in the criminal justice system who indeed have FASD. This is true for Yukon, and it's true for other jurisdictions as well. Interest in determining the prevalence of FASD arose at a national conference held in Yukon on access to justice for individuals with FASD. One of the conference recommendations was the need for research to determine the prevalence of FASD in the adult criminal justice population here in Yukon. It was also identified that in order to determine prevalence, diagnostic capacity needs to be developed.

Case management and coordination and post-diagnosis service provision have also been recognized as challenges to improved outcomes for individuals. The departments of Justice and Health and Social Services are working collaboratively to develop a series of tools that will assist in determining the prevalence of FASD and other cognitive disorders and to identify mental health disorders and substance abuse issues in Yukon's corrections system. I'd like at this time to thank the Minister of Health and Social Services for his ongoing support and work on this file.

The Prevalence Partners Board is overseeing the development and implementation of this project. Project partners include Justice Canada, the Northern Institute of Social Justice, Yukon College, Correctional Service of Canada, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society Yukon and First Nations' Health and Social Development Commission.

With funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada, Yukon and Social Services is working to develop a local diagnostic capacity for adults and implement an integrated case management approach with the Department of Justice for affected individuals.

With funding support from Justice Canada and the Northern Institute of Social Justice, Yukon College and the Public Health Agency of Canada, Yukon Department of Justice is undertaking a study of FASD prevalence and identifying mental disorders and substance abuse in Yukon's corrections population.

The department is taking the lead for the research stream, and the Department of Health and Social Services is managing the adult diagnostic capacity and case management stream. Work is currently proceeding concurrently in the two streams so that each stream can inform the other. Justice is responsible for managing all aspects of the prevalence study and Health and Social Services is working to determine what level of programming, services and case management techniques are in-

deed required to meet the needs of the offender population. Both streams are working toward reducing the involvement of this offender population within the justice system.

The goals of the research stream are to determine prevalence of FASD and other neurocognitive disorders in the territorial corrections population, to identify mental health and substance abuse issues, to assess or test FASD screening tool research, and to ensure adaptability of research methodology and project plan to other jurisdictions within Canada.

The goals of the adult diagnostic capacity and case management stream are to develop a local FASD adult diagnostic program and to develop diagnostic capacity to provide that service, to improve case management for individuals with FASD, to improve access to services and support for offenders with FASD, to enhance information sharing, and finally to improve awareness and understanding of FASD within the territory.

Phase 1 of the research stream involved development of a methodology and project plan that will be used to conduct the actual study. Work undertaken in phase 1 of the research stream includes the following: to develop research methodology and the project plan, to complete ethics review, to identify funding sources, and to develop funding proposals for phase two. Phase 2 of the research stream involves the research study of the adult correctional population. Work undertaken in phase 2 of the research stream includes the following: to establish schedules for diagnosis and assessments, to complete diagnosis and assessments, to analyze the data, and to write and submit reports to the Department of Justice. The correctional population involvement in phase 2 of the research study is voluntary.

Phase 1 of the adult diagnostic capacity and case management stream involves planning and model development to review current practices locally, nationally and internationally for FASD diagnosis and also to research to develop diagnostic and assessment programs, research and develop a case management coordination model, implement training for both of those aspects, and develop an evaluation framework for both of those aspects.

Phase 2 of the adult diagnostic capacity and case management stream involves the implementation to provide FASD diagnosis and assessment for adults within the territory, to implement a case management and coordination model, to monitor implementation of both aspects, and finally, to gather data for evaluation and service improvements.

A principal investigator affiliated with the University of Alberta was hired in June 2012 to develop the research methodology, submit that methodology for a university ethics review, and to investigate funding opportunities for conducting the study.

The first draft of the research methodology has been completed and reviewed by the Prevalence Partners Board. The document includes a detailed description of the project rationale, study research questions and methods, including participant selection and recruitment strategies, assessment methods to be employed, general study procedures, a discussion of pertinent ethical issues and a preliminary draft budget for that study.

It is expected that eight personnel are required to conduct a study: an on-site prevalence study manager, a clinical coordinator, a psychologist, a consulting supervisory neuropsychologist, a physician, a research assistant, a post-study coordinator and the principal investigator.

Funding will be required to cover personnel costs, as well as costs to purchase the assessment measures, travel, administrative costs and knowledge translation costs. The proposed draft budget is consistent with costs attached to previous prevalence studies undertaken by the Correctional Service of Canada.

The draft methodology will be revised, based on input from the Prevalence Partners Board, and a final draft will be completed sometime this year.

In the adult diagnostic capacity and case management stream, Health and Social Services is reviewing and analyzing existing programs and supports for individuals with FASD, specifically to determine gaps in service, developing local diagnostic capacity for adults with FASD, and improving case management for diagnosed adults with FASD who come in conflict with the law.

The departments of Justice and Health and Social Services are partnering with FASSY, CYFN, and the Northern Institute of Social Justice to provide FASD case management training for service providers. During this course, participants will gain a greater understanding of the nature and consequence of FASD for the individual, their family, and the community. Using real life examples from their caseloads, participants will be guided in developing and implementing appropriate, comprehensive case plans. The first part of the training, which was delivered between February 28 and March 1, introduced the cause and consequence of prenatal alcohol consumption and its impact on the individual, family and community. The introduction began the process of understanding how FASD influences and guides the service delivery.

The second part of the training will be delivered in three blocks from March until May. Through a process of observation and participation in actual case reviews and consultations, participants will learn the skills and techniques necessary to effectively develop a community case plan for a person with FASD.

In a project of this nature, the complexities, ethical issues and different understandings of FASD can be very challenging. In both streams, a number of meetings have occurred with service agencies, stakeholders, professionals, Justice and Health and Social Services staff and key informants to share project information, raise awareness about FASD, gain perspectives, support and build relationships, and get feedback on specific activities.

During meetings with agencies and individuals, we have consistently heard that assessment must go beyond the clinical diagnosis of FASD to include a strength-based, functional assessment. The latter provides more potential benefits for individuals and their caregivers. Also, through the assessment process and information sharing around an FASD diagnosis related to the project, the stigmas related to this condition must be addressed.

Improved diagnostic and assessment services must consider post-diagnosis service provision. Having a comprehensive, function assessment provides little advantage where significant gaps exist in programs and services.

The project partners recognize that a project of this magnitude will require a multi-year, multi-pronged approach. With the research methodology completed by March 2013 — it's not quite finished yet, I understand, but will be very soon — and funding secured over the summer of 2013, it is expected that the study could begin this fall or winter.

The research study is expected to require a minimum of 18 months to complete, with approximately 150 assessments to take place. Funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada will fund the capacity development and case management stream until March or April of 2014 and a justice prevalence study manager until about the same time.

I'll now discuss some of this very important project's methodology. The study will assess 150 adult offenders, aged 18 to 40, to extrapolate prevalence among the larger correctional population of approximately 700 offenders annually, both incarcerated and on probation, over an 18-month period beginning this coming fall or winter.

It will also implement the use of screening tools including Asante FASD screening and referral tool for probation officers and a Correctional Service of Canada briefing and screening checklist. The study will also complete assessments for FASD, mental health and substance abuse issues. The study's interdisciplinary team includes a physician, a psychologist and clinical coordinator. There will be one year of post-assessment clinical support. There will be connection with the larger case management infrastructure here in Yukon. Some of the personnel required for the project can be hired locally and trained for the study.

Finally, in conclusion, colleagues across Canada in both the Justice and Health and Social Services fields have been very supportive of this project and are looking forward to receiving the documents that can be shared, which are the methodology and the reports, and the results of Yukon's FASD prevalence study.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I'd like to thank the minister for that information and to request a copy of the research methodology when that document is finalized. Since we're beyond March and into April, hopefully that will be sometime in the month of April.

I understand that the Yukon branch of the Canadian Bar Association played a strong leadership role in the CBA's attention to the need to recognize FASD as a disability and to identify this issue as one that needed the attention of the criminal justice system to come up with better approaches. I'm pleased to hear the update on the research, and I would like to suggest to the minister that it might be helpful for the minister and his department to consider including a representative from the Yukon branch of the Canadian Bar Association on their Prevalence Partners Board, as I understand they have been doing a lot of work both here in the Yukon and nationally on that subject. The overrepresentation of First Nations in the correctional system is also deeply troubling. Generally, more than 90-

percent of inmates at Whitehorse Correctional Centre are aboriginal, and the minister has heard Opposition parties and Yukon First Nations ask about the possibility of a First Nations' liaison position to help address the needs of aboriginal people in our correctional system.

I'd like to ask the minister about the Whitehorse Correctional Centre elders advisory committee's input into programming. How often have the WCC elders advisory committee met this year? What meetings have they had with correctional staff on the issue of programming? Has the elders advisory committee made any specific recommendations? What attention has been given to that? I'd like to ask the minister to also address what the department will do with this year's funding allocation to support additional programming that is targeted to the needs of First Nation inmates?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Madam Chair, as many of us in this Legislature will know, the elders advisory committee was formed in 2007. It's made up of nine elders representing seven First Nation communities. The elders contribute to Whitehorse Correctional Centre by providing one-to-one counselling with offenders, participating in ceremonies such as solstice, smudges and other spiritual services. They contribute by teaching offenders and staff about the First Nations culture and liaising with offenders, staff and communities. The elders advisory committee meets once a month with the Whitehorse Correctional Centre management and provides counsel on aspects of programming and on aspects of the operations. Elders are provided with their own office and a lounge in the Correctional Centre to facilitate their work and make them comfortable. The elders have a very calming influence when they are in the Correctional Centre. The management team would like them to be there as much as possible, and I'd like to take this opportunity as Minister of Justice to really, truly thank them for their help and their support.

It's entirely appropriate for elders to play a role in mitigating conflicts that may arise between inmates and staff. Officials report that elders have been directly involved in resolving conflicts between inmates and are very effective in doing so because of the respect that inmates have for them and for their work.

Justice has launched also a community reintegration pilot project that will work with First Nations to assist with the transition of their citizens when they are released from Whitehorse Correctional Centre. Justice has entered into a contract with the Council of Yukon First Nations to provide a reintegration worker to carry out the duties associated with this work. The reintegration worker will work closely with WCC case management on release planning for First Nation clients back to their communities. The reintegration worker will also administer a fund available to address barriers to successful reintegration. For example, the funding could be used to secure accommodation, to purchase equipment or clothing needed for work, facilitate access to other treatment programs, and so forth. The worker will also assist WCC with research and coordination on First Nation programming. The pilot project will be evaluated after two years to assess its effectiveness. Case management staff do considerable liaison with First Nations in their day-to-

day work. The elders advisory committee also plays a significant role in advising management staff of First Nation issues and meets on a regular basis.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Access to spiritual practices is important to everyone and these can be of great comfort when a person is serving time in custody. We've heard from inmates and from elders that there isn't as much use of the First Nation programming room and the elders' office as was envisioned when those features were first included in the design.

I'd like to ask the minister whether the practice of smudging is in fact available for all of the inmates who request it. The minister has acknowledged the calming effect and stability offered by the elders' presence at Whitehorse Correctional Centre, and I'm certainly aware of that. I very much appreciate the role that the elders are willing take on in supporting the staff and the inmates at the Correctional Centre, but has there been an increase in the amount of time that is available for inmates to meet with the elders and for inmates to engage in spiritual practices?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Madam Chair, inmates are provided materials to smudge in the outdoor exercise area of all of the units. Due to the fire suppression system, smudging is only permitted in the exercise yard of the units where smoke can dissipate into the air. Inmates may also request to smudge with an elder.

The new Correctional Centre was built with a healing room that features appropriate ventilation for smudging indoors. The healing room was designed in consultation with the elders. Inmates may request to smudge in the healing room with an elder. The healing room is for ceremonies, counselling and spiritual services. It was designed to be meaningful to all people in Yukon and to inspire reflection and discussions among inmates, staff and elders.

Officials have recently met with CYFN and one of the issues discussed was in relation to the elders advisory committee. A number of issues were discussed at that time, including having more elders getting involved and the value of their work at the correctional facility. I hope that answers the member's question.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. That was helpful.

The minister has read into the record, when we were discussing programming at Whitehorse Correctional Centre, a list of the programs that were provided in 2012. The minister also spoke about some of the programs in March of 2013. I don't see much that is new. The programming the minister has spoken about is substance abuse management, cognitive skills, violence prevention and anger management, spousal assault and sexual offence management. An approach that focuses on rehabilitation of offenders so that they are less likely to reoffend would mean more, rather than less, programming.

The minister has said that 152 offenders had received various forms of these programs that he has spoken about, but I'd like to ask him how the range of programming has increased since one year ago and what percentage of inmates are taking programs?

The number of 152 offenders doesn't mean a lot, because I don't know if that includes both remand and sentenced offenders. I know with remand inmates, whether or not they participate in programs in voluntary. So I'd like to know what the percentage of inmates have taken programming in the past year and what they anticipate they will be able to deliver next year.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for her question. This government recognizes that we cannot simply lock up offenders. We hope that when the offenders are released that they will not re-offend. I think that's our primary goal there. This government continues to be committed to ensuring that programming offered to inmates at WCC addresses the underlying causes of crime and provides them with access to resources and skills that will truly help them make better choices in the future.

Programming is available to inmates to address the issues that have led to their incarceration.

However, we can always improve in this regard, particularly for those inmates that have FASD, mental health and substance abuse issues. Yukon is now the lead for Canada in developing and performing a research study that will allow us to determine the number of people who have FASD, mental health issues and substance abuse problems within the correctional system. I spoke to that earlier. This will help us to fine tune our programming and case management in the future to better suit the individual needs of people who have these conditions.

Programming that is currently offered at Whitehorse Correctional Centre includes the following: changing offender behaviour; substance abuse management; respectful relationships program; violence prevention program; relationship skills for women; emotions management for women; sexual offenders programming; mental health services; and cultural activities such as woodcarving, mask-making, beading, dream catchers, talking circles with elders, traditional cooking and solstice celebrations. There is educational upgrading through Yukon College. There are courses for Alcoholics Anonymous and life skills and job readiness programs such as level 1 first aid, industrial safety, workplace hazardous materials information system, resumé writing, FoodSafe, positive parenting and financial management, to name a few.

Our commitment to providing effective offender programming is outlined in the *Correctional Redevelopment Strategic Plan*. This plan, approved by the Yukon Forum in December 2006, lists as its two primary goals: implementing the recommendations of the corrections action plan in order to substantially improve the quality of corrections programs offered to victims, offenders and community members; and fundamentally changing the operation of the correctional system so that the Department of Justice, First Nations and other services —

As I mentioned, there are a number of First Nation programming options also available at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, including things like beading, carving, crafts, drum-making, traditional foods and medicines.

First Nation offenders also take part in traditional activities such as elders counselling, spiritual guidance, talking circles and traditional crafts. Most recently, interested offenders have

been participating in a traditional language program for Southern Tutchone. Other language programs are also being explored at this time.

WCC also offers spiritual services and cultural celebrations, such as solstice, smudges and feasts. WCC has worked with First Nation staff, the elders advisory committee, the community advisory board and inmate representative committee members to develop a First Nation programming strategy.

The first phase of this project was to consult on ideas for cultural programming that could be offered at WCC. The next stage of the project will examine the priority, feasibility and resource requirements for implementing these program recommendations. Once that analysis is complete, the last step will be the development of a program implementation plan. This work will be completed by the end of the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Now, the member opposite asked how many inmates have participated in programs at Whitehorse Correctional Centre, so I'll spend a few moments just going over some of the programs and give some specific numbers. These numbers are from April of 2012.

In the substance abuse management program, there have been 89 participants; violence prevention program — 44 participants; changing offender behaviour — 24 participants; respectful relationships — 15 participants; sexual offender program — 10 participants; emotions management — 5 participants; positive parenting — 15 participants; Alcoholics Anonymous — 215 participants; talking circle — 134 participants; woodcarving — 13 participants; drum-making — 20 participants; Southern Tutchone language — 7 participants; first aid — 49 participants; WHMIS, or workplace hazardous materials information system — 23 participants; FoodSafe — 21 participants; industrial safety — 10 participants; resumé writing — 6 participants; parenting program — 10 participants.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I thank the minister for the information. While I appreciate those numbers, it still doesn't directly address my question regarding what percentage of the inmates do take programming and what percentage do not.

I am very pleased to hear the minister speak about the primary goal being to ensure that inmates do not reoffend. I am also quite pleased to hear about the work being done to develop a First Nation programming strategy. The minister indicated that they would have a document put together, which would include identifying resource requirements, by the end of the 2013-14 fiscal year.

When it comes to addressing the needs of developing First Nation programming, I would be remiss if I did not make a reference to the special report on aboriginal corrections that was tabled in Parliament in March 2013.

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

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Madam Chair, I would ask members to join me in welcoming to the gallery Yukon's Ombudsman and Information and Privacy Commissioner, Mr. Tim Koepke.

*Applause*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The office of the correctional investigator issued a report in March 2013, entitled, *Spirit Matters: Aboriginal People and the Correctional and Conditional Release Act*. Although this report is specific to corrections in the federal Correctional Service of Canada, a number of their key findings are relevant to the Yukon, where we have an overrepresentation of aboriginal peoples in our correctional system.

Key findings of the report include that a limited understanding of aboriginal people, culture and approaches to healing are found within the correctional system, that there is inadequate and uneven application of *Gladue* social history considerations in correctional decision-making, that there could be better funding and contractual arrangements made to increase the work of elders inside institutions, that there is a need for a better response to the urban realities and demographics of aboriginal people, and finally that penitentiary-based interventions far outnumber community reintegration alternatives.

One of their recommendations was appointing a deputy commissioner for aboriginal corrections. So we see both here in the Yukon and on the federal scene a lot of attention being paid to the need to respond better to aboriginal communities and to those people who find themselves in conflict with the law.

Work, employment and training opportunities are also very important for the entire inmate population. Last year, the minister and I discussed this matter.

I'd like to ask him to tell us about what work skills and job training for inmates the department is hoping can be offered over the next year. In the list of programs that the minister just went over, I didn't hear anything that specifically addressed the kind of work that is being done by inmates and the kind of skills training programs available for them.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Again, I thank the member opposite for her question. Under the *Corrections Act, 2009*, sentenced inmates must be given work and program opportunities. Work programs allow inmates the opportunity to build skills and knowledge and to gain experience that may increase the prospect of employment. Work programs promote a positive work ethic and build self-esteem. Inmates work within the Correctional Centre and under supervision in the community. An inmate must be sentenced and must achieve a minimum security level to be able to work within the community. The inmate work crews have been involved in many projects over the last couple of years, including assisting with Habitat for Humanity projects on Wheeler Street and in Ingram-Arkell subdivision.

They've also been involved in renovations to a local daycare, building sandboxes and toys for the local daycare; cleaning up Kishwoot Island, Bert Law Park, and Camp Yukon; constructing food donation boxes for the food bank; completing renovations for the Justice Wellness Centre; and clearing brush on the ski and snowmobile trails.

The outside work crews are currently helping with the demolition preparations for the old jail and have made trail markers for the Yukon Quest held just a few months ago. Materials needed for community work projects are normally purchased by the sponsoring agency and costs associated with equipment, inmate pay, and work crew supervisor salaries are included in the budget for the Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

All inmates who are sentenced must take part in programming, subject to their criminogenic needs. Remand inmates are not required to take programming but a significant portion of them indeed do take part. The new facility — Whitehorse Correctional Centre — has greatly increased our ability to offer programs.

I went through a long list of programs that offer life skills and job readiness at WCC. I'll mention a few again — there is first aid, industrial safety, WHMIS, resumé writing, educational upgrading, FoodSafe, financial management, AA for both male and female inmates, Changing Paths — which is life skills for female offenders — and positive parenting. There is wood and mask carving, beading, drum-making, talking circles, traditional cooking — the list goes on, but I think, more importantly —

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

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Ms. Hanson:** I'd like to ask the House to join me in welcoming Hillary Aiken, executive director of the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, to this Legislature.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I think it's very important to note — and I mentioned it earlier, and I thank the Minister of Education for his work on this component of the file — there are courses available through Yukon College within the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. So I really don't think it gets any better than that.

There are a number of programs available — a wide range of programs — and then offering Yukon College on top of that. There are significant opportunities within the Whitehorse Correctional Centre for people to upgrade their skills and prepare for the workforce.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Family visitors are of significant benefit to inmates and to the correctional officers because inmates who see their families and remain connected to their communities have better support. I would like to know how often the new family visitor room space is used to accommodate inmate family visits. Is it weekly or is it monthly? It may of course depend on requests. I'm wondering if the minister has any information available to him regarding how often there have been requests for families to visit their family members who are housed in the Correctional Centre. Are those generally approved? How often are they denied?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The visitation policy for the Whitehorse Correctional Centre is on-line. I don't have it right in front of me or I could read through the policy itself, but there are opportunities for families to visit incarcerated individuals according to that policy. The only time that it really gets a little tricky is if there is an inmate within the segregation unit of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. When somebody is in segregation, it's for reasons of their own behaviour and visitation may or may not be available according to policy at that time.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I would like to turn to issues of staffing.

What is the present number of full-time equivalents and auxiliary on-call positions at Whitehorse Correctional Centre? How many vacancies are there? How many casuals are there on staff? The minister has said that staff training opportunities would continue with, quote, "the new approach at the facility." How much ongoing training has been provided to correctional officers in the last year? Does Whitehorse Correctional Centre maintain a mandatory on-call status for some or all of its correctional officers? If that is the case, how many people are involved in a mandatory on-call status?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The Whitehorse Correctional Centre has a total of 78 permanent FTEs. The Correctional Centre also employs 14 auxiliary on-call correctional officers plus seven correctional officers in reinforcement worker positions. In addition, the Correctional Centre has 11 casual correctional officers. The staffing model for the new Correctional Centre increased the staffing by 2.5 FTEs. The additional FTEs cover one full-time cook, one full-time program officer and 0.5 of a permanent medical administrative assistant.

A human resource strategy was put in place at WCC and this was a significant component of correctional redevelopment. The Correctional Centre now has 24/7 management presence and 18 corrections officer-2 positions. The new staffing model secured salary increases for correctional officers that went into effect in September 2011.

In November 2012, corrections partnered with First Nation Training Corps through the Public Service Commission to increase the number of Yukon First Nation officers within the Correctional Centre. Of the six First Nation people who started correctional officer basic training in November 2012, four will be exempted into full-time positions in March or April of this year. Additionally, a Yukon First Nation auxiliary employee will also be exempted into a full-time position.

The next intake for correctional officer basic training starts in this month, April 2013, and has a preference for female and First Nation candidates. Twelve percent of employees at Whitehorse Correctional Centre have self-reported that they are of First Nations descent.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I thank the minister for that. The one issue I want to go back and ask him to address is whether correctional officers and staff at Whitehorse Correctional Centre have a mandatory on-call requirement.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** There is a policy in place for on-call. I don't have it right in front of me, but I will commit to sending a copy from me to the member opposite.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Perhaps when the minister is responding to that request, he could also send information on how many hours of overtime have been incurred over the previous year and what they anticipate the budget for overtime will be in the coming year.

A short while ago the minister spoke about reintegration planning, and he has said that reintegration planning has increased. The minister spoke about a pilot program they have involving partnership with the Council of Yukon First Nations. I would like to hear more about how inmates are supported to reintegrate into their communities. The minister has also spoken about the integrated offender management system and

about a seamless case management plan for the entire sentence of the inmate. I'd like to know, typically, how often each month does an inmate meet with his or her case manager? Do inmates have supports to develop pre-release plans at least three months in advance to address transition issues, such as finding housing? Finally, on the subject of the case management and the reintegration planning, what is the staff ratio of inmates to case managers?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Between April 1, 2012, and February 14, 2013, 37 inmates met the criteria for integrated offender management. The breakdown of the 37 of the new integrated offender management cases is as follows: two were female, 35 were male, 13 were Caucasian and 24 were First Nation.

The majority of inmates were from Whitehorse, being 15, and the rest were from the following communities: seven from Watson Lake, two from Haines Junction, three from Pelly Crossing, two from Ross River, one from Teslin, three from Mayo, one from Dawson City, and there were three from outside the territory.

The integrated offender management is a collaborative, client-focused case management model. The model provides a seamless case management plan for the entire sentence of the client, including custody and community supervision. It focuses on the transition period between custody and community supervision, when clients are particularly at risk to reoffend. The goal is to reduce reoffending by assessing the risk and needs of offenders by applying processes and programs that have been proven effective in reducing that risk and by starting reintegration planning at the earliest opportunity.

While the offender is in custody, a case manager assesses the risk and needs of the offender and then works collaboratively with other Justice professionals to reduce the risk of reoffending.

There are two integrated offender case managers at Whitehorse Correctional Centre who work closely with probation officers and other service providers on behalf of their clients. The case management team develops a plan that covers the offender's time in custody and their transition into the community. The probation officer later updates this plan to cover the offender's period of supervision within the community. The plan targets the factors that underlie the offender's criminal behaviour, such violence or substance abuse, and ensures the offenders are referred to the appropriate programs and the appropriate resources.

There is no individual budget allocation for this particular program. It is a new case management model that has been implemented to more efficiently and effectively assist our clients within Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Well, that begins to answer my question. The minister indicated that there are two case managers and that there were 37 inmates who met the criteria for the integrated offender management program or approach. That would be approximately 18:1. The minister spoke about the integrated offender management having a focus on the transition period at the earliest opportunity. When is that? I had asked him if it would be three months before release that an inmate would be involved in that case management planning.

When is that earliest opportunity for a transition period? It can take three months or more to find a place to rent under the best of circumstances and when someone is at Whitehorse Correctional Centre, they are perhaps not at the top of everyone's list when they're looking to find a tenant.

I'd also like the minister to inform the House about what the criteria is. Why is it that there are 37 inmates who meet the criteria for integrated offender management? What kinds of services are provided for other inmates who will also be coming out of Whitehorse Correctional Centre and reintegrating into the community?

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** For the inmates who meet the criteria for the integrated offender management model, we have to take into consideration that the average stay for an inmate at Whitehorse Correctional Centre is approximately 50 days. So that model for the inmates who do meet the criteria will start when they are identified as meeting that criteria, but one of the main pieces for eligibility is it being for sentenced inmates. I thank the member opposite for her question.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I have another question related to access to justice. Legal Aid provides duty counsel for a first-instance bail hearing, which is usually heard before a JP. Often people are then — after their first appearance — detained in remand temporarily.

Is there adequate legal aid funding to support bail reviews? What information is provided to inmates who are on remand about their ability to ask for a bail review after their initial bail hearing?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** In 2012-13, Yukon is providing Legal Aid with core funding of approximately \$1,798,000. A further \$35,000 is provided for lawyer services specifically related to the Community Wellness Court. Of that \$1,798,000, Canada provides Yukon with \$864,000 through the access to justice service agreement. Yukon contributes the remaining \$934,000, as well as the additional \$35,000 mentioned above.

Beginning in 2013-14, federal funding for Legal Aid will remain frozen at \$864,000 for the next five years. This will put added pressure on Yukon to make up Legal Aid's inevitable funding shortfalls. The Department of Justice officials have been working with Legal Aid to ensure that it has enough funding to cover its high-cost cases and provide its regular services under the access to justice service agreement. The department provided Legal Aid with a funding increase of \$180,000 in the 2010-11 year to cover the high-cost cases that were before the courts. The Department of Justice also provides \$235,000 of additional funding to cover Legal Aid's high-cost cases that were in the 2011-12 fiscal year.

Access to justice and the proper administration of justice demands that low-income individuals who are charged with serious *Criminal Code* offences should be provided with legal representation during the court process. In some situations, citizens charged with criminal offences have a constitutional right to legal aid. The determination as to which applicants are eligible for legal aid is made by Legal Aid's staff itself, according to the Yukon *Legal Services Society Act*, access to justice services agreements, as well as Legal Aid's own eligibility rules.

Legal aid services in Yukon are provided by Yukon Legal Services Society under the authority of the *Legal Services Society Act*. The society is governed by a board of directors who are appointed by the Minister of Justice. That act allows the society to provide eligible Yukoners with Legal Aid Services in certain types of criminal, civil and family court proceedings.

In addition to that, the society also provides poverty law services through its Neighbourhood Law Centre. The day-to-day work of the society is carried out by three Whitehorse-based clinics with a combined staff of 15. There are nine lawyers and six support staff including the active executive director who practices law about 50 percent of the time with the remainder of his time spent on executive director duties.

Funding for Legal Aid Services in Yukon is provided by a contribution agreement that flows approximately \$1.6 million a year from Yukon Department of Justice to the society itself — the \$1.6 million is a cost-share by the federal and territorial governments, with Justice Canada providing Yukon with \$864,000 per year through the Access to Justice Service Agreement funding agreement between Canada and Yukon. This agreement also provides funding for public legal information services of about \$90,000 and aboriginal courtworker services of about \$158,000.

The federal share of the \$1.6 million is about 50 percent, making it the best legal aid cost-sharing agreement in Canada. By comparison, the federal share in Northwest Territories is believed to be about 40 percent and only about 25 percent in Nunavut.

Funding for legal aid is a significant concern, because the federal share of the funding has not increased since the mid-2000s. In spite of this, Legal Aid's core operating costs continue to rise with the rate of inflation, plus in the last three years legal aid costs have spiked as a result of a few higher cost cases.

In conclusion, we have ongoing discussions with Legal Aid offices to determine the appropriate levels of funding for all of their activities. Bail funding is part of those ongoing decisions.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I thank the minister for that and would certainly agree that funding legal aid is a key part of an accessible justice system. Perhaps the minister may have some success in deliberations with his federal counterpart on increasing the funding that the Government of Canada provides in the way of federal dollars for legal aid.

The Department of Justice supports the operation of the courts. The minister spoke about the Community Wellness Court and that its funding has been extended to 2014-15.

He has said that there are increased numbers of referrals and that programming continues to develop.

Can the minister give us some further information? Does he know how many files have been processed in the Community Wellness Court in 2012-13 and in past years? How many case management files are there at the Community Wellness Court? How many programs are offered and how often? How many participants are there in the programming? Has the minister supported an Alcohol and Drug Services addictions coun-

sellor for the Community Wellness Court and how long has the position been filled?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** As the member opposite will know, the Community Wellness Court pilot project was implemented in June of 2007 in response to the call for a creation of a therapeutic court in the *Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan*. In March of 2009, the pilot project was extended for a three-year period in order to allow for an evaluation of the project and to further develop the court itself. In February 2012, the funding was approved until the end of the 2014-15 fiscal year to allow further assessment of the Community Wellness Court in the achievement of its objectives.

As of February 2013, of the 161 offenders who were referred to the Community Wellness Court, 92 offenders have been accepted into the program and 59 offenders have graduated from the program, receiving either full or partial credit for their participation. There are currently approximately 33 active clients within that program.

Also, an in-depth wellness plan is tailored to the needs of the individual client following several assessments. The wellness journey can take up to 18 months before sentencing and may include the following: individual or group therapeutic counselling and treatment; assistance with employment, housing or other basic needs; medical assistance including psychiatric services; assistance from agencies such as the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society of Yukon and Many Rivers Counselling and Support Services; intensive supervision and support by a probation officer working closely with the client on their wellness journey; and work on building family and community supports.

The Community Wellness Court participants are given priority placement for risk assessment and offender programming. I can also report that in my discussions with the federal minister, they are keeping a very close eye on our Community Wellness Court. I know that my northern counterparts in both the N.W.T. and Nunavut were particularly interested and actually came over to visit and learn more about the court and the programming we're offering at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, among other things. That was during the policing conference.

In March 2009, Management Board approved funding to extend the pilot project for the Community Wellness Court for three years. In February 2012, Management Board approved \$458,614 in O&M until the end of the 2014-15 fiscal year to allow for further assessment of the Community Wellness Court and the achievement of its objectives.

The Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family, which is a non-profit, independent research institute in Calgary, completed an evaluation of the Community Wellness Court in 2011 that assessed its outcomes and effectiveness. The Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family report provided positive comments to support a further three years of pilot project funding from our government.

**Chair:** A break has been requested by the members. Are you agreed?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole will recess for 10 minutes.

*Recess*

**Chair:** Order. Committee of the Whole will resume general debate on Vote 8.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I believe the minister was just completing his answer related to the programming staff associated with the Community Wellness Court, specifically an addictions counsellor and what work they did, but also what other positions had been filled and what other services were available for the clients of the program.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** We currently do some in-house programming with regard to alcohol and drug services. We have one certified staff member, we have one staff member nearing certification, and the programming the member speaks of is overseen by a psychologist who is contracted by the Department of Justice. I thank the member opposite for her question.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I'd also like to ask the minister to provide some information regarding the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court. What do the numbers look like? Has it increased or decreased since last year?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court, or DVTO, is a therapeutic court that supports offenders and victims to make the necessary changes in their lives so that they lower their risk to reoffend. The Department of Justice has operated the DVTO Court since March of 2001 here in Whitehorse and in Watson Lake, in response to ongoing high levels of domestic violence in those communities.

From January to December of 2011, the court had 252 open files. From January to December of 2012, this court had 135 open files, and since January 2013 to date, this court has had 64 open files. Reports by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics show a steady decline in police-reported spousal violence from 1998 to 2006 here in Yukon.

The Department of Justice works with offenders in the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court, both individually and in group counselling. The programs offered are the respectful relationship program for men, and the emotional management program for women. Offender Supervision and Services provides various programs that target criminogenic behaviours. These programs are offered to offender supervision and services clients, including those within the therapeutic courts.

In 2011-12, Offender Supervision and Services provided treatment to 232 participants. In 2012-13 to date, offender services have provided therapeutic services to 144 participants. The Yukon Department of Justice does not report crime statistics; rather, the department provides raw data to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. There is no unique *Criminal Code* offence for domestic violence. Rates of domestic violence have to be inferred from coded assault and victimization data, such as common assault and assault causing bodily harm.

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics or CCJS collects and reports annual police-reported crime statistics in cooperation with the policing community across Canada. Many factors could influence official crime stats including the following: reporting by the public to the police; reporting by police to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics; impacts of new initia-



tives such as changes in legislation, policies or enforcement practices; and social, economic and demographic changes.

The CCJS reports both the number of actual criminal incidents in each jurisdiction and crime rates that are calculated based on population bases of 100,000.

In Yukon, small changes in the number of incidents will result in large changes in the crime rate because they are calculated per 100,000 population to enable cross-jurisdictional comparisons. The latest report on police-reported incidents of spousal violence in Yukon dates from 2006. Data since then is unreliable to report.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The next area that I would like to discuss is the provision of police services, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the report *Sharing Common Ground*, which was the final report of the co-chairs after the review of Yukon's police force in 2010.

Yukon equality-seeking, non-government organization women's groups have shown great leadership in their efforts to establish good, productive relationships with the RCMP and the community as a whole, as well as specifically on issues affecting women and crime.

I have heard positive reports about the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society's "Together for Justice" and the protocol they recently signed off with the RCMP, which was celebrated on International Women's Day, on March 8, 2013. "Together for Justice" is a protocol for building community safety that confirms the new relationship that has been built between LAWS and the local RCMP. The protocol follows a series of workshops that took place from February 2011 to March 2013. This project was initiated by LAWS and was held in both Watson Lake and Whitehorse.

There has been a lot of involvement of other Yukon women's groups — the Yukon women's coalition that was formed when the review of Yukon's police force was established. RCMP employees joined with Kaska women and representatives from government and community organizations, and they held a series of workshops, where they focused on the justice system, on policing, culture, historical colonialism and residential schools to explore and understand how society responds to women who experience violence.

I want to read into the record a quote from Sergeant Cam Lockwood of the Watson Lake RCMP detachment, who says — quote: "The workshops provided a new lens that the RCMP has used to examine its practices. We saw the need to change the way we respond to women who experience violence. We asked for advice from women and we made changes."

The Chief Superintendent of M Division, Commanding Officer Peter Clark also said — quote: "The shared commitment centres around improving how police and community respond to women who have experienced violence. The training places us on common ground regarding First Nations culture and how people are responding to residential schools and challenges with the justice system. It teaches us to recognize women's courage, support their decisions and ensure our responses do not attach blame."

One of the leaders on this project was Ann Maje Raider, who is the director at the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society.

They have made sure that elders and residential school survivors, educators, First Nation governments, the Watson Lake police advisory board, shelters, youth, advocacy groups, police officers and many Kaska women and men contributed to getting to the point where the protocol was signed. But that's only the beginning of the work that is needed. As Sergeant Lockwood said, "We now have to make it real by living up to our commitments."

I want to acknowledge Kaska elder May Brodhagen, because I've had numerous conversations with her on the subject of safety in the communities and, in particular, safety for women. What Ms. Brodhagen said in relation to the signing of the protocol is — quote: "These meetings have already had positive results. We know more about each other, and women are once again enjoying the benefit that comes from having personal relationships with RCMP members in our community. We hope that the path we have travelled will also take others to the success we have found." So in Watson Lake there has been significant action on improving relationships between First Nations, the women's community and the RCMP.

One of the facilitators of those workshops, Dr. Allan Wade, said that even before the historical protocol was signed, the collaborators were seeing positive differences in the community and that a very different relationship has evolved.

I would like to express my appreciation to the RCMP, to the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society and to all of the participants in the many challenging workshops that were held over a number of years. They have all shown tremendous leadership and I would like to congratulate all parties on their remarkable achievement. I think it's a best practice that should be supported in every Yukon community.

Initially, Yukon women's groups had hoped to see a similar protocol adopted for Whitehorse. I am not sure where that is at now. I hope that work will continue to develop such a protocol for Whitehorse and I would indeed like to see it used as a model throughout the territory. Women's groups do not have the financial resources of government and they are often expected to participate without remuneration, which is patently unfair. The Department of Justice has, to its credit, provided limited funding to acknowledge the essential participation of women's groups to fund that participation in the implementation of recommendations from the *Sharing Common Ground* report.

We know that the work of implementing *Sharing Common Ground* recommendations is far from complete. There were over 30 recommendations. The work has just begun.

I'd like to ask the minister what funding his department has identified to continue to support the participation of the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society, Kaushee's Place, the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre and numerous other Yukon women's groups in the implementation of recommendations from the *Sharing Common Ground* report that was written at the conclusion of the review of Yukon's police force in 2010?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for her question. I believe Yukoners are very fortunate that we have such a positive relationship with the RCMP in the territory, under the leadership of Chief Superintendent Peter Clark. I

particularly enjoy the time that I spend with Peter. He's a man who wants to see Yukon moving forward.

I'll talk a little bit about *Sharing Common Ground*. I'll talk a little bit about our relationship with the RCMP. I think, first off, it's important to put on record that Yukon's policing priorities this year were indeed informed by recommendations from the newly created Police Council. The council was created out of a recommendation flowing from the review of Yukon's police force. The council's recommendations are intended to reflect the unique needs and values of the Yukon community. A broad range of citizens, First Nation organizations and governments, and community organizations were involved in the Police Council's community engagement process. Full consideration was given to the council's recommendations in setting the priorities for Yukon.

As well, the department officials consulted with the RCMP M Division on trends and the policing environment and strategic areas of public safety where the territorial police service can best focus its efforts. Yukon's policing priorities for 2013-14 have been communicated to the commanding officer of the RCMP M Division and the RCMP included these in their planning for the coming fiscal year.

The five priority area of focus for policing in the Yukon are: (1) to focus on preventing and decreasing the victimization of children and youth; (2) to continue to improve the response to sexualized assault and family violence, including abuse in intimate partner relationships and child abuse; (3) to work with the public and service providers to identify and address community safety issues; (4) to build and foster constructive and respectful relationship with First Nation leadership, communities and citizens; and (5) to improve the police response to vulnerable populations with the particular focus on individuals with mental health issues and addictions.

The RCMP is actively engaged on a number of different initiatives stemming from the *Sharing Common Ground* report of the police review, and this ongoing work falls within some of the priority areas.

Examples of such initiatives include the specialized response unit, which is a four-member team, funded this fiscal year to more effectively respond to sexualized assault and domestic violence. Another example is the RCMP's work in collaboration with the Department of Justice, the Northern Institute of Social Justice, Council of Yukon First Nations and other stakeholders on establishing a unique training and development framework for all new members joining M Division. Such a framework would inform the RCMP's strategic training plan and may include modified or enhanced training in areas such as First Nation cultural awareness and history and responses to vulnerable populations.

In April 2010, Yukon launched a review of the Yukon's police force. High profile incidents had caused the public confidence in the RCMP to erode and the force's role in the public service was called into question. The purpose of the review was to engage the public, service providers and RCMP in dialogue with the goal of rebuilding trust, acknowledging and addressing concerns and arriving at recommendations for action in order to improve the quality of policing services for all citizens in our

territory. The review was co-chaired by the Department of Justice, RCMP M Division and the Council of Yukon First Nations. The co-chairs received guidance from an advisory committee that represented women's groups, Yukon municipalities, Government of Yukon and RCMP M Division. There was very strong public interest in the review and Yukon citizens engaged in a vigorous dialogue with the co-chairs. In fact, over 60 public and targeted meetings were held, 15 written submissions were received, and several service agencies were engaged to assist clients to participate.

Submissions were brought forward by First Nation leadership and citizens, by women's organizations, by the general public and others. These submissions, both written and oral, in large groups and in one-on-one conversations held in all Yukon communities from Whitehorse to Brooks Brook, resulted in many valuable contributions from Yukon citizens.

Yukoners and RCMP members spoke about the unique role the RCMP have in the community and they highlighted the importance of developing relationships between the police and the community.

Citizens said that they want the RCMP to understand the culture and values of the community and to have the knowledge, the skills, and the attributes required to police in the north, to work with vulnerable people and to respond to domestic violence and sexualized assault. Citizens said that communication needed improvement, that they were concerned about police accountability and the disciplinary process, and that improvements could be made to help the public to better understand the complaints process.

Following eight months of dialogue with citizens, the co-chairs submitted the final report of their review of Yukon's police force, entitled *Sharing Common Ground*, to the then Minister of Justice on December 31, 2010. *Sharing Common Ground* outlines the foundation for establishing a new relationship between Yukon citizens and the RCMP, and it creates a blueprint for a quality of service that will benefit all Yukon citizens.

The report contains 33 recommendations that respond to concerns raised during that review. Priorities for implementation were established in conjunction with the Council of Yukon First Nations leadership in February of 2011 and implementation of these and other recommendations began shortly thereafter.

The RCMP M Division, the Council of Yukon First Nations justice and the Government of Yukon Department of Justice have been working closely together to implement the recommendations, and each organization has designated staff to work part or full time on that implementation. These agencies have been working together to ensure that progress is communicated with stakeholders and interested organizations.

The Department of Justice has provided funding to the Council of Yukon First Nations to work together with the Department of Justice and M Division on the implementation of *Sharing Common Ground*. This funding agreement supports Council of Yukon First Nations' interest in working with member First Nations to gather their advice, expertise and input

to facilitate their involvement in *Sharing Common Ground* implementation.

One of the important roles for Council of Yukon First Nations Justice is to share information with First Nations on *Sharing Common Ground* progress, implementation and initiatives. The Council of Yukon First Nations Justice manager has been a part of the implementation working group and continues to work on a number of specific recommendations and at an oversight level.

A number of additional partners are actively engaged in implementation with a wide range of specific agencies and service providers involved in working groups and other methods of implementation related to each individual recommendation. These partners include M Division, the Council of Yukon First Nations Justice and Health, the Northern Institute of Social Justice and the Government of Yukon departments of Justice, Health and Social Services and the Women's Directorate, as well as Kwanlin Dun First Nation Justice, Kaushee's Place, Liard Aboriginal Women's Society, Public Prosecution Service of Canada and representatives from a coalition of women's organizations.

The Department of Justice has provided funding to support a coalition of women's organizations. Women's organizations were strongly involved in the review of Yukon's police force, and the Women's Coalition was developed as a mechanism for women's organizations to be able to work together to respond to the recommendations of *Sharing Common Ground*.

The purpose of the coalition is to ensure the continued representation of the concerns and priorities of Yukon women and women's organizations, including First Nation women.

Coalition member organizations include Yukon Women's Transition Home Society, Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle, Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council, Liard Aboriginal Women's Society, Les EssentiElles, and the Yukon Status of Women Council. As a result of this collaboration and commitment to implementation, I'm very pleased to be able to report progress on a number of the recommendations.

For example, the Yukon Police Council — and we've spoken about that before — was established in 2012 to provide the chance for citizens to participate in a role in directing the police service they receive. A key piece of the council's workplan for this year and on an ongoing basis was to develop processes for engaging with and incorporating the community voice into recommendations they make. In the fall of 2012, the Yukon's Police Council sought public input into the recommendations on policing priorities via targeted letters, newspaper ads and website information.

The council also hosted a session where First Nation stakeholders and service providers were invited to provide their insights and recommendations on policing priorities. The council analyzed that information and recently provided their recommendations, which I carefully considered in developing the Minister of Justice's policing priorities for Yukon Territory. Over the coming year, the council will continue to engage First Nation service providers and citizens in dialogue on policing.

We have an excellent group of people on this council, with a variety of backgrounds and experiences to bring to this process. I am very pleased to have launched the council and to see their work progressing.

Another recommendation was the arrest processing unit. This was formerly known as the "secure assessment centre". This unit is currently operated at the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre. This is a facility for the short-term detention of persons taken into RCMP custody and is a joint initiative, cost-shared between the Government of Yukon and the RCMP. The arrest processing unit ensures a high standard of care and protection for persons taken into RCMP custody.

Another recommendation from *Sharing Common Ground* that we have worked on is the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, which, in future, I'll relate to as "ASIRT". We have an agreement with a civilian investigative agency to conduct independent investigations of serious incidents involving RCMP members in Yukon. The services resulting from this agreement have already been accessed.

Another recommendation was improving the response to domestic violence and sexualized assault. A multi-sector committee made up of representatives from women's organizations, Yukon government, RCMP, Council of Yukon First Nations and the federal public prosecutions office has been established and continues to work together. Their role is to develop a comprehensive framework for coordinating Yukon's response to domestic violence and sexualized assault. The committee is working together to clarify RCMP policies related to dual charging and current RCMP policies and practices regarding the use of primary aggressor assessments in cases of domestic violence.

The committee has also supported the RCMP to update M Division policy and procedure manuals. Open lines of communication, coordinated service provision and specialized response teams are some of the key success factors in other jurisdictions that are dealing with this issue.

The government has supported the establishment of a new RCMP unit — a specialized response unit within M Division to investigate domestic violence and sexualized assault. The SRU has been established with a mandate to provide guidance, assistance and oversight to detachment members who are conducting domestic violence and sexual assault investigations and to act as lead investigators into domestic violence and sexual assault investigations where specialized services are required. In addition, the SRU will identify training and divisional needs related to domestic violence and sexual assault.

Another recommendation from *Sharing Common Ground* was the creation of a law enforcement career orientation program at the Northern Institute of Social Justice.

The NISJ worked in partnership with the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Department of Justice and the RCMP to develop a program to prepare First Nation citizens and women for a career in law enforcement or the justice system.

I know my time is running out, so I'll be brief in naming a couple of the other recommendations from *Sharing Common Ground*. Of course, just last year, we held the Symposium on Policing in Northern and Remote Canada conference here in

Whitehorse. I believe that this was a successful conference and many of the members commented that they wish to see that occur again, perhaps in another jurisdiction. There was community participation in the selection of a new detachment commander — another goal for the RCMP that was reached.

I'm pleased with the progress made in implementing these important recommendations. I thank you for this opportunity to speak about the great progress made in responding to the review of the Yukon's police force.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** A lot of good work has been done and even more great work remains to be done.

Victimization surveys tell us that only about 10 percent of sexual assaults are reported. Women do not easily trust the justice system for a number of reasons. Many women have reported distrust and even fear of police. Conviction rates for sexual assaults are low as are rates for laying a charge. Many women believe they will be revictimized during the court process if they do make a complaint to the police and if charges are laid because we consistently hear of cases where a woman's credibility is under severe attack during a sexual assault trial.

I've spoken at length about the extremely high rates of violence against women in Yukon, and this is fundamentally a violation of women's human rights. It's an area where we need to support a woman's right to safety. We need to improve our social responses to women reporting violence in the police response and in ensuring there are good social safety networks that support safety, housing, education, health care, childcare and so forth.

The minister spoke about the sexual assault coordinating committee and the new sexual assault response team at the RCMP. This is a welcome addition to Yukon police services. I'm glad to see this being implemented.

Having a dedicated RCMP sexual assault response team is great, and their expertise needs to be passed along to RCMP members serving in every Yukon community. We know the rates of violence against women are three times higher here in the north than they are in southern Canada, and that violence against aboriginal women is seven times higher than for non-aboriginal women. There is a real need to see the kind of changes we see in the RCMP's leadership commitments to change, their commitments to better relationships with women's equality-seeking groups, and in protocols, such as Together for Justice, to filter down to all members of the RCMP in all communities. We want to hear women reporting they are treated well by the police when they report violence. Learning about appropriate use of language and responsive interviewing techniques is an essential tool for the police, enabling them to effectively support women who are reporting violence. Together for Justice is a model that could be used to good effect in Yukon communities.

Other than in Watson Lake, I don't know whether there has been any training offered to RCMP division members on violence against women. I'd like to ask the minister to respond on this. Has any training been offered for all M Division members on more appropriate responses to sexual assaults? Do we know how many sexual assaults were reported to police in the last year?

Has there been an increase or a decrease in reporting crimes of violence against women? Do we know how many sexual assaults that were reported to police were determined to be unfounded?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for that question. During the review of Yukon's police force, as I mentioned, service providers and clients called for a more consistent, effective, coordinated and informed response to domestic violence and sexualized assault by police and other agencies. As a part of *Sharing Common Ground* implementation, an inter-agency working group of members from Council of Yukon First Nations, from women's organizations, from the Government of Yukon, health providers, RCMP and the public prosecutions office has indeed been established. This domestic violence and sexualized assault framework committee meet to share information and coordination of services.

The committee is developing an overarching framework to describe Yukon's responses and show linkages between services. In addition, the committee is exploring a number of specific service delivery areas, including clarifying protocols and practices relating to police charging practices, including dual charging, and the use of primary aggressor assessments. It's also supporting research being conducted by the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues to better understand the concept and service gaps related to legal advocacy for women.

The Government of Yukon has provided funding to the RCMP to establish a four-person specialized response unit within M Division, as I spoke to earlier. That work will continue within the department.

The SRU also identifies training and divisional needs related to domestic violence and sexual assault. The unit works with key stakeholders for enhanced inter-agency collaboration and consistency in response across the territory.

We know the RCMP have made changes to their domestic violence policy with the support and with the input from their community partners and have recently piloted a new training for front-line officers. This training included input and presentation from a range of Yukon service providers. We talk about dual charging and that refers to both partners being charged in cases of domestic violence. When I speak about primary aggressor policy, it directs law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to investigate and determine the most significant, rather than the first aggressor, in cases where it's alleged that both partners committed an assault. The issue of dual charging and of women who are victims of violence being arrested and charged with assault was raised a number of times during the review of Yukon's police force.

In response, as one aspect of the *Sharing Common Ground* implementation, the inter-agency working group of members from First Nations, women's organizations, government health providers, RCMP and the public prosecution office was established. That working group is supporting the RCMP to update M Division policy and procedure manuals. Also, a subcommittee is working to clarify RCMP policies relating to dual charging and RCMP policies and practices regarding the use of primary aggressor assessments in cases of domestic violence.

The subcommittee is also monitoring the use of these policies in ensuring that open communication lines exist between the RCMP and the service providers. The committee is supporting the RCMP to update M Division policy and procedure manuals. As I can well imagine, this is a complex issue and is being discussed across this country and is not a unique issue to Yukon. Open lines of communication, coordinated service provision and specialized response teams are some of the key success factors in other jurisdictions in dealing with this particular issue.

Justice officials and the RCMP M Division are working closely with other service providers to develop coordinated services and ongoing communication in the territory.

With respect to a legal advocate for women, during the review of Yukon's police force, service providers, Yukon women's organizations and members of the public called for, as I mentioned, a more consistent, effective, coordinated and informed response to domestic violence and sexualized assault by police and other agencies. One of the items specifically raised by women's organizations was to consider establishing a legal advocate for women. The *Sharing Common Ground* report recommended further consideration of a legal advocate position to support women and/or a Court Watch program. The Women's Directorate and the Department of Justice, working together, provided funding to the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues to define and research the scope and options for a women's legal advocate. The first phase of this research was completed in 2012. Now, a second stage of research focusing on the needs and available services in rural Yukon, along with responses in similar communities across the north, will be completed early this year.

The Women's Directorate and Department of Justice provided funding to the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues to define and research the scope and options for legal advocacy for women. This research includes looking at advocacy on a system level, which is one overarching purpose of Court Watch programs. Within the Department of Justice, Victim Services workers support their clients in court appearances and help them understand their rights in the criminal justice process. In addition, the *Victims of Crime Act*, proclaimed in the spring of 2011, reinforces the rights of victims of crime, including their right to information throughout the justice process. Victim Services work closely with the Crown and the RCMP to ensure that a victim's voice is heard and that their views are considered as an integral part of the criminal justice system.

The newly implemented justice enterprise information network that I spoke about yesterday in my opening remarks, otherwise known as the JEIN system, will allow the Department of Justice to better track the experience of victims of crime.

The Department of Justice is also a research partner in the Canadian Observatory on the Justice System's Response to Intimate Partner Violence. Data is being collected on the experiences of victims whose partners are involved with the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court. Data will be analyzed and an observatory report will reflect these findings.

Our government recognizes that violence against women is a significant issue that continues to be a barrier to women's equality here in the territory, and truly around the world. We know that rates of violence, especially against aboriginal women, are higher in the north than in the rest of Canada and that many incidents of violence, especially sexualized violence, are never reported.

We also know that working together as a government with community partners and Yukon men and women, we can and are making a difference to support women who have experienced violence and to work toward ending the violence that affects all of us. For these reasons, this government is taking action in the areas of prevention, crisis response and long-term support for women who are victims of violence.

I'll talk for a moment about "Am I the Solution?" social marketing campaign that Justice partners on with the Women's Directorate. It's designed to address attitudes and behaviours that contribute to the high rates of violence against women in the Yukon. The Women's Directorate invested \$100,000 per year over three years from 2010 to 2013 under the *Victims of Crime Strategy*. The goal is to prevent violent behaviours against women and girls in the territory. The goal is also to promote healthy, equitable and respectful relationships. The goal is to promote parenting skills that teach non-violent behaviour and anger management. It's also a goal to encourage men's engagement in ending violence against women and girls.

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

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** I'd like to ask members to join me in welcoming a friendly constituent. Mr. Jeff Frizzell is an elementary school teacher with Jack Hulland and also the former MVP of the ballpark fastball tournament and a top-notch pitcher and catcher in Whitehorse.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Getting back to the "Am I the Solution?" campaign, this campaign has been very successful and it will continue into this next year. On a weekly basis, the campaign reaches between 600 and 12,000 individuals across Yukon and across the world through updated Facebook posts. On a regular day, we have between 100 and 300 individuals visiting the "Am I the Solution?" Facebook page. The family violence and violence against aboriginal women prevention initiatives funding supports projects designed and developed by and for aboriginal women in their communities. Madam Chair, \$200,000 is allocated annually for this fund in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

The Women's Directorate will provide funding to six organizations to carry out activities that contribute to eliminating violence against aboriginal women. Since 2004, the Women's Directorate has contributed approximately \$1.5 million toward this fund, which has sponsored 60 projects — and I think it's important for me to take time to thank the minister responsible for the Women's Directorate for her work on this file.

The Government of Yukon has provided the funding to the RCMP to establish a four-person specialized response unit, and

I've already spoken about that, so I won't go on a great deal about the SRU — or maybe I will. By establishing this unit, M Division can be more effective in responding to domestic violence and sexualized assault and improve coordination with other agencies. It's important to note that the Department of Justice has 10.5 permanent FTEs in the Victim Services unit to serve all Yukon communities and receives \$211,000 annually for programming costs.

From 2011 to 2013, the department secured over \$800,000 from the national Policy Centre for Victim Issues to augment the Yukon government's support for the *Victims of Crime Strategy*. Successes include the creation of the victims of crime emergency fund, which has provided more than \$25,000 of emergency funding to 62 victims of crime. It also included enhanced support to the sexualized assault response committee included training in trauma, informed care and sexual assault nurse examiner training. It included partnership with the RCMP victim assistance volunteers, Kaushee's Place and Vanier Social Justice Club in the creation of emergency totes for victims of sexual violence.

Victim Services has submitted a proposal to renew the funding agreement with the Policy Centre for Victim Issues to fund the same areas from April 2013 to March 31, 2016.

The Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court is a therapeutic court that supports offenders and victims to make the necessary changes in their lives so that they lower their risk to reoffend. The Department of Justice has operated the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court since March 2001 here in Whitehorse, as well as in Watson Lake as mentioned earlier, in response to ongoing high levels of domestic violence in those communities.

The Yukon government, via the Women's Directorate, has committed a total of \$4.5 million to the construction of a second-stage housing facility here in Whitehorse. Betty's Haven will provide 10 units of supportive, secure and affordable transitional housing for 12 to 18 months to women and their children who are fleeing abuse. Victims of violence receive priority placement on the waitlist for Yukon Housing Corporation units. As a part of *Sharing Common Ground* implementation, an inter-agency working group of members from Council of Yukon First Nations, women's organizations, Government of Yukon, health providers, RCMP and the public prosecutions office has been established.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I would like to go back to my question about whether there is funding for representatives of the women's groups coalition to participate in implementing recommendations found in the *Sharing Common Ground* report. There were, as the minister listed, a number of women's groups who formed a coalition — and Elizabeth Fry Society Yukon was also a member of that coalition — back in 2010. Women's groups certainly played a leadership role in identifying the nature of problems, particularly around sexual assaults and how they are dealt with by the police, by the justice system and in communities, and identifying solutions.

In recognition of that leadership role of Yukon women's groups, does the Department of Justice have monies in the 2013-14 budget to support their continued participation in im-

plementing the recommendations of *Sharing Common Ground*? The minister has spoken about funding for the RCMP, funding for the First Nations, and about the Women's Directorate funding for the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues, as well as aboriginal women's programs dealing with violence. I would like a specific answer on whether there are monies in 2013-14 for Yukon women's groups to continue participating with the RCMP and with the Department of Justice in ongoing implementations of the *Sharing Common Ground* recommendations.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for her question. In the 2013-14 budget, there is no allocation for that funding that the member opposite speaks of, but that funding is being taken under consideration. I'm fairly confident that we may have a submission in the supplementary budget for this fall.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I know that the minister is aware that I've had some involvement. Just to provide full disclosure, I was quite active in the formation of a coalition of Yukon women's groups. I had served on the board of some of them and had done volunteer work for others. I did participate as a member of the advisory committee to the review of Yukon's police force in 2010 as a representative of the coalition of Yukon's women's groups.

As I've spoken to in this House, the problem of violence against women is one that we do not take seriously enough and to which we need to have better responses.

I want to make a strong case to urge the Minister of Justice to find funds to continue to support Yukon women's groups. I think that it would detract from the credibility of the ongoing work if women's groups were not funded for their participation. We all know that there is a lot more work that needs to be done.

There were a number of questions that I had also put on the record in relation to changes that have been made and increases in funding to the RCMP. There was funding for the sexual assault response team and I had asked the minister to address whether there has been training offered for all M Division members in all communities on more appropriate responses to sexual assault. That is something that needs to take place. That's one of the reasons why women's groups continue to need funding to be involved in the implementation of the recommendations in *Sharing Common Ground* that deal with some very serious problems that we face as a society.

The minister also spoke about the law enforcement career orientation program at the Northern Institute of Social Justice. I understand that there has been one offering of that program. I'd like to know how many people attended and completed the first offering of the law enforcement career orientation program. I'd like to know whether any First Nation people applied to the RCMP and were accepted into Depot training when they completed that program. I'd like to know whether there were any women who completed that program and if any of them applied to the RCMP and then were accepted into Depot training. Finally, I would like to know whether there is an intention to offer the program again.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The member opposite just indicated that — speaking on the member opposite's behalf — her opinion was that she didn't believe that she is taking — she said, "we." I quote: "We don't take violence against women seriously enough." I'm going to have to disagree with the member opposite on that comment because this government takes violence against women very, very seriously.

In fact, I think I've reflected on the seriousness of how we see this in my policing priorities when I wrote to the RCMP — and their priorities. I'll read it again: "To focus on preventing and decreasing the victimization of children and youth; to continue to improve the response to sexualized assault and family violence; to work with the public and service providers to identify and to address community safety issues." Those are just the first three. I think to have violence prevention as two of the five priorities and the work that the department has done, it's an understatement to say that we don't take this seriously enough.

The government is committed to addressing the needs of victims of crime. In August 2009, we released our *Victims of Crime Strategy*. Since that time, we have been actively implementing a workplan that fulfills its goals. The *Victims of Crime Strategy* complements components of the work of *Sharing Common Ground*.

As you know, the *Victims of Crime Strategy* was developed by the Department of Justice and the Women's Directorate, in collaboration with First Nations and community agencies, in order to enhance our responses to the needs of victims, families and communities.

This strategy has been designed to acknowledge, formalize and continually strengthen Government of Yukon's existing services and to explore new and emerging initiatives — in particular, working with others to support victims of crime. The *Victims of Crime Strategy* has been guided by an implementation advisory committee. This committee has representatives from community groups, First Nations and women's groups, Health and Social Services and other justice organizations and the RCMP. The committee has remained informed about the strategy workplan through in-person updates. The committee has met seven times since August 2009, most recently on October 25, 2012. The Department of Justice and the Women's Directorate will continue to work collaboratively with the implementation advisory committee to implement the workplan for the *Victims of Crime Strategy*. The strategy has provided a foundation from which to seek funding from other sources for specific initiatives. The Policy Centre for Victim Issues has contributed up to an additional \$500,000 for 2012-13 to enhance the Yukon *Victims of Crime Strategy*.

In 2012-13, Victim Services contracted the development of a logic model and evaluation framework for the *Victims of Crime Strategy* with financial support of PCVI. The strategy has five areas of focus, and I'd like to now update you on what we have achieved in these areas. We have committed to strengthening the focus on the needs of victims of crime. The strategy initiated funding to support two additional Victim Services workers who have improved our ability to respond to victims in all Yukon communities. Victim Services has offices in Whitehorse, Dawson City and Watson Lake. All other com-

munities have a Victim Services worker assigned to work directly with victims of crime and community supports.

Services to rural communities continue to be a priority, including staff travelling to communities during court and between court appearances. Since November 2011, Victim Services workers have made 67 trips to Yukon rural communities.

The Victim Services unit is a voluntary service that provides support and information to victims of all crime, whether or not a charge has been laid. This victim support includes things like information about the criminal justice system, the role of the victim in the criminal justice system and opportunities to participate in criminal justice processes, as well as assistance in the court process by supporting applications for peace bonds under the *Criminal Code* and the emergency intervention orders under the *Family Violence Prevention Act*. Also there is information about court proceedings, preparing victims to testify as witnesses, working with federal Crown witness coordinators and supporting victims in preparing victim impact statements. There is information to victims about options available, the status of the investigation, the next court appearance, the final outcome of the proceedings and the notification of a reduction of level of supervision of the accused.

There is emotional support regarding the impact of victimization and referrals to other agencies as deemed appropriate; practical support such as the victims of crime emergency fund, emergency cellphone initiative, letters of support for housing referrals to other agencies; coordination and support to the inter-agency sexual assault response committee whose primary objective is to promote consistency and coordination between the member agencies in order to enhance responses for victims of sexual assault; information and support for victims whose partners are involved with the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court in Whitehorse and Watson Lake and/or the Community Wellness Court in Whitehorse; representation on the youth justice panel; 24-hour access to Victim-LINK; and finally, support for inter-agency and community requests for programming and training.

Accessibility to Victim Services is extremely important. Over the past year, we have released new Victim Services brochures to inform the public about the rights of victims and the unit services. Victim Services also has contracted the development of a communications strategy.

A victims of crime emergency fund has been implemented to address some of the emergency aspects of being victimized that cannot be covered by any other source. One component of the victims of crime emergency fund is the emergency cellphone program. Emergency cellphones are provided to address safety concerns as a result of victimization. Since April 2011, approximately 50 phones have been provided. I want to particularly thank Latitude Wireless and Steve McAvoy for this partnership and for their very generous support of this program. It's an excellent example of government/community collaboration.

**Deputy Chair (Mr. Hassard):** Before we proceed, a break has been requested. Do you agree?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Deputy Chair:** Committee of the Whole will recess for 10 minutes.

*Recess*

**Chair:** Order. Committee of the Whole will now come to order, resuming general debate on Vote 8.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Let me assure the minister that I meant no offence to him or to his department officials when I asserted that we as a society do not respond adequately to violence against women and that we could certainly improve.

I am pleased to see the priorities of the Yukon Police Council. I know they reflect what I heard from community members at close to 60 public meetings that I attended during the review of Yukon's police force. While I'm pleased to see progress, when we as a society take violence against women as seriously as it deserves to be taken, we should see rates of women abuse going down.

I want to turn to a specific question that I had in relation to the minister's remarks about the law enforcement career orientation program. I did already put this on the record, but I didn't hear an answer. To repeat: How many people attended and completed the first offering of the law enforcement career orientation program and what results did it have? Were there any people who completed that program who applied to the RCMP and were accepted into Depot training? Does the minister have a breakdown related to First Nations and women participating in the program? That would be something else I had already asked him for.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** As all members of this Assembly will know, I've given the RCMP our priorities for the year, and they include the priority to continue to improve the response to sexualized assault and family violence, including abuse in intimate partner relationships and child abuse. The RCMP are now going to have to implement that priority.

Our government will support efforts to implement this priority, including funding for the Domestic Violence and Sexualized Assault Framework Committee. Training is a key component of the RCMP response to domestic and sexualized assault. I understand that training is a priority for the RCMP and its members. So with the member's indulgence, I will acquire that data from the RCMP and provide it to her at a later date.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I understood the minister to say that he would find the information about training and I want to clarify that he will find the information about the Northern Institute of Social Justice program — the questions that I just read into the record — but I want to confirm that he will also get answers to the questions about whether training has been offered to all RCMP members in all communities related to the particular expertise that the new sexual assault response team brings to the force. I will let the minister respond to that before I move on.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** We will acquire the data from the Northern Institute of Social Justice as well as some data from the RCMP, provided that's available to us, with respect to training and provide that to the members.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The other question related to training within the RCMP that I wanted to ask the minister to provide — and he could seek an answer from the RCMP and get back to me — is in relation to First Nation heritage and culture. There were many recommendations in the police report about that so I would like to ask him to also find and let us know information about what training has been offered to members of the RCMP and what training on First Nations heritage and culture they anticipate making available to members in the future.

I had previously put on the record a request for a copy of the territorial police service 20-year agreement and I don't believe I've received a copy of that, so perhaps the minister could check into that and get back to me on that question.

While we're still on the RCMP, my last question there is related to the *Chair-Initiated Complaint Regarding the In-Custody Death of Mr. Raymond Silverfox* that was done by the complaints commission. Can the minister give us a report on the status of RCMP implementation of the recommendations made by the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP in this matter?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Again, I am not on the floor here defending and answering for the RCMP, so I will have to ask them for the information. Speaking directly about the territorial police service agreement, I predict that in the coming weeks a copy of that will be posted on-line for the public to see. I can let the member know when that information is posted.

The member opposite also spoke about First Nation training. I know that great emphasis has been placed on the RCMP, and I am taking this from comments from the commanding officer, Peter Clark. The emphasis has been placed on both First Nation training and cultural training with members of the RCMP across the territory. I can also report that when I was at Depot last summer, the Commanding Officer for Depot, Roger Brown, had also reported during my two-day tour that there is indeed a cultural emphasis being placed on the new recruits for First Nation training.

In fact, they have just graduated a couple of members from Nunavut or N.W.T. Pardon me — I can't quite recall what territory they came from. He added that just having those members there was equally as important to the other cadets to see first-hand and hear first-hand from those members. I will have to get back to the member opposite on the other issues.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Once upon a time, there was a Select Committee on Human Rights and the first rounds of amendments to the Yukon *Human Rights Act* were made. This was followed by a limited phase 2 consultation with those people who had presented to the select committee, and a second report was crafted by officials. My request for the minister is this: Does he have any commitment to move forward on any further legislative amendments to the Yukon *Human Rights Act*?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** There were 25 recommendations of the Select Committee on Human Rights. Eight of those were addressed in 2009 through amendments to the *Human Rights Act* aimed at improving and simplifying the complaints process; aimed at modernizing the language and aimed at clarifying some of the roles and some of the responsibilities. In addition, revised regulations were proclaimed after consultation with the



Human Rights Commission. The remaining 17 recommendations fall into two major categories: improving the complaints process by modernizing human rights institutions, roles and responsibilities, accountability and appeal processes; or reviewing and updating the scope and coverage of human rights protections.

Some additional recommendations focus on process or the actual drafting of the legislation. During the spring and summer of 2010, the Department of Justice undertook targeted consultation on part 1 of phase 2, focusing on human rights institutions, roles and responsibilities, accountability and appeal processes.

A report on what we heard during the consultation process was completed on October 30, 2010, and a subsequent final report with the recommendations was submitted to the then Minister of Justice by December 2010. The final report focused on five areas for potential reform: (1) functions and structures of human rights agencies; (2) the appeal process for final decisions of tribunal decisions; (3) the adjudicator qualifications; (4) the method of funding of the Yukon Human Rights Commission; and (5) public school education on human rights and responsibilities.

The final report recommended a set of reforms designed to focus public resources on human rights education and the most serious complaints, while directing and empowering the Human Rights Commission and the tribunal to deal with complaints in a more timely and fair manner.

These recommended reforms included, among other things, limiting the commission's role in tribunal and court proceedings; eliminating the commission's investigatory role in all but systemic cases; having the director of the Human Rights Commission rather than commissioners make complaint dispositions; and allowing either party to a complaint to access the tribunal directly if the commission has failed to dispose of the complaint within a prescribed period of time.

The final report recommended legislated criteria for appointments to the tribunal and to the commission with particular emphasis on the competence of adjudicators in administrative law and procedure. Justice examined possible alternatives for the funding of the commission, but concluded that each alternative would create more serious problems than it would solve. Consequently, the department recommended that Justice remain responsible for funding the commission's tribunal. It was found that while there is a need for more human rights education in the schools, there is already adequate legislative direction in the *Education Act*.

It was therefore recommended that the Department of Education work with the Human Rights Commission to deliver more human rights education within the existing curricula and to improve Yukon teachers with human rights education. Also, the government will decide whether to accept, vary or reject any of the recommendations in the report. In addition, government will determine what priority each of the recommendations will have relative to other initiatives.

The recommendations are complex, and I anticipate a number of potential scenarios for various institutions' roles, responsibilities and processes. So, in concluding, all of the recommendations are being given full consideration, but it has not

yet been determined which, if any, of the phase 2, part 1 recommendations are indeed appropriate to implement at this time.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The minister has indicated that Yukon is reviewing the coroner function and the outdated *Coroners Act*. This is something that does need attention.

When it comes to inquests, there has been a lot of controversy in the community and concern about the failure to respond to recommendations made by coroner's juries at previous inquests. For example, the 2003 inquest into the death of Madeleine Henry in RCMP cells resulted in a number of recommendations that, if they had been implemented at that time in 2003 — 10 years ago — changes in the RCMP procedures may have prevented the death of Raymond Silverfox in RCMP cells in 2009.

I have a heavily annotated copy of the two-volume proceedings and inquest into the matter of the *Coroners Act* and an inquest into the death of Madeleine Henry but, suffice to say, there were five recommendations that were directed toward the RCMP, the Department of Health and Social Services, Alcohol and Drug Services, Whitehorse General Hospital, St. John Ambulance and other agencies that, in a case of a very similar death of, in this case, a woman in custody could have resulted in changes to procedure that would prevent subsequent deaths.

So I have to note too that, at the present time, the order of a Yukon Supreme Court Justice made in October 2012 to quash the coroner's inquest into the death of Raymond Silverfox has been appealed in November 2012 by the Chief Coroner to the Court of Appeal for the Yukon Territory. I know that the minister can't comment on legal matters currently before the court; in fact, under the *Department of Justice Act*, the minister serves as the Attorney General and is entrusted and charged to "...superintend and conduct all litigation for or against the Government of the Yukon or any department of the Government of the Yukon ..." So we will have to wait for that challenge to play out in the courts.

The investigation of deaths and the development of recommendations to prevent future deaths based on current Canadian best practices is something that many jurisdictions in Canada choose to deal with by using a model where medical examiners perform the function of coroners. In other models, judges conduct inquests, and they get the expert witnesses that they may require. The recent inquest into the deaths of five people in a Centennial Street home was conducted by a Territorial Court Judge.

I'd like to ask the minister if he will be giving due consideration to moving toward a modern system where professionals, such as judges or doctors or medical examiners with expertise in forensic medicine, are the ones empowered to investigate the deaths, to determine the cause and circumstances surrounding the death, and generally to make recommendations helpful in preventing similar deaths in future.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Madam Chair, the Department of Justice is indeed conducting a review of the coroner service, including a review of the *Coroners Act*. Recent judicial decisions regarding the conduct of coroner's inquests will be included in that particular review. The Government of Yukon is

taking under consideration and reviewing various options on a potential modernization of the coroner service that could potentially best meet the needs of Yukoners. Various options are being considered, and the public will have the opportunity to comment on those options.

The government continues to follow up with recommendations made by the coroner's inquests. Coroner's inquests are currently being conducted by the Territorial Court Judge acting as the coroner. This will be the way inquests will be conducted for the foreseeable future.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Can the minister tell us who is involved in the review and when the public will have an opportunity to comment and how this review will roll out, particularly in relation to involvement of interested parties and of the public?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Indeed, it is the Department of Justice that is reviewing this right now, and this government will take it under consideration. Right now it sits at policy and communications and the coroner's office will be involved in such review.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Does the minister have terms of reference for that review that he would be prepared to provide?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The initial phase — right now we are conducting research, so that's where that's at right now. There are no terms of reference to table at this point.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act* has been in place for about five years. I know the minister made some brief remarks about the SCAN legislation, but I am looking for a few more details related to the effectiveness of the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*.

Does the minister know how many complaints there have been since coming into force and the number of evictions that have occurred? Does SCAN investigate every complaint? How is it determined to take action through SCAN as opposed to pursuing a criminal charge? How do the RCMP, SCAN and Social Services work together?

I recently spoke to a superintendent who had concerns about alleged illegal activity in an apartment building — particularly, there was a rumour circulating the hallways about a large shipment of drugs arriving. He didn't seem to feel that SCAN was addressing his concerns. What recourse is there for citizens who feel their concerns are not being heard by SCAN investigators? Given that it is five years, is there any plan for a review of the act and the program?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** One component of the Justice department that I'm tasked with that I'm particularly proud of is indeed the SCAN office and the work they're doing within our community. Since 2006, the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act* has provided a means to respond to the concerns of Yukoners about certain illegal activities that are making their communities and neighbourhoods unsafe. SCAN investigates habitual illegal activity occurring on property which is adversely affecting a community or a neighbourhood.

The SCAN unit investigates complaints received from across the territory, not just those that originate in Whitehorse. The SCAN unit thoroughly and confidently investigates com-

plaints from members of the public. Actions taken following an investigation include verbal or written warnings to tenants or landlord-assisted evictions.

A court-ordered community safety order can also be applied for where there is a significant threat to public safety or the occupant owns the property.

Looking at what SCAN did last year, in fact the unit received 50 new complaints of illegal activity in the 2012-13 fiscal year and indeed closed 23 of those cases. SCAN took action to resolve most of these cases informally or via a formal warning. Complaints not within SCAN's mandate were referred to partner agencies where appropriate.

In 2012, the SCAN unit successfully applied to the Yukon Supreme Court for the first community safety order in the Yukon, closing a property that was at the centre of a great deal of harm to the community. The SCAN unit continues to engage community associations, First Nation governments and housing agencies to offer assistance, develop protocols for cooperation, and promote the work of the unit. During the past year, two new First Nation protocols were finalized.

A new SCAN website has been developed and an advertising campaign, including posters, handouts and newspaper alcohol and drug services, has been prepared for implementation. The SCAN unit has had a significant effect on disrupting illegal activity on properties adversely affecting communities. There have been over 440 complaints received since the inception of this legislation.

SCAN has issued numerous warnings to tenants and has followed up with complaints to ensure that illegal activity did not in fact continue. SCAN has assisted with landlord-approved evictions in 38 cases where there was clear evidence of habitual drug trafficking or bootlegging from a specific property.

SCAN continues to work closely with key partners such as the RCMP, the Yukon Liquor Corporation, Family and Children's Services and territorial housing agencies to ensure the unit is responsive to illegal activity in the Yukon.

The financial expenditures for SCAN are as follows: in the 2009-10 budget, the actual expenditures were \$325,183; in the 2010-11 budget, actual expenditures were \$317,531; in 2011-12, the actual expenditures were \$351,831; and the approved 2012-13 budget amounts were \$343,572. I'm confident that the member opposite will vote in favour of that.

There is a new FPT group that is represented by the jurisdictions within the SCAN legislation. Most SCAN legislation in Canada is based on the original Manitoba act. At this time, the act is working very well and there is no act review being contemplated. We did an in-house review of the bill two years ago, but found that the act was working well and it's doing what it's supposed to do. Not all persons may be entirely satisfied, but all calls are followed up and complaints are definitely responded to.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I'm going to turn to the land titles modernization project and to a letter that I sent to the minister a little over a month ago related to Yukon First Nations and the land titles issue.

Yukon First Nations have expressed their interest in developing their lands for residential use and for economic devel-

opment, and the Government of Yukon has made several statements about the work with First Nations to clarify issues of land title pertaining to the leasing of First Nations land. These statements include in the land titles modernization discussion paper itself a reference stating: “Some Yukon First Nations have expressed an interest in registering specific parcels of Settlement Land in Yukon’s Land Titles Office. Discussions about options around such registration will occur directly with Yukon First Nations parallel to the modernization project so that the potential exists for a registration process to be implemented prior to completion of land titles modernization.”

There were also statements made in the Legislative Assembly by the Minister of Community Services in December 2011 about the First Nations and the fundamental role they play when it comes to providing land development opportunities within the city municipal boundaries.

There was a reference saying that, as “outlined within the letter of understanding, the parties have agreed to work together in order to help facilitate and expedite some of these land development opportunities. That would include third-party leasehold arrangements on settlement land parcels, looking at conventional financing and mortgaging options for potential lessees, land registry options and opportunities and also sharing expertise and resources when it comes to looking at applicable legislation.”

There was also an interview with an official for Legal Services in the media in August 2012. The discussions were complicated and in order to register a land title, the Yukon government was of the mind that First Nations land would need to become fee-simple. The official said that First Nations were not in favour of such an arrangement, because that would cede aboriginal title. Now this is a huge issue. It is of importance not only to First Nation governments, but also for the potential economic benefits it could bring to all Yukoners. Surely arrangements can be made for the leasing of aboriginal land without extinguishing title.

I understand that leasing arrangements do occur on reserve land in other Canadian jurisdictions. I’m wondering whether we’re not able to draw on others’ experiences and make lease arrangements that could work within Yukon’s self-government regime.

When the minister is responding to that, perhaps he can also indicate whether all of the research that was conducted, both by officials in the department and any researchers or consultants that they’ve hired, has been shared with First Nations, who are interested parties to this?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for her question. An efficient land management system is truly a foundation for a healthy economy — efficient land transfers, access to land and information about land facilities’ economic activity. This area of government responsibility must be maintained at peak efficiency in order to ensure that the progress of the economy is not encumbered by an outdated management system. In other jurisdictions, the Land Titles Office is an area where there have been significant improvements in practice to allow for the transfer of title to be completed in days rather than months. The norm for registering instruments in other

Land Titles Offices in Canada is anywhere from 24 to 48 hours, but in Yukon, the average is between two weeks to four and a half weeks and, at times, as high as nine weeks. While delays in registration are primarily due to shortcomings in the computer system and resulting business processes, the relevant legislation, the *Land Titles Act* and the *Condominium Act* are archaic and contribute to confusion about the interpretation of terminology.

The land titles system has been a source of public discussion over the last while, which has been exacerbated by Yukon’s ongoing crisis in housing availability and costs. Government and stakeholders alike acknowledge that the *Land Titles Act* is out of date. The present computer system does not facilitate the work of the Land Titles Office, and the office processes have become focused on working around the barriers created by the system and the legislation.

On May 1, 2012, the Department of Justice brought into effect some of the quick fixes to the present *Land Titles Act* and *Condominium Act* that have somewhat improved efficiency and removed some of the obstacles to development. The specific short-term changes to the *Land Titles Act* and *Condominium Act* improve the operations of the Land Titles Office by means of amendments that could be done relatively quickly and easily. The Department of Justice also made some small alterations to the existing computer platform to improve performance. At the same time, I also undertook a further initiative to move forward with our intention to improve and modernize the land titles system here in Yukon. In March 2012 an inspector of land titles was appointed pursuant to section 12 of the *Land Titles Act*. Inspector Lora Bansley of Saskatchewan assumed responsibility to conduct an independent operational review of the business procedures of our Land Titles Office in order to identify areas for improvement. She made recommendations to me that address our processes’ need for improvement.

The inspector’s report contained a number of recommendations such as allowing for title searches to be completed online, replacing the *Land Titles Act* and *Condominium Act*, increasing staff training opportunities, and replacing the computer system with one that has improved user abilities and improved security. The report provided a foundation upon which subsequent consultation, expert advice, and further analysis have been developed to determine what improvements to the land titles system in fact need to be made. On April 26, 2012, I announced the government’s intention to modernize Yukon’s land titles system to facilitate more timely and efficient transactions.

In order to make this project a success, the department realized that we require the expertise and the cooperation of stakeholders who regularly use the land titles system. Accordingly, the department established a stakeholder advisory committee to assist and support with the scoping, development and implementation of the modernization project.

The department invited representatives from each of the following to sit on this committee: there are members of the Law Society of Yukon; a member of the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce; Natural Resources Canada — Surveyor General branch; Association of Canada Lands Surveyors; Yukon First

Nations, Yukon Real Estate Association; Association of Yukon Communities; architects practising in Yukon; and the City of Whitehorse.

In addition, other interested stakeholders were invited to attend and provide input, such as a representative of the newly formed Yukon Condominium Owners Association.

The committee is not a decision-making body, but will provide ongoing advice to the Department of Justice as the department scopes out, develops and implements the modernization project.

I want to talk about the modernization phases, but seeing the time, I move that the Chair report progress.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Nixon that the Chair report progress.

*Motion agreed to*

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker resumes the Chair*

**Speaker:** I will now call the House to order. May the House have a report from the Chair of Committee of the Whole?

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

**Ms. McLeod:** Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 10, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2013-14*, and directed me to report progress.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

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

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

**The following document was filed April 16, 2013:**

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Yukon Lottery Commission Annual Report 2011-2012  
(Kent)