

**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Tuesday, April 23, 2013 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

Prayers

DAILY ROUTINE

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

I'll be doing the first tribute.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Mass Atrocities

Speaker: It is a privilege to recognize, on behalf of all members of this House, April 23, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Mass Atrocities.

Like many things, awareness and remembrance are the first steps in prevention.

It was on April 23, 2010, that the Parliament of Canada officially recognized the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Mass Atrocities. April 23 was chosen in honour of Lester B. Pearson's birthdate. Canada's Nobel Peace Prize winner was committed to peace and international cooperation to end crimes against humanity. We have this day to commemorate those who have suffered in the past and to work toward preventing such atrocities from happening in the future.

Lieutenant-General, the Hon. Roméo A. Dallaire, retired, now Senator and chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Prevention of Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity stated: "Genocide and crimes against humanity prevention remains a fundamental test of the international community's dedication to humanitarian imperatives. As the most odious of crimes, the international community has a responsibility to not only halt mass atrocities when they occur, but also investigate the ways in which they can be prevented. Canadian Parliamentarians, professors, students, and non-governmental organizations must unite with colleagues from around the world in order to make this a reality. The work of the GPG is one small contribution to attaining that goal, focusing on collaboration between Canadian Members of Parliament and Senators in a non-partisan environment. Indeed, the desire to end mass atrocities is one which attracts universal support.

"Today, our work is as critical as ever. In addition to the ongoing, widespread and systematic targeting of civilians in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the international community has recently been witness to a disregard of international law in places like Syria, Libya, Somalia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Sri Lanka, among others. As Canadians, and most importantly as human beings, it is our responsibility to give voice to the countless victims of these crimes and to put meaning to the enduring phrase 'Never Again'."

It is the goal of this committee to seek assistance in initiating student participation in a national effort to raise awareness

about crimes of mass atrocities. The Minister of Education has informed me that secondary schools have been advised of the Day of Remembrance and Action on Mass Atrocities and have been asked that they commemorate the day in their classes as appropriate.

He has further informed me that an understanding of global mass atrocities is a component of the secondary school curriculum in Yukon, specifically history and social studies courses in grades 11 and 12.

One of the pages and I were speaking earlier. They are also talking about the Holocaust as part of their religious studies. The Holocaust is extensively covered in grade 12, and in grade 11, the atrocities in Bosnia and Rwanda are covered as part of a unit on Canada and the United Nations. Yukon teachers also use opportunities to discuss mass atrocities as part of the general learning objectives in their classes, in discussions on current affairs, such as the recent events in Syria.

This tribute is important and personal to me, having served in Bosnia twice. Public awareness is the first step in preventing further occurrences — not repeating the past — and ensuring "Never Again".

Are there any other tributes?

In recognition of National Volunteer Week

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Yukon volunteers, as people across the country come together to celebrate National Volunteer Week from April 21 to 27.

This year's theme is "Volunteers cast a beautiful shadow". When we see a volunteer, we need to reflect upon the effect they have on others. The shadow cast by the volunteer takes the shape of vibrant communities and depicts scenes of people helping people to make a difference. Whether young, old, families, workers, retirees — no matter what their backgrounds — Yukon volunteers are at the heart of our communities. Acting together, volunteers make our communities healthier, more active, more vibrant places to live for all of us. Volunteerism is important in Yukon's economy. Events that are run by volunteers bring people from across Canada and the globe to Yukon, and local businesses benefit, whether it is the food service industry, hotels or tourism. Events like Yukon Quest, music festivals, Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous, to name but a few, are both good for the local economy and, dependent upon the work of our volunteers.

In the Yukon, our volunteers are some of Yukon's most precious resources. Their work greatly extends what governments and non-profit organizations can accomplish in terms of caring for others, educating our children and beautifying our green spaces.

Volunteers support the cultural, the recreational and the sporting events that we all attend and we all participate in. With the help of volunteers, we have year-round access to music, dance, film and theatre festivals. We have bike relays, marathons, ski loppets, curling, hockey, softball and the list goes on.

Volunteers also make our communities safe. Whether serving as an auxiliary with the RCMP, on a search and rescue team, with Emergency Medical Services, as a volunteer firefighter, or as a member of the Yukon Amateur Radio Association, volunteers do a great deal to support their communities in

a variety of ways. Yukon's search and rescue system has approximately 130 volunteers throughout the Yukon. There are some 21 volunteer fire chiefs who play an essential role in our communities, overseeing close to 300 members under their direction. Emergency Medical Services has approximately 150 volunteers serving Yukon communities.

Every day across the territory, emergency responders are out answering the call of duty, protecting lives and property. They do this because of a common passion and commitment to serving our communities. It takes a very special kind of person to bring not only the technical knowledge to the task at hand but the sensitivity and the skills that build and maintain our relationships.

National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to say thank you to these individuals and an opportunity to extend a call to other members of the public to consider volunteering their time to this very noble cause.

I would also like to recognize Volunteer Yukon, a key organization that has played an important role over the last decade in matching volunteers to organizations, helping organizations recognize their volunteers and providing resources for volunteer managers, including skills development.

Earlier today I had the opportunity to join Volunteer Bénévoles Yukon in the announcement of two new initiatives, the first being the nationally distributed volunteer experience recognition program, otherwise known as "VERP". This program is designed to help non-profit organizations recognize their volunteers' contributions by providing each volunteer with an individualized certificate that lists the knowledge, skills and experience acquired and/or demonstrated while volunteering.

The second initiative is the corporate social responsibility challenge. It's an innovative partnership between Volunteer Bénévoles Yukon and local business Outside the Cube, which recognizes businesses in the territory that support not-for-profit organizations and encourages their employees to contribute to volunteerism in the community. Businesses who register with Volunteer Yukon for the challenge will be recognized with a listing on Volunteer Yukon's website, will be referenced in the Chamber of Commerce's newsletter and will be acknowledged through traditional and social media outlets.

I would like to thank Volunteer Bénévoles Yukon for its continued work in support of volunteerism in the territory and congratulate the board and staff on the launch of these two new initiatives. Both programs are unique and will go a long way in support of Yukon volunteers and encouraging more individuals to serve on behalf of their community.

It's important to take time during this week and all year-round to recognize Yukon volunteers for their incredible passion, their tireless action and the phenomenal impact they have on all of our communities. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our communities, and this national week is an opportunity to express our gratitude for everything they contribute to our Yukon.

I encourage all members of the Legislature to join with me in acknowledging Yukon's volunteers and certainly acknowledging the efforts of volunteers throughout the country.

Applause

Ms. Stick: I am honoured to rise on behalf of the NDP Official Opposition and the Third party to pay tribute to National Volunteer Week. When it comes to volunteering in their communities, Yukoners certainly demonstrate the three key themes: passion, action and impact.

About passion: Yukoners demonstrate a passion for volunteering. Time is a precious commodity for busy people these days, but despite this, Yukon boasts the second highest volunteer rate of all provinces and territories in Canada. Approximately 16,000, or half of all Yukoners, give of their time each year to make this a better place. We can all identify people we know who volunteer and support more than one organization or event. Yukoners have a passion.

Around action: Volunteers help out in every facet of our communities. They provide support at homeless shelters and food banks. They form the backbone of our arts festivals, sporting activities and community theatre. They support seniors, they read to young children, they tutor, raise money, and do a 1001 tasks behind the scenes to make our communities more livable. According to Volunteer Yukon, volunteers are the unsung heroes who help build and sustain our communities. When they see a job that needs doing, Yukoners take action.

Impact: Volunteers make a huge contribution to our communities. There are over 600 NGOs in Yukon that rely on the support of volunteers to function. They are the lifeblood and the backbone of these organizations. Volunteers have a huge impact on all of us.

Volunteering is, in many ways, just like paid employment. It requires training; it requires the right fit of candidate to the organization and position. A volunteer can have impact only if they are right for the job. Our local Volunteer Bureau works hard to provide those matches and training for people wanting to volunteer. They also provide training to NGOs about recruiting, retaining and appreciating the volunteers they have.

In honour of National Volunteer Week, the Yukon NDP states its unequivocal support and appreciation for the volunteers who help nurture and grow our community and benefit us all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Silver: I rise today on behalf of the Liberal caucus and the Independent member to also pay tribute to National Volunteer Week and our Yukon volunteers.

Now in its 71st year, National Volunteer Week is all about volunteer recognition. This year's celebration takes place the week of April 21 to 27 and this year's theme is "Volunteers: Passion. Action. Impact." recognizes the individual volunteers across Canada who dedicate themselves to improving their communities. Volunteers have a passion for getting involved. They take action to support the causes and organizations that matter to them, and they make an impact in all of our communities.

National Volunteer Week began in 1943 to draw attention to the vital contributions women made for the war effort on the home front. Although National Volunteer Week was largely forgotten after the war ended, it experienced a revival in the late 1960s when organizations stressed the importance of thanking volunteers across Canada.

As Yukoners, we have a strong tradition of volunteerism. Many of our vital programs and services in the Yukon rely on volunteers and their genuine compassion for the well-being of others. Through their volunteering, they connect with and support their fellow Yukoners on a daily basis by responding to the needs that make each community unique. Coming from Dawson City, I can attest to the tremendous impact that our incredible volunteers have on our northern community.

Out of all the incredible things that make our communities so unique, it is the dedication of individuals who believe in helping out more than just their individual families. That is the glue that binds us all as distinct communities. It is those who believe in giving back to this amazing territory that provides us with so much in all of our own amazing hamlets and towns that makes the Yukon a truly special place.

The volunteers of Dawson are a key factor as to why I chose to call this place my home. Every sector in the town is positively influenced by volunteers. We have food bank volunteers; coaches of local sports teams; recreation programming directors for soccer and directors for the weight room — to mention a few of the directors; the folks who organize the Han singers and dancers; the elders who give their time to ensure that knowledge is passed on to the next generation; bakers and cooks who work so that guests who augment our local events have something to eat; the Anglican Church thrift store, the Dawson City Music Festival; Relay for Life, tutors; the countless boards and committees — Dawson City Daycare Board of Directors, for example; school councils; firefighters. If you have the rest of the day, I'll list the rest of the people.

The point is, our most important resource is our volunteers. They are the central thread of the social fabric of Canadian life. They give of their time and their energy and their skills to the benefit of others, and in times of crisis, they provide emergency support and services. Our volunteers represent every walk of life — professionals, homemakers, students, retirees as well as every age and every cultural group.

We celebrate and acknowledge these men and women and young people who selflessly give of their time and talents, with no expectation of monetary rewards, to the thousands of organizations across Canada and around the world. This week is about taking time to recognize the incredible contributions of Canada's 13.3 million volunteers and the opportunity to thank a volunteer who has made a difference in your individual, specific lives. In Yukon, we recognize the many volunteers for their generous contributions they make to our way of life and, in doing so, they make the Yukon a better place to live. So, thank you to our volunteers. We so appreciate all that you do.

Speaker: Are there any introductions of visitors?

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Ms. Taylor: In looking up at the gallery, I see a couple of familiar faces here. I would like to extend a warm welcome on behalf of the Assembly to long-time resident Ron McFadyen, a very familiar face on the airwaves and long-time volunteer of the Yukon Amateur Radio Association as well, and sitting beside him is Randy Shewan. I would like to extend

a warm welcome to those individuals, as well as to Wayne Hrynuik who has also joined us — a long-time Yukoner as well. Welcome.

Applause

Speaker: I would like to introduce Sue MacDonald from our legislative staff, who is filling in as Sergeant-at-Arms. She's certainly not necessarily a visitor, but we appreciate her taking on the job in the absence of our regular Sergeant-at-Arms.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

Are there any reports of committees?
Petitions.

PETITIONS

Petition No. 11 — received

Clerk: Mr. Speaker and honourable members of the Assembly: I have had the honour to review a petition, being Petition No. 11 of the First Session of the 33rd Legislative Assembly, as presented by the Member for Copperbelt South on April 22, 2013. The petition meets the requirements as to form of the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

Speaker: Petition No. 11, accordingly, is deemed read and received. Pursuant to Standing Order 67, the Executive Council shall provide a response to a petition that has been read and received within eight sitting days of its presentation. Therefore, the Executive Council response to Petition No. 11 shall be provided on or before May 6, 2013.

Are there any other petitions for presentation?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motion?

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Canada to hold a national public inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal girls and consult with the provinces, territories and national aboriginal organizations on the terms of reference of the national public inquiry.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to continue to support the Northern Climate ExChange to provide a credible independent source of information, develop shared understanding, promote action and coordinate research on climate change in Yukon and across northern Canada.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to conduct a census of moose in the Teslin burn, South Canol and Haines Junction areas.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to:

(1) implement and act expeditiously on the recommendations of Department of Health and Social Services' health impact assessment of mining activities near Keno City, Yukon, dated September 30, 2012; and

(2) report back on the progress made to the Yukon Legislative Assembly in the fall 2013 sitting.

Ms. White: M. le Président, je présente un avis de motion:

QUE cette Chambre demande au gouvernement de faciliter une meilleure participation de la communauté francophone à l'examen public de la Stratégie du Yukon sur l'eau en traduisant en français l'ébauche de la Stratégie du Yukon sur l'eau ainsi que le formulaire de consultation en ligne.

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

THAT it is the opinion of this House that:

(1) no new audits conducted by Audit Services, the Government of Yukon's internal auditor, have been released publicly since the government took office;

(2) Audit Services has in the past produced regular audits; and

(3) complete audits should be released to the public.

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

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: National public inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls

Ms. Moorcroft: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we learned at the Grandmother Moon ceremony held in Whitehorse recently, Yukon *Stolen Sisters* project has now documented 35 missing and murdered aboriginal women. I would like to say to the Premier: Thank you for introducing the motion in the House today. I am so pleased that the Premier, although he could not give me an answer last week, has now indicated that he will support the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group in their call for a national public inquiry.

I would like to ask the Premier whether his government will also contribute funds locally to help the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council, the Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle and the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society to participate in the Yukon portion of a national public inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I appreciate the question and the comment from the member opposite. As you are aware, this is a very important issue and the government has come out publicly today saying we do in fact support this initiative brought

forward by the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group, which is a committee of the Council of the Federation.

As the Speaker is aware, certainly this government does support many initiatives right now in the Yukon, such as the Yukon Sisters in Spirit project, creation of the prevention of violence against aboriginal women fund for projects addressing aboriginal women's safety and wellness in the Yukon. Certainly, the Yukon government has contributed approximately \$1.5 million to this fund since its inception.

We recently committed \$450,000 over three years to support aboriginal women's organizations in developing projects that would respond to the recommendations from the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Summit in October of last year and also some core operational funding over three years to the Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle, Liard Aboriginal Women's Society and the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council.

Ms. Moorcroft: At the time the Government of Yukon established the review of Yukon's police force in 2010, many Yukon women's groups had serious concerns about having a better response from agencies, including the police, to deal with violence against women.

The Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle, the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council and the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society, along with many other women's groups, have said to the government and to the RCMP, "Do not deny and dismiss our concerns about the sisters we have lost." Notwithstanding the funding that the Premier has just spoken of, the women's groups do need funding in order to participate in the ongoing implementation of recommendations found in the *Sharing Common Ground* report from the police review.

Can the Premier tell us that his government will make a commitment to fund Yukon women's groups to participate in implementing recommendations from the *Sharing Common Ground* report?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: As I just mentioned in my first response, we have provided core operational funding for the next three years for those three groups — the Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle, the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society and the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council.

Such crimes, as we are talking about now, are a grave concern to all of us and we do have our officials meeting regularly with the RCMP to ensure that police resources and funding are in place to solve any of these outstanding crimes that we have been talking about in the motion that I brought forward today. The RCMP is working in partnership with the Yukon Sisters in Spirit to reach out to communities, families and individuals to identify cases of missing and murdered individuals in the territory.

The RCMP are reviewing cases that have been brought forward through the Yukon Sisters in Spirit, in order to collect information necessary to determine the circumstances of the cases and if police investigation or other response is warranted. We'll continue to work with the RCMP and we will continue to provide core operational funding for these women's groups. I acknowledge the work of the Women's Directorate and the minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, who have been working on this now for a number of years.

Ms. Moorcroft: The Premier did the right thing and said that he will join with the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group and call upon the Government of Canada to hold a national public inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women. We do not know that the Government of Canada will say yes to that request. We do know that here in the Yukon, ongoing work to implement the recommendations of *Sharing Common Ground* will take place. The minister has said that they are providing resources to the police. My question — and I repeat my question: Will the Premier make a commitment today that his government will, in fact, fund Yukon women's groups so that they can participate on an equal basis with the government and the RCMP in improving police services for all women in the territory and for all members that are captured in the *Sharing Common Ground* report's recommendations?

Hon. Mr. Kent: I'll answer in my capacity as acting Minister of Justice today, in that *Sharing Common Ground* does acknowledge the importance of moving forward with implementation in a collaborative manner with the many partners whose mandates intersect with the work of the police.

The Department of Justice has funded a coalition of women's organizations to participate in implementation. The members of the coalition include the following: the Yukon Women's Transition Home Society, or Kaushee's Place; Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre; Les EssentiElles; Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council; Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle; Liard Aboriginal Women's Society, or LAWS; and the Yukon Status of Women Council. I am sure I will be able to pass on the member opposite's question to the Minister of Justice. Perhaps he will be able to provide further information.

Question re: Peel watershed land use plan

Ms. Hanson: Despite what their website indicated, the government recently admitted that they had not even begun to fulfill their promise to meet with the four affected Yukon First Nation governments regarding the *Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan*. It has been a month now since we last raised this issue. From what we can determine, there has not even been a meeting of the senior liaison committee since February. I remind this House that the outgoing chair of the Yukon Land Use Planning Council wrote, and I quote: "regional land use planning program is in trouble".

The Yukon Party government is seen by many to have undermined the Peel planning consultation process to the point where the trust with the public and with the four affected Yukon First Nation governments has been undermined.

Will the Premier tell this House what he is doing to re-establish the integrity of the land use planning process?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Mr. Speaker, consultation on the Peel planning process began on October 25, and has been moving forward since then. Since the completion of the public consultation in late February, preliminary discussions have occurred between Yukon government and the affected First Nations. I have personally spoken to the chiefs of the affected First Nations. The department continues to work to put together all the information required.

Of course we have already published a *What We Heard* document. We have also published the comments we have

heard. We will take into consideration all those things as we move forward to completing the final phase of consultation with the affected First Nations. We are confident that we are going forward with really meeting the commitments we made to Yukoners during the last election, and we will ensure that we will continue to consult with First Nations. We look forward to the conclusion of the Peel watershed land use planning process imminently.

Ms. Hanson: Mr. Speaker, the issue of trust and of rebuilding confidence in the land use planning process and around the final recommended Peel plan is paramount.

Last fall, when extending the interim withdrawals under the *Quartz Mining Act* and the *Placer Mining Act* in the Peel watershed area, the minister suggested that the government's patience was wearing thin with the slow pace of the process. The irony, of course, is that the election, the government's unilateral attempts at the eleventh hour to force eight new planning principles on the process, and the government's determination to remake the process to fit their political needs has been the root causes of the delays. So here we are; the interim withdrawals expire May 4.

Will the Premier tell this House and the four affected First Nation governments that the interim withdrawals under the *Quartz Mining Act* and *Placer Mining Act* will be renewed until the Peel land use process has been finalized to the satisfaction of all parties?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Certainly, the comments that were raised yesterday about the former chair of the Yukon Land Use Planning Council really questioning whether the government follows the *Umbrella Final Agreement* or not is irrelevant. This government is committed to meeting all of its obligations under the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and will continue to move forward as described under the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and fulfill all of those obligations that we have.

Part of the deliberations that we have is also reviewing the decision on the withdrawal of staking on the affected areas within the Peel watershed area and that is part of the diligence that we're doing. We look forward to announcing a decision on that soon.

Ms. Hanson: That was not a yes, no or maybe. Mr. Speaker, May 4 is not very far away from this date. Not providing this information — it's clear that the planning process is not complete; the consultation process has hardly even begun with Yukon First Nations. It's time for this government to do the right thing. When will the government — when will the Premier — do the right thing and extend the interim withdrawals and consult with First Nation governments based on the *Final Recommended Peel Watershed Land Use Plan*?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: As I have described, the process of consulting with the First Nations began last year. In fact, it began five or six weeks before the public consultation began when we had our initial consultation with the affected First Nations at that time. We had one of the longest consultation processes that has ever been done by the Yukon government — approximately four months. Since then, we have moved forward with the final round of consultation with the affected First Nations. We will meet all our obligations as described under

the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and we look forward to the conclusion of this.

In the interim, this government certainly does expect to continue the withdrawal of the lands within the Peel watershed region.

Question re: Seniors housing

Mr. Silver: In the Yukon Party's 2011 budget, \$2.6 million was set aside to begin work on the proposed Abbeyfield housing project for seniors in Whitehorse. Abbeyfield Houses Society of Canada is a non-profit housing organization for seniors. Back in 2011, an official in the Yukon Housing Corporation described Abbeyfield as one of the most promising solutions for people who still want to live on their own, but would benefit from some form of community living. Since that impressive announcement two years ago, this project seems to have ground to a bit of a halt. Is the government still working on this project, or has it abandoned it?

Hon. Mr. Kent: The Yukon government and the Yukon Housing Corporation remain very much committed to the development of an Abbeyfield-type seniors housing facility for the Yukon. Obviously, this will be able to complement some of the other independent-living seniors facilities we currently have in our portfolio, such as Alexander Street that we are looking to develop.

I know that the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion recently received funding to look into an assisted living type of model for seniors housing, so that funding was received through the community development fund. I look forward to their deliberations on this as well as we look to add an Abbeyfield or assisted living type of housing development to our housing stock here in the territory.

Mr. Silver: I appreciate the answer from the minister. Two years ago, this was a major announcement from the Yukon Party, and it appears to have been dropped. It's not mentioned in the recently announced strategic plan, for example. The 2011 budget speech said, "plans are underway for a new seniors Abbeyfield project in Whitehorse." This is a pre-election promise, and I hope that it hasn't fallen by the wayside.

According to the 2012 annual report of the Yukon Housing Corporation, at least \$270,000 has been spent on this project to date. The demand for this type of facility certainly hasn't decreased in the last two years, and in fact it probably has increased.

Can the minister tell Yukoners how much money has been spent on this project to date?

Hon. Mr. Kent: While I don't have the specific number the member opposite is looking for, perhaps I'll be able to provide that when we debate the Yukon Housing Corporation's departmental budget. Again, with respect to the Abbeyfield-type project, we certainly remain committed to adding that type of seniors housing to our portfolio.

One of the challenges with normal Abbeyfield projects is that they're usually financially self-sufficient, so we want to ensure that we have the appropriate number of units and the society or the organization that is the proponent of that project

is able to sustain the operation and maintenance aspects of the facility.

Again, through the strategic plan, perhaps this is better identified as one of the partnerships the Housing Corporation is seeking. In past weeks we've seen a number of different aspects announced with various partnerships, such as the expression of interest put out for staff housing in Dawson City.

Again to the member opposite, we do remain committed to providing this type of housing for our seniors here in the territory.

Mr. Silver: I'm glad to hear that from the minister. The Abbeyfield concept has been referred to as a minimum assisted/shared seniors living quarters. There continues to be a demand for this type of housing in the Yukon. The Housing Corporation has done very good work in the last number of years in building new social housing. It has done a good job working on a number of projects for seniors. This was a good project when it was announced, and it remains a good project today. Perhaps this would be a good candidate for the millions of dollars the government receives from Ottawa for housing but refuses to spend.

Is there a future for an Abbeyfield project in the Yukon or has it been taken off the list of options for seniors housing — and I mean specifically the Abbeyfield project?

Hon. Mr. Kent: As mentioned in a previous response, the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion has received funding through the community development fund to investigate opportunities surrounding an assisted living complex for seniors, which would be very similar to what an Abbeyfield complex entails. As I mentioned, it's envisioned with an Abbeyfield project that it would be self-sufficient. The original concept that we were looking at was for 14 units and we want to ensure that if that number of units isn't self-sufficient or if the land that was set aside to build that size of complex can't be self-sufficient that we look at other options, so that's what we're doing. We do, of course, as I've mentioned in previous answers, remain committed to this project. It was part of our platform. We just want to make sure that the long-term O&M aspects of the project are covered after the initial capital investment is made.

Question re: Mayo B project

Ms. White: The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has developed an unfortunate pattern of not answering direct questions about the very energy strategy he signed. Let us turn to one renewable energy project the minister is proud of and see if the minister will provide any information to Yukoners who are concerned about our energy future.

Last December, the minister was proud to tell this House: "...that the largest investment in green energy ever made in the Yukon was done by the Yukon Party — the investment in Mayo B with the investment of the federal government supporting that."

We know this government knows how to throw money at problems, but what is not clear is what sort of value for money Mayo B will end up delivering to ratepayers. Yukon ratepayers would like to hear some production figures from Mayo B. Can the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources tell Yukoners

what is the cost and the amount of energy being produced in Mayo B?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, a question of that level of detail is something that I would have to get back to the member on. What I would point out to the member, as I have in the past, is that yes, the federal investment in Mayo B was the largest federal investment under the green energy program. It was a time-limited program tied to the federal government's economic stimulus plan. We had to submit shovel-ready projects. The Mayo B and line connection was one that was presented to government by the Yukon Energy Corporation as what they believed was the best choice of project to apply for money under that fund.

We had a specific platform commitment to seek to connect the Yukon's two grids, so that also met a specific platform commitment. Really, that investment has allowed us to tie our two grids together, so rather than having two isolated grids, it has significantly enhanced our ability to add energy and to add customers on to that grid — from Dawson and Mayo, through to the Whitehorse-Aishihik-Faro grid, as the lower part has been referred to for years.

It has really enhanced that ability to move power back and forth and to add on customers and to add on new energy projects at some point in the future. We believe it was a good investment. Had that not occurred, we would not have received that significant investment of federal dollars.

Ms. White: Yukoners have not seen any evidence — any comparative cost and benefit analysis — that demonstrates the minister is dealing with energy supply and demand in a fiscally responsible manner. We're looking for numbers.

Fiscal responsibility is about comparing the dollar cost for units of energy produced while also factoring in environmental impacts over time. We need answers from the minister to see if the public money spent on Mayo B was a valuable investment. Yukoners want answers. Here's the simple question: What was the planned peak capacity of Mayo B supposed to be and what capacity is it currently operating at and why?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I do have to point out to the Member for Takhini-Kopper King that we do have two boards and corporations that manage this area. They are ultimately responsible to this government and to the Legislative Assembly through myself as minister but we do have boards of both Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation and staff there who operate in a manner different from a department, though the member does not seem to recognize that or chooses not to reflect it in her remarks.

In the case of Mayo B, as I pointed out, that project was presented to government. The Mayo B and line connection was one that was the best choice for applying to the federal government's green energy program. It was also the first project under that and the largest investment north of 60.

It met a specific platform commitment that the Yukon Party made in our 2006 election platform to connect the Mayo-Dawson grid and the Whitehorse-Aishihik-Faro grid, so for that reason we believe it was a good project. Connecting those two grids has significantly improved the ability to add energy projects on to the system and to add customers. As far as the esti-

mated cost per kilowatt hour of any single asset on the Yukon Energy system, that level of detail is something that I can't provide here in the House and, really, is best left to corporation staff to —

Speaker: The member's time has elapsed.

Ms. White: Numbers would speak volumes on whether or not Mayo B is a good investment for this government. The minister is not serving Yukoners well in the energy demand and supply file. This government is enabling the replacement of one fossil fuel with another. We have seen no financial analysis to support that path. Mayo B was a significant public investment, and Yukoners want to see the full analysis behind this government's energy choices. That includes all studies and reports, projections of power capacity and production. When will this government make public all the studies and reports related to Mayo B?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Again, the member either doesn't understand or doesn't respect the board members of these two corporations and the staff of these two corporations, because her comments in past questions in this House have suggested that the member believes the corporation is deliberately hiding information from the public. In fairness to the board members and staff of those corporations, the member might want to step outside the Assembly and accuse them directly of that, rather than painting them all with her brush.

I would point out to the member, as I indicated, Mayo B was a project that was proposed to government by Yukon Energy Corporation as the best choice to apply to the federal government under the federal green energy program. That was stimulus funding; it was time-limited; it required projects that would be shovel-ready within two years. All those factors led to the choice of Mayo B inline project as being the best project to apply to the federal government for. It received \$71 million in federal investment, the largest federal investment north of 60 under that program, and one of the largest the federal government has made in a single project north of 60 at all.

We believe it was a good project; it has significantly improved Yukon's ability to connect to the two grids and has reduced CO₂ emissions already by quite a significant amount, but the member doesn't seem to support that. She only likes wind.

Speaker: Order.

Question re: Doctor shortage

Ms. Stick: It's likely there are well over 2,000 Yukoners without a family doctor right now: 1,000 registered as orphaned patients on the department's website and another 1,000 or more were orphaned by the recent clinic closure.

It's a familiar syndrome — a chronic condition, if you will. When there's a doctor shortage, typically the overflow lands in the emergency department. This is very expensive and not necessarily the best way to deliver appropriate care, but it's all we currently have.

Relying on the emergency department to deliver family practice health services is driving O&M funding for the hospital corporation up and up. There is no immediate fix for the doctor shortage, so this question is about the short term.

With over 2,000 Yukoners without a family doctor, what dollar amount has the government budgeted for family practice, sometimes called the second stream to be delivered —

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

Hon. Mr. Graham: I'm not quite certain what the member opposite wanted, so in response, I'll just tell her that we are actively recruiting physicians for the territory. We're working together with the Yukon Medical Association. We have budgeted funding for the Yukon Medical Association and the Department of Health and Social Services to actively recruit.

We've launched a new website, the Yukon MD website, and it's intended to be a one-stop recruitment website for physicians. We've joined the Western Alliance, which is made up of representatives from B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba to actively recruit more physicians to the territory. We realize what a traumatic event it can be for Yukoners to be without a physician, especially if they have ongoing medical conditions. This is a very serious matter to us, and we are pursuing it with every possible effort to make sure that the situation is resolved in the short term.

Ms. Stick: The reason the doctor shortage is so serious is that doctors are the sole gatekeepers for most of the health services that Yukoners need. This situation is one that was planned, selected and supported by this government. Fortunately, it is not the only model of care out there. Circumstances are forcing this government to shift its direction and language. The minister has finally started to speak about the Official Opposition's recommendations with respect to a collaborative model of care.

Can the minister tell Yukoners what steps are involved in implementing collaborative care and what sort of timelines Yukoners are looking at?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I've stated in this Legislature any number of times this government's commitment to collaborative care. This government passed the nurse practitioner changes — the legislation — as quickly as we could in this Legislature. We're just in the final touches of developing a nurse practitioner implementation plan for the territory. We are in consultation with other medical professionals in the territory to work together with them to establish collaborative care clinics. We've even negotiated an agreement with the Yukon Medical Association, a fund that will be used exclusively to develop collaborative care clinics in existing medical practices here in the Yukon.

So we're moving forward. We're negotiating actively on a number of fronts. I can't give exact dates for when all of these things will bear fruit, but we anticipate that a collaborative care clinic will be established in the foreseeable future.

Question re: Arrest processing unit

Ms. Moorcroft: Mr. Speaker, on March 27, the Minister of Highways and Public Works told this House, "The APU, the arrest processing unit, is an intake and holding facility we built as an addition to the Whitehorse Correctional Centre." However, the Minister of Justice then said on April 15, "We expect to break ground in the near future with work con-

tinuing into the fall and winter of this fiscal year. Highways and Public Works is managing the project on behalf of the department, and I understand that the tendering documents will go out this spring."

Will the Minister of Highways and Public Works tell this House why he said the arrest processing unit was already built when the tenders that his department manages had not even gone out to bid yet?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I made a mistake. It's not built.

Ms. Moorcroft: I am aware that it's not built, although in the spring of 2012 the government said in this House that the arrest processing unit would, and I quote, "hopefully be ready and open by fall 2012." When I raised this with the Minister of Justice in budget debate recently, he said that actually the government conducted a review of the project and this had led to a modification of the design and that, "we expect that the tender process should be completed within the very near future." Now, the Highways and Public Works minister has already listed the arrest processing unit as a project the Yukon Party government managed on time and completed on time.

This project is starting to feel like other mismanaged projects — F.H. Collins, the Whitehorse Correctional Centre and the hospitals in Dawson City and Watson Lake are recent examples.

Can the minister give the public a precise timeline and cost for the completion of the arrest processing unit?

Hon. Mr. Kent: I thank the Minister of Highways and Public Works for his very short answer with respect to the project and for coming forward with that.

Again, this is really just to repeat what the member opposite mentioned that over the last year the Department of Justice and Highways and Public Works did conduct a review of the scope and design parameters for the arrest processing unit project. The review was conducted to determine whether a modified design could be developed, which reduces costs yet still meets the high program standards that were envisioned.

We expect to be able to go to tender in the near future and it's something that is a partnership. Highways and Public Works and Justice are working together to ensure that is ready for the upcoming building season.

Ms. Moorcroft: First the government allocated money in January 2011 for building this arrest processing unit and then they said in the spring of 2012 that it would be ready for the fall and the tender was going out then. Then this spring the Minister of Highways and Public Works said the unit is built. In Justice debate, the minister told us to talk to the Minister of Highways and Public Works. When I asked the Minister of Highways and Public Works, the acting Minister of Justice stood up. So now they say instead of building the unit, they've modified the design and a tender should go out soon. It's obvious from the government's answers that they don't know when this project will be started, let alone completed, and therefore they cannot tell us with any certainty what the final price tag will be on this moving target.

Given this government's track record on mismanaging large capital projects, why should the public have any confi-

dence in the government bringing this project in on time and on budget?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: In my first answer to the member opposite, I did apologize for my mistake in stating that it was finished. It's very disappointing that the members opposite fail to recognize the good work that's being done by this government and its employees on improving project management. I could speak all day about some of the new contracting procurement services.

In December 2011, the Member for Copperbelt South criticized this government for being overbudget on a project. Now today, and in the past, she criticized government for rendering a project that was 21-percent overbudget. What would the member opposite like us to do? Would she want us to go overbudget or would she like us to be fiscally responsible? I know Yukoners want us to be fiscally responsible with taxpayers' dollars.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has elapsed.

Notice of opposition private members' business

Mr. Silver: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I would like to identify the item standing in the name of the Third Party to be called on Wednesday, April 24, 2013. It is Motion No. 372, standing in the name of the Member for Klondike.

Mr. Elias: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I would like to identify the item standing in the name of the Independent member to be called on Wednesday, April 24, 2013. It is Motion No. 423, standing in the name of the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin.

Ms. Stick: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I would like to identify the items standing in the name of the Official Opposition to be called on Wednesday, April 24, 2013. They are Motion No. 41, standing in the name of the Member for Takhini-Kopper King, and Motion No. 419, standing in the name of the Member for Copperbelt South.

Speaker: We will proceed to Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Speaker do now leave the Chair and 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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chair (Ms. McLeod): Order. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Vote 51, Department of Community Services, in Bill No. 10, *First Appropriation Act, 2013-14*. Would the members like a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

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

Chair: The matter before the Committee is Vote 51, Department of Community Services, in Bill No. 10, *First Appropriation Act, 2013-14*.

Department of Community Services — continued

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Madam Chair, I'm pleased to carry on with debate on the Department of Community Services. As I recall where we left off, I was on the topic of fire abatement in our communities.

As I mentioned earlier yesterday, the department oversees the FireSmart program, all in the effort of safeguarding each of our communities, and have invested a substantive number of dollars each and every year. In fact, earlier this year — back in February — I was very pleased to announce some 27 projects that have been underway in the last fiscal year — in terms of providing about \$850,000 for projects, which comprise some 14 communities. FireSmart, I am sure we can all agree, provides an effective way for all of our organizations, community associations, municipalities and First Nation governments to access the funding and also the expertise that goes along with providing fire abatement in our communities. Over the last 14 years, more than \$12 million has been invested in some 337 FireSmart projects, which has gone a long way to reduce the threat of wildfire and has provided a lot of employment opportunities over the years, as well, for Yukoners in the fall and in the winter.

It's a program, which I mentioned earlier, that continues to be heavily subscribed to and, thanks to the good work that is being done by the department and in collaboration with communities, we have been able to enhance public awareness about the risks of fire to communities and what it is that we as individual homeowners in communities can do to lessen the risk of fire in our communities.

Some of the recipients of FireSmart in the past year included Beaver Creek, Burwash Landing, Carcross, Carmacks, Dawson City, Faro, Haines Junction — just about every single community. In the community of Whitehorse, the Copper Ridge Neighbourhood Association — I had the opportunity to see first-hand some of the fire abatement work continuing to be done in the community. They have undertaken a lot of work and they certainly are getting at a number of the areas. In addition to Copper Ridge, Hillcrest Community Association, Granger Neighbourhood Association, Riverdale, Porter Creek, McLean Lake, Mount Lorne, Kwanlin Dun, Crestview and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council have all subscribed to the program, which is great.

So these efforts, coupled with the City of Whitehorse's efforts to address fire abatement — I know that there was refer-

ence to a report that was undertaken about 10 years ago if I'm not mistaken. Of course this has led to a lot of integrated efforts with the City of Whitehorse over the years. As the member opposite made reference to, we remain committed to working with the City of Whitehorse. We always undertake reviews of the work that has been done and how far we have come and far it is that we need to proceed. I think that enhanced efforts — one only has to be reminded of what transpired in Slave Lake not long ago. In fact, when I was at the federal-provincial-territorial ministers of local governance meeting, we had the opportunity to actually meet and discuss the issue of wildland fire and the tragedy that occurred in Slave Lake not long ago as a result of a wildfire.

It was great to hear her experiences — it was the Mayor of Slave Lake, by the way. Certainly, she had a very major role in providing leadership and overseeing the city and working with the provincial government and all the emergency response agencies to really integrate the efforts and to have a response — it's unfortunate what transpired there. As she had mentioned, there are, of course, lessons to be learned, and it's those lessons that we all need to reflect on and subscribe to practices that have worked and look at those practices that have not worked.

So those routine reviews of what we need to do continue. The City of Whitehorse plays a very important role, as do our unincorporated communities, especially on the periphery of Whitehorse, working through the local advisory councils, in advancing fire abatement practices throughout this area and also throughout the entire territory.

Perhaps I'll sit down and welcome any further questions from the members opposite.

Ms. Stick: I'd like to thank the minister for her response. Slave Lake is a pretty extreme and tragic example of what can happen, even with the best emergency services available, if the prevention hasn't taken place, in terms of FireSmarting, and certainly that's the one example that they often use now at FireSmart presentations. There still might have been a fire; there still might have been some loss, but certainly not the amount that we saw.

I'm going to move on, and I apologize to the staff here if I seem like I'm going back and forth, but I've tried to go back and review what we did yesterday, and I have a few questions that will be kind of random.

The first one I'd like to talk about is property assessments and the appeal process. For people outside municipalities, in smaller LACs — Tagish would be an example — we've heard that people receive the notice of their property assessment prior to Christmas and are given an amount of time to appeal that, which usually comes in about mid-January.

Many people who are retired or on holidays, or who are caught up in the Christmas rush of things, miss seeing their property assessment or aren't around for it. So they lose that opportunity to appeal within that time period that's given. I wondered if the minister could tell us if there has been any consideration given to extending these dates so people could take the time to consider and look at their appeals and get them in on time.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I would like to thank the member opposite for the question. As we talked about yesterday, there were a number of properties that continue to be reassessed in any given year. When it comes to our own real properties, as the member opposite alluded to, I know that in 2012 there were some 7,700 rural properties that were reassessed for the 2013 tax year and all those properties fall outside of the municipalities. There is the review process, as the member opposite made reference to, which is available to any property owners who don't necessarily agree with the value determined by the assessor.

This process has been in place for quite some time. I have not heard any specific concerns with respect to extending the time allotted for enabling those appeals but it is certainly something that we could take into consideration if we receive the necessary or the respective feedback from LACs or other local governments.

Ms. Stick: I thank the minister for that and I am encouraged by that. Certainly, for individuals who have come to us, I will suggest they contact their LACs or representatives and raise that as a discussion. If people do object to the amount, they should have that option available to them.

The other quick question I had was in regard to the homeowner grants that are paid. We do see a rise for this coming year. The average homeowner grant amount has stayed the same.

I'm wondering if there has been any kind of review of this program or if there is any intention of reviewing the homeowner grants in terms of if it's still a good program and those kinds of questions. Should the amounts be raised? How do we determine eligibility for homeowner grants?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I would have to concur that the homeowner grants are very well subscribed to and each and every year there are subsequent increases in those allotments in the line item. Of course, this year is no exception. In fact we have, as I mentioned yesterday in my remarks, an additional \$270,000 in this fiscal year's budget that has been associated with the number of homes that continues to increase. All told, it brings the total to \$3.5 million. Again, as per the statistics, we are anticipating a further increase in 2013-14. Again, as I mentioned yesterday, there is about an average of \$420 per household. It is a much-lauded program that continues to be very well accessed by homeowners.

At this time there is no intent to expand that number or that dollar allotment allocated to households. As you can see, we continue to add to the dollar amount for the overall program. I do know that was a commitment of the Liberal Party in the last election, I seem to recall. It's not something we're looking at, at this particular time. Maybe in the near future we may take a look at that, but at this time, we're focused on keeping up with the increase in the number of households that subscribe to this.

We continue to take other fiscal initiatives in support of property owners — the pioneer utility grant, for example. There are a number of initiatives that are administered through the Department of Health and Social Services, some income-gearred and some not. Again, we're doing our very best to not raise property taxes, to hold the line, and we have done so for

many years under this government's watch and the previous two Yukon Party mandates.

We are very much in favour of this particular program. It does help a great deal in assisting each and every homeowner with expenses associated with having property. So, at this particular time, we are not looking to expand that.

Ms. Stick: I'm looking now under consumer services and infrastructure development, and this is certainly a topic we've raised before — or, my colleague for Southern Lakes has raised — with regard to civic addresses and response time for emergency vehicles, or emergency service providers, whether it be ambulance, fire or police. The Hamlet of Mount Lorne has currently started on a project of civic addresses and has been contacting residents about road names and consistent addresses for properties. Again, it can't be overstated how important this is for emergency responders. "That place next to" is not an appropriate address when people are trying to get to an emergency situation. My question was about how much money the department has budgeted for the Hamlet of Mount Lorne, but on a larger scale. This is true for every rural community where there are not clear, consistent civic addresses.

I would hesitate even to mention that sometimes in the city it is hard to find places in country residential because somebody's got a sign that is six inches across, and the next guy's got a sign that is two feet across, so there's no consistency.

How much was budgeted for the Hamlet of Mount Lorne, and is there a plan that is going to address this need? It's an immediate need, I think, to have civic addresses in communities around the Yukon.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: This is an issue that the department is well aware of and has been working with communities over the years, in terms of hearing and working to address issues pertaining to street signage and house numbering in our rural communities, especially as it relates to emergency response.

We have and will continue to work with the LACs of Mount Lorne, Ibex Valley, Tagish, South Klondike and Marsh Lake. We're all working with them to identify their individual community signage needs. As you can appreciate, each and every community is distinct and unique unto itself. We are committed and are actually in the process of coming up with individual community workplans for each of those respective areas, which will respond to the individual signage needs.

As I mentioned the other day in response to the critic, we'll be in line with any other future 911 future territorial initiatives. Again, we have been working with them. We did provide an interjurisdictional paper that has helped inform some of the work on an ongoing basis with the communities. Of course, that paper reflects the experience of civic addressing in other smaller provinces that are perhaps larger, but are somewhat closer to our proximity — P.E.I., Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are included.

As I mentioned before, we're working on not only those best practices for the approach to civic addressing, but we have been discussing this initiative with communities individually and at LAC forums as well. We have been providing assistance with house numbers and signage for communities over the last number of years. I know that in particular there has been some

work that has been done to formalize those addresses in communities when it comes to Marsh Lake and Tagish, for example.

As I mentioned, it's really important that we work individually with LACs to determine their specific needs, determine the community's priorities, and determine the responsibilities and the costs associated with implementation of course. So each and every community is very distinct and we respect that. We respect the LACs' authority and their autonomy to work directly with their residents on their specific needs on a go-forward basis as well.

Ms. Stick: I thank the minister for the answer. I really believe civic addressing is a number one issue in all the communities. There are simple solutions — yes, given everyone has their unique needs. I've been in enough rural communities in Ontario to see that often it's a post and it has a green reflective number on it. It's high enough to stay above the snow banks and the weeds that grow in the summertime, but it's visible. It's a simple solution and it's visible. It would be good to see that type of action taken.

Moving on into the infrastructure development, there were just a number of programs I wanted some clarification on. Rather than do them one at a time, I'll put a couple out there and listen for the minister's response. The first one is the Kwanlin Dun First Nation site remediation for \$750,000. I was curious about where that takes place. Then we saw right under it the Kwanlin Dun First Nation water and sewer installation for \$650,000. I would just like to know the locations of those.

The next one I'll ask about would be the Hamilton Boulevard, and whether this amount of money, \$230,000, is for the remediation of that one section that seems to be giving constant problems to the drivers.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Thanks to the good work of our officials, who are looking at some more specific finite information, so I thank members for their patience.

With respect to Kwanlin Dun First Nation water and sewer mains as well as soil remediation, we have funding of \$1.4 million for both initiatives on the property along the waterfront.

With respect to the specific area, I don't have that specific area targeted in front of me. The water and sewer installation is also part of the Yukon asset construction agreement that we are obligated to strike pursuant to capital initiatives that are undertaken within their traditional territory, pursuant to their final agreements. What I have here is to remove contaminated soil from the site of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation property along the Whitehorse waterfront, but again I don't have those specific details. What I can say is, with respect to the cultural centre, that particular property remediation was done beforehand and that has been completed for some time now, with the facility up and running.

The actual water and sewer piping is part of the YACA and those extensions will be carried out in conjunction with the Range Road water main construction as well, so it's piping to their particular parcel, C15B. That's within the proximity of the Range Road project as well.

Ms. Stick: Hamilton Boulevard — if the minister could just fill us in on that amount and what it's for.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I just want to say that the Hamilton Boulevard extension has been very widely received by all residents, including our family up in that area along the Hamilton Boulevard; it was a project that was advocated for many years. Thanks to a collaboration of the City of Whitehorse, the Government of Canada and the Yukon government, we were able to come together and I believe it was under the municipal rural infrastructure fund, if I'm not mistaken. It is very well received, well-used, and serves as a very important second access out of that particular area. It's a project that I and many others have long advocated for.

With respect to the dollar amounts in the fiscal year 2013-14, there is a finite amount of \$230,000. That goes toward continuing to monitor and to assess that roadwork just because, as I understand, there was an ice lens that was discovered underneath a roadbed and was not discovered during the assessment or the engineering work when it was first designed and planned. We're very much committed to maintaining the safety of the highway infrastructure and working in collaboration with the City of Whitehorse to see that it's maintained. We'll continue to monitor and assess it and, when the time comes, to make those final repairs.

Ms. Stick: I think the minister and I were actually there for the first shovel on Hamilton Boulevard, and I agree, it was a great extension. It's certainly a quicker way of getting up there, even from Riverdale.

My next question is a technical question around the Faro water and sewer pipe replacement.

I understand that there is always the ongoing issue in Faro of having to maintain water and sewer pipes even though there might not be residents living on particular streets, just because of the interconnectivity of all of them. I'm just wondering if this water and sewer pipe replacement is for where there are currently residents living or on some of those streets that still do not have residents.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Madam Chair, as I mentioned earlier yesterday, during our recent visit to the community of Faro, I had the opportunity to see first-hand, along with some of the council members as well as the administration, some of the aging system that, as I understand, was built back in 1969, not unlike many other communities in the territory.

That is why it's so very vitally important that we continue to invest in important infrastructure upgrades in communities such as Faro. As I understand, those wooden water pipes and the sewer system were built in 1969. We are in the process of updating that infrastructure, and this year's budget reflects that — an additional \$4.1 million for that initiative. This year, we have apportioned dollars allotted for a multi-phase project, so it has been underway for some time. In all, \$7 million will be spent to complete the work that includes new water and sewer lines that run along the roads and some of the homes that are situated along those roads. A pumphouse is also scheduled for completion by the end of the year. That pumphouse has been there a long time and it will be good to have that replaced and to modernize a lot of the infrastructure that we have had.

My apologies — I misspoke, Madam Chair. It's not \$4.1 million — it's actually \$1.9 million for Faro water and sewer

pipe replacement. These specific dollars to be allocated this year are actually replacing a number of sections of the main supply line to the water distribution system, as I mentioned earlier.

The other dollars will be allocated toward the new pumphouse, which actually won't be completed until the following fiscal year — just for clarity on that.

Ms. Stick: I have a few questions on the Whistle Bend project — not so much about the current lots there. I'll just start, though, by saying that for anyone driving down there who participated in those planning charettes in the beginning and put a lot of personal time in, whether they were professionals or citizens, it's kind of shocking to see when you've been looking at pictures of what it was going to look like and seeing that. I'm sure it's not what people envisioned when they were participating.

The minister has mentioned that money has been designated for new stages of this development. I'm wondering if they are anticipating that we're going to see that same kind of clearing that's happened in the current section for these new planning stages.

When those are done and those lots come on, can we anticipate they'll be any less expensive than the current ones, given that a lot of the costs are recoveries of development and this building, plus we want to recover those costs. Because so much has already been done from Range Road down, do we anticipate the cost of those later lots will be less?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Thank you for the opportunity to talk about Whistle Bend.

I just want to go back to 2006. I'm glad that the MLA for Klondike is here to hear this as well. Just as a reminder: It has been in place since 2006 between the City of Whitehorse and the Yukon government and I refer to the *Land Development Protocol Agreement 2006* — we're also working under it with the City of Dawson and other communities as we speak. Under that protocol, the city is responsible for completing the preliminary planning, providing the public consultation — so all of the planning and of course the YESAA process as well. I thank the member opposite for her acknowledgement of the city planners and I can say that Ingram subdivision is a perfect example. I, too, went to all of those planning workshops at the very infancy of that project. You're never entirely sure how these projects are going to unfold, but I can say that Ingram has turned out to be a very good project. It was the first concerted effort to provide that high-density housing within the city boundaries.

I know at that time there was perhaps a lot of resistance by a number of the residents in the area, and also throughout the city, about those smaller lots, really concentrating on higher density. It is all about trying to reduce the cost of land associated with homes, and that is something that our government continues to be very much committed to doing.

The city has provided the overall plan for Whistle Bend, much of which is before the YESAA process. We have worked very closely with the City of Whitehorse over the last number of years on Whistle Bend. I remember last August when the former mayor, Bev Buckway, and I had the opportunity to announce the launch of the first phase of lots — a good day in-

deed. She just reminded me how it was several years in the making — several years of planning, discussion, consultation, assessments and certainly the employment of many individuals in this particular project and the future of the project.

That's what this government has endeavoured to do. We made a commitment to provide that adequate supply and range of land options throughout the territory. It is a key priority of our government and is certainly an important factor in overcoming challenges associated with housing in the territory. We have just under \$30 million in support of land development projects in the territory. I know that since 2009, we have invested more than \$100 million in land development projects that have resulted in well over 500 new lots in subdivisions throughout the territory and that, of course, includes Whitehorse. For the first time in many years, we actually have lots available over the counter — lots that are available for sale — and that is a significant accomplishment. For many years there was the commitment to have lots readily made available. We are very respectful of working alongside our community governments and very pleased to see Whistle Bend come to fruition.

Together with the city, we have worked hard to catch the supply of land with that of the existing and, of course, keeping our eye on future demand.

The department continues to work to bring new residential lots to the market. We also continue to strive to keep those costs as low as possible. When it comes to Whistle Bend, it is in fact the largest land subdivision project to be undertaken in the territory to date. We certainly appreciate the efforts that have been undertaken. The prices of the lots are about 6.5 percent below market value. They were developed and are being sold at development cost. This takes into consideration a lot of the off-site infrastructure associated with Whistle Bend.

Whistle Bend is being developed in a number of phases, with the major off-site infrastructure and the first phase of residential lots having been completed last fall.

Every subdivision includes a number of attributes, not only the off-site infrastructure, but also park land and trails. It provides the ability to have commercial space for small business, retail shops, transit services and more. As I mentioned, we have been able to come through with lot prices that reflect the development costs, which happen to be approximately 6.5 percent below that market value, but not so far below that they're negatively affecting the prices of homes and land for sale in the private market in other places in the city and in the territory.

It is an example of a partnership between the City of Whitehorse and it speaks to the land development protocol at work, which speaks to the roles and the responsibilities of each of the respective parties in making land available. As we look to phase 2, we look forward to an additional 187 lots coming to fruition later on this fall. As I understand, planning for the future phases of Whistle Bend beyond that is close to being complete.

We will be looking at moving to 2014 for construction. For the time being we do have a number of land pieces being made available. I would like to thank all the individuals who took part in the planning process — the previous city councils and

the current city council — for their ongoing support of the Whistle Bend subdivision.

Looking as well to 2013-14, as part of the \$30-million budget allotted for land development in the territory we also have land development projects identified in other areas, including Mayo, Teslin, Mount Lorne, Watson Lake and other communities. We look forward to continuing to work with all communities as we move forward. I can say that when we take a look at lots in the area of Ingram subdivision, for example, as I made reference to before, I am pleased to say that every lot in the subdivision has been sold.

When you look at that concept, some of which is being replicated in the Whistle Bend design, I would say a good mix of housing is being made available, which establishes single family homes, duplexes, townhouses and multi-family housing as well. That includes property — a triplex, actually — for Habitat for Humanity, something that we have committed to carrying forward in Whistle Bend subdivision. I know that, like Ingram, the neighbourhood of Whistle Bend will help meet a wide range of housing needs in the city and, like Ingram, it will be consistent with the city's overall objective to increase the density of housing within the municipality.

With the subdivisions have come significant economic benefits inclusive of trades and building capacity in industry and provision of homes for Yukon families. We have worked with communities in the past, including Haines Junction, and are very pleased to provide 27 country residential lots in the Willow Acres subdivision. In this respect we have about 10 of these remaining available for sale over the counter. Again, it's another great collaboration with a great community.

We have developed lots in Destruction Bay and continue to work with Kluane First Nation and other community stakeholders to expand that particular area as well. We have been working on lots with respect to Grizzly Valley subdivision near Lake Laberge and we have lots currently available. They have been available since December 2011. Again, it provides another wide range of lot use for those who are looking for larger spaces, more spacious lots suitable for a whole host of uses. We have a number of these lots that are available for sale over the counter as well, and we certainly look forward to proceeding with phase 2 for lottery later on this year.

We have been investing in other areas of course. We have lots available in Dawson and Carmacks. We're making progress on getting more residential and a couple of industrial lots made available for lottery as well. We're working with the community of Watson Lake and, as I mentioned, continuing to work with the City of Whitehorse.

Again, we are very pleased to carry on our work through the communities. We are working with the communities of Dawson City, Watson Lake and Mayo, as they have made it a priority to make available residential properties. We remain committed to working on that planning and developing subdivisions and lots, whether it be infill lots or new subdivisions, in anticipation of current as well as future demands, so that we can continue to meet those priorities and grow our economy. As I mentioned, we're committed to keeping those costs as low

as possible. Wherever possible, we are selling those lots at the cost of development.

So I look forward to seeing the evolution of the Whistle Bend subdivision and to seeing more and more families setting up shop in the Whistle Bend area.

As with the Copper Ridge area, it has filled up completely and it has been the home, and continues to be the home, of hundreds of families in that particular area. Now with the new Ingram subdivision, the City of Whitehorse continues to expand and it's a direct result of the state of the economic situation that Yukon finds itself in, and making land available and having a wide supply of land options available is a priority for us so that we can continue to sustain that growth.

Ms. Stick: Moving on to landlord and tenant — I was just looking at some of the stats here and see that we're anticipating an increase of complaints or inquiries. I'm presuming that would be driven by the opening of a new office that's staffed to follow the new *Landlord and Tenant Act*.

Can the minister please tell us if that office is open now and staffed? I realize regulations have yet to come, but we continue to receive complaints in our office, mostly from tenants regarding evictions without notice or large rent increases. They are looking for somewhere to go and want to make those complaints known to hopefully get some assistance or resolution to that. Is that number contemplated with the opening of an office and when can we expect an office to be open and staffed?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I am very pleased to be able to report a lot of progress with the residential tenancy office. Of course, it was one of the key elements identified as an area of priority for moving forward with the modernized *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*. It was assented to last December. Since that time, the department has begun taking steps necessary to establish that office.

That office includes the hiring of a director, which just took place recently. Over the coming months the director will be working toward leading the development of draft regulations for public comment, working to fully staff the office itself and tending to other operational matters associated with operating the office, which includes setting up office space and coming up with a lot of public education materials. There will be a lot of outreach required in terms of providing information about the new act and how it works for both landlords and tenants, and reaching out to communities and talking about the new office and the process that the office will be working on. Once we have the regulations completed, then we can actually bring into force and effect the legislation itself. The office, in the meantime, will continue to work toward its full opening.

In the meantime though, any complaints or concerns that are raised can continue to be addressed through Corporate Services, comprised within the Department of Community Services.

Ms. Stick: This will be my last question — I'll pass it over to the member of the Third Party — but this one has to do with Corporate Services. In the last year we saw a number of boards and their organizations, more importantly, get into trouble because of boards not being in compliance in terms of financial reports or number of members on a board. There were

lots of different issues and I'm wondering if the department is looking at a way to tighten up on this so that these organizations don't get into the trouble that we see some of them in now, where it's taking them awhile to come back into compliance and, in the meantime, the services that they provide to the community or to individuals is suffering greatly for that?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I appreciate the question from the member opposite. There are a lot of societies in place, and we work with all to ensure that they do remain in good standing. There are cases, however, where that may not be the case and there is a process to deal with those out of good standing to ensure that they get into good standing.

With respect to working with each and every individual organization, I can say that we largely rely upon individual societies to monitor their own affairs. Of course, there are requirements under the *Societies Act* to comply with filing financials and reports and ensuring that meetings are held when they're supposed to be held and that reporting mechanisms are adhered to accordingly.

While we recognize that there may be issues from time to time, the office remains ready and willing to assist any organizations that have any questions or require any assistance to be able to facilitate any issues of difficulty or that require clarity in complying with requirements under the *Societies Act*.

Mr. Silver: I would like to begin by thanking the department officials for appearing in the Legislative Assembly today; your valuable time is much appreciated. Also thank you to the minister responsible for Community Services. This is a big budget with many responsibilities; her patience as we put forward questions on the budget items and issues over the last couple of days is very much appreciated. Last but not least, I would like to thank the Member for Riverdale South for her questions today and yesterday. Many of my questions have already been addressed so, as to not waste the time of the members of this House and the officials here today, I will limit my questions hopefully to issues that have not already been raised.

I would like to start by giving a little bit of credit here to the minister's department on a specific file. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, through Chief Isaac Incorporated, provides an initial-attack firefighting crew. In the past issues have come up regarding parity of wages and other concerns. I brought some of these issues forward to the Legislative Assembly in previous sittings. In reviewing files and following up with Chief Isaac, I would like to thank the minister and her department for the excellent work of listening to Chief Isaac's concerns.

I am told specifically that the director of Wildland Fire Management, Mike Etches, did an amazing job. The crew was extremely happy with the one-year contract that has been signed, established with a focus on wage parity, and they are looking forward to future communications as we work together to hopefully get a five-year contract. I would just like to start by thanking the minister and her department for that.

I would like to go into a few questions on 911. The 911 management committee met on February 12, with March 26 set as the secondary meeting. That meeting never happened. I know it has been a topic in Question Period here in the Legisla-

tive Assembly, and I believe that the stall is that Northwestel hasn't gotten back to the committee yet with numbers and statistics. I imagine that there is a level of frustration among the user groups with the lack of feedback to date. I believe there is a consensus among user group members that, as 911 services move forward to include the communities, progress will continue as expeditiously as possible only with the lead on this file being taken by the minister and her department.

With that preamble, I would like to offer the minister an opportunity to speak on this. Have there been any negotiations or meetings with Northwestel and the minister's department since the missed March 26 secondary meeting with the 911 management committee and, if so, could she provide us with any new information — maybe new timelines, et cetera?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: It's great to receive accolades for the good work of the Department of Community Services from the member opposite. I would have to concur that our officials work hard, and I do appreciate providing credit where credit is due so I'll certainly pass along the comments to the director of Wildland Fire who is relatively new in this particular file but is doing a great job. I was actually going to reflect upon a story of a training exercise with Wildland Fire but I'll just leave that for another day.

With respect to 911, I wanted to also thank the member opposite for raising this important question. I talked to it a bit yesterday.

This is a file that we know is of great importance to communities and that is why we have been able to strike an enhanced committee to include representatives of the Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs as well as the Association of Yukon Communities. Likewise, we do have a number of other representatives consisting of the emergency responders who have been working on this particular file. We have this 911 working group that met back in early February, as I understand. Since that time, there has been ongoing work. As I understand, Northwestel is requiring that additional time to do their due diligence and provide the information necessary to provide the next steps in this particular process. I understand the department has been in contact with Northwestel recently to find out where we're at with that outstanding work.

I don't have any definitive date at this particular time for reconvening a meeting or when we will be receiving that necessary information, so I am not able to provide an accurate update at this particular time, other than to extend my thanks to the participants of the working group, which also includes the RCMP — in particular, their dispatch, which is really critical to all of this — and to our own fire marshal and to representatives from EMS as well.

This is a fairly complex initiative, and it will require some very strong, coordinated and integrated efforts on the part of everyone. As I mentioned earlier on many occasions, in the meantime, we continue to work to update and to modernize our own response to emergencies in the territory, to ensure that the needs of our communities are addressed in an effective and cost-efficient manner and that we do have a coordinated response to emergency calls. As a result, we've been very proud of the investments we have made, in terms of expanding emer-

gency response capability by way of training and making equipment and infrastructure upgrades necessary across the Yukon. We're committed to continuing to work toward strengthening our response, where possible, of course.

Again, we look forward to receiving an update on the work of Northwestel and how that feeds into the overall work of this particular working group and within the finer context of the management committee on 911. I just wanted to thank our stakeholders for their diligence on this particular file and from working at this from the grassroots perspective.

Mr. Silver: I appreciate the answer from the minister. I do agree that this is a complicated file. It's time. It's nice to see that some progress on 911 services in Newfoundland actually hit the news this week, and I know that the minister will concur that it's time to move forward on this file and offer that expanded service to the rural communities.

On that, I have just one other further question: Is there any interest in incorporating the new EMS building with computer-automated dispatch or CAD for 911? Does the minister believe this might be a cost-effective way of moving forward on the 911 services in the Yukon?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: As I mentioned earlier, we have in fact been working over the years to really integrate dispatch and how we respond to emergency calls — whether those have been investments in the Fire Marshal's Office, investments in municipal structural fire departments, expansion of EMS services or working to enhance our search and rescue capacity. Those are very important because, at the end of the day, when you do receive the call, you do need to have the capacity to respond in an effective and efficient manner. As I mentioned earlier today during the tribute, we are very appreciative of all our volunteers who work tirelessly. They have a passion for serving, putting service above self, and I certainly commend each and every one of those individuals in all of our communities for that.

When it comes to integrating dispatch, we have been working on that in recent years. With the new EMS emergency response facility that is coming to fruition, we continue to work with other agencies — primarily the RCMP and the City of Whitehorse.

I had a discussion with the Mayor of the City of Whitehorse not long ago about moving forward on integrating dispatch capacity. It folds into the possible potential expansion of 911 in the future. We are excited about the emergency response centre coming on-line. Again, it is all about helping to reduce the response times, but also working on taking advantage of the opportunity of further integrating that dispatch. Those discussions have been underway and will continue to be underway.

Mr. Silver: I am going to switch gears here a bit. I only have a few more questions. I know that the Independent member would like to ask a few questions as well.

I am going to move on to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. I asked this question in the House about the status of this particular committee. During Question Period, the minister said that she had had a meeting with the Association of Yukon Communities president and the two co-chairs of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee working group and made a number

of recommendations on further improvements to solid waste management.

Can the minister provide further comment on these recommendations and maybe the status of the advisory committee in general? As we understand it, all eight members of this committee had their terms expire on May 31, 2012. Is the minister going in a new direction, or are we going to see more meetings of this important committee?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I'm not sure where to begin on this one. Starting with the *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan* that was adopted by the previous Yukon Party government, which was included in our election commitments on a go-forward basis, I am pleased to say that we have done a significant amount of work thanks to the Department of Community Services working very closely with the Department of Environment on a number of fronts. It all comes down to reducing the level of waste going into our landfills, transfer stations and so forth. We have been making significant progress on the plan, and we continue to work collaboratively with communities on a number of projects as we move through the year.

Since 2009, we have met a number of the goals within the action plan itself, one of which includes ending open burning of all domestic waste at each of the unincorporated sites and facilities that are administered by the Department of Community Services. I forget what the number is, but there are quite a few. There are under 20 of them.

I can say that during our community visits, I have pretty much been to every single landfill and transfer station, and it has been an interesting experience for me to provide that insight to see each of those sites firsthand and to see what's working and what needs to be tweaked as well. We have also transformed what used to be what I would coin as "open-trench burning sites" into transfer stations now, primarily — or full-service solid waste facilities.

So a lot of capital investment and operation dollars have gone into that very issue. All in all, it has been going well.

That said, we know that we have made a number of improvements — making composting available, recycling, waste diversion. At all of our transfer stations you'll see recycling bins being made available for residents, and of course there is appropriate interpretive signage to explain to residents what each bin is supposed to receive in terms of sorting. We have enhanced the waste handling systems and the site safety at each of our sites. We've installed groundwater monitoring stations and we've also been working to improve household hazardous waste at each of the sites.

We recognize that by and large there have been significant improvements. I remember it wasn't that many years ago when in the Southern Lakes, the peripheral areas of Carcross and Mount Lorne, there was burning taking place at those places and that's not the case any more. There has been significant clean up and improvement, and it's in large part due to community efforts, of course, and the work of the department — not an easy task.

However, we are at a point in time that the action plan has been in effect for a number of years — not that long, three years — but we feel that now is a good opportunity to take a

look at where we are — what progress has been made and what we still need to do. Part of that work was working with the solid waste advisory committee — SWAC as it has become known. They had a couple of two-year terms that did expire last year. Since that time, we have been taking a really good hard look at all of our respective sites and seeing what has worked and what hasn't worked.

One of the areas that we do need to work to improve is our community partnerships and I talk about that with our municipal governments. That is really where we have chosen to put our focus. I'm not saying that SWAC doesn't hold importance because it does, absolutely. We continue to engage with the recycling processors. The department had a number of occasions to meet and to receive their input about what has worked, what isn't working and engaging with the private sector to receive their feedback on an ongoing basis.

It came about through a number of discussions and from receiving some of the concerns first-hand from our municipalities, wanting to have a coordinated, integrated approach to solid-waste management in the territory. I have to concur with that. The president and I, through the Association of Yukon Communities, agreed to strike a working group comprised of representatives of the municipalities and really going to work on coming up with solutions for municipal government and tying that work in to the work we're doing in unincorporated communities. That's really a very large undertaking. They have done a lot of work thus far, and I applaud them for that. I think they are making significant progress, but there are challenges. There are costs associated with complying with the regulations — with those permits that are provided through the Department of Environment. At the same time, we do recognize that this has to be a meaningful partnership with our communities.

We are committed to working with them, and that is key to the success of all of this. As we undertake our review and the work with the communities, that will help lead and inform the further work in the year ahead and beyond that as well.

At the same time, I should also mention that the Department of Environment is doing their part and are reviewing the beverage container regulations to look at expanding the number of materials that can be dedicated under those regulations — we haven't reviewed those regulations in some time. Likewise, with the designated materials regulations, we are looking at incorporating the expanded use of other materials.

Those are really important, in terms of feeding into the overall reduction of waste and diverting waste from our landfills. That's key for municipalities moving forward. In the meantime, we also remain committed to working bilaterally with communities, one on one, while all this work is underway.

There is a lot going on, but I'm very pleased with the progress that's being made, recognizing that this too is a very complex issue.

Mr. Silver: It seems that I get all the complicated ones.

I just have one more question for the member opposite. Once again, thanks to the department officials for coming in. The Klondike Valley Fire Department is wondering when the work is to be completed in their hall with regard to water

treatment. It seems that the issue itself started out quite simply. Terms and conditions were being put in place after YESAB conducted their Rock Creek community water supply upgrade project assessment and a private company was tasked with working on the fire department's well. There is septic tank plumbing, electrical, et cetera. The start date was set for early October. Of course, as with many projects, once the file progresses forward, issues come up. As of late September, it was decided that a new well would have to be drilled.

With this new information, the completion date was set back to March 29, 2013. The company that was tasked with this expected that it would take a lot less time, but it still stands incomplete today. I know I don't have to stress the importance of the volunteer fire department having their hall renovations being completed in a timely fashion. Can the minister provide any new information she possibly has on this file?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Yes, I very much appreciate the work of the Klondike Valley Fire Department. I'm just looking at the information before me. As you can appreciate, there are a lot of projects within the Department of Community Services, so I may not have that information readily within my head, but there is thankfully paper. What I can say is that for Rock Creek, water, the initiative here — as I understand the work did start last year. It is set to be completed in the fall of this year and that's to really upgrade the water supply and the treatment to meet compliance with the regulations, of course, of the day.

With respect to the actual fire hall upgrades, I don't have an update here, but I will certainly endeavour to get back to the member in writing on that. I'll again thank the members of the volunteer fire department for their ongoing work on behalf of the citizens of the Klondike Valley and area residents and look forward to seeing them during our next visit.

Mr. Elias: I just have a couple of questions for the minister, but first of all, on behalf of our community of Old Crow, we recognize and appreciate the line items that are in the budget this year within the minister's department with regard to the road upgrades, the solid-waste facility upgrades and the water supply upgrades. The community's drinking water supply upgrades are being very well received and appreciated in the community. It has been a project that has been in the works for a long time. I want to express appreciation to the government on behalf of my constituents.

This project has basically gone through its first winter and it has been tested at minus 50 degrees weather, operating under pretty severe conditions. I know some things about Old Crow's thermal oxidation system that has been operating now for quite some time.

Can the minister provide some information with regard to the operation and maintenance or what her department knows about how it's working? Is it working up to the standards that were presented to the community way back when? I know there's a lot of history with regard to this option that was picked for the community in terms of waste management, because this is a long-standing and important issue in our community of Old Crow. Other people in other communities are watching as well to see if the thermal oxidation system — or "incinerator" as our community members like to call it — is

actually working in a remote Arctic community north of the Arctic Circle. If the minister has any information with regard to this waste management system, that would be great.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Thank you to the member opposite. I appreciate his words because it wasn't long ago in this Assembly that we had terse words to and fro across the Assembly. It is heartening to hear a change in heart from the member opposite.

With respect to Old Crow, I always welcome the opportunity to visit the community of Old Crow and, indeed, I had the opportunity with my deputy minister to visit Old Crow not long ago. I had the opportunity to see first-hand some of the joint infrastructure investments. The water treatment upgrades are a significant investment — over \$5 million.

I had the opportunity to actually speak with some of the individuals who have been working on that project and some of the operators as well. I really appreciated having that ability to sit down and hear first-hand what this means for the community of Old Crow. As the member opposite made reference, it has been a long time in the making. It is a major investment, but a very good one indeed. As I mentioned before, a lot of investments have been made across the territory in terms of drinking water upgrades in many of the communities and there are more to go, as we speak.

Likewise it was great to sit down with the community of Old Crow and talk about waste management. The unit that the member opposite referred to is really working relatively well in the community of Old Crow. Yes, there have been some difficulties along the way. It is the first of its kind in the Yukon, but certainly not, as I understand, the first of its kind north of 60.

We have been working closely with the Vuntut Gwitchin government on working toward resolving these issues of concern associated with cold weather temperatures and tweaking the unit, but all in all it has been working relatively well. Of course we have also been working to improve the efficiency of the unit itself and to really work toward bringing down the cost of operating the unit. We are working again with Vuntut Gwitchin government on this very fact, at the same time meeting all of those respective applicable environmental standards and permit conditions.

It is a modern facility I think we are learning a great deal from about that management in the north and it is certainly a better alternative than what we had before.

Mr. Elias: I guess it's worth asking or providing the opportunity for the minister to put this on the public record: Is the unit achieving air emission standards as promised?

I have an idea of what types of issues exist with regard to hydraulic lines freezing and needing heat tape and those kinds of things. I understand there were some contract issues, but they have been resolved now. I think it's very important for us to get on the public record. As the minister has said, this is the first of its kind in the territory and other communities are seeing whether or not this is going to work for their community, because it's a fairly unique system. To reiterate what the minister has said, this does achieve many of the goals and objectives that were presented to the community when we were deciding what option to take and what the best path was to ensure that

waste management in the community of Old Crow was handled properly.

So if she can go over as many details as possible that she knows of, in terms of the entire unit working for the community of Old Crow and achieving the goals and objectives that were presented to the community way back — actually, it was a couple of years ago when we were deciding what option to take, in terms of waste management for the community of Old Crow.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Forgive me, but I'm not able to speak specifically to what the mechanics or the mechanical components are associated with the unit. But what I can say is that, yes, I believe there were some issues. I believe that the unit was not performing as it was supposed to, and that was attributed to cold weather. I think there was a period of a couple of weeks, if I'm not mistaken, but they were able to resolve the issues and learn from them. As I understand, we continue to meet all the environmental standards and the permits are in place. That continues to be monitored through the Department of Environment. So that has not been an issue, to the best of my knowledge.

Like I said, it is the first of its kind, and it's one that we are looking to learn from, and we are learning a great deal about the facility — what has worked and what hasn't worked. We also continue to work with the actual manufacturer as well — again, just to learn.

As mentioned, we remain committed to working with Vuntut Gwitchin government to ensure that it does continue to work as it was intended to and that it continues to meet all the environmental standards.

Mr. Elias: I thank the minister for her responses.

A couple of years ago, the community was given a 47-page document detailing how the thermal oxidation system was going to be working, not to say that everybody in the community read it, but there were a lot of expectations — very specific expectations, and I'll just give you one. It was that the waste volume reduction processes in the primary chamber of the unit occur over a period of about 10 to 15 hours, depending on waste type and system layout. If other communities are going to be looking at this type of system, not only in the Yukon, but in our neighbouring jurisdictions, I'm requesting that the minister's department perform a detailed analysis of this thermal oxidation system — not only for my constituents — to ensure that it's achieving air emissions standards.

Maybe we can do a month-by-month fuel consumption analysis to see if those are achieving the initial goals and objectives. There's a whole vast array of the primary gasification chamber, flue gas, crossover ducts — the list goes on and on and on.

I'm sure the department has the 47-page document. I really encourage the minister to give direction to her department to have a detailed analysis with regard to the operation and maintenance of the system, because it took a long, long time to make this decision and it would bode well for our community, Yukoners and the department to ensure that all the goals and objectives of the thermal oxidation system in Old Crow are being met — which goals are being met, which are not, which

objectives are being met and which aren't — just to reiterate that this is a good idea for isolated remote communities and that in 25 years when we look back and there is new technology that we're saying this was a good decision made by the community. I'll leave it at that.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I appreciate the feedback from the member opposite. To be sure, it is an improvement over what was done in the past. I guess in terms of continuing to work with the community of Old Crow and the government in particular, we continue to monitor the unit and continue to assess what has worked and what has not worked. We continue to make it as efficient as possible, obviously. That requires dialogue with the Department of Environment, ensuring that we continue to meet all the necessary permits and standards in place.

With respect to the rest of the territory, as I mentioned earlier in my exchange with the Member for Klondike, we are working with municipalities on a broad range of options available to their respective communities. We respect their autonomy in terms of their choice of options. We are committed to working with municipal governments and coming up with a wide range of solutions to address waste in their respective areas.

We're of course willing to share that information with municipalities that are interested, obviously, but we're looking at all kinds of a broad range of options on waste management and there are many options available. Communities are very unique unto themselves. There are no two communities that are alike and they all have different challenges, different geography, and obviously different priorities as well. I thank the member opposite.

Mr. Elias: I've got one final question. When can the community of Old Crow expect a priority commitment from this Yukon Party government to partner with our community — which is shovel-ready — to engage in the building of a new community service centre and recreation complex that has been on the books since day one? These were the first words out of my mouth when I first got elected as MLA in this Legislative Assembly. I met with the minister several times — several different ministers. I met with the federal government. Our community set aside millions of dollars; we're ready to go.

When can our community of Old Crow expect a financial commitment to build a new community service centre and recreation complex that will stand the test of time?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Madam Chair, so have I. I have met with many federal officials and many federal ministries — in particular, the Minister of Infrastructure — and talked about the importance of recreation investments in the Yukon. I have talked at great length to this issue and I can talk again at great length to this issue as well. I know the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin likes to engage in these discussions. I do appreciate his commitment to his community. I do respect his ability to advocate on his community's behalf and put them first and foremost. That is our job as representatives in the Assembly. I appreciate and I thank him for ongoing efforts and ongoing work in this regard.

This is also another subject that we met with Vuntut Gwitchin government about recently. I have to say that they're on the right path. The Vuntut Gwitchin government is talking about a facility that's not just bricks and mortar, but talking about the use of sustainable technologies to operate green energy. Old Crow has done very well in previous years and in recent years, in terms of incorporating solar heating systems through Parks Canada collaboration and many others. They're working to really take advantage of the resources that they have in terms of making science available and taking advantage of the traditional knowledge and working with scientists in their traditional territories to take advantage of the technologies that are available. We very much appreciate their efforts to incorporate that and work with the federal government and the Yukon government on accessing different funding mechanisms.

They also are working to really come up with an inventory of resources available today for proceeding with that infrastructure, so we appreciate their leadership in that regard.

As I mentioned, we have a number of requests on the table from other communities — and I do recognize the special importance of Old Crow. Every community is special unto themselves. Many of our facilities in the past have been done in collaboration and joint investment. I do appreciate that there is a commitment there from Vuntut Gwitchin government to proceed with a joint investment.

We recognize that there is a very important role for the Government of Canada proceeding forward. Of course, with Building Canada winding up — coming to an end — at least this current iteration next year — we continue to work with the federal government on the next unfolding of what that Building Canada looks like. As I referenced earlier, we are very pleased that there is a commitment in the federal government's budget recently that makes reference to a new Building Canada fund and it also makes reference to continued gas tax funding, which is indexed, and GST rebates for municipalities.

I also made reference earlier that there has been a reference, I believe, in the Budget Address delivered by Minister Flaherty, about making sport and recreation investment one of the categories of eligible expenditure. That is good and I actually received a call from the president of the Association of Yukon Communities. She thanked the work of the Yukon government, and that of every other community in the territory and every other government across the country, to ensure that sport and recreation is part of those categories. Also it was announced that there is a \$14-billion Building Canada fund, details to follow.

We are very much engaged with the federal government and, as I mentioned, we look forward to having those bilateral discussions with the federal government, like all other provinces and territories do. We have been working together as a collective with the Association of Yukon Communities and working with our two northern territories, as well, in ensuring that the funding we do receive reflects the base-plus funding formula, which has been reflected in the budget.

Of course in the months to come those discussions that we have with Canada are going to be really critical. We will be hosting the upcoming federal, provincial, territorial conference

of ministers of local governance here in Whitehorse later on this summer. To be sure, this will be top of mind and top of discussion for all the ministers.

Our Premier has been very engaged on this file and has also heard first-hand the importance of this facility to the people of Old Crow. We recognize the needs of Old Crow and the priorities and, as we have in the past, we will continue to work with the community, but it's a bit early to speak on details of these particular announcements from the federal government, but we continue to work with our communities and to advocate for the inclusion of sport and recreation.

Ms. Hanson: The questions and the answers this afternoon really do demonstrate the scope of what budget debate can cover. I appreciate the minister's answers to many of the questions that have been raised this afternoon.

Madam Chair, I just have a couple of questions. What I'm interested in as I review the main estimates — the budget documentation that we received for the 2013-14 fiscal year — I find it useful to look at how government describes what its objectives are and what it's going to be doing. Looking from year to year, I expect that government will change some of these, but it's interesting to me and I want to ask the minister a couple of them with respect to an indication of either a priority or where some things may have shifted.

If I look at page 6-21, under consumer services and infrastructure development, under consumer services there are four bullets there. One of the bullets last year said, "to support, administer and enforce building, plumbing, electrical and mechanical standards in conjunction with reviewing development permits and maintaining a building information repository." This year, the last part — in conjunction with reviewing development permits and maintaining a building information repository — has been deleted.

So my question is rather simple, but it does have an impact with respect to — well, it has a huge impact, I think, with respect to how we know what the records are, the development permits and maintaining that information. My question for the minister: Who does this now? Is it being done?

Chair: Would members like to take a recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

Chair: I will now call Committee of the Whole to order.

We will continue with general debate on Vote 51, Community Services.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: As I understand it, there is no change. Without having seen the member opposite's question, I am trying to remember exactly what she was saying. With respect to a building information file or registry of permits — call it what you will — the Department of Community Services continues to make that available. We are actually looking to transfer that to an electronic system, so to speak. It continues to be made available and useful for real estate transactions and so forth. As I understand, it is business as usual.

Ms. Hanson: Just to clarify, I wasn't so much talking about a service. This was a function that a government department was doing — reviewing development permits and maintaining a building information repository, which was something that I think is necessary, to ensure that permits in fact are reviewed. It comes to the question later on, and I'm sure that we'll talk about that when we flip the page — the importance of building permits so that when someone actually pulls a permit, someone is reviewing them to see that there is compliance and that kind of stuff, and maintaining the information on the buildings. It is a repository of that information. Is there that kind of repository and is there some function that is doing the reviewing of these development permits?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: The short answer is yes. It includes the maintenance of the repository, as the member opposite made reference to — continue to review the permits — individual responsibility to call for those permits, to pull those permits, but yes, there is that legal obligation to follow through on those permits with inspections and so forth.

So we do continue to maintain this system.

Ms. Hanson: I thank the minister for that response and I am pleased to know that kind of information and data is maintained and the work is being done there.

Under infrastructure development the language has changed slightly. I only raise it because it could be a nuance or it can be a change or signal a change in direction. Elsewhere in Consumer Services there is still this kind of language, and so I wanted to know what was deleted here. Last year the objective was to administer various infrastructure funds that provide capital funding for infrastructure renewal to First Nations and communities in the Yukon. Now it simply says to administer infrastructure funds that provide capital funding for infrastructure renewal in the Yukon, deleting the reference to First Nations. I'm just wondering about the deletion of the reference to First Nations.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: When we talk about communities — and of course we continue to work hand in hand with First Nation governments, community governments, municipalities and unincorporated communities. In terms of perhaps choice of words, we continue to remain committed to working hand in hand with First Nation governments, as we have. I could give many examples of how we're doing that in terms of infrastructure investments. I could do that, but I'll perhaps just save that for another day.

In terms of responding to the member opposite, we're committed to working with all First Nation governments and community governments to meet their priorities and to work toward advancing some of these initiatives that we have in the past.

Ms. Hanson: I'm pleased to know that it's not an omission and that it's simply intended to be inclusive.

Madam Chair, with respect to the section on building safety, page 6-30, we've all lived through this last year the experience of the inquest into the Rusk family deaths in Porter Creek, and it really brought home to anybody who sat through that inquest the importance of a variety of inspections and per-

mitting — they're simply not something one takes lightly, nor should they be overlooked.

I have a few questions in this area, but one of the issues that is not just simply arising from that kind of tragic situation, but comes up throughout community meetings we have had in various parts of this territory, is concern by people about a number of buildings that are built without permits and occupied without permits of any sort — building permits or any kind of permit. My question: Does the Community Services branch — I understand we have a network of community meetings and we have community workers through Community Services — I can't remember their exact title — plus the people who are charged — when you drive around a community, people see buildings that are going up.

Is there any information with respect to the number of buildings that are built without permits? Or, is permitting all on an honour system? Do we simply hope that people will get permits for the various — such as the building and then all the functions of that building?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Regarding the member opposite's question, I guess I'll put it this way — if the member opposite has any examples of buildings that don't have permits, we'd be happy to work with the member opposite.

In terms of being a homeowner, any time you renovate, any time you want to do electrical work, there is a legal obligation within the act to pull a permit. It is on an honour system, pretty much, and we anticipate that those permits will be pulled. Of course that triggers an inspection to be undertaken from there.

We do have a whole host of statutes that pertain to building safety. We are committed to supporting, administering and enforcing all those standards, whether it's building, plumbing, electrical, mechanical — you name it. I'm just looking at some of the stats from last year alone. There were well over 5,000 inspections through Building Safety completed last year alone when it came to a whole suite of different standards that we enforce, adhere to and regulate under the Building Standards branch.

Ms. Hanson: I'm not going to go into individual ones today, but I can tell the minister opposite that we've had numerous examples of concerns being raised by people in communities and local areas about both residential and commercial facilities being built without permits being pulled, with the permitted activities actually being not the same — it looks like a residential and it's actually commercial. There are all sorts of different components to this, Madam Chair.

What I will do is undertake to provide the minister with several examples in my own riding because I think I do know that constituents of a variety of ridings — I'm not talking about any particular riding — have raised these issues with us and I do know that they have raised them with various elements of the Yukon government, but essentially said they can't do anything if they didn't pull a permit. There is an issue with simply honour when there are people who are dishonourable.

With respect to the one particular area where I have just a curiosity as to how the numbers correspond, if we look under permits issued — new boiler and pressure vessels — there were

96 according to last year's actuals in 2010-11; zero new boiler and pressure vessel permits issued in 2011, and then we estimated that we were going to have 75, but we've had zero and we estimate zero; yet the inspections of 160 are quite high.

I'm just wondering what that relates to — existing installations — and do all boiler and pressure vessel inspectors have the qualifications? What kind of qualifications do they have to do those inspections?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: If I could ask the member opposite just to repeat that question again; our apologies.

Ms. Hanson: I was just looking at the line under permits on the top part of the page; it talks about new boiler and pressure vessels. I just looked back at the actuals for the year 2010 and it was 96, then in 2011 it was zero, then it has been zero basically because it was estimated to be a bunch, but that didn't happen, obviously. Then I look down to boiler and pressure vessels inspection and I see that there's a significant level of inspection activity going on there. I'm wondering how those correlate — the zeros and the number of inspections. What are they inspecting?

The second part of that question: What qualifications do all inspectors who are conducting boiler and pressure vessel inspections have for performing that function?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Madam Chair, I don't have an explanation as to the correlation for the zeros and why it actually had reflected 75 in the estimate for the year before or two years before and where it is today.

With respect to inspections, our branch regulates construction of new buildings, insulation, electrical, gas, wood and oil heating systems — pretty much everything imaginable. When it comes to a boiler inspections unit, there is in fact a chief boiler inspector who has to be a first- or second-class power engineer, mechanical engineer or a mechanical engineering technologist — one of those two. We do have a gas inspector. We have a number of individuals who have a wealth of expertise across the spectrum.

Ms. Hanson: My final question in this particular area: Does this budget include any increases for building inspections throughout Yukon? The minister has made reference to the anticipated increases in building starts — buildings being built. I am assuming that they are all honourable and will seek to have their buildings permitted and inspected. Does this correlate into at least a temporary increase in the number of building inspectors to do the work?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: When it comes to the City of Whitehorse, those inspections are undertaken by city inspectors, so there is a significant increase with the number of properties within the City of Whitehorse and that would be within the autonomy or within the realm — the jurisdiction — of the City of Whitehorse, and we respect that.

We have made a commitment to add capacity to building inspectors as we go forward with these changes in the legislation that is before us and pertains to oil-fired appliances, so we have committed to doing just that as we work with the industry on a go-forward basis on the regulations, following through with implementing the pieces of legislation. Of course, that will

fold into the overall complement of inspections that are provided by the Yukon government.

So we have committed to doing just that. We look forward to working with industry. It's something we have heard in the communities and have heard here within Whitehorse as well, by industry and residents alike. We have committed to undertaking that review.

Chair: Is there any further general debate?

Mr. Tredger: I would like to begin by thanking the officials for attending and for the amount of time that Community Services staff spend in the communities. It is heartening to see. For a long time, communities were neglected, and there was a disconnect between what happened in Whitehorse and what happens in the communities. I am pleased to see some steps being taken in that direction to involve communities in planning for communities and to develop it within communities. I would like to thank the minister for her lead on that. I believe it's critical and very important that communities are involved in the planning and in what happens to the communities.

They're very competent. I think it's fiscally responsible. They have a better understanding of what's happening on the ground, and the more they can be involved in the development of projects, the better. Over the years we have seen a number of positions either moved out of the communities into Whitehorse or the community labour force being downsized. People working in the communities contribute in many, many ways, and when one or two people are taken out of a small community, it leaves a hole. It also leaves a hole for the department, in that community members are able to understand what is happening in the community and act as a window between what is happening in the community and what is happening in Whitehorse. Community Services employs a lot of people who do a lot of work in the communities. I'm wondering if the minister has any action plan or any strategies in place, or is thinking about them, that would involve decentralizing or ensuring that some Community Services employees are redeployed to the communities.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I'd like to thank the member opposite for his questions. I suppose that is why, in fact, this government and the previous Yukon Party government embarked upon a process called "Our Towns, Our Future". It was really to talk about the sustainability of the municipalities across the territory and what it is that we can do to ensure that we have continued municipal health in our communities.

I can say that I'm very proud of the work that the Department of Community Services does in collaboration with our communities. This initiative has led to a number of specific projects that we have committed to work with, whether it's reviewing the *Municipal Act*, whether it's coming up with a new comprehensive five-year municipal grant program that commences this year, whether it comes down to asset management or coming up with municipal sustainability indicators, or solid waste, as I mentioned before, these are all specific initiatives that we have been working on hand in hand with municipal governments through AYC and utilizing their leadership.

It's something that we continue to work on — in terms of investing in infrastructure, for example. Whether it's waste improvements, drinking water improvements, road upgrades or waste-water treatment, there are many joint investments that have and continue to be made in our communities. It lends to those communities being more attractive places for families to live and to grow their families. We have seen a lot of economic growth in the territory and that is lending to the growth of our communities as well and it's great to see.

I go back to my ongoing routine visits with the communities, and it's great to be able to connect one on one with mayors and councils and major stakeholders in our communities to address issues of importance.

I just want to say that I appreciate our collaborative working relationship with AYC, helping ensure that our communities are healthy, vibrant, and sustainable on an ongoing basis, and I believe much of the work that we continue to do on behalf of communities and with communities is really making a significant difference in the lives of our citizens.

As the member pointed out, we do have a number of staff in many communities, whether it is inspectors, wildland fire or emergency medical services individuals. We also have a number of great individuals, community advisors who work hand in hand with each of our communities on an ongoing basis. We have individuals through EMO and sport and recreation operations. They all work very closely with the communities as well, and so we recognize the importance of employment in communities. We recognize the importance of making those communities sustainable and healthy on a continuing basis. That's why we continue to invest under the Building Canada program, through FireSmart and that which provides direct employment benefits for rural members in those communities, provides contracts and many jobs through the work that is being undertaken in our communities, whether it's Ross River with the recreation centre going up, Beaver Creek with the fire hall going up or the land development projects that we're working on in the community of Mayo, in Carmacks and in the member's own riding.

We recognize the importance, which is why we have a Department of Community Services to leverage those funding opportunities in working with our partners — First Nation governments and municipal governments — to really extend the reach of those dollar amounts.

We are committed to growing our economy and also to growing our municipalities to meet those challenges today and also in the future.

Mr. Tredger: I agree that Community Services is committed and is doing a lot of things in communities. I guess my question was whether there was any move to decentralize staffing and employ more Community Services staff in the communities. I will take it that there is no action plan around that.

Earlier the minister spoke about 911 and 911 service to the communities. I just wanted to reiterate what my colleagues and the minister have acknowledged — that the 911 service is very important to our communities. The computer-assisted dispatching holds a lot of potential. As the minister referred to, it's a complex situation and there is a lot involved. We've been

working on it since a feasibility study in 2003, and it continues on. I was a little disappointed to hear — because I know how much our responders were looking forward to movement on this — that the March meeting was postponed. In the meantime, I think it's critical that the department continue with civic addressing and mapping of our communities and our residences in rural areas. This would be critical when we move eventually to a 911 computer-aided dispatch system. It's also important for our responders. We were made aware of a situation where often an ambulance crew might leave Faro or may leave Pelly, and they meet up with an ambulance crew from Carmacks.

It would be important to have the pull-outs identified. I know Highways and Public Works — thank you to them and the cooperation to keep the pull-outs cleared so that the ambulances do have an area to turn around in.

But the mapping of those kinds of areas and the mapping of our communities so that a responder knows the hazards that they can expect when they move into a building — all that would assist and put in place a 911 program and a computer-aided dispatch program. Newfoundland and Labrador, which the Member for Klondike referenced — similar terrain and small, isolated communities — has a 911 system in place, and it is currently saving lives. It's working and it has been effective. We've been talking about it for quite awhile. Will the minister make this a priority? Does the department have an action plan to move forward on this expeditiously?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I'd like to thank all the added comments coming from all sides of the Assembly. Just to go over this one more time, we're working on a whole host of different fronts in terms of enhancing our emergency response times. That's really what has been the focus of this government and previous governments as well.

That is really investing in training opportunities and infrastructure and making available the necessary resources for our responders to do the job they are required to do on a timely basis, whether it's investments in new public works buildings, which are complete with search and rescue, fire and EMS or it's working toward new training opportunities. The investments in the Fire Marshal's Office — \$2 million new investment in that office alone — has really widened the capacity of that office to respond and be more proactive and preventive by providing inspections of buildings and by providing training that is so necessary for our firefighters, whether volunteer or paid, within municipal fire departments or in other departments. We oversee some 16 fire departments, I might add, in unincorporated Yukon. We have made investments in a mobile live fire training unit, which should be ready to deploy to the communities later this summer. That is really adding to the strength of the training capacity of our responders too.

While I very much recognize the importance of 911, I think it is also just as or more important to ensure that we have the capacity to respond to the call, however we receive that call. So we have made significant improvements, in terms of EMS, with added new employees; continuing on, expanding our training and our education capacity by providing programs through Yukon College — the paramedic care program, for example. You know and even in terms of Wildland Fire — that

too — the new investments in air tanker groups, for example, and new fuel systems that will accommodate that as well. That is all very important, in terms of providing a timely and efficient and effective response to our communities. There are many investments being made around the territory to enhance our response.

In terms of civic addressing and 911, again, I'd be happy to reiterate some of my comments from yesterday and today, but these all work hand in hand as well. Civic addressing — we have been working with communities over the past number of years, and we are working individually with each of the respective communities, as I mentioned earlier — Mount Lorne, Ibx Valley, Tagish, South Klondike, Marsh Lake — again, identifying some of the community signage needs and coming up with those individual workplans to determine the identified needs and what that work will entail, as well as supporting those communities when they go to engage their residents to determine specifically what their needs and priorities are, in terms of house numbering and street signage.

Of course, anything that we do would be in line with all of our emergency response agencies and with any future 911 territorial initiative. I've stated that on a number of occasions. Again, we are working with those LACs individually. We respect the autonomy of each of those, and we respect the unique needs of each of those specific communities in responding to the needs of their residents. We are working with the LACs to engage their communities in this process, and we're committed to doing just that.

We spoke to 911 earlier and I thank the MLA for Klondike for his questions in this regard. We have been working with an inner agency — a 911 management committee — which is really comprised of management individuals who work within EMS; they work within fire; they work within the RCMP; and the City of Whitehorse is also present at the table. We have struck a working group specifically to look at the 911 initiative, to look at types of 911 service, so looking to other jurisdictions — what has worked — and the technical feasibility. It is a complex initiative. There are many different players at play.

The costs associated — how to roll that out; who will pay for that service? There are a number of components. We look forward to the information that will be forthcoming at some point from Northwestel and look forward to being able then to report back to the management committee and taking it from there.

We are taking steps and working very collaboratively with the community. I appreciate the efforts of each of the stakeholders who were at the table and, of course, internally within government we are also committed to working with Highways and Public Works, Economic Development and the Department of Health and Social Services in terms of ensuring that our efforts are also integrated from an internal point of view.

It is very important. I can't stress enough how grateful we are to the responders who work in these different agencies and the hard work that they do on our behalf every day. We take our obligations very seriously to protect those responders and we work very hard to ensure that not only do they receive the proper equipment, but have the training required to use that

equipment safely. We're committed to ensuring that those front-line agencies that deliver those services on our behalf have the resources necessary to complete their mandate.

Mr. Tredger: I thank the minister for a concise answer. When I was talking to responders in my constituency, there is one thing they noted that I'm just wondering whether or not Community Services is working on. There are a number of departments that are often involved in responding to an emergency, and they cited the lack of MOUs between the departments as sometimes getting in the way. The MOUs may be as simple as ensuring that they will provide support to the best of their ability, where appropriate, and that has helped coordination between conservation officers, the RCMP, EMS and Wildland Fire Management. I'm just wondering whether or not the minister has been working on something like that and if she could give us an update or whether it's something that is being considered.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: When it comes to inter-agency collaboration, I think one only has to point to the washouts, for example, that occurred last year in Upper Liard and some of the potential flooding that was looking imminent in the Southern Lakes area. We can look to Mayo and the winter flooding issues and also to the telecommunication outage. Those were perfect examples of how those different agencies and multi-levels of government and orders of government come together, working with volunteers and individual citizens to really respond effectively and efficiently to the calls in those times of crisis.

Of course, we have a number of mutual-aid agreements in place when it comes to emergency response services.

There are also MOUs in place among respective agencies that we work with, between EMO, EMS and fire. It's those specific incidents that really strengthen our ability and our capacity to respond in a better way the next time that should happen.

I can't say enough about the many individuals who rose to the occasion, worked with municipal governments in Watson Lake — for example, the Liard First Nation — to really come together with Wildland Fire Management, the RCMP, EMO, EMS and the structural fire department in Watson Lake. That's but one example, but it was a very huge event that could have been even more catastrophic than what it was. It's those events that teach us to strengthen our response and be more integrated. It helps showcase what improvements may be required on an ongoing basis. We have experienced a lot of those events and to be sure, with changes in our climate, there will continue to be added response times.

Also on the mitigation end of it — committing to continue to invest in mitigation where we can — we have identified dollars for flood erosion, for example — flood mitigation. I know this is one of the areas that I spoke with the federal minister responsible for infrastructure — or I should say the federal minister responsible for public safety and infrastructure — in Ottawa recently about making available the opportunity to leverage those added resources not just for emergency response and prevention, but also in mitigating emergencies as they come. As I understand, they are working on a program as we

speaking, which is great to hear because we have certainly submitted many expenses over the years in terms of working to address those emergencies at the time and also the aftermath.

So we are very much committed to learning from those incidents and applying those incidents to similar situations in the future and ensuring that the lessons we have learned can be applied to emergency management throughout the Yukon going forward.

I should also add that later on this year we are going to be hosting the Canadian Forces' Operation Nanook 2013. That is going to be a very significant event for Yukon. It is the largest annual operation of its kind in the north. It's primarily a scenario-based training exercise to develop and test our capacity to provide emergency assistance to disaster relief operations in the territory. I attended one of the planning meetings — what they called their initial planning meeting — that was held in Whitehorse. As I understand it, that was the first time ever that meeting had taken place outside of Ottawa. It is a demonstration of how advanced the Yukon is and how strong a response we do have. I thank the members of the Canadian Forces for the opportunity and the ability to further integrate our emergency response, and it will be a really great opportunity for the entire Yukon to come together with some 500 or 600 military personnel from across the country to come together and be able to do one or two tabletop exercises — planning initiatives — and it will provide us the opportunity to really hone in on those management skills during the partnership.

We'll work very closely with our municipalities, the RCMP and, of course, the federal government and industry. Again, there is another example of how we are working to strengthen our response and just another opportunity to say thank you to the many responders who work and are very much committed to improving our ability and capacity to respond accordingly.

Mr. Tredger: I thank the minister for her answer. It's good to hear that we're learning from emergencies and situations and that we're looking for ways to enable responders to work together and to improve and work in their communities and ensuring we are up to date in responding to emergencies.

There is much to be learned. It's good to hear that all of us are working toward that.

I would like to raise a situation — I have raised it before in the Legislature — that is to do with the emergency medical services responding in Pelly Crossing. Currently and for a number of years this issue has been raised with the Premier by the Chief and Council of the Selkirk First Nation. They have also raised it over the last number of years. It is a very serious situation and it is very concerning that we still have not made progress on that. Currently if someone needs emergency medical services in Pelly Crossing, they are able to call for an ambulance. The responder comes very quickly and takes the person to the Pelly Crossing nursing station, where they are assessed.

If it is determined that they need to be medevaced to Whitehorse, they are then put into an ambulance again and transferred to Stewart Crossing, which is about an hour north of Pelly Crossing. At Stewart Crossing, they're then transferred from the Pelly Crossing ambulance to the Mayo ambulance.

They're taken by ambulance from the Stewart Crossing corner to the Mayo hospital. In the Mayo hospital, they're then admitted to the hospital. The hospital stabilizes them and provides what medical services it can while they call in a medevac or an airplane.

When the medevac arrives, the patient is then transferred by ambulance from the hospital to the airplane. The airplane then flies, usually with one, maybe two — or actually it would be two — nurses and possibly a doctor from Mayo to Whitehorse. At the Whitehorse airport, they're then transferred from the airplane to another ambulance and taken down to the hospital, where they're finally transferred to the hospital.

That's a very arduous trip. It takes anywhere from three to six hours, minimum. I heard of another critically ill person making that journey. I know of several others who have made it over the last few years.

The concern seems to be around the airport and its ability to handle medevac planes. I do know that it does have plane service for the legal system, and on court days the planes fly in and out. Unfortunately, I'm not sure why they're not able to use medical planes to do the same. I'm wondering if the minister would work with the Minister of Highways and Public Works to ensure that this does not continue. It's untenable in terms of health care. It's a poor use of our responders because they are often out of their communities when they are making these exchanges on the roads, and I can't see it making any fiscal sense at all to involve that number of personnel on a trip. Personally, I know that when my father was flown through that route, my wife drove down to Whitehorse and was there several hours before we were on our circuitous route. That's not unique, as I say. It has happened at least twice since the new year and continues to happen. Again, I would ask that the minister work with the Minister of Highways and Public Works to sort that out and to see what can be done for the people of Pelly Crossing here.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I'd like to thank the member opposite for his question. We will work with Highways and Public Works to look at the issue wherever we can. Of course, that's done on an ongoing basis. We continue to review our operations and ensure that it is delivering health care and certainly this forms a very important part of the delivery of health care, as performed in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

While I'm on my feet, I also wanted to say that I had the opportunity to attend the Skills competition and the awards banquet later on in the evening. It was actually the team from Pelly Crossing that won the competition, as I seem to recall. I have to say they were a great couple of guys who were very committed. Every time I'm through Pelly Crossing, I tend to run into one of these individuals.

He's very passionate about his community of Pelly Crossing and very passionate about the line of work that he does as well. I just thought I would pass that along because it's another example of a great emergency responder doing some really good work on his community's behalf and on Yukon's behalf. We're pretty grateful to have had him on our team. He speaks pretty highly of the collaborative working relationship that he has with the department.

Mr. Tredger: Yes indeed, the Yukon is very fortunate to have the quality of responders, volunteers and people who work out in the communities and for the good of all Yukoners. Thank you for that; I'll pass that along.

When I was in Mayo talking to the Na Cho Nyäk Dun, they were talking about a possible land exchange up by the government buildings on top of the bank there. I'm wondering whether that would have been with the minister's department or whether she has an update on that and what I can pass on to Na Cho Nyäk Dun.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I am not familiar with the exchange the member opposite just referred to. We can certainly look into it and refer to that. It may involve the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, of course, but we can certainly look into that.

Mr. Tredger: I have no further questions. I just wanted to again thank the staff of the Department of Community Services for the work they're doing in the communities. It is much appreciated. It does make a difference. I know it has enhanced the life of many people, in many communities. I would encourage staff to relocate in one of our beautiful outlying communities.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I just wanted to thank the member opposite again for his remarks about the department.

I very much appreciate their hard work and their commitment. It is a very busy department and it has been a very challenging portfolio, for me especially, in a good way. I have great respect for the work that the department does and I know that the communities appreciate it as well.

Chair: Is there any further general debate?
We're going to move to line-by-line debate.

On Corporate Services

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Deputy Minister's Office

Ms. Hanson: I just have a question with respect to building maintenance, renovations and space. That's a significant increase. What is —

Chair: Where are you?

Ms. Hanson: Page 6-7.

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Ms. Hanson: Oh, Deputy Minister's Office — sorry.

Chair: Thank you. We are going to back up just one step here anyway. The heading is Corporate Services and I'd like to ask if there is any general debate on Corporate Services. That is page 6-7. The title of the category is Corporate Services. Any general debate?

Ms. Hanson: To clarify: I should know this, but I'm going to ask you anyway — if I want to ask that question, do I do that in general debate or in line-by-line debate?

Chair: The Chair is not quite sure what question you are talking about.

Ms. Hanson: The question I started to ask and you said we weren't there. I was asking the question about the building maintenance, renovations and space estimate increase, and I was asking if I should be waiting. I don't want to belabour this; I just want to make sure I don't keep making a mistake here.

Chair: That would be in line-by-line debate under capital expenditures, if you wish, although you could also address it in general debate under Corporate Services.

Ms. Hanson: Thank you, Madam Chair, for that latitude. That being said, then my question for the minister is just for a breakdown on, or an explanation for, the proposed increase for building maintenance, renovations and space.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: That line item is \$610,000 and it consists of dollars for capital maintenance on a number of Community Services buildings. We're moving EMS administrative staff from the Yukon Electrical building to the new emergency response facility — makes sense; \$5,000 for the move of the public library to the Beaver Creek school, and of course that's to facilitate the construction of the Beaver Creek fire hall. We have dollars to move Community Development from the main administration building to the Lynn Building. We have also tenant improvements for the Lynn Building, so that makes up the lion's share of the improvements there.

I think that there is also \$30,000 for replacing some furniture and equipment due to the Community Development move and also for moving Building Safety to another location. There are a lot of different items in that particular line item — hopefully that is sufficient.

Chair: Is there any further general debate on Corporate Services?

Deputy Minister's Office in the amount of \$486,000 agreed to

On Human Resources

Human Resources in the amount of \$769,000 agreed to

On Finance, Systems and Administration

Finance, Systems and Administration in the amount of \$1,852,000 agreed to

On Policy

Policy in the amount of \$726,000 agreed to

On Communications

Communications in the amount of \$437,000 agreed to

Corporate Services Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$4,270,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Information Technology Equipment and Systems

Information Technology Equipment and Systems in the amount of \$324,000 agreed to

On Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space

Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space in the amount of \$610,000 agreed to

Corporate Services Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$934,000 agreed to

Corporate Services Total Expenditures in the amount of \$5,204,000 agreed to

On Protective Services

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Program Administration

Program Administration in the amount of \$490,000 agreed to

On Emergency Measures

Emergency Measures in the amount of \$625,000 agreed to

On Fire Marshal

*Fire Marshal in the amount of \$1,710,000 agreed to
On Fire Management*

*Fire Management in the amount of \$14,638,000 agreed to
On Emergency Medical Services*

Ms. Hanson: Can I get a breakdown of that, please?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: This comprises a number of different expenditures, primarily for personnel — \$6,357,000 for personnel includes salaries, wages and benefits for a director and 64 positions. The remainder of those dollars includes transfer payments, for travel, for rental expenses, contract services, program materials, repairs and maintenance, all of the utilities, communications, for training, for printing supplies and so forth.

Emergency Medical Services in the amount of \$8,634,000 agreed to

On Safety Resources

Safety Resources in the amount of \$391,000 agreed to

Protective Services Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$26,488,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Program Administration

On Prior Years' Projects

Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared

On Emergency Measures

Ms. Hanson: Just a question with respect to what is encompassed in the capital for Emergency Measures; it's a significant decrease in terms of the ongoing upkeep of this function.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I'm just trying to recall the reason for that expenditure decrease. I don't have that at my fingertips, but I'm thinking perhaps it could have to do with a federal program that is coming to a wind-down, but I would have to get clarity from the department for those added — actually, I was wrong. It was attributed to some of the expenditures to do with the Mayo flood.

Emergency Measures in the amount of \$13,000 agreed to

On Fire Marshal

On Beaver Creek Firehall Replacement

Beaver Creek Firehall Replacement in the amount of \$3,668,000 agreed to

On Fire Protection

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Madam Chair, I just wanted to again highlight the significant increases in this particular line. Of course it is attributed to the mobile fire training facility, which should be up and running later on this summer. It will be a key attribute for training purposes that will assist our municipal fire departments as well as our unincorporated volunteer fire departments.

It also is going to enable us to double up on the purchase of fire trucks, so from one, traditionally, we have expanded to two fire trucks every year. That is also pertinent to the \$2-million increase that we announced a year ago. Of course it will also go toward additional dollars for turnout gear replacement thereafter and complying with occupational health and safety standards and the new regime in terms of advancing safety for our firefighters.

It also reflects dollars for breathing apparatus, fill stations, various tools for extraction, communications, radio pager re-

placements and so on. Again this is just another example of how the Yukon government is working to invest in our emergency response.

Madam Chair, seeing the time, I move that the Chair report progress.

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

Motion agreed to

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

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

Chair's report

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

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

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

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

Motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 5:30 p.m.