

**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Tuesday, May 7, 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.

Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of Habitat for Humanity and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations housing partnership

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: It gives me great pleasure today to pay tribute to an innovative housing partnership between Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Habitat for Humanity.

This innovative project received Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's 2012 Aboriginal Housing Award at the Habitat for Humanity national AGM held in Niagara Falls last week, demonstrating, once again, that the Yukon is a national leader in building better communities.

The First House triplex project has broken new ground in more than one way. It is the first project of its kind to be built on First Nation settlement land and is a model in energy efficiency.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Habitat for Humanity for building an incredibly energy-efficient triplex together and for building a partnership that is responding to the housing needs of low-income Champagne and Aishihik First Nations families.

The building site for the first house is located in the great riding of Kluane at the Takhini River subdivision, and the homes are scheduled for completion later this spring.

Over time, many hands have helped to build this triplex, from the local residents to the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. The final result is a shining example of a community coming together to build a better future for those in need.

As I said, First House is Habitat for Humanity's first ever build on First Nation settlement land in Canada and is an inspiration to housing planners across the country.

This new approach to meeting the housing needs of the First Nation people also garnered Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Yukon Habitat for Humanity affiliate Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's 2012 Aboriginal Housing Award.

The relationship between the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Habitat for Humanity is unique in Canada and is a model for future aboriginal housing partnerships, both within the Yukon and nationally.

Most of the credit for this partnership should be directed to the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Chief and Council

for their vision and leadership and to Mr. Terry Rufiange-Holway, the director of housing and municipal services for the First Nation, who was instrumental in implementing the project.

It was their initiative to move forward with the Assembly of First Nations and Habitat for Humanity Canada program that allowed the Yukon collaboration to proceed. The First House triplex will be constructed to exceed Yukon Housing Corporation's SuperGreen certification standards. This means these SuperGreen homes will feature R-87 insulated walls and R-100 insulated ceilings. The homes will also feature quadruple-paned windows, double Arctic door entries, and efficient heating recovery and ventilation units. Because the triplex will be built to SuperGreen standards, heating costs will be minimal, which will reduce the significant financial burden for those low-income families who will live in the first house.

The first house will also feature rooftop solar panels harnessing solar energy. In this way, it will further reduce the heating and lighting costs for the resident families and will ensure that the monthly utility bills are as low as possible.

In addition to the energy-saving features of First House, the triplex will also incorporate many accommodating home features that will make it easier for people with mobility issues to fully and safely use their home. Accommodation home features include wider halls and doorways, wheelchair-turning access in the bathrooms and kitchens, and all bathrooms are designed so that the grab bars or the supports can be easily installed, if and when required by residents.

When the construction of First House is completed, three low-income First Nation families identified by the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations that meet Habitat's normal partner family selection criteria will be able to move in.

Congratulations again to everyone involved in the housing and building partnership that made this unique project possible. I'm glad to see First House in my riding and the work by Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Habitat for Humanity Yukon gaining national recognition for their work.

In closing, I would like to introduce some of the key players here today in the House. Please help me bring a warm welcome to the Chief of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, James Allen; Terry Rufiange-Holway, who was the director of housing for Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Habitat for Humanity board member; Arthur Mitchell, the chair of Habitat for Humanity Yukon; and Robyn Parker, Habitat for Humanity board member.

Also, we have Jean-Marc Bélanger, the site supervisor; Stéphan Poirier, his apprentice; and this is good — for *Hansard* purposes, Peg Travis, the secretary of the board, works in *Hansard*, so your name is in *Hansard*, Peg.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any introductions of visitors?
Are there any returns or documents for tabling?
Are there any reports of committees?
Are there any petitions for presentation?
Are there any bills to be introduced?
Are there any notices of motion?

NOTICES OF MOTION

Ms. Stick: I give notice of the following motion:
THAT this House recognizes that:

(1) Sunday, May 5, marked the International Day of the Midwife; and

(2) the Yukon government conducted a consultation with Yukoners interested in midwifery and promised to consider regulating and funding midwifery services three years ago; and

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to provide a clear statement as to when it intends to regulate and fund midwifery.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to ensure the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges begins to meet regularly to address outstanding agenda items.

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

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Whole child project

Ms. Hanson: The classroom is not the ideal place to deal with social and family issues like violence, hunger or mental health, but the school can be a place to bring families and services together. This is the philosophy behind the whole child project, which has been highly successful for over a decade. Whole child offers school-based programs in the evenings, brings families together, and helps to connect families that are at risk with service providers. The evidence has been clear. The unique, proven whole child approach helps build relationships and helps family and children to find tools to be successful in life and the classroom.

There is a conflict between volunteer whole child advocates and the Department of Education over the direction of the program. The department is implementing its plan and ignoring the pleas of the volunteer board of directors. Will the minister meet with the society, listen to their concerns and ensure that the voices of the whole child advocates are heard with regard to any decisions —

Speaker: Order please.

Hon. Mr. Kent: I have met with the board of directors of the Whole Child Society, with the Deputy Minister of Education on one occasion, and there was a follow-up meeting between the Deputy Minister of Education and a senior official in Public Schools.

I can inform the House that Yukon Education is entirely committed to the whole child program and actually looking to expand the program from three schools to four, and we're prepared to provide additional funding to ensure the program's continued success.

Ms. Hanson: I know the minister has spoken highly of the whole child program before. Last fall he said — and I quote: “that the program provides effective coordination of services from the local child serving agencies and institutions

and the development of improved community capacity”. But, despite this, and as the minister just said, the department may be enthusiastic about expanding, but they're not enthusiastic about working with the whole child advocates.

The department's unilateral approach is replacing a tried and true, successful community-initiated model with a departmental model. Child advocates say that the department's unilateral plan is a lower-cost scheme diluted through four schools and run by up to five part-time teachers. Why is the department taking a direction that is opposed by the whole child advocates?

Hon. Mr. Kent: The whole child program has existed at Whitehorse Elementary School since 2001. It was more recently added to Elijah Smith Elementary in 2006, and Selkirk Elementary in 2011. Again, as I mentioned, Education is looking to expand the whole child program to an additional school this year as well. The coordinator of the program is a teacher based at Whitehorse Elementary School where the program is fully implemented and working well. The program is not fully implemented at either of the other two satellite schools currently, so what we are looking to do is add a dedicated program coordinator for each of the four school communities — again, working with the principals at Selkirk and Elijah Smith and Whitehorse Elementary. Yukon Education and those three partners don't believe that the position requires a teacher's skill set, as it is a coordinating role rather than a role based on instruction.

Ms. Hanson: Mr. Speaker, the minister's approach doesn't square with the reality of the whole child advocates — what they have lived and worked with for over 10 years. They are frustrated with the approach that has been taken by the department. They feel it will not work and disrespects their hard work for over a decade.

Advocates are asking the department and the minister to call for a time-out on their unilateral plan until there is proper consultation in the best interests of the program and at-risk children. The minister and senior management of his department have heard this loud and clear from the society, yet they are still proceeding with this. This is serious. The minister needs to show leadership.

Will the minister listen to the whole child advocates and agree to a time-out to allow for real consultation with the whole child program?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Mr. Speaker, again, as mentioned, Yukon Department of Education, as well as the principals — the administrators, the leaders — of those schools at Selkirk, Elijah Smith and Whitehorse Elementary do not believe that the position requires a teacher skill set as it is a coordinating role, rather than a role focused on instruction.

What we are looking to do is have dedicated program coordinators for each of the four school communities and to work with the whole child program's volunteer board of directors toward even greater success for the students who access this program.

Mr. Speaker, I find it an interesting question, because I know that in November 2012, the Member for Mayo-Tatchun, the public school critic for the New Democrats, asked me: Will

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

This is one of the positions that is centrally assigned, and acting on questions from the Member for Mayo-Tatchun, that's precisely what we're doing, in consultation of course with the principals and our other partners in education. We look forward to working with the volunteer board of directors at the Whole Child Society.

Question re: Airport runway safety

Ms. Moorcroft: Mr. Speaker, airport runways are a special piece of infrastructure and can't be treated the same way as a one-mile stretch of highway.

For example, the tar and sand used on runways is a much higher quality than what is used on Yukon highways. According to a Transport Canada safety report dated June 8, 2011, the Whitehorse tower reported that tarring vehicles were working on a runway prior to a plane landing. A chunk of tar broke off and flipped up, hitting the landing gear and underside of an Air Canada Jazz airliner. The report indicates that following this incident, all remaining tar strips were removed from the runway. This may have been due to a poorer quality highway-grade tar being used instead of airport-runway grade tar to fill in cracks on the runway.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Highways confirm that cracks in the airport runway are being filled using airport-runway grade tar?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I thank the member opposite for the question. The Premier mentioned something yesterday about us not being out there fixing it, so just to let you know.

To the members opposite's question, of course we're fixing this. The government takes safety of Yukoners and the travelling public very seriously at our airports. I spoke to this yesterday. I'm not sure where the member opposite is going, but I am starting to see a trend when it comes to either airports or roads, and safety is the utmost standard. The recently received federal funding for purchasing some of our new equipment — Mr. Speaker, you can see that out there — but our airports are safe. I'm not sure where the member opposite is coming from.

Ms. Moorcroft: Not only does this raise another safety issue, but the cracks on the runway are now chipping the blades on the plows. Poor plowing means a lower runway friction index, which in turn means a runway that is slippery and a greater safety risk. It would appear that part of the reason for the airport's frequent unacceptable RFI is that the sweeper equipment is old, is not purpose-built for airport runways, is in need of repair and is not up to current standards. Good infrastructure and equipment are essential for the safe operation of airports. There were several occasions this winter when there was no sweeper plow available at all for the airport, because they were all in for repair.

Can the minister tell us what his department's plans are to replace and upgrade aging airport runway maintenance equipment?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: Our maintenance crews do strive to maintain the runway friction between 0.40 and 0.45, and 0.50 is considered to be perfect. After using our snow-

plows, our sweepers and our snow blowers, we use sand and anti-icing and de-icing chemicals to increase friction on the runway. Our equipment is good to go. We have mechanics who work on our equipment. The Department of Highways and Public Works is just in the process of putting our equipment in a revolving fund like the rest of our equipment. We might put extra hours into our equipment maintenance-wise, but our equipment is always available for the runway.

A good example is on April 25, 2013, when wet snow began to fall at the Whitehorse airport. We are in the Yukon, and it does snow and we have to get out there and maintain it. At the beginning of the snow removal, an initial runway friction index of 0.27 was reported to the NavCanada tower at approximately 1:25 p.m. local time. It was because it was snowing. The maintenance crew spent hours plowing and sweeping wet, freezing snow from the runway. When the maintenance was completed, maintenance crews reported a runway friction index of 0.48. I alluded to the fact that 0.50 is considered to be perfect; we had nearly ideal conditions. There were no flight delays or cancellations.

Ms. Moorcroft: Last week, the Minister of Highways and Public Works said the government was working with and collaborating with the Government of Canada on monies that would come in to improve infrastructure — that working with our partners within the Government of Canada is integral to the growth of Yukon infrastructure and will make our dollars go further.

I'm wondering if the minister is familiar with the federal airports capital assistance program, which will cover 85 percent of safety-related costs to replace and maintain airport infrastructure and equipment. It would seem that the Yukon government, instead of seizing on this opportunity for Canada to cover 85 percent of the costs, spends its time worrying about the 15 percent it would have to cover. Meanwhile, the issues surrounding maintenance, repairs and safety sit for another year.

How much equipment, if any, has the Yukon government purchased with the assistance of the airports capital assistance program?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Again, I'm concerned that we see the Opposition again trying really to create fear in the community about the airports and really putting into question perhaps the negligence of those people who are working to ensure that there is safety at those airports.

I stood up here yesterday, and I said that we respect the professional judgment that goes on — the work that's done by the public servants who are out there who are ensuring the safety. As you know, air traffic control and pilots decide when it's safe and not safe to land, and it's federally regulated by Transport Canada.

We are continuing to ensure that we live within those parameters and, as I mentioned yesterday, I'm certain we would have heard from the airlines if there were a concern. This is just an attempt by the Official Opposition to create some fear.

In response to her question regarding the federal program, yes, in fact we do know about that program and have utilized that program to purchase assets.

Question re: Shakwak project funding

Mr. Silver: I have a question for the Minister of Highways and Public Works about the future of the Shakwak project. Since the 1970s the United States government has been providing funding to upgrade the highway from Haines, Alaska, to Beaver Creek. Over the years the funding provided for construction that has totalled more than \$400 million. In 2011, Shakwak accounted for approximately 40 percent of our entire highway construction budget. In 2011 it was \$20 million, and in this year's budget it is \$17.5 million. The problem is the funding for the project for future years has been cut off in the United States. What is the minister doing to get the United States government to continue funding this important project?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I thank the member opposite for the question. Those in the riding of Kluane who are listening will be happy to hear that the government, because of our good fiscal responsibility and planning, still has \$48 million in reserve of the U.S. funding for Shakwak, so that's going to be able to extend us to keep working on it for future years.

Mr. Speaker, I was at the TIA conference — the member was also there, as well as the Leader of the Official Opposition. When I spoke there, I spoke of the great working relationship we have with our counterparts in the State of Alaska, and we have debated a motion in the House regarding working on infrastructure with the Government of Canada. My fellow colleagues and I, any time we are at meetings, are pushing Washington and working with our state counterparts.

On that note, the Governor of the State of Alaska has unequivocally committed to the fact that we will work together on this, and there will always be money to keep the only access road to Alaska safe for the travelling public.

Mr. Silver: Mr. Speaker, this funding is very important in our road-building industry. Each summer, hundreds of Yukoners are employed because of this funding. At \$17.5 million, it was the largest item in the transportation capital budget. In 2014, the United States government will pass a new transportation bill. The minister's goal should be to get Shakwak money into that piece of legislation.

In 1977, the Canadian and the United States governments negotiated the Shakwak agreement. The funding actually flows from the United States to our federal government and then to the U.S.

Has the minister raised this issue with the Government of Canada? Are they helping to get this money reinstated, and if not, why not?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: Absolutely, we have. Actually, my deputy minister was just down in Ottawa not long ago and that was one of the topics of conversation with our federal counterparts.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the renewal of Shakwak funding, we know that it was pulled out of a bill just before the last election for President of the United States. On an ongoing basis, we are communicating with our fellow counterparts. We talk about the Haines Road, the Skagway Road — both roads that we put our dollars into to maintain and keep open for citizens of the United States of America to get through to Alaska — soldiers who are providing sovereignty for their State of

Alaska. We talk about people who move back and forth from the State of Alaska; we talk about the tourism industry; we talk about all the necessities and the reasons why the Alaska Highway is so important. We're going above and beyond the call of duty and it is on our radar. I have confidence in the department and confidence in our leaders that we will maintain this road to the utmost standard for years and years to come.

Mr. Silver: There is still a question as to where that money's going to come from. The Shakwak project means millions of dollars a year and hundreds of jobs. It has been a mainstay of our highway budget for more than 30 years and it is in danger of drying up. An official in the minister's department told the local media in January, and I quote: "We never had any indication that Shakwak was on the cutting block and it was a surprise to the people in Washington that we deal with as well."

This is a big pot of money. I believe it will be worth our while to have someone in Washington working on our behalf on this project. Has the government ever hired a lobbyist in Washington to work on this issue, and if not, will the minister consider the suggestion?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: The member opposite might want to talk to the other members on the other side of the House about lobbyists, but this government has been working diligently on this issue. I have spoken directly to the Governor of Alaska about this. We are also working with the U.S. State Department, working with our federal government through DFAIT — Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade — through the Minister Baird, we also have talked with our Member of Parliament and our Senator, and we're also working with the Canadian Ambassador to the United States in Washington. So, we are working on this.

We realize the importance of this. One of our main messages that we have going forward is the fact that the United States government did sign an agreement to complete this project, so we will continue to work on that. But I have to say that the strong financial management of the last 10 years of Yukon Party government has put us in the position to be able to mitigate risks as they come up. This was one of those risks that I spoke about last year within the Budget Address, through the year, and in fact again this year when I talked about some of the risks and why we need to ensure that we remain financially responsible so that when risks rear their head, we are in a position so that we are not taking money away from tomorrow's projects to pay for today's issues.

Question re: Highway improvements

Mr. Tredger: It is evident this spring that the highway between Minto and Pelly Crossing is becoming increasingly unsafe. The frost heaves, particularly around Rock Island Lake, are a major hazard. Ever year this is a problem but with the increased heavy truck and industrial traffic we have a road that is fast deteriorating. I routinely hear these concerns from my constituents and have observed it on my travels in the riding.

It is no good touting Yukon as a place to visit or invest in if our highways are not safe and adequately maintained. The government is spending more each year on maintenance for

this area, but the highway is deteriorating faster than the hard-working crews can keep up.

Will the minister tell this House how he will address the need for a significant upgrade of the highway between Minto and Pelly Crossing?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: The member opposite is correct. In the Yukon we do face significant challenges in developing and maintaining the network of roads that provide the very foundation of our territory — the link that the member was talking about.

That huge challenge is met and can be met on a daily basis by the men and women who have devoted their careers to building, maintaining and monitoring the clearing of public roads and highways. I have confidence in my department. The rest of us have confidence in my department. The members opposite seem to not have as much confidence as we do here. We're very proud of our employees and the work that they do. I'm hoping the members opposite support this budget, because there is a lot of money going toward roads in this budget.

Mr. Tredger: Residents are saying that roads are unsafe. Another stretch of highway that is in serious need of upgrading is the Silver Trail between Mayo and Keno. This stretch of highway is the lifeblood of the town of Keno and is important for all communities along the historic Silver Trail — a tourist route that the government promotes.

It is how Alexco and other mines in the area get their workers to work, how they get their equipment in and out and how they get their ore out to market. Yet I'm hearing from many constituents that they have real concerns about their safety when travelling the Silver Trail to Keno. The Yukon government has made commitments in the past to upgrade the Silver Trail but residents see little evidence of that. Will the minister tell this House when he will make upgrading the Silver Trail into a safer highway a priority?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: We devote a significant portion of our annual capital and O&M budgets to building and maintaining Yukon roads. If you look through the budget, Mr. Speaker, we have monies allotted for the Silver Trail this year, along with all other roads. We're having a late spring, from spring to summer. People might think it's spring to fall, but we're hoping for summer. We just finished what I call the travelling road show, because they go and look at all our roads. They drive the 5,000 kilometres of roads that we have; they identify the key priorities. I'm very happy with the department. They pick the priorities that are most needed and that's why we have an O&M budget. We get out there and fix it. We're between winter and we're heading into spring and fall. The crews will be out there fixing stuff.

We encourage the travelling public to travel on our roads and to use discretion when they travel. Please vote in favour of the budget.

Mr. Tredger: This is a serious safety concern and the roads are deteriorating over time. Another serious highway safety issue from my constituents is that traffic is not slowing down as it approaches and enters Pelly Crossing, Carmacks and Stewart Crossing. It is clear that the posted signs are not adequate. Folks barrel down into all three communities, arriving in

residential areas at excessive and unsafe speeds. Then there is the speed that people travel on to the bridges, the same narrow bridges that are often used by pedestrians. Again, this affects all three of these communities. The people of Pelly Crossing, Carmacks and Stewart Crossing want action on this issue. They are suggesting a quick fix.

Will the minister consider solutions like flashing lights and better, more visible, signage and lighting on the approaches into Pelly Crossing, Carmacks and Stewart Crossing?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I was going to start quoting from my budget, but this is actually near and dear to my heart.

I've had case files come in on this exact issue, but in other communities too — I just received one about a crosswalk in Haines Junction. I've tasked the department out. They're working on some of the newer subdivisions and streetlights, but also looking at a solution for some of these crosswalks, whether it be lighting, flashing lights. I have the department on that and as soon as we get information back on costs in some of these areas that are identified, I'll be happy to get back to the member opposite on that. It's a priority for me too, Mr. Speaker.

In every small community — rural community — in the Yukon, we're small. The highway that passes through it is the only link and I understand it's busy; due to a good economy, it's busy. Due to the good job of the Tourism department, it's busy with tourists. We're committed to safety for the travelling public and for our youth who cross streets so we're on this.

Question re: Doctor shortage

Ms. White: Women face different challenges than men in dealing with our current doctor shortage. It used to be possible for a woman without a doctor to call the Yukon women's clinic to book a pap test. If a woman were to call the women's clinic today, she'd be told that sadly, due to cutbacks, she would need to either go to the emergency room or a walk-in clinic.

Even with a family doctor, some woman you have a personal relationship with, the Pap test can still make a woman feel exposed, vulnerable and not in control. Mr. Speaker, many women will simply choose to not have this important invasive test rather than see some stranger in the ER or a walk-in clinic.

Does the government believe that cutbacks to effective cancer screening and prevention programs for Yukon women is a good idea?

Hon. Mr. Graham: In the first place, the member is incorrect in stating that there were cutbacks. There haven't been any cutbacks. The women's clinic was originally set up to deal with women who either didn't have a family doctor or whose family doctor did not offer prenatal and postnatal care. It was never set up originally to provide things such as pap tests. Doctors working in the clinic were able to — because of the fact that they had some extra time — provide various services that weren't included in their original mandate. Unfortunately, since that time, they have become very busy providing the prenatal care and postnatal care that the clinic was originally intended for, and consequently they haven't had time to provide the tests, such as the member opposite stated.

Ms. White: We know that under the leadership of the Yukon Party the doctor shortage has become a chronic condi-

tion. In 2011, recognizing the near-crisis situation due to government inaction, four Whitehorse physicians and several community nurses joined National Cervical Cancer Awareness Week, a campaign sponsored by the Federation of Medical Women of Canada.

At the time, Yukon's medical officer of health said, "The real push is to enable patients without a family physician to still have access to a pap test." Well, what has happened to that goal? Ninety percent of cervical cancer cases can be prevented through regular screening. Yukon women deserve better. When and how will this government ensure women consistent and appropriate access to preventive cancer treatment?

Hon. Mr. Graham: It's often I hear in this Legislature how this is called "Question Period"; it's not called "Answer Period". It's unfortunate that members opposite precede their question with either argumentative content or simply poor facts. Get the facts straight and ask a straight question, and you'll get a straight answer. This is something that we're attempting to deal with as quickly as we possibly can. The fact is we don't have a sufficient number of doctors, and I've gone through, on any number of occasions, the avenues the department is pursuing in order to attract new doctors to this territory. If the member wants, I'll go through them again today and we can discuss them.

Question re: Health care costs

Ms. Stick: From the patient side, Yukoners are all too familiar with the doctor shortage. Today's question is about the impact of the doctor shortage on the public purse. We are looking for information that may give some insight into the cost drivers of our health care system.

People with chronic conditions, for example, need to consult regularly with a doctor regarding their treatment protocol. If they either have no doctor or can't get an appointment, they end up in the emergency department. And it's not just people with chronic conditions — other people with no family doctors frequent the emergency department for non-emergencies.

Can the minister tell this House the difference between physician billing for non-emergency patients when they're seen in the medical clinic and when they're seen at the Whitehorse emergency department?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Thank you to the member for the question. Finally we have a legitimate question without too much preamble. Sorry, but I don't have those exact numbers in my pocket. I know the billing is more expensive at the emergency clinic than it is in a doctor's clinic. I don't have, as I said, the exact numbers. I'm sure the member opposite has a recent edition of the contract with the Yukon Medical Association and probably has those numbers right at her fingertips, so I'm not even going to attempt to guess what the difference is.

Ms. Stick: I don't have those numbers at my fingertips and was hoping the minister did. Because of how the health care system is designed, doctors are the gatekeepers of most health care services that Yukoners need. Politicians bear responsibility for our health care system design and its costs. Yukon patients bear the greatest burden of the chronic doctor shortage.

Acute care and hospital emergency services are the most expensive care, and that's why we're interested in the data about the cost of its use. Last spring the minister acknowledged the increased volume of calls at the emergency department when a walk-in clinic closes down or when a doctor's practice is shut down.

This redirection to the emergency department has been going on now for several years. Can the minister tell this House at what rate have Yukon physician fees been increasing over the last five years.

Hon. Mr. Graham: There's just one correction I would like to make: it's actually over the last three years.

Unfortunately, I don't have those numbers right at hand. I will have a copy of the recent YMA-Yukon government contract delivered to the member opposite so she will be able to look at it herself. We've done a huge number of things to try to recruit doctors to this territory.

As I said previously, we've become a member of the Western Alliance, which is made up of people from B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba and is committed to collaborating on physician recruitment. We've increased the bonus paid to physicians who remain in the Yukon for three years or more. We have purchased not only medical seats at Memorial University in Newfoundland, but we have also recently made arrangements to provide a post-doctoral seat at the university as well for students who have been internationally trained and need to complete their education in Canada. So, we're doing a number of things, and hopefully they will bear fruit in the next couple of months.

Ms. Stick: The questions were more with regard to the cost drivers in our health care system. Certainly, shortages of doctors add to that. The Yukon Party has directed enormous resources toward acute care, but is signaling a change to a preferred model of care. This is good, but Yukoners want assurances that the Yukon Party is making evidence-based decisions. That's why the data about major cost drivers, like physician fees, is so important. National trends indicate that, after hospitals, physicians represent the second largest category of public sector health care spending.

At the end of the day, doctors are paid out of the public purse, whether they provide service in a hospital or a private clinic. Surely the minister is tracking this information.

Will the Minister of Health and Social Services make public information about Yukon's spending on physicians over the last five years?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Many doctors or physicians in the territory right now operate as private corporations and contract with the government; therefore, that information is readily available. I would not be able to provide individual salaries if people were not operating as private corporations. However, I will endeavor to provide as much information as I can.

The member opposite was correct in one sense — that we are trying to make changes to this system. It's the reason we brought in the nurse practitioner regulation, it's the reason that we began the wellness initiative and the *Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Strategy*. What we're trying to do is bend the cost curve.

We're trying to prevent illnesses from occurring so that the requirement for our acute care system is not as great in coming years. We believe that having healthy children grow into healthy adults who don't smoke and don't overindulge with alcohol or drugs will eventually be to the great benefit of our medical system and the Yukon as a whole.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has elapsed.

Notice of opposition private members' business

Ms. Stick: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I would like to identify the item standing in the name of the Official Opposition to be called on Wednesday, May 8, 2013: Motion No. 449, standing in the name of the Member for Riverdale South.

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, May 8, 2013: Motion No. 397, standing in the name of the Member for Klondike.

Mr. Elias: We only have a few days left in the House, and in the interest of getting to the budget, I will not be identifying a motion today.

Speaker: We'll now proceed with Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chair (Ms. McLeod): Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 55, *International Interests in Mobile Equipment (Aircraft Equipment) Act*. Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

Bill No. 55: *International Interests in Mobile Equipment (Aircraft Equipment) Act*

Chair: The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 55, *International Interests in Mobile Equipment (Aircraft Equipment) Act*.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I am pleased to rise to speak to Bill No. 55, *International Interests in Mobile Equipment (Aircraft Equipment) Act*. As we discussed in second reading not long ago, this bill enables Yukon's participation in the worldwide Cape Town Convention, an initiative that will add certainty to the complex world of aircraft financing.

The financing of aircraft and their major components, such as airframes and engines, is a very expensive enterprise, as we're all very much aware. In the course of their business, airlines, including Yukon fixed-wing airplane and helicopter companies, operate, purchase and sell aircraft all across the globe.

As members may know, operating high-value assets in countries other than in an airline's home jurisdiction brings the risk of debt disputes and the risk that the laws of the country in which an aircraft is temporarily located may clash with the laws of Canada and our territory.

The Government of Canada has joined 32 other countries around the world in signing on to the Cape Town Convention. This bill will enable Yukon to join the rest of the country and the world in doing so. Once fully implemented, the convention will provide a clear set of rules related to the documentation of lending contracts for aircraft of a certain minimum size and to the priority of law when aircraft are the subject of a debt dispute, wherever they are located at the time.

This bill will benefit both Yukon and Outside airlines that provide service here. It will provide certainty that aircraft, while landed in the territory, are also subject to a consistent set of international rules during a debt dispute. The bill will also allow Yukon to participate in the international aircraft registry, which will allow local and Outside airlines to enter their aircraft in a searchable registry that reduces the risk associated with financing aircraft, resulting in the best available financing terms for these airlines.

The tabling of the *International Interests in Mobile Equipment (Aircraft Equipment) Act* shows Yukon's ongoing support for our local airlines and for the national and international airlines that fly into the territory from across the world. At this time I look forward to receiving any and all questions from members opposite.

Ms. Moorcroft: As I indicated at second reading, the Official Opposition supports this bill and understands that it implements the Cape Town Convention and that it has been recommended by the Uniform Law Commission. I indicated at second reading that I would have two questions for the minister. The first one, I think she addressed in her opening remark. We wanted to know how the bill will help our own domestic airline industry here in the Yukon. I understand that it would be simply the fact that the Yukon airline industry would be able to access this international registry and international rules about the ownership of aircraft and debt disputes, but I'll just give the minister an opportunity to respond, if there is anything further.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: As I mentioned in my opening remarks just moments ago, what I have referenced is absolutely correct, and that is providing Yukon the ability to be subject to a consistent set of international rules during any debt dispute that may occur.

Also, as the member opposite just alluded to, it enables Yukon to also participate in the international aircraft registry, which enables our local airlines to enter their aircraft into a registry that would be searchable — again, which also then lends to reduced risks associated with financing aircraft.

So, all in all, I can tell you that our local carriers are very much in support of this bill and have certainly been watching with great interest to see this bill evolve and move forward.

Ms. Moorcroft: The second area I had indicated to the minister I would follow up on was whether the minister can provide a plain-language description of the clauses within the convention that Canada did not ratify. So, in other words, what were the exemptions to the *Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment Protocol* that Canada did not ratify, if any?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I'd like to thank the member opposite. Of course, when we talk about the rationale for Canada not adopting certain articles of the treaty, it's my understanding that Canada did not do these — did not give force of law to these specific provisions — and we'll get into the specific provisions that are automatic in the treaty — so, in the sense that they don't require implementing legislation in Canada. Of course, Canada does not apply certain transition provisions as, on reflection, after negotiating the treaty, these were decided to be not wanted by Canada's airlines, as I understand.

The specific articles are — we can certainly go into each of them. Within the Cape Town Convention, article 47 speaks to the signing of the convention by the countries, not the components, such as our provinces and territories.

Article 48 speaks to the signing of the convention by regional economic integration organizations, which would consist of groups of countries.

Article 49 speaks to when the convention comes into force and, of course, Yukon will certainly be part of this package. In order to bring this act to fruition in its entirety, it requires all provinces and territories to come on-board, and Yukon is one of the last three jurisdictions to do so.

Article 50 sets out that a contracting state — Canada, for example — may declare that transactions entirely within the state may be exempt from the convention.

Article 51 — assets that can currently be secured under the convention are airframes, aircraft engines, helicopters, railway rolling stock, space assets. Article 51 speaks to the option of adding categories of assets.

Article 52 speaks to a contracting state — again, in this case, it would be Canada, having territorial units — that would refer to provinces and territories and gives that contracting state the ability to set out to which of those territorial units the convention is to apply.

Article 53 speaks to the option of the contracting state to select the court that is to hear disputes regarding the convention. Again, this is a choice available only to Canada.

Article 54 requires that the contracting state decide whether or not a creditor must seek court approval to access certain remedies under the convention.

Article 55 speaks to which courts may have jurisdiction over disputed assets and what specific court-ordered remedies

might be available to those parties within the dispute — again, something that is only privy to Canada via the Supreme Court of Canada in this case.

Article 56 sets out that no preconditions to adoption may be made by participants — for example, Canada — and confirms that choices may be made by declarations.

Article 57 sets out the process for making subsequent declarations after a contracting state. Again, in this case Canada has already formally commenced participation in the convention.

Article 58 speaks to the process for withdrawal of declarations — not requiring legislative input from Canada in this case.

Article 59 speaks to the process of the cancelling of participation in the convention. It does not require legislative input from Canada.

Article 60 provides the option of requesting grandfathering of existing arrangements — again, not required for Canada, as an existing law already covers Canada.

Article 61 speaks to future reporting regarding how the convention is operating or functioning. It does not require legislative input from Canada. Likewise, article 62 does not require input from Canada, as it speaks to where documents shall be registered — that is, in this case, Rome, Italy — and what information shall be communicated to contracting states.

Under the aircraft protocol — again, none of the articles specified — and I refer to articles 26, 27, 28 and 29 — require input from respective participants. Article 26 sets out that any state that wishes to can be a party to a protocol if it also is a party to the convention.

Article 27, again, as I mentioned earlier, with article 48 of the convention — this article sets out that groups of countries can band together to participate as a group. These provisions, I should just say, are not requiring input from the Yukon.

Article 28, again, sets out when the protocol first comes into effect, which in this case is three months after participants have signed on, and when it comes into effect for subsequent participants — when those respective participants sign on.

Article 29 sets out that a contracting state — Canada may set out which of its territorial units are to be included and there may be the ability to refine these provisions.

Article 30 speaks to specific processes that certainly may refer to default laws of the court with the jurisdiction — in this case, the Supreme Court of Yukon — and modification of laws as to courts or jurisdictions.

Article 31 sets out that declarations made under the convention are also deemed to have been made under this protocol, unless stated otherwise — and we have no reason to state otherwise.

Article 32 sets out that no reservations may be made by participants, and confirms that choices may be made by declarations by the country — again, it does not require legislative input by Canada.

Likewise, article 33 sets out the process for making subsequent declarations after a contracting state — again, Canada has already formally commenced participation in the protocol

itself — again, it also does not require legislative input from Canada, and speaks to the withdrawal of declarations.

Article 35 speaks to the process of cancelling participation in the protocol.

Article 36 speaks to future reporting regarding how the protocol is operating and functioning.

Article 37 speaks to where documents shall be registered, as I mentioned before — Rome, Italy — not a lot of choice in this matter.

To summarize, the choices made by the territory, indeed, match Canada's choices and mesh with the convention and the protocol in its entirety, with current laws and the processes in the country, as well as being consistent with our provinces and territories.

Ms. Moorcroft: I would just like to thank the minister and the officials for providing those answers to my questions, and I have no further questions.

Chair: Is there any further general debate on Bill No. 55?

We're going to move into clause-by-clause debate.

On Clause 1

Clause 1 agreed to

On Clause 2

Clause 2 agreed to

On Clause 3

Clause 3 agreed to

On Clause 4

Clause 4 agreed to

On Clause 5

Clause 5 agreed to

On Clause 6

Clause 6 agreed to

On Clause 7

Clause 7 agreed to

On Clause 8

Clause 8 agreed to

On Clause 9

Clause 9 agreed to

On Clause 10

Clause 10 agreed to

On Clause 11

Clause 11 agreed to

On Clause 12

Clause 12 agreed to

On Clause 13

Clause 13 agreed to

On Title

Title agreed to

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Madam Chair, I move that Bill No. 55, entitled *International Interests in Mobile Equipment (Aircraft Equipment) Act*, be reported without amendment.

Chair: It has been moved by Ms. Taylor that Bill No. 55, entitled *International Interests in Mobile Equipment (Aircraft Equipment) Act*, be reported without amendment.

Motion agreed to

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

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

Chair's report

Ms. McLeod: Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 55, entitled *International Interests in Mobile Equipment (Aircraft Equipment) Act*, and directed me to report the bill without amendment.

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.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

Bill No. 55: *International Interests in Mobile Equipment (Aircraft Equipment) Act* — Third Reading

Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 55, standing in the name of the Hon. Ms. Taylor.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I move that Bill No. 55, entitled *International Interests in Mobile Equipment (Aircraft Equipment) Act*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Minister of Community Services that Bill No. 55, entitled *International Interests in Mobile Equipment (Aircraft Equipment) Act*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I don't have too much more to add, other than I would like to thank the members of the Assembly, at least those whom we have heard from today, for their consent to this bill.

Speaker: Does any other member wish to be heard?

Are you prepared for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Graham: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Kent: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Agree.

Ms. McLeod: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Agree.

Mr. Hassard: Agree.

Ms. Hanson: Agree.

Ms. Stick: Agree.

Ms. Moorcroft: Agree.

Ms. White: Agree.

Mr. Tredger: Agree.

Mr. Silver: Agree.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 16 yea, nil nay.

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

Motion for third reading of Bill No. 55 agreed to

Speaker: I declare that Bill No. 55 has passed this House.

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chair: Order. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is general debate in Bill No. 8, *Third Appropriation Act, 2012-13*. Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

Bill No. 8: *Third Appropriation Act, 2012-13* — continued

Chair: The matter before the Committee is continuing general debate in Bill No. 8, *Third Appropriation Act, 2012-13*.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: How much time do I have left?

Chair: Four minutes.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I don't recall exactly where I left off in my speech from last time we had this discussion of the supplementary budget, so I'm sure I covered thoroughly all of the other Environment Yukon aspects. The one part I did want to highlight again with my remaining few minutes was the money being sought in this supplementary budget under the capital expenditures. It is for \$75,000 to cover the planning phase for the new campground at Atlin Lake. This is a project I'm very excited about and haven't made that very much of a secret in this Legislature: that I'm very keen to see a new campground go forward in the Yukon, and I'm very excited about this particular one.

I know some questions have been raised about some of the existing property owners in the area, including the Bible camp and the number of private individuals who have lots or cabins in the area. I would mention that consultations will be taken with those individuals and with those organizations in the days and weeks to come.

I have met with the folks from the church group that runs the Bible camp, and I have had discussions with at least one property owner in the area. I think that the issues that they have raised, at least from the perspective of the Bible camp, are certainly ones that can be mitigated. Their concerns about where on the lot to place a boat launch — they have some ideas about not only what would work for them in terms of their activities, but also what they suggest would be a good place to have a boat launch based on the angle on the slope of the shore and the usage they anticipate will be needed.

So that's a project that, as I said before, I'm very excited about and I look forward to bringing forward this summer. The campgrounds in the Yukon are very well used — very popular, and we're very proud of them. The area around the greater Whitehorse area, in particular, is very noticeably busier than other areas, so we wanted to fill the gap that existed in that area by adding another campground.

So that's just the one project that's in the supplementary budget, Madam Chair, that I wanted to highlight and discuss.

Noticing that my time is elapsing rapidly, I guess I'll sit down, but I would like to highlight that project again for members and make them aware that it's a very important one and a very exciting one.

Ms. Hanson: I do intend to keep my comments very brief this afternoon because, as I've said before, I think the focus really is — and we've got a significant amount to get through — 2013-14. But because of its implications for the practices of this Assembly going forward, there is one area I would like to raise today in general debate, and it really has to do with the *Financial Administration Act*. I notice that one of my colleagues will probably have one more question, and then we'll move on.

As people are aware, the *Financial Administration Manual* was issued under the authority of the Management Board and Deputy Minister of Finance, pursuant to the *Financial Administration Act*, and is to be complied with to satisfy the general requirements of the *Financial Administration Act*. There's a reason I am saying this in such detail — it deals with a couple of matters, including the matter to which the minister opposite just spoke.

So, terms used in the manual have the same meaning as the terms used in the *Financial Administration Act* and the Management Board directive. Specifically, section 2.4.5.3 of the *Financial Administration Manual* details the budgetary practice called the \$1 vote items.

Essentially, it's a place-marker. It's part of the whole process of getting legislative authority to do something.

The main and supplementary estimates will sometimes reflect — you'll see a little \$1 in a bracket for specific items. That \$1 vote, as I understand it, is both constitutional practice and courtesy to the Legislature that encourages the accountabil-

ity of the government or Cabinet to the Legislative Assembly and the control of the Assembly over expenditures. So, essentially, what that allows and requires is that government, before it makes expenditures, essentially works within the system and then takes it to the Legislative Assembly and says, we're seeking your authority for such-and-such.

The \$1 vote can be used in instances where it is the intention of government to spend an unspecified — not known at the time, but you have some intentions there and you can't really predict at the moment how much it's going to be, but it gives you the ability — the flexibility — to spend that unspecified amount of money on an item if the occasion requires.

Management Board makes the final decision as to the appropriateness of using that \$1 vote for specific expenditure items. Once you know what you're going to spend, the amount is reflected in a department's variance report and, if required, in the associated supplementary estimates.

This is not a trite or minor matter, but essentially what it's saying is that if you don't have that marker there, if you don't have the authority set out under the FFA, then you're spending money without the authority of this Legislative Assembly.

So it appears that items with funds allocated in the supplementary with zero dollars allocated in the main estimates in 2012-13 include, as the minister opposite mentioned: the Atlin campground for \$75,000; the Whitehorse seniors housing for \$920,000; Canada Health Infoway for \$125,000; Yukon Hospital Corporation MRI machine, \$2 million; and general program admin, Protective Services for \$25,000.

So public money was apparently spent on these projects in the 2012-13 fiscal year but there was no indication the government intended to spend money in these areas; there was no \$1 amount prior to members receiving the supplementary budget estimates.

On the face of it, it appears that expenditures were made without legislative authority to do so. I have two questions really and hopefully that would be all that I would be raising with respect to this.

Is the government abandoning the practice that encourages accountability, according to the FAA, in the Legislative Assembly and, if so, why would it abandon this practice? Secondly, is it not true that using the dollar signifier — that is, by alerting Members of the Legislative Assembly to potential expenditures in an area, if you choose not to use that, isn't that contrary to the *Financial Administration Act*? If not wholly contrary to the actual text of the act, is it not contrary to best financial practices in terms of ensuring that elected representatives can hold the government accountable for spending against what they said they were going to spend? If the government took this to the extreme, they could say that we're going to spend zero in all the lines and then come and tell us in supplementary that we spent \$900 million. That's not what this Legislative Assembly is all about.

So I'm really looking for confirmation that maybe in this case — in these five areas — I can see where the minister opposite is very enthusiastic and keen to get going on this campground, but my question is whether or not he had the authority to spend that money last fiscal year without having sought and

received the approval of this Legislative Assembly, without having informed this Legislative Assembly as part of the budgeting process.

I'll look forward to the responses and then my colleague will have one or more brief questions and then we'll hope to move forward.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: The use of the \$1 vote is something that this government will continue to use and, as was articulated by the member opposite, the vote is a courtesy to the Legislature that encourages accountability of the government to the Legislative Assembly and the control of the Assembly over expenditures. It "can" be used; it's not "shall" be used. It can be used but there is and will always be flexibility in terms of the ability for government and for Management Board to make decisions as required.

Some of the examples that were given were things that were described right in the platform we had in the 2011 election, such as the campground, but as we have previously articulated, a budget is a plan and budgets almost never go exactly to plan. It's a footprint to allow us to move forward. Sometimes there are decisions made throughout the year based on situations that determine the course of action for the minister or the Management Board to make decisions.

I would again just emphasize the fact that we are in a very good financial position, that we have that ability to afford to make a decision over and above, or outside of, the budget process if need be.

I'm looking in the book that contains the budget speech and the long-term future plan. I do notice \$1 amounts in two significant projects going forward — McDonald Lodge and the Sarah Steele Building.

So, an amount allocated in the 2013-14 budget means that we are debating and then a \$1 amount, really showing a commitment that that project is a priority for the government, with the intention of moving forward with that project.

Ms. Hanson: I did say that I didn't intend to speak, but the minister perhaps didn't hear me. Let's be clear: a platform is not equivalent to the *Financial Administration Act*. Platform commitments are promises. If you wish to deliver on them, they are subject to the *Financial Administration Act*. The question I asked the minister — perhaps he could attend to the question — was with respect to the authority that he is seeking when he tables his budget. It's the authority granted by this Legislative Assembly. If he chooses not to tell this Legislative Assembly that he has intentions to spend money, is there a threshold? I identified just five, very minor — in the scale of this very large budget — from last fiscal year, but the minister's attitude would suggest to me that he really doesn't believe that it's necessary to tell this Legislative Assembly very much about what his plans are.

I think that for the rigour of the Legislative Assembly and the democratic process, it's essential that we recognize that you don't make expenditures without seeking the express approval of this Legislative Assembly. The government has a majority; it can pass them. Our job is to ask the questions and to hold the government to account using the recognized tools with respect

to financial probity and prudence. The key one is the *Financial Administration Act*.

Let's be clear — the platform is not the authority. The authority that regulates how the finances are dealt with is the *Financial Administration Act*, and the ultimate authority is this Legislative Assembly. I'm simply asking for confirmation that it's not the intention — or, if the intention is to make expenditures without seeking the authority of the Legislative Assembly, is there any threshold where this minister opposite would say that above a certain amount they would not make expenditures? Or, are we going to see \$20 million or \$30 million coming through in supplementaries in the future, where there is zero? I understand, and I have read the forecast for this year, and in very few instances do I see a zero.

That's great. My question was with respect to the supplementary budget that was tabled with us today — not tabled here today, but that we're discussing today.

Hopefully we'll get a clarification from the minister opposite and we can move on.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I guess the easiest way to answer that is that Management Board approves the spending. Ultimately there is a responsibility they're defined or allocated under the FAA for the limits that the deputy minister or the limits that the individual minister has in spending authority. Ultimately it is through Management Board and all of the money that is spent or determined through Management Board ultimately really comes from the allocation that comes to the debate in the House as well. So it's money within the budget within the department. For example, we were talking about the campground. The money was within the budget within the allocation that Environment had at the time; they had the money and it was used in that way. The ultimate responsibility for deciding on a specific project is with Management Board. However, the minister and the deputy both have limits as well under which they have the authority to make those decisions.

Ms. Hanson: Madam Chair, let's be clear. You're coming here for a supplementary amount because you've exceeded what you've been voted in this vote. So the minister may be correct in terms of the administrative aspect and how they deal with it internally with Management Board, et cetera. Ultimately they come to this Legislative Assembly to seek the authority — increased spending authority — under that vote because they've exceeded it. They didn't tell this Legislative Assembly that they were going to. They did not even give a marker that said, "We might."

We'll leave it at that. Clearly the member opposite may want to go back and read the FAA.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I guess the member opposite is not understanding as well. Throughout the year, it has typically been the case to have one or two supplementary budgets, as the departments do a review on a quarterly basis as to where they are financially. If more money is needed, then that is the reason we have a supplementary budget that comes forward.

What has happened — in previous years, there have been occasions where departments have gone over the vote and there has had to be an additional supplementary budget later on in the new year to ensure that the department is covered off and

has the authority from this House to spend that money. I do have to say that last year, in our first full year under this mandate, there were no departments that exceeded their vote so that we had to go back and seek appropriation for additional monies at the end of the year. Previously, there had been departments that had gone over the vote. Last year, there wasn't a single department that exceeded its appropriation and requested an additional supplementary budget in lieu of that over-vote situation.

I think that answers the question. Of course, everything is duly audited by the Office of the Auditor General of Canada and is presented as Public Accounts. Of course, the Leader of the Official Opposition is the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee.

Certainly what we have and what we are discussing here is the Supplementary Estimates No. 2. Nobody has exceeded their limits. What we are doing is we are seeking the authority for this plan. If the plan is not approved by the Legislative Assembly, then money will not be available because it needs to be approved through this appropriation. Of course, as an aside, really a special warrant was issued as was the case in terms of ensuring that the money was there to be appropriated and, really, a special warrant ensures that government officials have the requisite legal authority to make the expenditures delegated and entrusted to them.

Ms. Hanson: Just a final comment, let's be clear that this is money that has already been spent. It's last fiscal year, so we're not talking about the current fiscal year. The other comments — I won't go there.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Yes, this debate is on the last fiscal year. We are now, of course, in the new fiscal year as of April 1, 2013, for a fiscal year ending March 31, 2014.

As is the case, a special warrant was put in place to ensure that the officials had the funds, it gets debated in this House and, as I mentioned earlier, at the end of the year last year there were no departments that were over their authorized vote that required an additional appropriation later on in the fall of the subsequent year.

Ms. Moorcroft: I have one question in general debate related to a capital expenditure in Highways and Public Works. Earlier, we were in general debate and the Minister of Environment was responding to some questions and I am hoping that the Minister of Highways and Public Works will have an answer related to this capital expenditure found in Highways and Public Works on page 9-5 of the supplementary budget book. Under "Aviation/Yukon Airports", there is a supplementary expenditure of \$340,000 for "Other Airports Projects". I note that the main estimates were for \$3,745,000 for 2012-13 and then the forecast and expenditure in the final supplementary will take us to \$4,925,000.

Can the minister provide information on what other airport projects these expenditures will cover?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I can commit to getting back to the member opposite or, if we want to take a break, I can get my officials to come in, and we're not into departmental debate.

Ms. Moorcroft: In the interest of expediting debate — because we had indicated earlier at House Leaders' meeting this morning that we would be prepared to move unanimous consent to deem all of the lines read in the supplementary budget — I would like to ask the minister to assure me that he can provide a detailed legislative return with all of the information related to all of the projects found on the line item in the capital budget "Other Airports Projects".

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I'll get back with a legislative return.

Ms. Moorcroft: I appreciate hearing that from the minister and look forward to getting a legislative return before we come to the end of the business in this sitting.

Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all votes in Bill No. 8, entitled *Third Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, carried, as required.

Unanimous consent re deeming all votes in Bill No. 8 carried

Chair: Ms. Moorcroft has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all votes in Bill No. 8, entitled *Third Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, carried, as required.

Are you agreed?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: Unanimous consent has been granted.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$5,495,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$146,000 agreed to

Clauses 1 and 2, and Schedules A, B and C deemed read and agreed to

On Title

Title agreed to

Bill No. 8 reported without amendment

Chair: We are going to go back to Bill No. 10, *First Appropriation Act, 2013-14*. We will be resuming general debate in Vote 15, Health and Social Services. Does the minister require a few minutes?

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

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

Recess

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

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

Chair: We are resuming general debate in Vote 15, Department of Health and Social Services.

Department of Health and Social Services — continued

Ms. Stick: I believe we had gotten to Health Services in our discussions. I'm going to save a lot of my questions around the Hospital Corporation for next week, when we have the Hospital Corporation here as witnesses. So I'll try and save those questions for then, though I will have a few. I've gone through this a few more times and don't have as many questions as I had initially intended for the minister.

Moving ahead, I introduced a motion today speaking about midwifery, and I wondered if the minister could update us on that at this time.

Hon. Mr. Graham: I'll go by memory from what I understand. In the first place, the regulation of most medical professions is carried out through the Department of Community Services, not through Health and Social Services.

However, having said that, the Department of Health and Social Services did carry out a study in 2010, I believe, taking a look at midwifery services in the territory and what would be the acceptance of midwifery by the general public. The report hasn't been released publicly and what we had to determine was whether or not it was high enough on the priority list in terms of public safety, use of midwives — would it be something that would be feasible? We also looked at liability and a number of other issues and through that evaluation, we then determined where it was on the priority list of legislation for Government of Yukon. The Department of Health and Social Services would then make that recommendation to Community Services which would be responsible for the governing legislation and regulations for midwifery. It was determined at that time that it didn't rate high enough up the list to bump some of the other major pieces of legislation that we are currently looking at — a pharmaceutical act and the health information systems act, which is the biggest thing that we have underway currently.

So we felt that those were of more importance to the health system and to people in the territory than midwifery.

Ms. Stick: I would just point out that this is an effective health measure — midwifery. Certainly, as it stands now, there have been people who have provided those services, but it's only to those who can afford it. Having attended the child-care conference on the weekend, one of the things I was very much struck by was the amount of brain development prenatally and postnatally with very young children and how important that is. Certainly that's part of the role a midwife could provide, in terms of support to the mother and the family, both before birth and after. I do think that would be a more cost-effective benefit for women in the Yukon.

Going back — I was looking at medical travel and noticed that there has been an increase in medical travel of \$1 million. I'm wondering if such things as the new MRI program that we will hopefully be delivering soon here in the Yukon — do we expect those costs to go down at all, if we're not sending people out for that type of business?

Hon. Mr. Graham: In answer to the direct question, do we expect medical travel to go down — yes. We expect it will go down slightly, but I think members opposite should be aware too that we don't expect that to have a huge impact on the overall budget. Just simply the fact that an MRI will be

available in the Yukon probably means that the number and frequency of MRIs prescribed will increase dramatically and that will have an impact on the amount of money required to offer that service. I don't expect it to have a major impact, but we are also taking a look at other facets of the medical travel budget with an eye to improving that if possible.

I would also like to provide some additional information and clarification on a couple of issues that we went through in our previous time here in the Legislature. The first of course is the Yukon supplementary allowance — that was so rudely pointed out to me a couple of weeks later by the member opposite that I was wrong and she is right.

I wasn't wrong but I did mix it up with another program that we're offering. But she was right. The YSA is currently \$250 a month. It is not indexed. It was doubled in 2005, but you're right that it's not indexed and it is \$250 a month.

The other issue was around our discussion about youth who are transitioning from custody. Under the *Child and Family Services Act*, children and youth can only remain in legal custody of the director of Family and Children's Services until their 19th birthday. Planning for this transition for these youth who are in the continuing custody of the director begins, as we probably said back then, several years prior to their leaving care and custody. Case planning is based on the individual unique needs of each young person. After their 19th birthday, youth who have been in continuing custody of the director may enter into a voluntary support agreement for services. It is important to note that this is an agreement for support services.

The youth is not in the custody or care or even under the guardianship of the director. Some of the youth leaving custody and care of the director at 19 years will require residential supports for their adult years. These youth receive these services from the adult services unit in Health and Social Services. The transition from youth services to adult services is part of the transition that is done at the department.

There was also the orphan patient registry website. This is a month old, but there were 1,200 people registered as of a month ago.

The member also asked about the children and youth at Copper Ridge Place and school attendance. Children who live at Copper Ridge and are school-age do travel and do attend schools in the Whitehorse area. The young people are well-supported in both their transportation and in their academic programming.

All staff in Continuing Care and Seniors Services — this is another question that had been asked.

They broach the issue of advance directives on a regular basis with their clients. Information about care and consent proxies are primarily managed by physicians, hospital staff, community nursing centres and continuing care facilities. That is when we are talking about advance directives for seniors. When we talked about getting the message out, I can tell you that advance directive materials were sent to 13 clinics and agencies in 2012, in addition to those used by Continuing Care. The advance directive information phone number is still in use and is currently answered by the Continuing Care support personnel. Questions are dealt with by appropriate Continuing care

staff, when necessary. An e-mail address is also available for public use to ask either for advance care packages or to ask questions or ask for assistance.

There is a small working group within Continuing Care that is focused on advance care planning. They very recently provided a public information and film evening at the library, April 16, on advanced care planning. This event was called "Speak Up Day" and it was advertised in the local newspapers, as well as being sent to all staff at Whitehorse General Hospital, Continuing Care, Adult Protection and other Health and Social Services staff.

So, Seniors Services also participate in advance directive training with the Whitehorse General Hospital First Nation health program, and they will be having one of those training programs at the end of this month. Seniors Services and Adult Protection provide ongoing training on decision-making, abuse and protection tools to many groups, including the Yukon College bachelor of social work program, home support and LPN programs, and other training is provided upon request. As recently as April 9, a workshop was provided for 50 Yukon government and First Nation home support workers on abuse and decision-making and protection tools. During the month of March, the department ran 10 newspaper ads.

The best way to broach the difficult topic of abuse is by partnering with community agencies. One year ago, Adult Protection assisted Yukon Public Legal Education Association with the grant that we had talked about. It was almost \$350,000 — a federal New Horizons grant. Adult protection is partnering with YPLEA on revising their educational materials and in providing training to keep community agencies up on all schedules of our decision-making, support and protection to adult legislation. They will travel with YPLEA to the communities this summer and fall and the project will culminate with an abuse conference in the spring of 2014.

I think you also raised questions about the frequency and use of guardianship. The public guardian and trustee's office resides within the Department of Justice, so that's perhaps something we can ask at a later date. Both Adult Services, Seniors Services and the Continuing Care social workers provide ongoing assistance with referrals for private and public guardianship. Once this is completed, the authority lies with the public guardian and trustee on whether to accept the referral. The Department of Justice has reported their usage statistics, including actuals and forecasts, in the mains on page 15-12 — so it's there.

The issue of women's shelters — Family and Children's Services is responsible for the contract and funding for all three women's shelters, which include Kaushee's and the Dawson and Watson Lake shelters. The funding contributions to these shelters for 2013 are included in the budget book on page 13-47.

There were also questions about residential programming. Currently there are a total of 44 clients in residential programming. Care is provided in group homes and resident-approved homes. Twenty-five of these clients are in 18 approved homes; of the remaining 19, 10 reside in three NGO-operated group

homes; five reside in three private group homes; and there is one government-run group home that has four residents.

With respect to group homes for children and youth, there are a total of eight group homes, two of which are contract and six are government operated. That includes the two receiving homes as well. Two of these group homes are for children and youth with disabilities. There are currently a total of 17 youth in group homes who are under the age of 19, and an additional seven are in receiving homes. One of these homes is for males and the other for females.

Alcohol and Drug Services residential treatment — you had asked for some information on recidivism. We don't use that term in Health and Social Services; it's a Justice term for repeat crimes. One of the things I learned recently at an AA discussion that I happened to attend is that the term used by AA is even different from Health and Social Services. In Health and Social Services we use the word "relapse" when speaking of alcohol and drug use. According to our stats, on average, clients with addictions will access a range of services 7.5 times in their attempts to reach sobriety.

According to AA it was slightly less, but that was dealing with a different clientele as well. It was very interesting to see the correlation between what AA uses and what our group uses. It's not abnormal for addictions — this repeated relapse. Often many are required before success is achieved.

With respect to your questions related to services to persons with disabilities on social assistance — my department has reviewed the statistics and I'm told there has been an error in calculation. The proper average number of clients involved with the SPD program is 174. This is made up of 92 clients who receive social assistance, 78 of whom are receiving the Yukon supplementary allowance benefit. The other 82 clients receive disability supports but are not receiving social assistance from Yukon. Some of these may be receiving social assistance from their First Nation. I'm sorry about that and we'll make sure that future statistics are amended to reflect that.

On FASD prevalence, we are fortunate to have access to federal funding to achieve a number of important developmental milestones in addressing FASD issues in the Yukon. I mentioned last time about the case management training that is currently going on. I was fortunate enough to sit in on a couple of these FASD case management sessions and found them immensely educational. Some of the training that these folks have — and there were people from every department in the government almost that deals with folks suffering from FASD, as well as First Nations around the territory. It was really good to see all of them gathered together in one room.

As part of the federal funding agreement, we are also developing a local adult FASD diagnostic team. I think there was some discussion with respect to what is happening at the Justice department, which is also proceeding on a similar path to ours. The adult diagnostic team will support the efforts that the Department of Justice is leading in pursuing a prevalence study of FASD within the corrections population.

We are also aware that within our services to persons with disabilities program, 32 individuals have a confirmed diagnosis

of FASD and 18 are suspected, for a total of 50 just within that program area.

With respect to the discussion we had about dialysis, I believe the Leader of the Official Opposition may have received some information about people in the territory who are on dialysis, both hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis. She also received that information.

We also had one question regarding referral to audiology services. The Yukon hearing services program literature will be updated to reflect the reality that any Yukon resident can self-refer to this program. A referral by a physician or other service provider is not required to have hearing tested or to see an audiologist. An audiologist is a hearing health care professional and not a medical specialist.

I think that probably covers the outstanding issues from the last session, but if it doesn't, I would be happy to provide more updates.

Ms. Stick: I thank the minister for bringing back answers to questions that we asked awhile ago. I appreciate that. I'll have to go back through the *Hansard* and read them again and check off my list.

I did want to point out to the minister a couple of things in the things that he talked about today, one of them being that, right now for audiology and hearing assessments, I'm aware that we're being told it's a year wait to have a hearing test. For someone who might be just trying to follow up or do something, a year is a long time and a lot can happen to a person's hearing in that time. So I don't know if there are plans to increase staffing or not, but I'll let the minister answer that if he has an answer now.

Hon. Mr. Graham: We're aware of the wait time. We also did some benchmarking across the country and found that it's a problem across the country. There are simply not enough audiologists available to handle the number of people who require that service. We're keeping an eye on it. We would try to get another audiologist to the territory on a contract basis and we do triage urgent cases. In other words, if there are urgent cases, we can provide services or have services provided to them in advance of others. But on a contract basis, we may look at if we can find one.

Ms. Stick: A few other things I'll just mention; I'm not looking for an answer on it, but just to point out that the advance directive — when focusing on training and getting that information out, it's not just seniors or persons with vulnerabilities. It should be everyone looking at those documents and having those available for their families or their friends to look at. It's a good way to open up discussion with your family or with your friends or with your partner or your kids about what you want and maybe what they want. It's an excellent document; it was laid out very well and it really encourages discussion about something that can be very difficult that people really don't want to talk about. It ranks right up there with wills.

Going down my list, apparently I'm in the "Ms". I've done midwifery, medical travel and now I have a question for the minister about the methadone program. This is something that wasn't on my radar previously, but I've had two different indi-

viduals come and talk to me about it. I'm looking for just a bit of information on the numbers of individuals who are currently being prescribed methadone.

I understand that for some people there are difficulties around the cost of it, because you have to pay for the methadone, you have to pay the dispensing fees, and then there is another fee on top of that for a witness, if you need to have someone see that you take the methadone. You also have to pay for that. For some people, this is adding up to be quite a bit and the cost of the prescription depends on the amount you need.

A more important question I have around this — I understand the reason for methadone and why it's there, but it's trading one addiction for another. It is also addictive. How are we supporting those individuals who are currently on methadone to get off an addictive drug? How are we helping them to move forward to get off methadone?

Hon. Mr. Graham: The cost of access to methadone has just recently become an issue that we've become aware of. It's something we are taking a look at, but it's a nationally controlled substance because it is a narcotic, so there are certain protocols that we have to follow in terms of witnessing when the narcotic is administered and things like that.

I've just been informed that it has come to our attention that there are some problems, and we'll be looking at them. We'll also look at this as part of the broader discussion we have over the *Pharmacists Act*, pharmaceutical protocols and the agreement with the Pharmacy Society of the Yukon as well.

Ms. Stick: Hopefully, that will be part of the Alcohol and Drug Services strategy also, and not just the pharmaceuticals.

Moving on down the "M" list, I come to mental health. I have a number of questions about mental health. We know that there are good support workers out there. There are good psychiatric nurses at the hospital and some people who are doing group work. I'm not clear that we have a psychiatrist — one for adults and one for children — who is able to direct treatment or what people are needing. I'm wondering if the minister could comment on that and tell us if there is a wait-list for a person needing to see a psychiatrist for a clear diagnosis in order to be able to move ahead.

Hon. Mr. Graham: I guess there are two separate things there — the first is general mental health services that are provided currently in Whitehorse through the community mental health clinic offering assessment, individual/group therapy, supportive counselling and referral services for a wide range of diagnosable mental health problems and illnesses.

Mental health professionals work to provide assistance in managing problems such as depression, anxiety, schizophrenia and bipolar disorders among others.

Mental Health Services also works in conjunction with Adult Services, Alcohol and Drug Services and Family and Children's Services to offer support to clients and families with mental health problems, concurrent disorders and mental illness. Youth-specific services are provided through Family and Children's Services, Alcohol and Drug Services and community health programs.

Several other community-based organizations, such as Many Rivers, Skookum Jim, CYFN and KDFN, also provide youth-specific services. We do have plans to include a youth unit, detox unit and family assessment unit within the proposed rebuild of the Sarah Steele Building. So that's still on the table.

We do have one psychiatrist in the territory at the present time, but we have a new one moving here this summer. As I probably said, we provide funding to Many Rivers to travel to communities outside of Whitehorse on a regular basis to provide services, but Mental Health Services also works with other partners inside the Yukon government, such as Justice and Education to provide mental health programming and service provision around the territory. I think that probably answers everything.

Ms. Stick: You certainly see a projected increase for emergency assessments for the coming year. I was also interested about when, on occasion, an individual might be required to go somewhere else for treatment because the services here are not able to handle the severity of their mental health illness. I was just wondering if the minister could tell us if we have individuals who are Outside now — I am looking for numbers and the amount of money that is going out now to provide support for those persons. Are there plans in place to bring them back to the Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I just got some information, which is that our numbers are very small, but it's a floating number. I was just provided a letter, given to me by the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin, with respect to a young person whom the chief and the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin asked our department to assist. I just received the letter this afternoon and I unfortunately took it upstairs, but it was a letter from a mother who said that we had provided funding to allow her son to go to a residential facility in British Columbia and that during the time he has been there — I think at the time she wrote the letter, it had been several weeks — she could not believe the difference in her son's attitude and demeanor. She said it was the first time in about four years that her son would go out and become involved in physical activities and things like this, so it was a really interesting letter to read.

I'll share it with the member opposite once we take the names out and all that kind of stuff. The Outside residential treatment does work in specific instances, but it's not something that we encourage because of the fact that children and youth typically do better in their own home environment if you can get them away from the root causes of their addictions or their mental health problems.

Ms. Stick: Thank you to the minister across for that information. We heard from the Child and Youth Advocate about the need for mental health services for youth. It is important, and it's good to hear that people are going out for treatment and coming back, but it's the same as with a person with addictions: when they go back to their community or to their family, that they have those same supports so they can continue on in their wellness and not slide back into that. I'm pleased to hear that.

I did have one hospital question. It's about the O&M spending. O&M spending for the department this year is up 16

percent, but 85 percent of that is going to the Hospital Corporation. So out of \$45 million, \$38 million to the hospital. We know that \$27 million of that is to pay down the loan. I'm wondering about the other \$11.42-million increase in O&M for the hospitals and looking for a breakdown on that. Along with that, because of delays with the hospital openings, are some of those costs going to be less, since the hospitals aren't open yet?

Hon. Mr. Graham: The hospital is still providing services. The health facility being constructed in Watson Lake is still in use at the present time, so we're still paying for it, but any of the fees that wouldn't normally be incurred by the Hospital Corporation because the hospitals are not operating on time will, of course, be adjusted at the time that we work on the hospital's budget.

At the present time, increases are \$1.9 million as per the three-year agreement for the operation of Whitehorse General Hospital and the Watson Lake facility. This is the last year of that three-year agreement.

There is a \$143,000 increase for leased space for medical clinics and pharmacies — \$69,000 is for the Watson Lake facility and \$74,000 is for the Dawson City facility; \$750,000 is the estimate for additional costs and volume pressures for increased costs of drugs, blood products and supplies in those two facilities; \$200,000 for additional nursing staff for the emergency room; a \$4.5-million increase for the O&M costs for the Dawson City facility; and \$3.6 million for the loan-servicing costs for both the Dawson and Watson Lake facilities.

Those are the primary numbers. Of course, as you said, the \$27 million was debt repayment, but also \$885,000 will be transferred from the Department of Community Services to the Hospital Corporation as a grant-in-lieu of property taxes for those two facilities, because they both pay property taxes to the municipalities.

The \$885,000 for grant-in-lieu of taxes includes the Whitehorse General Hospital as well.

Ms. Stick: These are just going to be quick, short questions. We see an increase for two environmental health officers for this year, and I'm wondering if these two positions will be located in Whitehorse, or will they be located in the communities?

Hon. Mr. Graham: They will be in Whitehorse. They are specialists. They go to many, many communities around the territory, so they are stationed here, but they travel extensively.

Ms. Stick: My next one has to do with dental care in the communities. We have the children's dental plan that goes through the schools and in the communities, which is a great thing. But I also noticed when I was looking at this — days of service to adults in rural Yukon — there was mention of that and there were some statistics there. It's one of those things that goes under this and also under social assistance. Individuals on social assistance can get emergency dental care — usually it's an extraction of an infected tooth or an abscess or something like that.

I'm wondering if consideration has been given to preventive care around dental. When you go to Whitehorse Connects, there are haircuts and there are blood pressure clinics. I'm always amazed at how many individuals just want a checkup —

just want their teeth cleaned and a checkup and don't want to get to the point where they have an abscess or something like that. For some individuals, like I said, there is the emergency coverage. I'm wondering if there is consideration for more preventive coverage for individuals. Often First Nations have better coverage than many adults who might be on social assistance.

Hon. Mr. Graham: We don't have specific prevention programs, but because of the wellness program and some of the other things we're doing, it's all part of that program. But I would also be very wary about saying that many First Nations have better dental care than people on social assistance because I don't think that's always the case, especially when you're talking about extensive repair of teeth.

This is something that we'll take under advisement because, to tell you the truth, it has not been a really high priority as some kind of universal dental care program. It just hasn't up until now, but it's something we'll look at.

Ms. Stick: I wasn't suggesting extensive repairs and that type of thing, but they do get the basic checkup and the cleaning. I think that's allowed once a year, which is a great thing. It is preventive. It also can affect other health in an individual, sometimes around the heart and that type of thing. So it is important and I would hope that it would be considered more, because teeth are important. It's nice to have clean, healthy teeth. For individuals who don't have access to that, it's about self-esteem and how you feel about yourself. That's part of it too.

I'm going to move on to transfers of money to NGOs and different groups. I'm not going to go through every one, but I do have a few that I would like to ask questions about. The first one is the Rick Hansen Institute. I know there has been some movement on it in the last month or so.

What I want to go back to is that in the 2011-12 original budget, there was \$20,000. In the actual, there was none. In 2012-13, it was budgeted for \$20,000 and I am not sure that this did not actually get transferred to the group. So, again, it is in this estimate.

I am wondering if there is going to be a catch-up from when they did not receive the money in 2011-12, and whether in 2013-14 — so will they be getting \$60,000 to make it up? There was an announcement of \$100,000 over five years, so they got nothing for 2011-12. Now we are finishing up 2013 and are into 2013-14.

Hon. Mr. Graham: I am very familiar with this, because every time I went to talk with the persons with disabilities committee we discussed this issue in particular. I understand now that we are completely caught up. The last time I talked with the executive director for the society for a person with — I can't remember.

Anyway, the last time I talked with him, the money had been paid up and they were now able to apply for funding through the Rick Hansen Foundation. To date, that's the best information we have.

Ms. Stick: That's really good to hear, because there were a lot of people waiting to hear something. For some peo-

ple it means a new scooter or a new chair that they might use, which makes their life certainly better.

The next question has to do with Skookum Jim youth shelter, and I'm just wondering if we could have an idea of the numbers, average length of stay, and the other piece of it is if they are actually doing a program with the youth to find them other accommodation or more permanent accommodation, rather than just being in the shelter?

Hon. Mr. Graham: It's not something we ask them to report to us on a regular basis. We can ask them for some stats to see what the usage is, but they do offer several services there to these youth as part of the program. They offer referrals to other services that are available in the community, and I believe they offer the regular services, the drop-in services, which they offer to normal youth. They are providing services, but we'll get back to you with a more complete answer.

Ms. Stick: I think it would be important that when we are giving large amounts to groups that we ask: Is it working? What are the stats? What can you show us? I think that would be an important piece of that. I'm glad there is the youth shelter, but is it working? Is it doing what we hoped it was going to do?

Another piece I was looking at was the transfers to Options for Independence. I know part of that budget comes under the Yukon Housing Corporation, but what I'm curious about — we see the building going up and we've talked about the case management of individuals with FASD — is there enough money? Is OFI going to be able to provide the level of support that individuals will require after moving into the new residence when it's completed? If we are not going to offer that support, then I worry that we're going to start seeing a revolving door where they are not paying their rent; they've missed their bills — for whatever reason, and there doesn't have to be one for an individual with FASD — without the supports, they're just going to keep cycling through all these services.

Is adequate support going to be provided in this new residence, which would give these individuals security in the place they live and would make allowances for "I got my cheque and I did this" or "I gave it to that person" or "I don't know what happened to it" — just that sense of security and not a revolving door, which we don't want to see?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I think I'll answer the first part of that question with respect to Skookum Jim Friendship Centre. Part of the annual report that all of the societies do for us will include that statistical information — that's why we don't say that we need it on a monthly basis or bimonthly basis; we'll get it as part of the annual report.

One of the things that we're trying to do with all of these NGOs is that, when we're providing funding to an NGO, basically what my direction to the department has been is that we're providing funding in most cases for specific services and we would like to make sure that those services are being carried out.

When we talk about OFI and the people in OFI — what has been set up between Yukon Housing Corporation and the Health and Social Services department is that every two months, they meet — so a bimonthly meeting — where all of

these folks, the residents, are discussed. It's a team casework approach to try to head off problems before they occur. It's to ensure that, if problems have been occurring in any of these facilities, we fix them before they get any worse. So we're taking more of a preventive approach.

I also think that what we're doing in many of these transfer payments is transferring payment for the services. I can't emphasize that enough. Part of my direction to the department has been that we're going to get out of the business of providing funding for NGOs just to provide an advocacy base. This is something that we're continuing, but we're phasing out of. We'll be providing funding for services and then we'll be following up on those services and making sure that they dovetail with what the department is doing, so that these NGOs are not out there on their own or not being provided the support we think they need from Health and Social Services.

Ms. Stick: Just to clarify, I understand Yukon Housing Corporation and Health and Social Services will meet every two months, but being a member of one of those case management teams around an individual with FASD, who I hope is going to move into that facility, we are in communication three times a week and meet at least once a month around one individual. So what I'm asking more is this: Will OFI be offering adequate or good support to these individuals in their residences, and will it be meeting daily with the person to ask them "Did you remember to do this?"; "Have you paid this bill?"; "It was kind of loud at your place last night, what is happening?" So that kind of thing — not supervision, but a supportive role that is based on each individual living there and more of a case management or supportive living role for these people. Is OFI going to provide that?

Chair: Would members like to take a break?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

Chair: Committee of the Whole will now come to order. We are resuming general debate on Vote 15.

Ms. Moorcroft: I have a question for the minister related to policies and concerns faced by families with children with special needs. Children with special needs require specialized supports.

These supports will be recommended by professionals and specialists who are familiar both with the individuals involved and with the current best practices. They may need particular adaptive technology to help with learning, mobility, breathing or eating. They might need help in school in the form of an education assistant or other supports. These children deserve the right to live with, or spend time with, their families to be able to participate in community-based activities. We need to strive for inclusion to the fullest extent possible.

Families are being strained in their effort to do it all — to work either part-time or full-time and to care for their children and oversee their medical needs. Often, if the needs are quite high, they may have appointments with doctors outside of the

Yukon, and they still are trying to provide as normal a childhood as possible for their children as they can. I think there is a need for — and as I've heard from some families — a simple and consistent process in place to support families and individuals with special needs. We don't want to place an undue burden by asking families to constantly advocate for their children, to investigate comparative services and support elsewhere and to prove their needs.

Families of children with special needs are already working very hard to provide the best quality of life that they can for their children, so I want to ask the minister if he has given any thought to what his department can do to ensure that the lives of the families of children with special needs are stress free and healthy and supported as much as possible. Before I ask the minister to respond, I do want to add that I'm sure he realizes that it's best for the family if they are able to keep their children at home and that there are significant cost-savings related to special needs children living at home, as opposed to being in a long-term care facility.

So, in cases where there are clear long-term or lifelong needs presented by an individual or individuals, are there models of support that might reduce the stress on families and enhance the quality of life? Can the minister tell me what work the department may be doing in developing policies so that families don't have to advocate on a case-by-case basis?

Hon. Mr. Graham: This is one of the first issues that I faced when I took this portfolio. I worked with the Member for Lake Laberge and constituents there, whom I have known for a long time. These folks didn't really want any government interference in their lives. They have a disabled child, but they needed some supports — exactly what you were talking about. So through working with that family and working with the department, I found that there were significant policy barriers first of all to providing services for families with children with learning disabilities. One of the very first things we did was the Yukon Housing Corporation minister and I asked our departments to put together a working team so that families who needed both supports in terms of renovations to their building or equipment or articles like that would be able to go to only one spot to apply for funding. So they would be able to go to one spot to apply for a ramp or a lift for their child and perhaps a wheelchair or whatever else was necessary.

We're still waiting for the fruition, shall we say, of that amalgamation but that was one of the things we've done.

One of the other things that we've tried to do is work with not only Yukon Housing Corporation, but also the Education department and even the City of Whitehorse in some cases, because the city provides some transportation for these people, among other things, to try to find some way that we can all work together to provide seamless supports for these children.

We have also found that there were extensive policy barriers within the government as well as preventing government working with others. We're now attempting to break down those policy barriers. I know my department is working very hard to change some of the ways that we do things in terms of working with children with disabilities.

One of the other members, the Minister of Justice, also encouraged me to go to a couple of meetings with him.

I met with Autism Yukon and together with my department's family supports for children with disabilities, we were able to form an advisory committee for the program. It's their children, so they're working with these children on a daily basis. They provide advice and support for us in the various programs we're trying to initiate or to change.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that it appears to me that almost every single case that we work with is specific in their wants and needs. It's difficult to put anything together in a lump. So we can't say, "These are the services or this is the funding we provide if your child is disabled in this manner." What we're trying to do is make it so that each case can be almost negotiated with the family supports department on an individual basis. I've already found — and I know the Member for Riverdale South knows of one specific incident where I thought I knew more than I should have, and I asked the department to do something specific for a family, and it backfired on me about two months later.

I know that what we have to do is provide the policy for the department to work within, and that's what we're trying to do — make sure that we provide that policy and then allow them to negotiate supports as best they can within that policy.

Ms. Moorcroft: I'd like to thank the minister for that. It sounds like he's familiar with the issue, and I'm sure there are a number of families across the Yukon who do come forward to the department with their concerns when they have children with special needs. As a result, sometimes they have some fairly significant needs for financial support themselves for equipment and so forth. I'm pleased to hear the minister is working to remove policy barriers. He also spoke about developing a policy that could then be used as a guideline, but allowing for some flexibility to negotiate on a case-by-case basis.

I'd like to ask the minister if he can give an approximate time frame for when that policy might be complete.

Hon. Mr. Graham: It's definitely on our policy agenda this year. I found that, while we're attempting to put together this policy or to break down some of the policies — we're forced to work with other departments, and our time frame isn't always their time frame. It's definitely on this year's agenda.

We want to get it finished as quickly as possible, but we are working with other departments, so I can't very well promise that it will be complete — yes, it's definitely a priority. This has been a priority with me, as the Member for Riverdale South knows, since the first day that I received this portfolio.

Ms. Stick: It's because I bring it to his attention every day.

A couple of quick questions: B.C. cancer lodge gets money. Do we not send money to Alberta? I know a number of families who use services in Alberta when going for cancer treatment, because sometimes that's closer to where their families are. And just along the same lines, Catholic Social Services, \$189,000 — is this for one individual or more? Is this a long-term stay?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I will answer the first one about the cancer lodges. We provide funding in B.C. because that is where the majority of our people go, but in Alberta they are primarily private, as I understand.

Some of the lodges or the facilities in Alberta are paid for by philanthropic donations from private business and oil companies, et cetera. Catholic Social Services in Alberta is a placement service for Review Board clients, and it's one of the facilities that we hope will eventually be completely worked out of our budget because of the fact that we hope to be able to provide most of the Review Board clients facilities here in the territory.

Ms. Stick: Last question: this was a new item on here. I just would like clarification for what it is: Public Works and Government Services — \$73,000.

Hon. Mr. Graham: I'll have to get back to you. We have a disagreement here on what the money is for. We'll find out and get back to you.

Mr. Elias: I heard the minister a few moments ago mention a situation that concerned one of my constituents. I just want to mention to members of the House that this is the kind of casework that the public doesn't necessarily see and that I'm going to mention here today.

I really want to thank the minister responsible, because when this emergency situation came to Chief Linklater's and my attention, he gave us his full, unqualified attention earlier on in the new year. I want to thank him for that. This is a good news story and on behalf of my constituents and my constituent's family. The probability is that the minister's actions saved my constituent's life by making sure that my constituent was immediately cared for by the department and was put into a safe environment. So words cannot express my gratitude.

Because of the private nature, I'm going to leave it at that, because I did pass that good news on to the minister. Again, there are also additional support services and help from family and friends, including leadership, that is going to have to continue. But it's a casework and a good news story that I want to send to the minister and his staff. Mahsi' cho.

I also brought this issue — it's a very specific issue — to Old Crow, and it's about medevacs. It was brought to my attention that apparently a meeting happened sometime back in March and it's with regard to medevac travel from my community of Old Crow and actual doctors' ability to be on the charter itself. There was a suggestion with a community concern that that had somehow been cut within the Department of Health and Social Services — that doctors would not be able to attend on medevacs from YOC to YXY, or Old Crow to Whitehorse. The issue here was that when it came to heart attacks and patients needing anti-coagulants or clot-busters, delivery of babies, or inserting chest tubes in case of pneumothorax or a collapsed lung — yes, the flight medics are very well trained, but these are things that have to be done by a doctor.

If the minister could clear up this situation — whether or not this funding had been cut or removed from the budget — and give some insight into this community concern. And it is a concern because, obviously, the only way in or out of Old

Crow is by aircraft. If the minister could shed some light on this, that would be great.

Hon. Mr. Graham: First of all, there are a couple of things that have to be understood. The first is that we did not reduce the budgets in terms of medevac or care for medevac in any way, shape or form. What happened is that during the negotiations with the Yukon Medical Association, it was determined that we were paying doctors in the emergency room here to provide a service to support medevacs around the territory.

That service was simply to provide advice. From a totally separate budget, we provide funding for a doctor or a nurse to fly or accompany a patient on a medevac. All we did was negotiate with the Yukon Medical Association to remove the daily rate from their contract that was paid for doctors on call here at the Whitehorse General Hospital. So that part was removed.

We didn't touch the funding required for doctors or nurses to accompany patients on medevac flights. I think last year there were 348 medevacs and 22 had doctors accompany them.

So I think right now there aren't doctors flying because of some, shall we say, misunderstandings, and we and the Department of Community Services are working on that issue right now. It was never the intent to prevent doctors or nurses from accompanying patients on flights where they were needed. So we are looking at alternatives, including everything from EMS people accompanying to nurse practitioners. There is a whole list of things that we're looking at, but that was never the intent of that. Again, it was a negotiated thing that we took out of the contract with the Yukon Medical Association. They will fly right now if it's really urgent.

Mr. Elias: Okay, so I'll put it in a yes-or-no fashion. Heaven forbid that in my Vuntut Gwitchin riding, in the community of Old Crow — whether it be a constituent or a visitor — if they have a collapsed lung or are about to have a baby or have a heart attack, what the minister is telling me is that, yes, there will be a doctor on that medevac flight, should it be required for my constituent to get from Old Crow to a medical facility, wherever that may be — yes or no?

Hon. Mr. Graham: If it's an emergency and a doctor is required, yes. We're not talking about all medevacs, because not every medevac requires a doctor, but if there's an emergency and a doctor or nurse is required, then yes, one will be provided.

Chair: Is there any further general debate on Health and Social Services? Then we're going to move to line-by-line debate, starting on page 13-6.

On Corporate Services

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Deputy Minister's Office

Deputy Minister's Office in the amount of \$3,293,000 agreed to

On Policy and Program Development

Policy and Program Development in the amount of \$741,000 agreed to

On Human Resources

Human Resources in the amount of \$2,049,000 agreed to

On Finance, Systems and Administration

Ms. Hanson: I think there has been a breakdown on almost everything else, but for this department we have not received the figure for the communications budget.

Hon. Mr. Graham: The communications budget is wrapped up in the deputy minister's office, and the costs are spread among the departments. So, if Family Services needs communications expertise, they can allocate a person or funding to each individual requirement. Within the department there are three communications people in total who are utilized by all areas within the Health and Social Services department.

Ms. Hanson: I was not aware that it was done in that way in this department. It's unfortunate that there is no standard reporting mechanism across departments for communications. For example, it's clear for Executive Council Office that it's \$888,000, for Economic Development it's \$240,000. It's a breakout item, so it's difficult to know what the total expenditure is for communications. So, in addition to the FTE — the establishment, the number of people who work there — there are other costs associated with communications. I'm just interested in getting a sense of the overall expenditure for communications for the Department of Health and Social Services as some, but not all, departments lay out in the main estimates.

Hon. Mr. Graham: This is one of the really difficult things to deal with in this department, because every single unit does some kind of communication.

As part of our prevention programs, we do newspaper ads for immunization. There are constantly ads talking about the anti-smoking campaign. The one we were just talking about the other day — I can't remember which it was, but there are so many different health campaigns going on at all times. My director of finance said we could try and break it out by a vendor kind of thing because we know who the primary vendors are, but it's hidden within the department. We can try and break that out and get that number for her. It will get you at least an approximation.

Ms. Hanson: I thank the minister for that. I think it would just be helpful to be able to get a picture across government of what communications expenditures are, so if the minister has made that undertaking, I appreciate that and I will look forward to receiving that information.

Finance, Systems and Administration in the amount of \$2,916,000 agreed to

Corporate Services Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$8,999,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Office Furniture and Equipment

Office Furniture and Equipment in the amount of \$25,000 agreed to

On Information Technology Equipment and Systems — Workstations and Hardware/Network Equipment

Information Technology Equipment and Systems — Workstations and Hardware/Network Equipment in the amount of \$269,000 agreed to

On Information Technology Equipment and Systems — Systems Development — Canada Health Infoway: Panorama (Public Health Information)

Information Technology Equipment and Systems — Systems Development — Canada Health Infoway: Panorama (Public Health Information) in the amount of \$350,000 agreed to

On Information Technology Equipment and Systems — Systems Development — Canada Health Infoway: iEHR (Electronic Health Records)

Information Technology Equipment and Systems — Systems Development — Canada Health Infoway: iEHR (Electronic Health Records) in the amount of \$275,000 agreed to

On Information Technology Equipment and Systems — Systems Development — Various Systems Development Projects

Information Technology Equipment and Systems — Systems Development — Various Systems Development Projects in the amount of \$410,000 agreed to

On Information Technology Equipment and Systems — Prior Years' Projects

Information Technology Equipment and Systems — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared

Corporate Services Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$1,329,000 agreed to

Corporate Services Total Expenditures in the amount of \$10,328,000 agreed to

On Family and Children's Services

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Program Management

Program Management in the amount of \$7,545,000 agreed to

On Family Services

Family Services in the amount of \$3,451,000 agreed to

On Child Placement Services

Child Placement Services in the amount of \$6,530,000 agreed to

On Early Childhood and Prevention Services

Early Childhood and Prevention Services in the amount of \$11,004,000 agreed to

On Youth Justice

Youth Justice in the amount of \$4,621,000 agreed to

On Children's Assessment and Treatment Services

Children's Assessment and Treatment Services in the amount of \$9,831,000 agreed to

Family and Children's Services Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$42,982,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Youth Shelter — Prior Years' Projects

Youth Shelter — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared

On Young Offender Facilities — Renovations

Young Offender Facilities — Renovations in the amount of \$12,000 agreed to

On Young Offender Facilities — Operational Equipment

Young Offender Facilities — Operational Equipment in the amount of \$32,000 agreed to

On Young Offender Facilities — Office Furniture and Equipment

Young Offender Facilities — Office Furniture and Equipment in the amount of \$5,000 agreed to

On Residential Services — Renovations

Residential Services — Renovations in the amount of \$19,000 agreed to

On Residential Services — Operational Equipment

Residential Services — Operational Equipment in the amount of \$30,000 agreed to

On Residential Services — Office Furniture and Equipment

Residential Services — Office Furniture and Equipment in the amount of \$30,000 agreed to

On Residential Services — Prior Years' Projects

Residential Services — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared

Family and Children's Services Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$128,000 agreed to

Family and Children's Services Total Expenditures in the amount of \$43,110,000 agreed to

On Social Services

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Program Management

Program Management in the amount of \$2,496,000 agreed to

On Alcohol and Drug Services

Alcohol and Drug Services in the amount of \$4,905,000 agreed to

On Adult Services Unit

Adult Services Unit in the amount of \$21,490,000 agreed to

On Seniors' Services and Adult Protection Unit

Seniors' Services and Adult Protection Unit in the amount of \$3,113,000 agreed to

Social Services Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$32,004,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Salvation Army Re-build — Project Management

Salvation Army Re-build — Project Management in the amount of \$100,000 agreed to

On Social Services — Renovations

Social Services — Renovations in the amount of \$250,000 agreed to

On Social Services — Operational Equipment

Social Services — Operational Equipment in the amount of \$20,000 agreed to

On Social Services — Office Furniture and Equipment

Social Services — Office Furniture and Equipment in the amount of \$20,000 agreed to

On Alcohol and Drug Services — Prior Years' Projects

Alcohol and Drug Services — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared

On Adult Residential Services — Operational Equipment

Adult Residential Services — Operational Equipment in the amount of \$17,000 agreed to

On Adult Residential Services — Prior Years' Projects

Adult Residential Services — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared

On Sarah Steele Building Replacement — Planning

Sarah Steele Building Replacement — Planning in the amount of \$900,000 agreed to

Social Services Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$1,307,000 agreed to

Social Services Total Expenditures in the amount of \$33,311,000 agreed to

Chair: We are moving on to page 13-24, Continuing Care. Is there any debate?

On Continuing Care

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Program Management

Program Management in the amount of \$2,448,000 agreed to

On Extended and Complex Care

Extended and Complex Care in the amount of \$17,580,000 agreed to

On Intermediate and Community Care

Ms. Hanson: When I look at the past years, in 2010-11 it was \$10,200,000 and in 2011-12 it was \$12 million. Now the forecast is \$16,800,000 — so it was \$16 million last year. It's a significant increase of \$6 million in three years, so I'm just interested in the breakdown of that.

Hon. Mr. Graham: The biggest single increase here is in the Thomson Centre. The Thomson Centre has been added over those two years. It wasn't in the 2010-11 budget. It has been included in 2011-12 and further growth in 2012-13. There were an additional 28 beds opened there.

Ms. Hanson: So the increase is then due to intermediate care and not community care?

Hon. Mr. Graham: No. The member opposite is correct. We also included \$400,000 for the expansion of the home care program as well as some additional program management or materials and things for home care. It also includes the home care program increases.

Intermediate and Community Care in the amount of \$16,876,000 agreed to

Continuing Care Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$36,904,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Home Care — Operational Equipment

Home Care — Operational Equipment in the amount of \$40,000 agreed to

On Home Care — Office Furniture and Equipment

Home Care — Office Furniture and Equipment in the amount of \$1,000 agreed to

On Home Care — Prior Years' Projects

Home Care — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared

On Copper Ridge Place — Operational Equipment

Copper Ridge Place — Operational Equipment in the amount of \$135,000 agreed to

On Copper Ridge Place — Prior Years' Projects

Copper Ridge Place — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared

On Macaulay Lodge — Renovations

Macaulay Lodge — Renovations in the amount of \$5,000 agreed to

On Macaulay Lodge — Operational Equipment

Macaulay Lodge — Operational Equipment in the amount of \$55,000 agreed to

On McDonald Lodge — Operational Equipment

McDonald Lodge — Operational Equipment in the amount of \$125,000 agreed to

On McDonald Lodge — Replacement

McDonald Lodge — Replacement in the amount of \$7,262,000 agreed to

On Thomson Centre — Operational Equipment

Thomson Centre — Operational Equipment in the amount of \$6,000 agreed to

On Thomson Centre — Prior Years' Projects

Thomson Centre — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared

Continuing Care Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$7,629,000 agreed to

Continuing Care Total Expenditures in the amount of \$44,533,000 agreed to

On Health Services

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Program Management

Program Management in the amount of \$6,981,000 agreed to

On Insured Health, Hearing Services and Vital Statistics

Insured Health, Hearing Services and Vital Statistics in the amount of \$79,583,000 agreed to

On Community Health

Community Health in the amount of \$11,141,000 agreed to

On Community Nursing

Community Nursing in the amount of \$13,004,000 agreed to

Health Services Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$110,709,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Insured Health Services — Office Furniture and Equipment

Insured Health Services — Office Furniture and Equipment in the amount of \$50,000 agreed to

On Insured Health Services — Chronic Disease Benefits — Equipment

Insured Health Services — Chronic Disease Benefits — Equipment in the amount of \$50,000 agreed to

On Insured Health Services — Extended Health Benefits — Equipment

Insured Health Services — Extended Health Benefits — Equipment in the amount of \$50,000 agreed to

On Insured Health Services — Hearing Services — Equipment

Insured Health Services — Hearing Services — Equipment in the amount of \$40,000 agreed to

On Insured Health Services — Prior Years' Projects

Insured Health Services — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared

On Community Health Programs — Renovations

Community Health Programs — Renovations in the amount of \$20,000 agreed to

On Community Health Programs — Operational Equipment

Community Health Programs — Operational Equipment in the amount of \$98,000 agreed to

On Community Nursing — Renovations

Community Nursing — Renovations in the amount of \$1,565,000 agreed to

On Community Nursing — Operational Equipment

Community Nursing — Operational Equipment in the amount of \$163,000 agreed to

On Community Nursing — Prior Years' Projects

Community Nursing — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared

Health Services Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$2,036,000 agreed to

Health Services Total Expenditures in the amount of \$112,745,000 agreed to

On Regional Services

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Program Management

Program Management in the amount of \$2,970,000 agreed to

On Family and Children's Services

Family and Children's Services in the amount of \$1,001,000 agreed to

On Social Services

Social Services in the amount of \$1,509,000 agreed to

Regional Services Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$5,480,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Regional Services — Office Furniture and Equipment

Regional Services — Office Furniture and Equipment in the amount of \$10,000 agreed to

On Regional Services — Prior Years' Projects

Regional Services — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared

Regional Services Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$10,000 agreed to

Regional Services Total Expenditures in the amount of \$5,490,000 agreed to

On Yukon Hospital Services

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Yukon Hospital Corporation

Ms. Stick: I know I've talked about this line item and I am going to confirm: Does this amount include doctors' fees?

Hon. Mr. Graham: It does not.

Ms. Stick: Then I would like a breakdown of that, please.

Hon. Mr. Graham: I'll just read it out line by line.

The transfer increase of \$38,271,000 includes \$1.9 million that was part of the three-year agreement for the operation of the Whitehorse General Hospital and the Watson Lake facility. This is the last year of that three-year agreement; a \$149,000-increase for lease space for medical clinics and pharmacies — \$69,000 for Watson Lake and \$74,000 for Dawson; \$750,000

for additional cost and volume pressures for increased costs of drugs, blood products and supplies; \$200,000 for additional nursing staff for the emergency room; a \$4.539-million increase for the O&M costs of Dawson City; and \$3.6 million for the loan-servicing costs for Dawson and Watson Lake facilities; then the \$27,000 for the repayment of the loan; \$885,000 transferred — again, that was the grant-in-lieu of property taxes and an additional \$349,000 for additional operating costs for the Watson Lake facility.

Now, did you want to know what the original \$55 million was for? There is \$51 million from last year. We will go through that as well if you want.

Ms. Stick: Yes, Madam Chair.

Hon. Mr. Graham: We don't have a breakdown as detailed as that, because it includes everything from the core agreement. This is part of the three-year agreement with them. It includes everything from their operating costs to the patient wait-times, additional funding and also includes the First Nation health program that is run out of the hospital. We will get you a breakdown. Better yet, we will probably give you a copy of the three-year agreement.

Ms. Stick: Thank you.

Yukon Hospital Corporation in the amount of \$88,121,000 agreed to

Yukon Hospital Services Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$88,121,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Prior Years' Projects

Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared

Yukon Hospital Services Capital Expenditures in the amount of nil cleared

Yukon Hospital Services Total Expenditures in the amount of \$88,121,000 agreed to

On Revenues

Revenues cleared

On Government Transfers

Government Transfers cleared

On Changes in Tangible Capital Assets and Amortization

Changes in Tangible Capital Assets and Amortization cleared

On Restricted Funds

On Restricted Fund Health Investment

Restricted Fund Health Investment cleared

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$325,199,000 agreed to

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$12,439,000 agreed to

Department of Health and Social Services agreed to

Chair: Up next is Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation.

Yukon Housing Corporation

Chair: Mr. Kent, do you require time for officials?

Hon. Mr. Kent: It is a pleasure to rise today as the minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation to

speak to the 2013-14 main estimates for the Yukon Housing Corporation.

Since the last sitting of this Legislature, the Yukon Housing Corporation has introduced the new down payment assistance program, planning for a new seniors housing project in Mayo, continues to work on the new 34-unit seniors apartment on Alexander Street in Whitehorse and, of course, work continues with the Options for Independence Society on their new 14-unit apartment building in Whitehorse as well.

All of this was ongoing as the corporation undertook many significant improvements to its governance structure. Before I speak to the details of the \$39.084-million budget, I want to take a few minutes to provide members of the Legislature with updates on Yukon Housing Corporation's refined governance structure.

Last year, the corporation's board of directors undertook a review and analysis of the corporation's operating environment. This review was a key component to the next step, which was the development of a new multi-year strategic plan. In November 2012, the Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors approved their new plan.

The strategic plan is comprised of many interrelated components and one of the most important of those are the strategic goals for the corporation. These goals will set the course of the corporation for the next five years, and they will be aligned with objectives and activities so that Yukoners can follow the progress of the corporation. The five new strategic goals for the Yukon Housing Corporation are as follows: firstly, to facilitate access to more attainable and sustainable home ownership in Yukon; second, support initiatives to increase the availability and affordability of rental accommodation in Yukon; third, develop strategic partnerships with Yukon government departments, other governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in pursuit of collaborative initiatives to enhance the full range of choices along the housing continuum in Yukon. That was the third strategic goal.

The final two are more internal, but I think they're still important for me to highlight for members of the House. The fourth goal is to work to continually improve the corporation's organizational effectiveness and accountability framework to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of the corporation's established and newly created or enhanced programs.

The final one is to ensure adequate human resources planning and capacity to support the strategic goals and operational plans of the corporation.

Later on in my budget address, I will link the corporation's strategic goals to activities and budgetary allocations so that members can see the operation of the new strategic plan.

I would also like to spend a few minutes discussing our recent announcement of a housing action plan for Yukon. The creation of this action plan is intended to produce a strategic approach to addressing housing needs in the territory. We are seeking discussion and then action items with measurable results. This plan will address the entire housing continuum from homelessness to homeownership.

As minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation, I am very pleased that the corporation will be the lead

representative on behalf of the Government of Yukon. They will be assisted by other departments such as Health and Social Services and Community Services and yet this action plan depends on the act of participation from many sectors, including First Nation and municipal governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. This plan will be built and implemented by Yukoners for Yukoners.

The corporation is currently developing ideas on collaborative and partnership-based approaches. I look forward to receiving recommendations from the Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors on how we can proceed. I also look forward to regularly updating members of the Legislature on our housing action plan for Yukon as it unfolds.

Another important component of YHC's governance framework is the annual protocol agreement. I am pleased to confirm to members that the 2013-14 protocol agreement has been submitted by the YHC Board of Directors and that I have approved this document. The protocol agreement between the board of directors for Yukon Housing Corporation and me, as minister, is an agreement on our respective roles and responsibilities as well as the corporate mandate, including high-level strategic priorities, public policy issues and performance expectations.

This document, in conjunction with the corporation's five-year strategic plan, will form the basis for the development of the corporation's annual operational plan and annual operational plan report. This agreement is intended to provide a framework that encourages strong corporate governance for the corporation and which supports the fulfillment of the Yukon government's public policy objectives. Any individuals, businesses and NGOs that wish to learn more about the corporation's new strategic direction can do so by visiting our website, www.housing.yk.ca.

Can we accomplish everything in one year? The answer is simple, and it's no. However, by taking a very systematic and thoughtful approach while respecting the financial resources of our government, we will continue to implement a fiscally responsible approach that meets identified needs within the housing continuum.

I would like to focus on a number of key initiatives that support our commitment to the electorate, my commitments to the Premier as outlined in the mandate letter and in support of the new strategic plan and, of course, Yukon Housing Corporation's governance structure.

I am now going to take a little bit of time to expand on the following projects: the new Options for Independence building in Whitehorse; the new down payment assistance program; the new Mayo seniors complex; the new seniors building in Whitehorse; and the programs and services offered by Yukon Housing Corporation, which will receive budget allocations in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Starting out with the Options for Independence, or the OFI project, it is designed to provide housing for those living with fetal alcohol syndrome disorder or FASD. The need for such housing is supported of course by a strong partnership between the Yukon Housing Corporation and the Department of Health and Social Services. YHC and the Canada Mortgage and Hous-

ing Corporation, or CMHC, are providing funding for Options for Independence to build a 14-unit supported independent living complex for adults with FASD. YHC is providing project oversight during the design and construction to assist Options for Independence, allowing OFI to focus on programming and operational responsibilities. The 2013-14 budget includes \$2,050,000 toward this project, which, when added to our 2012-13 forecast of \$1 million, makes up the total project costs of approximately \$3,050,000.

Of this cost, \$2 million is being advanced to OFI as a first mortgage on the property, while \$1.05 million is coming through the Government of Canada's affordable housing initiative.

I should mention to members in the House that the affordable housing initiative that CMHC offers — a letter I received recently from Minister Diane Finley — that program will be extended to 2019.

The OFI project will be owned, managed and operated by the society. The Department of Health and Social Services will provide ongoing O&M funding. This government is helping Options for Independence with both capital and ongoing operation and maintenance funding so they can provide safe, affordable housing, which also includes programming.

Before I move on to the other items, seeing the time, I move that the Chair report progress.

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

Motion agreed to

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Madam Chair, 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 the Committee of the Whole?

Chair's report

Ms. McLeod: Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 8, entitled *Third Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, and directed me to report the bill without amendment.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

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

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

Motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 5:27 p.m.