



# Yukon Legislative Assembly

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33rd Legislature

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## HANSARD

Thursday, October 31, 2013 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable David Laxton

# YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**SPEAKER** — Hon. David Laxton, MLA, Porter Creek Centre

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** — Patti McLeod, MLA, Watson Lake

## CABINET MINISTERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PORTFOLIO
<b>Hon. Darrell Pasloski</b>	Mountainview	Premier Minister responsible for Finance; Executive Council Office
<b>Hon. Elaine Taylor</b>	Whitehorse West	Deputy Premier Minister responsible for Education; Women's Directorate; French Language Services Directorate
<b>Hon. Brad Cathers</b>	Lake Laberge	Community Services; Yukon Housing Corporation; Yukon Liquor Corporation; Yukon Lottery Commission Government House Leader
<b>Hon. Doug Graham</b>	Porter Creek North	Minister responsible for Health and Social Services; Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board
<b>Hon. Scott Kent</b>	Riverdale North	Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources; Yukon Energy Corporation; Yukon Development Corporation
<b>Hon. Currie Dixon</b>	Copperbelt North	Minister responsible for Economic Development; Environment; Public Service Commission
<b>Hon. Wade Istchenko</b>	Kluane	Minister responsible for Highways and Public Works
<b>Hon. Mike Nixon</b>	Porter Creek South	Minister responsible for Justice; Tourism and Culture

## GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS

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<b>Stacey Hassard</b>	Pelly-Nisutlin
<b>Hon. David Laxton</b>	Porter Creek Centre
<b>Patti McLeod</b>	Watson Lake
<b>Darius Elias</b>	Vuntut Gwitchin

## OPPOSITION MEMBERS

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<b>Elizabeth Hanson</b>	Leader of the Official Opposition Whitehorse Centre
<b>Jan Stick</b>	Official Opposition House Leader Riverdale South
<b>Kevin Barr</b>	Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes
<b>Lois Moorcroft</b>	Copperbelt South
<b>Jim Tredger</b>	Mayo-Tatchun
<b>Kate White</b>	Takhini-Kopper King

### Liberal Party

<b>Sandy Silver</b>	Leader of the Third Party Klondike
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## LEGISLATIVE STAFF

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Deputy Clerk	Linda Kolody
Clerk of Committees	Allison Lloyd
Sergeant-at-Arms	Rudy Couture
Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms	Doris McLean
Hansard Administrator	Deana Lemke

**Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Thursday, October 31, 2013 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

**INTRODUCTION OF PAGES**

**Speaker:** Welcome everyone. It gives me great pleasure to announce the following students will be serving the House as Legislative pages for the 2013 fall sitting. I'll apologize in advance for any mispronunciations of the names. They are: Brendan Irish and Timber Stinson-Schroff from F.H. Collins Secondary School; Brandon Crawford, Nantsana Murphy, Rean Portea, Nathaniel Curtis and Clodagh Berg from Vanier Catholic Secondary School; and Cianan Butterfield-Stinson from Porter Creek Secondary School.

Today we have with us Brendan and Timber. I would like to ask members of the House to welcome them today.

*Applause*

**Withdrawal of motions**

**Speaker:** The Chair wishes to inform the House of changes which have been made to the Order Paper. The following motions have been removed from the Order Paper because they are outdated: Motion No. 475, standing in the name of the Minister of Justice; Motions No. 57, 338 and 447, standing in the name of the Leader of the Official Opposition; Motion No. 389, standing in the name of the Leader of the Third Party; Motion No. 133, standing in the name of the Member for Takhini-Kopper King; Motion No. 323, standing in the name of the Member for Mayo-Tatchun; and Motion No. 370, standing in the name of the Member for Riverdale South.

Also, Motion No. 387, standing in the name of the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin and Motion No. 471, standing in the name of the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin have been removed from the Order Paper, as the actions requested in the motion have been taken.

Motion No. 473, standing in the name of the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin, has been removed from the Order Paper at the request of the member.

**DAILY ROUTINE**

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

**TRIBUTES**

**In remembrance of Earl Vincent Young**

**Speaker:** It is the privilege of the Speaker to do the first tribute.

When we look at a grave marker we see a person's name, date of birth and date of death with a dash between the dates. The dash represents their life, long or short. We often ask, "What did they do with their dash?"

How do you summarize 86 years of living into a brief tribute? The truth is you simply can't. At best, I could provide a shortened list of important dates and events, and perhaps a personal description or story. The real tribute will be all the shared stories and memories told now, and those to be told over the years by all who knew him.

Earl Vincent Young was born March 24, 1927 in Delia, Alberta, to Earl MacKie and Anna-Marie Young. He passed away on October 9, 2013 at the Whitehorse General Hospital. That pretty much covers the tombstone.

Growing up on the family farm, he excelled at making mechanical things work. Originally trained as a carpenter, Vince worked in Calgary in construction before coming north to the Yukon in 1952. Here he worked for the Taylor & Drury chain of stores, running their operations in Mayo and Carmacks. Through his time in these communities he developed deep and abiding friendships with many, many Yukoners. If you needed a chainsaw or small engine repaired, Vince was the guy. Out of necessity, he began working on Taylor & Drury's refrigeration units.

After completing a refrigeration engineering program at SAIT, he went on to establish his own business, Young's Refrigeration and Equipment Ltd. Later, he would start up a spray foam insulation business. He also tried his hand at placer mining, and I think he would have done better at today's prices.

It was through his businesses that many Yukoners, myself included, met Vince. My wife Leslie and I count ourselves among the many Yukoners who were not only Vince's clients, but also his friends.

Leslie has known Vince since she was a child. Vince and Leslie's father, Al Goring, were good friends. Lately, Leslie and I have been reminiscing over pictures of Vince and Al holding large fish caught at the north end of Atlin Lake.

Vince's family and friends could regale us with stories about the many different jobs that he worked on. His work took him all across the north. From Iskut, B.C. in the south to the Arctic Ocean in the north, from Alaska in the west to what is now Nunavut in the east, Vince ranged far and wide. I doubt there is a store, restaurant, hotel or arena in the Yukon that Vince hasn't worked in.

Not only could he tell you what was wrong with malfunctioning equipment, but why it failed and what you could do to prevent it from breaking down again. Then he would tell you what he was going to do to fix it, and fix it right now. We often pay accolades to highly skilled individuals by saying, "He has forgotten more than others have ever learned." In Vince's case, he never forgot anything. While planning a trip, say, to Dawson or Watson Lake, he would think about every refrigeration unit along the route and then pick out various parts and pieces that he may need to repair units all along the road.

He loved a challenge — the bigger the better. He was a businessman who not only survived but thrived in a difficult and competitive environment. To give you an idea of how good he was, the very old joke about a good salesman selling ice to Eskimos — not only did he sell ice machines, he sold

industrial fridges, freezers and a host of other equipment. Some of these coolers and freezers in the communities in the north were so large you could drive a cargo truck into them and store enough food to feed a village for the entire winter. If you can sell a drive-in freezer in Inuvik, you are a good salesman. When you sell several drive-in freezers above the Arctic Circle, you are a great salesman.

I can tell you from first-hand experience that if he sold it, he would service it, even if it meant driving all night to get there.

Many Yukoners have told me how Vince trusted them at their word that they would pay. I know many businesses would not be where they are today if it wasn't for Vince's willingness to carry them through the lean months.

When Leslie and I bought Plantation, we had to move it from Main Street to Alexander Street as part of the purchase. Vince was right there taking apart the refrigeration units. He asked me if I would rent a high jack lift so he could take a unit off the roof of the old Taku Hotel building. He didn't need the lift to get up there — he had already been up and down the ladder several times. He just didn't think that at his age, somewhere around 79 or 80, he would be able to bring the unit down the ladder. Did I mention this was the end of December and minus-30 and the refrigeration unit weighed over 100 pounds? With some fixes and modifications, the new flower cooler was soon up and running, and it still is today. Leslie would always be after Vince for an invoice, and after three years our accountant cornered Vince and told him an invoice was required to settle the books. Vince calmly replied, "Leslie doesn't get bills. It's my contribution to her success."

My good friend Don Knutson and I were working on the new Legion building on Alexander Street and had a great idea. We needed a walk-in beer cooler, and only one name came to mind: Vince. One afternoon Vince came by the new building to check on his installation and I told him we had received his invoice and that I had enough people there and we could cut a cheque while he was there. He just looked at me and said, "Dave, I think they sent you the wrong one." He also commented that he felt the Legion was doing a lot to help people. A few weeks later we did get a new bill and it was significantly different from the first. I don't think his accountant was too happy, nor was he too surprised.

Aside from work, Vince was a deeply spiritual man. He invested a great deal of his own time and money in establishing churches and missions across northern B.C., Alaska and Yukon. His desire to share the love of Jesus with children resulted in him working with a small group to establish Camp Yukon, the Bible camp at the north end of Atlin Lake, next to his and Al's fishing hole. Northerners from Atlin, Teslin, Skagway and Carmacks have spoken about how Vince would teach them at Sunday school or pick them up for church. I think if you asked Vince, he would tell you that he was most proud of this contribution.

We will be celebrating Vince's life on Saturday, November 2, at 2:00 p.m. at the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre.

Vince wasn't a politician or the sort of guy to be on boards or committees. Most saw him as the dependable

refrigerator repairman. The importance of paying tribute to him in the Legislature is to ensure that our recorded Yukon history, Hansard, remembers him and his pioneering contributions to Yukoners and Yukon. I think he would be quite humbled by this, just as he was when he received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal last year.

So what did Earl Vincent Young do with his dash? This is up to each and every one of you. In my opinion, he made a lasting, positive impression on everyone he met. He willingly gave of himself to help young and old alike, and through his actions and his quiet, personal demeanour he enriched and brightened countless lives.

I would like to acknowledge some of Vince's family and friends who have been able to join us today in the gallery. I would ask them to stand briefly as I mention their names.

On the family side are Stirling and Thelma Young are Vince's brother and sister-in-law. Some of the other family members are Bob Mura, Robert Mura, Collin and Marilyn Young and Chris Young. On the friends side, Ken and Paulette Rathwell are good friends of Vince's, Leslie Goring — and as it turns out, the Goring and Young family have somewhat long family connections through a second cousin third removed or something. We haven't actually been able to figure it all out. There is Craig and Geri Tuton and anybody else I may have missed. Unfortunately, I don't have all the names. Thank you all for coming. Vince will be sorely missed.

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** On behalf of the government, I will take the opportunity to briefly add to the tribute that was just eloquently given to the Legislative Assembly about Vince Young. Personally, Vince has made a difference in so many people's lives over the years. He was a true pioneer Yukon entrepreneur. I look at the impact he had on children's lives through his faith and through the summer camps and experiences that children had there. I think all those people who have been impacted because of the service that Vince provided, because it didn't matter whether it was the middle of the day or the middle of the night, they could always count on Vince to be there for them.

I certainly enjoyed your comment about being ready and taking parts in anticipating of what could possibly come down the road.

That speaks of someone who is not only a very good businessman but someone who really actually cares about the people he services as well. I had the great honour and privilege to present Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee to Vince last year. Of course, he was very humbled but certainly very rewardingly and justifiably proud to receive such recognition for the difference that he made in many Yukoners' lives. On behalf of the government, I would like to recognize the family who is here today and acknowledge what a big part of Yukon Vince was.

#### **In remembrance of William Bruce Bowie**

**Mr. Silver:** William Bruce Bowie was born on June 3, 1944 to Irene and George Bowie in Vancouver. He was the

youngest of four, and with nine years separating him from the next youngest, Mr. Speaker, you can guess that young Bill was his dad's unexpected war effort. As a young man, he worked for the B.C. Forest Service exploring the communities, the woods, the coasts of the province and the timber cruising crew, making many, many close friends. Not surprisingly, really, anyone who had the pleasure of meeting Bill could see immediately in his face and his demeanour that he was a kind-hearted man. His appreciation of humour was also written in the lines of his face. Bill and his first love, Lynne Marie Normandeau, moved to Atlin in 1970 and then on to Dawson City in October of 1971. Lynne was pregnant with their first daughter at the time. They named her Atlin, after the beautiful B.C. town that marked the beginning of their journey north.

Bill's commitment to Dawson City is legendary. This is the man who had the audacity to challenge Mayor Peter Jenkins to his political title. Luckily for Peter, during the election campaign Bill chose to keep his promise to his family and went on a long-planned vacation with them. Still, Mr. Speaker, it was a very close race.

On the political level, it's worth noting that Bill didn't have to agree with you to consider your opinion. His friends have told me this and Bill himself gave me that exact advice when I started my political career. Bill volunteered for everything: the Yukon Quest, Discovery Days, the gold show, and as a firefighter. Actually, 30 years ago as the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce president, Bill went to a trade show in Inuvik and came home with a vision of a trade show in Dawson and that is how the gold show started.

Now I don't have enough time to list all the boards that Bill was on: Chief Isaac board, Dawson District Renewal Resources Council, Klondike Visitors Association, the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, and so on. It wasn't enough to have a business membership, but he would also have to buy a personal membership. Whether it was for the museum board or the Yukon Foundation, it was Bill's opinion that merely living in the community was not enough. He always pushed everyone he knew to do more and he lived by this example. It didn't matter if it was a house on fire or a flood in Eagle Plains or a fundraiser or a community meeting, Bill was always looking past the edge of his driveway to help his community. He was such a strong believer in giving back to his community. Any person or organization in need would not be denied a helping hand if they went to Bill Bowie.

In the mid-70s, he purchased a portable sawmill and started logging near the Klondike River outside of Dawson City. Over the next 38 years, this enterprise grew into a thriving building supply store, Artic Inland, and Bill soon installed a new more efficient sawmill. Throughout the years, he was able to supply much-needed building supplies and materials to communities in the northern Yukon and Alaska. He took pride in his belief that the areas that he logged were healthier after he finished harvesting the aged timber, and would often walk past the young healthy trees and say, "I will leave these for the grandchildren." Bill wasn't a boastful man, but he was a proud logger. Bill was a visionary and spent the

last years of his life developing the wood chipping portion of his business. He believed that heating with wood chips was cost effective and a means to make the community more self-reliant. It was proving successful and he was in the process of helping other communities in the Yukon look into the possibilities of this heating source as well.

There are so many great Bill Bowie stories. His eldest, Atlin, was once kidnapped by her older brother, and demanded a ransom of ice cream. Bill responded to this ransom with a Polaroid picture of himself holding up a knife to a tongue of a beloved stuffed fox. Now the crisis was averted and an exchange was negotiated. He used to tease people who resided in Whitehorse saying that they should continue north and visit the Yukon someday. He was a strong supporter of Dawson and buying local, and he swore that he would wear a paper bag over his head if his wife ever dragged him into a Walmart. I could go on and on, but a man like Bill does not need a tribute like this to keep his memory alive. Conversations will go on and on by the people who counted on him and by those lucky enough to call him a friend.

I would like to speak specifically about a way that we can all keep the memory of Bill Bowie alive, and that would be through the Yukon Foundation. Bill was a board member — surprise, surprise. In their mandate they don't solicit donations, but they do rely on these donations, so I will do a little soliciting for him.

The objectives of the Yukon Foundation are: to promote educational advancement and scientific or medical research for the enhancement of human knowledge; to provide support intended to contribute to the mental, cultural, and physical well-being of the residents of Yukon; and to promote the cultural heritage in Yukon. If these mandates are important to you, or if the memory of good people like Bill Bowie is important to you, please donate to the Yukon Foundation. Their email is: [yukonfoundation@klondiker.com](mailto:yukonfoundation@klondiker.com).

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to add that a lot of the information for this tribute today was provided by Bill's wife Helen and, in typical Helen fashion, not much attention was given to her or her relationship with Bill, but I just wanted to say that if any of us have a chance to experience a love, a partnership, or a friendship as beautiful as theirs, well, that alone makes life worth living.

On behalf of all Yukoners, rest in peace, Bill Bowie, a true renaissance man. Today, Mr. Speaker, we are joined by some members of Bill's family and friends — all women, of course. Helen called me earlier this morning and she told me who was going to be in the gallery and she said even in death, Bill is surrounded by women. I'd like to introduce for everybody Bill's wife, Helen Bowie; Bill's daughter, Atlin Shutlin; and long-time friend, Mary Seely.

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I rise too, on behalf of the government, to add perhaps just a little bit of a personal note as well and just to expand a bit upon the comments that were made by the MLA for Klondike. Really, I just want to reflect — well, I've known Bill for a number of years — but

reflecting back to a discussion I had with him just this spring when we were in Dawson.

We had the opportunity to have Bill give us a tour of the district heating plant that was there and the passion that he had for what had been applied in terms of district heating in Dawson City and looking with the technology at how low the emissions were. We were truly amazed at how little residue was left after a whole winter of countless cords of wood that went through that system and how little residue was actually left at the end of that. His belief was that this technology was something that could be applied in many of the communities across this territory. In fact, wood chip boilers are seen by Yukon Wood Products Association as a model for municipalities and for governments as well.

This sort of effort, as described by the Member for Klondike, was really part of what Bill was. Not only was he excited about that technology, he was excited about the ability to continue to foster and strengthen the forest industry within the territory by using what really amounted to waste wood — to be able to chip that and create a product that would be important as biomass to feed such district heating.

We also had the opportunity to tour a sawmill and see all the innovation that he had there. That truly was another one of his passions: the creation of such a viable, strong Yukon business and really creating an industry where there really wasn't one. As a result of that, he created a lot of local jobs for people in his community and helped those families out in doing so.

He is truly a great Yukoner, and we too would like to acknowledge the family and pay tribute to Bill today and the great impact he has made on people.

### **In recognition of MADD and the Project Red Ribbon campaign**

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I'm pleased to rise today in this House to acknowledge an organization that strives timelessly to eliminate impaired driving: Mothers Against Drunk Driving. MADD continues to lead the way in public awareness and education programs to stop impaired driving. Yukon's rate of impaired driving convictions is four times higher than the national average. This statistic is something not to be proud of.

We have a lot of work to do in impaired driving and this totally preventable crime, and every life that is lost or changed by impaired road crashes affects all of us and our communities.

The Department of Highways and Public Works continues to work with MADD, the RCMP, the Yukon Liquor Corporation and other stakeholders, both within the territory and externally, to reduce the number of impaired drivers on our roadways.

Road safety is everyone's business and everyone's responsibility. We continue to strive for the safest roads in the world and work to help decrease the number of impaired drivers on our roadways through enforcement, education, awareness and technology.

It is also important to acknowledge the thousands of volunteers — the people who go out there — who have worked for MADD over the years. Their dedication and commitment is to making every one of us realize that driving while impaired is not only extremely dangerous, but a criminal offence that is totally preventable.

Tomorrow marks the start of the Project Red Ribbon campaign, an important initiative by MADD, to remind us of the role that we play in prevention of drinking and driving and of impaired driving.

I'll be there tomorrow at the launch of it and I've committed again this year to our fleet vehicles — carrying a red ribbon on their antennae. It is important to mention that being impaired does not just mean impairment from alcohol but also impairment from drugs, medication, distraction and fatigue. We all play a part in prevention of impaired driving, and I encourage everyone to wear the red ribbon or to place a ribbon on their vehicle to demonstrate their support for safer driving. On behalf of the Department of Highways and Public Works and all of Yukon government, I would like to extend our gratitude toward our local MADD chapter and to our local RCMP who work tirelessly. We are honoured by your presence here and your dedication to your hard work.

### **In recognition of breast health awareness**

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I rise today to honour the men and women who work so hard at raising money to help fight breast cancer and to those people who struggle daily with this disease.

According to the Canadian Cancer Society, approximately 23,800 Canadian women will be diagnosed this year with breast cancer. That's a staggering number, Mr. Speaker. It's why the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation encourages women and men to practise breast awareness. This means becoming familiar with the geography of our own bodies so that we can recognize changes.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I did mention men because breast cancer affects men as well as women. While the number of men suffering from breast cancer is much lower than the number of women, the impact of this disease is no less devastating for men and their families.

Many dedicated volunteers work year-round to organize fundraisers aimed specifically at breast cancer research and easing the suffering of breast cancer patients. Two of the major fundraisers in this territory are the Run for Mom and the Mardi Bra celebration. The Run for Mom takes place on Mother's Day every year and celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. All the money raised during the run stays in Yukon for breast health awareness.

This year's Mardi Bra gala, otherwise known as the Boobie Ball: 50 Shades of Pink, took place on October 19. Every year Mardi Bra puts on a fabulous gala event that aims to raise awareness, as well as raise funds for breast cancer. The money raised by Mardi Bra goes to Karen's Fund. Karen Wiederkehr was a young Yukon woman, a mother and wife, who died of breast cancer. She wanted her legacy to be a quiet, comfortable place for cancer patients to undergo chemo

treatments. Her husband, Jack, made that wish come true with Karen's Room. Karen's other wish was to find a way to help those women who were experiencing financial stress while undergoing treatment for breast cancer, and that's where the Mardi Bra gala comes in. It's a glittering extravaganza that provides funding to women who may be experiencing financial difficulties while they undergo therapy. We can be proud of the efforts of these Yukon volunteers who make these two events such a success story every year.

I also ask that we recognize those dedicated health care professionals who support the women and men going through this frightening journey. The nurses, the doctors, the lab technicians, the mammography technicians, the mental health workers — their professionalism, their calm support and expert knowledge help men and women navigate this perilous time in their life.

I'm certain that every member of this House knows a woman who has or has had breast cancer. I look forward to the day when most of us will be able to say, "No, we don't know anyone who has had cancer." That will truly be a day to celebrate.

### **In recognition of Learning Disabilities Awareness Month**

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I apologize for having so many tributes on one day, but October is an important month and this is the last day. I should have also mentioned that the last tribute was on behalf of all members, as is this one.

This tribute is to honour the women and men who work tirelessly to help people with learning disabilities. October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month. It's an opportunity for agencies to help raise awareness about the prevalence of learning disabilities in our society and for all of us to inform ourselves about what learning disabilities really are.

While we don't understand the causes of many learning disabilities, we do know that five to 10 percent of the population has one. To quote from the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada, it's a lifelong condition that impacts one in 10 Canadians with average or above-average intelligence.

Learning disabilities come in many forms and affect people with varying levels of severity. Regardless of age, race, creed or social or economic status, you will probably be touched directly or indirectly by someone who is impacted by a learning disability.

Closer to home, the Learning Disabilities Association of Yukon works to provide tools for children and adults touched by a learning disability and to enable parents to help their children work with their disability. According to LDAY, learning disabilities refer to a variety of disorders that affect the acquisition, retention, understanding, organization or use of information. This applies to any sort of information, be it verbal, social or physical.

A learning disability is unrelated to the level of intelligence. In fact, people with learning disabilities have often greater or average abilities for thinking and reasoning. A learning disability can affect the use of the spoken language,

reading, writing, mathematics, organizational or social skills. Without help, persons with learning disabilities can find themselves struggling every single day of their life. This is why an organization like LDAY is so important. They help individuals identify their particular disability and they teach them coping skills. It is my understanding that LDAY is 40 years old this year. For 40 years, this organization has been working tirelessly to educate Yukoners and provide them with the tools to live a better life. That's truly an honourable occupation, Mr. Speaker.

### **In recognition of Canadian Patient Safety Week**

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I have one more tribute, Mr. Speaker, and then I'll sit down.

I rise on behalf of our caucus and the Liberal caucus to draw attention to the fact that this is Canadian Patient Safety Week.

I want to highlight the week because it's of vital importance to educate ourselves about patient safety. Whether we are patients or health care providers, we must understand more about patient safety in order to continue to improve.

The Canadian Patient Safety Institute was established in 2003 as a not-for-profit organization. It works to raise awareness and help implement ideas and best practices to achieve a transformation in patient safety.

Its mission statement is very simple: to inspire extraordinary improvement in patient safety and quality.

Sometimes however, patients are not in a position to advocate for their own safety. That's when they must depend on the institution to keep their best interests at heart.

Yukon's chief medical officer of health, Dr. Brendan Hanley, did an interesting call on CBC on October 29 of this year. His focus was mainly on hospitals and clinics, but he also spoke about how systemic flaws can affect the patient's safety — everything from how a medication cupboard is set up to how busy a shift may be. He asked, How do we better design, how do we have people arriving fresh, how do we have clear ways of writing orders? Only then will you start to actually make significant changes.

Long-term care operated by this government is an area where patients are especially vulnerable. In Yukon we are lucky to have excellent continuing care. In fact, this year Health and Social Services Continuing Care division was awarded accreditation with exemplary standing. This is the highest status awarded by Accreditation Canada. This award marks excellence in meeting and actually surpassing the difficult requirements of accreditation. It includes infection prevention, infection control, home care services, long-term care services, palliative care services and medication management. It also shows that the Continuing Care division remains dedicated to health care quality improvement including patient safety.

Continuing Care is a division under which the individual units take patient safety very seriously — keeping track of patient safety issues and establishing targeted patient safety activities to continue reducing adverse effects.

I would like to thank the devoted health care providers who work tirelessly every day across this territory to ensure that the patients under their care remain safe and as healthy as possible.

Thank you.

**Ms. Stick:** I rise on behalf of the Official Opposition to also pay tribute to Canadian Patient Safety Week. October 28 to November 1 is Canadian Patient Safety Week. This week is relevant and important to all Canadians — health care providers, patients, their families and all who engage in the Canadian health care system.

One important activity this week is the partnership of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices. The clinical focus this week for Canadian Patient Safety Week is medication safety. By placing the spotlight on medication safety, the intent is to have a greater impact in reducing harm related to medication use.

Medication incidents are one of the leading causes of patient harm in health care and most can be prevented. Patients, their families and caregivers all play an important role in ensuring that their care and their prescribed medications are safe. Knowing all your own medications, dosages and usages is important. Having accurate information is important in the event of an emergency or when transitioning through the continuum of care. This is a strong call to providers and the institutions they work in to take time to ensure accuracy and prevent harm. This includes the whole health care team: pharmacists, physicians, nurses, patients and their families. Let's all be aware of patient safety and our medications.

**Speaker:** Introduction of visitors.

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** It's my pleasure to introduce three individuals who have joined us here in the gallery today and I'll ask all three to stand after I complete the three introductions.

The first gentleman is Mr. Ron Light. Ron is the general manager of Capstone's Minto Mine here in the Yukon. Although he has been here for a relatively short period of time, he has taken on a number of other roles within our community, including: one of the directors of the Yukon Hospital Foundation; a member of the Yukon Producers Group; he is on the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining governing council; and he is the newest member of the Yukon Minerals Advisory Board.

Claire Derome is also joining us here today. Claire is the owner of Derome and Associates. She is also one of the visionaries behind the establishment of the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining, as well as the Yukon Imagination Library, and she is, of course, the chair of the Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors, and the executive director of the Yukon Producers Group.

As well, we're joined by Darielle Talarico, who is the owner of Tipping Point Strategies and the past chair of the Yukon Chamber of Commerce.

I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming the three to the gallery.

*Applause*

**Ms. White:** I would ask the members of the House to join me in welcoming five people we have here today: Gerry Whitley is a retired water scientist; Dr. J.P. Pinard is a renewable energy expert; Anne Middler is the energy coordinator for the Yukon Conservation Society; Jody Overduin is the outreach coordinator for CPAWS Yukon; and Don Roberts is a former MLA and the current president for Yukoners Concerned About Oil and Gas Exploration/Development.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** In the gallery today, I would like to introduce my mom and my dad, Rhoda and Ed Istchenko. My father was a long-term Highways and Public Works employee for 33 years, keeping our roads safe, and my mom was a tireless volunteer in our community when there were 400 people, keeping the community club going for years. Thank you very much; I love you both.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to introduce two extraordinary Yukoners. All members can join me in welcoming Sandra and Charles Behan.

*Applause*

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I'd like to ask all members to join me in welcoming my mom, Diana Raketti, from the Town of Watson Lake — a very smart and strong woman and also a breast cancer survivor.

I'd also like to extend a warm welcome to my husband as well, Troy Taylor.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I'd like to ask all members to join me in welcoming to the gallery one of my constituents, Debbie Kelly.

*Applause*

## TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Speaker:** Under tabling returns and documents, the Chair has for tabling the *Conflict of Interest Commission Annual Report* for the period ending March 31, 2013. This report was distributed to members and made public in July 2013.

The Chair also has for tabling the *Yukon Human Rights Panel of Adjudicators 2012-13 Annual Report*.

Finally, the Chair has for tabling the *Report from the Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly on the Absence of*



*Members from Sittings of the Legislative Assembly and its Committees*, dated October 31, 2013.

Are there any further returns or documents for tabling?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I have for tabling the Yukon Public Accounts for the fiscal year 2012-13. These Public Accounts are fully audited by the Auditor General of Canada, who has given us an unqualified opinion, meaning a clean bill of health.

**Mr. Silver:** I have for tabling an ATIPP document on the F.H. Collins Secondary School.

**Speaker:** Are there any reports of committees?

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

**Mr. Hassard:** I have for presentation the seventh and eighth reports of the Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees.

**Speaker:** Are there any further reports of committees to be presented?

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### Bill No. 11: *Second Appropriation Act, 2013-14* — Introduction and First Reading

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I move that Bill No. 11, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2013-14*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 11, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2013-14*, be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 11 agreed to*

**Speaker:** Are there any further bills for introduction?  
Are there any notices of motion?

## NOTICES OF MOTION

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon, in the interest of transparency, to publicly post ministerial travel expenses on the Yukon government website at [www.gov.yk.ca](http://www.gov.yk.ca).

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to ensure there is a continuing and abundant supply of clean and affordable power in Yukon in order to promote responsible and sustainable economic development by:

(1) directing Yukon Development Corporation, as the agency designated by legislation as responsible for assuring a continuing and adequate supply of energy in Yukon, to

commence the research and planning of a new hydroelectricity dam, based on the principles of scalability, environmental responsibility and First Nations engagement, as the centrepiece of a clean power future for Yukon;

(2) exploring additional renewable sources such as wind and biomass as potential complements to the existing hydro-based grid;

(3) exploring alternative sources that are cleaner and more affordable than diesel to facilitate the reduction of diesel consumption in those communities not connected to the existing hydro-based grid; and

(4) ensuring there is a continuing supply of fossil fuels as a backup source to the hydro system and pursuing sources that are cleaner and more affordable than diesel for backup wherever possible.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to consider amending Yukon's *Fatal Accidents Act* to enable family members of deceased children to pursue actions for bereavement damages.

Mr. Speaker, I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to consider options in relation to the Ross River suspension bridge in view of its historical importance to the people of Ross River and Yukoners in general.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Canada to support Private Members' Bill C-543, *An Act to Amend the Navigable Waters Protection Act (Peel River)*, which would return the Peel River to the list of waterways protected under the act.

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

THAT this House urges the Select Committee Regarding the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing to hold public meetings in all Yukon communities identified as such on the government's Yukon communities profiles website — namely, Beaver Creek, Burwash Landing, Carcross, Carmacks, Dawson City, Destruction Bay, Faro, Haines Junction, Mayo, Old Crow, Pelly Crossing, Ross River, Tagish, Teslin, Watson Lake, Whitehorse, Ibex Valley, Mount Lorne and Marsh Lake.

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

THAT the House urges the Government of Yukon to explain why it said two separate independent estimators told them that a new F.H. Collins School could be built for \$38.6 million, when in fact it had three estimates, two of which said it would cost more than \$38.6 million.

I also rise to give to notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to update the public on how it plans to proceed with the Peel land use plan and whether it plans to extend the staking ban now in place past December 31, 2013.

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

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: F.H. Collins Secondary School reconstruction

**Ms. Hanson:** Mr. Speaker, back in March the Yukon Party government cancelled the tenders for F.H. Collins and went back to the drawing board. On March 21, the Premier said that two independent estimators both looked at this project, and I quote, "What we saw was a low bid that came in over 20-percent — almost \$10 million — overbudget." Documents obtained through access to information have revealed that in fact the government's estimate was \$4 million off the lowest bid. This put the low bid within a range that could have seen the project awarded.

Can the Premier explain why his statement in this House on March 21 is in clear contradiction with the government's own documents?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** The answer to this question is quite simple. This government budgeted \$38.6 million for the construction of this school. The lowest bid came in almost \$10 million above that; \$10 million before we even turned a spade over on that project. This government believes in fiscal responsibility. It believes in spending taxpayers' money wisely and so what we did was the right thing. We went back; we relooked at this project and we are looking forward. As we all know, the bids went out to tender as of yesterday, and we are looking forward to moving forward with the construction of a beautiful school at the F.H. Collins location.

We're looking forward to moving forward with the construction of a beautiful school at the F.H. Collins location.

**Ms. Hanson:** That was then, this is now. When the Yukon Party cancelled the last tender process on F.H. Collins on the grounds of the phantom \$10 million price difference, the impact on the local economy was huge. Many skilled tradespeople counted on getting work on this project. Local businesses in Whitehorse would have seen a boost to their bottom line from these wages being spent in the community.

Yesterday, the Yukon Party government released the new tender package for F.H. Collins and the message is clear: Yukon contractors need not apply. Bidders must have built three projects in the last three years that are similar to the new F. H. Collins Secondary School. So why on earth would the Yukon Party deliberately structure the tender to reduce job opportunities for Yukoners?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** We know what the NDP would have done. They would have paid the extra \$10 million because we know how fiscally responsible the NDP government was because we have a record to show of the

responsibility, not just in this territory but NDP governments across this country.

I'd like to refer to the recent report by Standard & Poor's, which again reaffirmed this small territory's AA rating. I'd like to quote, "In our view, the territory demonstrates good financial management, which positively affects its credit profile. Its annual financial reports are comprehensive and detailed and are independently audited. Yukon provides three-year financial forecasts and a five-year capital plan. ... We believe the territory has achieved a track record of strong economic performances ..."

That's because we know how to balance the books; we know when to make a decision, when to invest and when to say we cannot afford this decision, that we're going to go back and look at it again. And that is what we have done.

**Ms. Hanson:** 2013 has been a slow construction season due to this government's handling of this major infrastructure project. It's no wonder economic growth has declined.

When the Yukon Party said they were getting free plans from Alberta for a new school, they said there were no strings attached and they denied that they would be sole sourcing the job. Then they announced a nearly \$1 million sole-sourced contract for a bridging consultant. Now they come up with rules that will essentially bar anyone but an Outside company from getting the job — at great loss and disrespect to local contractors, local tradespeople and the local economy.

This is not fiscally responsible. This is economically reckless and it penalizes local businesses.

When the Yukon Party chose the Alberta school design, had they already decided that an Alberta company would build F.H. Collins?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** Mr. Speaker, I think I'm going to use an analogy for people. If a person or a couple decides that they want to build a house and they have a budget — and let's just say that budget is \$400,000. So they have their plans and they take those plans out to contractors, but unfortunately when those prices come in, the lowest bid by a contractor is \$500,000. What would that couple do? That's what I want to ask the NDP because obviously they feel that they would just be able to find that extra \$100,000 of financing to build that house.

I have just quoted to you from Standard & Poor's. They say that the ratings that we have reflect their assessment of extremely low debt, a healthy economic performance compared with that of other similarly rated domestic and international peers, and very positive liquidity.

We will continue to honour and respect the obligation that we have to spend taxpayers' money. We will do so wisely. We will not start a project that is \$10 million overbudget before we even turn a spade.

### Question re: Economic growth

**Ms. Hanson:** The Conference Board of Canada has forecast a weak 0.5-percent growth for the Yukon economy in 2013. There are layoffs in mining and delays in mining construction; new house purchases have slumped.

Contractors say the construction season has been slow due in no small part to the Yukon Party's mishandling of the F.H. Collins project. The Yukon Party's economic approach is to take credit for good news and to blame others for bad news. They are blind to the opportunities that are staring them right in the face. The promise of economic development and economic certainty that respecting our final agreements with Yukon First Nations would bring has been ignored for too long.

Why is the Premier so averse to working cooperatively with First Nation governments in the interest of economic certainty?

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** I have to disagree quite firmly with the member opposite and her assertions that we don't work with First Nations to the end of economic development. When you look across our budget, when you look across our government, you see multiple instances of Yukon government collaborating very positively with First Nation governments and development corporations to undertake projects in this territory. All of this is to the end of developing a strong and healthy economy here in the territory.

The member opposite is correct in saying this year is a bit of a down year and we are seeing soft mineral prices, we're seeing soft international markets, but even in that climate we're seeing economic growth. Even in the climate when a lot of people think we should be recessing, we're actually growing. That's very positive news and that's very positive for the territory and for our economy.

What the Conference Board also noted was that next year we're anticipating significant growth. In part that's due to the growth in the mineral industry. I know that makes the NDP uncomfortable because of their strong stance against the mining industry, but we're going to continue to try to promote that industry and many others, and by doing so in partnership with First Nations in this territory.

**Ms. Hanson:** At the Conference Board of Canada meetings last week — if the minister's office had actually sat and listened to the proceedings, they would have heard the Yukon First Nation chiefs present at that meeting say that land use planning — a key tenet of our final agreements — is imperative for economic growth. Even the Fraser Institute has said that land use planning is essential for economic certainty, but the Yukon Party government treats land use planning with contempt.

So I'll try again. When will the Premier listen to Yukon First Nations and present a timetable for completion of all land use plans in order to respect final agreements and bring economic certainty to Yukoners?

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** Well, again, I have to disagree with the member opposite in her assertions that we are somehow not working in partnership with First Nations on economic development. There are numerous examples of instances where the Yukon government collaborates, partners and shares information with First Nation governments and development corporations for the benefit of their communities and the Yukon economy as a whole.

There are examples — probably too many to list today — but I can start with a few. We're working with First Nation development corporations in looking at a feasibility study for a redundant fibre line south. We're working with First Nations on forestry operations. We're working with First Nations on mining operations.

These are all issues that we're going to continue to focus on, but for the member opposite to suggest that First Nations aren't at the table and aren't being meaningfully engaged in economic development, it is simply not true.

She only needs to look at the strong performances of economic development corporations in the territory that are owned by First Nations to see how meaningfully engaged the First Nations are in our economy and how important their contribution to our economy is.

**Ms. Hanson:** The minister opposite is correct in one aspect: a strong Yukon economy is based on partnerships. Yukon First Nations are major economic partners, major employers, purchasers, investors and builders. They have been here since the beginning and they are not going anywhere. These major economic partners have repeatedly called for completion of land use planning — a key promise to create economic certainty — but this government is more interested in undermining the process.

And it's not just the Yukon Party's contempt for land use planning. When the Ross River Dena challenged the government to work with First Nations to modernize mining rules, government appealed the decision. The Yukon Party's approach is confrontation and litigation, not accommodation and cooperation. This is not good for business.

So, Mr. Speaker I ask again: when will the Premier stop wasting taxpayers' money in costly court cases and make land use planning a priority to bring economic certainty to Yukon.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** It is a pleasure to respond to this question because the Yukon Party government — previous Yukon Party government — is the first government to complete a regional land use plan in the North Yukon. It has been completed and implemented. Currently, we have two land use plans underway — the Peel watershed land use plan and the Dawson Regional Planning Commission — and we continue to look for ways to learn and build upon each commission as we move forward into others.

It's not that we're abandoning the long-term planning. As I said, that's something that we're very committed to as a government, and we continue to look for improvements to the planning process. Completing the Peel watershed plan is a priority and completing the Dawson regional land use plan is a priority. We'll look for other opportunities for improvement as we move through the remainder of the plans that need to be developed here in the territory.

#### **Question re: F.H. Collins Secondary School reconstruction**

**Mr. Silver:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. On March 11, 2013, the government told Yukoners a new design for F.H. Collins was being chosen and an old design was being scrapped. The decision was announced by

the Premier and a news release said, and I quote: “The approved construction budget, as detailed by two separate independent estimators, was \$38.6 million.”

Since that announcement, I have asked repeatedly for copies of the estimates. The Premier, the Minister of Education and the Minister of Highways and Public Works all refused to provide them, and now we know why.

There were actually three estimates and two of them were higher. In fact, at \$43.7 million, one was much higher than the government said it was.

Why did the Premier tell the public that two estimates told them that they could build the new school for \$38.6 million when that was not in fact what the estimates said?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I guess we can scoop the Liberals into the same pot as we did with the NDP. Quite honestly, Mr. Speaker, as I have already said, this government committed \$38.6 million to the construction of a new F.H. Collins School. The lowest bid came in almost \$10 million above what we had budgeted. I used the analogy of a family that doesn't have the budget to purchase or to construct a new home and that home comes in with bids sizably larger.

I made the assumption that the NDP would just go ahead and do it, and now it appears it would be the same case for the Liberals as well. It doesn't matter, we'll throw financial prudence to the wind and we will do what it takes. We'll just spend the money. I guess we know that because, the last time the Liberals were in government, they did such a fantastic job of creating debt that they had to borrow money just to pay the wages.

**Mr. Silver:** I think we're going to throw accountability to the wind too, Mr. Speaker.

There were three estimates — not two — that the Premier told Yukoners, and one of the estimates told the government before the tender closed that the project would cost \$43.7 million, not \$38.6 million.

Last fall, I asked the Minister of Highways and Public Works to put on the record that the estimates in both of these documents were in fact less than \$38.6 million. Here's what he said in response to my question, and I quote: “The minister will not speak to these documents at all.” Now we know why the minister pled the fifth.

To the Premier, who made these statements in the first place: why did he say that the two estimates were for \$38.6 million when in fact they were not?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** It is the responsibility of this government to manage Yukoners' tax dollars — to spend them, to ensure that there is a maximum benefit in terms of delivering of services and programs to Yukon people. We continue to focus on building a strong private sector economy, to create jobs and training opportunities — as we talked about in the announcement and this government's investment in the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining just yesterday — and for creating wealth.

Do you know what happens when that happens? This government then creates more revenues because we create revenues from businesses paying corporate taxes; we create revenues from more individuals paying personal income

taxes; we create revenues from licences and fees. What do we do? It's not just about the economy. Why are we growing the economy? Because then we can provide those hospital beds to people. We can provide those schools for our children and those teachers. We can provide the money to build those roads and Internet connections that we need. We can look after those people who need help in our society, which is important, as well.

We're focused on being financially responsible. Going forward with a project that is already \$10 million overbudget before we even start is not how this government will operate.

**Mr. Silver:** That's a great writing team. I want the Premier to answer the question. The government did its best to keep these documents out of the public eye. Now we know why. They contradict the Premier's statements. They prove the government knew before it even tendered the project that it was going to be more than the \$38.6 million and, for some reason, they went ahead anyway. This raises many questions, and I'll be asking all of them.

Let's start with this one: why did the Premier tell Yukoners that he had two estimates that said the school could be built for \$38.6 million when he had two estimates that told him the exact opposite?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I have answered the question; I'll answer it again. We are not going to go forward with a project that was \$10 million overbudget before we even start.

As I've said, Standard & Poor's — and we all know who Standard & Poor's are — says, “In our view, the territory demonstrates good financial management, which positively affects its credit profile.

“Its annual financial reports are comprehensive and detailed and are independently audited. Yukon provides three-year financial forecasts and a five-year capital plan ... We believe the territory has achieved a track record of strong economic performances.”

What we have to muse is if this was an NDP government or a Liberal government, would we hear Standard and Poor's saying the very same thing to their government?

#### **Question re: Coroner's report re death at Watson Lake hospital**

**Ms. Stick:** Mr. Speaker, Teresa Ann Scheunert, employed as a nurse at the Watson Lake hospital, died in the same hospital on June 21, 2012, of mixed-drug toxicity. In the coroner's judgement of inquiry issued July 19, 2013, the coroner states, and I quote, “the system let down Ms. Scheunert.”

Can the minister identify the parts of the system that resulted in this 47-year-old woman's death and explain to Yukoners what failed and what has been fixed?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Even before the coroner's report was submitted, the Yukon Hospital Corporation had undertaken a study on their own to determine exactly what, if anything, had gone wrong within the system at the hospital in Watson Lake.

I'm sorry, I don't have the internal report that the Yukon Hospital Corporation has developed as a result of the lessons

learned during this tragic incident, but I have been assured by the Hospital Corporation that not only have systems been changed there to make sure that such an incident does not happen again, but that systemic changes throughout the Hospital Corporation have been implemented to ensure that this doesn't happen again.

**Ms. Stick:** The family of Ms. Scheunert have paid the ultimate price for this system failure: the death of their mother, their sister, their grandmother. That can't be forgotten. Yukoners, that is the public taxpayer, ultimately fund, and own, the Watson Lake hospital. Canadians are proud to have public health care and the security it's supposed to represent.

The death of this healthy 47-year-old woman of mixed drug toxicity in Watson Lake hospital and the subsequent finding of system failure has shaken the confidence of many citizens. Is the minister aware of and investigating other system failures in Yukon hospitals?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** No. The member opposite seems to want to get in to something that's very personal and very private, I think. There are a number of questions that the coroner's report even asked or mentioned that we're not sure of.

I have asked the Yukon Hospital Corporation, as an arm's-length body, to review its operations and its procedures to ensure that this doesn't happen again. They have done that.

I have not asked for any information about the patient personally, nor have I requested any information about potential staff mistakes that were made there, because once we do that, it would close up the system completely and the internal workings of the Hospital Corporation and the hospital itself in Watson Lake, and any free exchange of information would close down completely.

So I find the member opposite's questions really difficult to answer outside of the fact that I've asked the Yukon Hospital Corporation to review operations procedures. They assured me that not only was it done after the coroner's report was submitted, but it was started long before the coroner's report was submitted. Not only that, but they have an ongoing system of looking at hospital procedures.

#### **Question re: Water management strategy**

**Ms. White:** The government announced changes to the water monitoring program in North Yukon to improve its overall understanding of water in an area with the potential for oil and gas development.

We know it can take as long as 10 years to be able to get an accurate assessment of the many variations in a river's flow rate. We also know that the effects of climate change are making predictions about future flow rates more difficult. Melting permafrost and ongoing changes to precipitation can have a significant impact on the amount of available water in an ecosystem.

What does this government consider enough time to be able to predict the minimum amount of water needed to maintain the health of these watersheds today and in the future?

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** The member opposite is quite correct. We've made considerable investments in this territory's system for monitoring and understanding Yukon's water systems. As she correctly pointed out, we recently made considerable investments in the North Yukon to increase the understanding we have of the water quality and water quantities in the north Yukon, along the Dempster Highway and in the Eagle Plains area. That is something that we're very proud of and we're going to continue to invest in.

As I've noted many times in this House before, we're in the process of developing a water strategy for the territory, which will guide how we monitor and understand our water resources here in the territory for the years to come. That water strategy work is underway currently. That strategy will tell us some of the answers to the member's question with regard to what kind of information is needed.

With regard to specific information on how many years of data you need, that's not something I can answer as the Minister of Environment; that's something I have to rely on officials and experts for, to suggest what information is adequate and what information is needed. That's why we're making these powerful and strong investments in monitoring and infrastructure throughout the territory.

**Ms. White:** To put it mildly, fracking is water-intensive. A single moderate-sized hydraulic fracture uses 1,000 tonnes of sand, 300 cubic metres of chemical additives and 15,000 cubic metres of water. To help visualize what these numbers mean, that's 40 B-train trucks of sand, seven B-train trucks of chemicals and 500 B-trains to deliver fresh water to the well site — and this is only on one single frack job.

The average well is fracked 12 times to get it into production and many need to be fracked on an ongoing basis to maintain production levels. On a typical pad site, there are 12 to 16 wells.

These numbers were generated by Energy, Mines and Resources.

If fracking is to occur in the Yukon, where will all this water come from?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I assumed my new responsibilities for Energy, Mines and Resources about three months ago and the topic of hydraulic fracturing is something that I've heard from many Yukoners on, on both sides of that issue. There are those who are concerned about oil and gas development and there are those who wish to take advantage of the jobs and opportunities that come with oil and gas development.

The one thing for sure is that it's a very emotional issue for many Yukoners — many of the Yukoners who were out front of the Legislative Assembly here today, as well as Yukoners who I ran into over my lunch hour when I was out in the community on the other side of the issue, wishing to see those jobs and opportunities.

I think that, as legislators, what we need to do is separate that emotion from the science. I have the confidence in the select committee — a committee that has three government members, three members of the opposition — that through their work in the coming months leading up to the report that

they're going to deliver to this House in the spring of 2014, they will work to separate the emotion and focus on the science. There's plenty of science on either side of this issue and I know that a number of NGOs in the community are working to bring in individuals to speak and educate Yukoners, just as the select committee is as well. I look forward to their work and them reporting back to this Legislature.

**Ms. White:** I'm sure of one thing and that is that water is critical to Yukoners. It's critical for our ecosystems and our livelihood, and it's critical for our future. I'm glad that the select committee is doing its work and I'm looking forward to their public proceedings, but the Yukon government says that the oil and gas industry is a priority for Yukon's economic future, so the minister has to answer questions about it. We don't have the data to know whether our territory's ecosystems can safely provide industry with the water they would need for fracking. What we know is that the amount of water needed for unconventional gas extraction would be unprecedented. The oil and gas industry knows it as well.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister assure Yukoners that the health and sustainability of our waters will not be compromised by the unprecedented water demands of the fracking industry?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Again, just last week, the Yukon Chamber of Commerce had a gentleman in town from the Canadian Society for Unconventional Resources, who delivered speeches here in Whitehorse and Watson Lake. I know other environmental NGOs have brought in speakers as well over the past while to speak about the risks and benefits of hydraulic fracturing. It's something that is really a no-brainer. No one in the Yukon wants to compromise our water — that's certainly something that none of us want to do. We've charged the select committee with coming up with identifying those risks and benefits of hydraulic fracturing.

It's an emotional issue for Yukoners. It's an emotional issue across the country and indeed around the world, when it comes to hydraulic fracturing. I have the confidence in the members who sit on that select committee that they will go in and be able to separate that emotion. It's sometimes a difficult job.

I know that the member asking the question, as well as the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes, has recently showed up in rallies against hydraulic fracturing and they have made up their minds, I believe. But fortunately and hopefully the other members from the New Democrats, the MLA for Klondike and the three members from this side of the House, who are also involved in the select committee, are willing to keep an open mind, separate the emotion and deliver a report to this House that identifies those —

**Speaker:** Order please. The member's time has elapsed. The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

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

*The House adjourned at 2:22 p.m.*

**The following sessional papers were tabled October 31, 2013:**

33-1-86

Yukon Conflict of Interest Commission Annual Report to the Legislative Assembly for the Period from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 (June 28, 2013) (Speaker Laxton)

33-1-87

Yukon Human Rights Panel of Adjudicators 2012-13 Annual Report (Speaker Laxton)

33-1-88

Report from the Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly on the Absence of Members from Sittings of the Legislative Assembly and its Committees (October 31, 2013) (Speaker Laxton)

33-1-89

Public Accounts 2012-2013 of the Government of Yukon for the year ended March 31, 2013 (Pasloski)

33-1-90

Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees Seventh Report (Hassard)

33-1-91

Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees Eighth Report (Hassard)