

Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Tuesday, November 5, 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 Veterans' Week

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I rise today on behalf of the government to pay tribute to the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces who have served, fought and died for our country, and to Veterans' Week.

Each year, from November 5 to 11, Canadians join together to remember. This year for Veterans' Week we are asked to make remembrance more than something we feel, but something also that we do. Many of us will wear poppies as a reminder. Some will attend Remembrance Day ceremonies next Monday and pause for a moment of silence. Veterans deserve to be recognized and appreciated, not only because they have served our country, but also because of the work they often continue to do in our communities.

Last year, you, Mr. Speaker, were honoured with a Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal for your work with the Royal Canadian Air and Army Cadets. Minister Istchenko continues to serve as a Canadian Ranger. Your dedication to these programs shows how important veterans are in our communities. Together in this Legislature, it is important to acknowledge and show respect for our Canadian veterans. Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, we must never forget.

This Veterans' Week I encourage you to make remembrance something that you do. This year, take the time to do something extra to remember. Talk to a veteran, such as yourself, Mr. Speaker, or the honourable Minister of Highways and Public Works, and ask them to share their experiences. Connect with a friend or a family member who has served for the Canadian Armed Forces and thank them for their service. Follow Veterans Affairs on social media or show a poppy on your own social media accounts.

The poppy is a powerful symbol recognized around the world as a symbol of collective reminiscence, a common history of sacrifice and commitment. This year I ask those who hold Remembrance Day and our veterans in their thoughts and prayers to do more. Make remembrance and respect for our veterans' sacrifices something you share, a thing you can talk about and celebrate.

I would also like to acknowledge in our Assembly today in the visitors' gallery — I would like to acknowledge Red Grossinger, a veteran. I'm glad that you're here today, sir, and on behalf of all of us, thank you.

Applause

Ms. White: I rise on behalf of the NDP Official Opposition and the Third Party to pay tribute to Veterans' Week. Each year from November 5 to 11, ceremonies and events will be taking place across the country to commemorate the contribution and sacrifices our veterans have made. The peaceful society we now enjoy didn't just happen on its own; it didn't happen overnight; it wasn't easy; it wasn't magic, chance or luck that brought us here. The peaceful society we live in was created by the efforts and sacrifices of generations of Canadians. The society we now live in was hard-won by regular men and women who chose and continue to choose to put their lives on the line for the cause of peace and freedom around the world. They stepped forward in our greatest time of need because they believe in global peace and security.

They leave their communities, their families and the lives they know to make a difference, and they do make a difference. This brings me to the act of remembering and the goal of Remembrance Week. This is about making remembrance more than something you feel; it's about making remembrance something you do.

If people are at a loss, Mr. Speaker, they can visit www.veterans.gc.ca for ideas on how to actively remember.

Remembering all that has been done during times of war, military conflict, and peace helps us better understand our nation's history and its future. While spending time on the Veterans Affairs website, I found a fantastic link to the Heroes Remember site. It allows regular Canadians to share in the lives of ordinary individuals who became extraordinary, often under very trying circumstances. These first-hand accounts of Canadian service men and women take us into the well-guarded and often private recesses of never-forgotten memories. We can learn about events that helped to shape Canada as a nation, events that contributed to the formation of Canadian values and, most importantly, the personal encounters of Canada's brave young men and women with fate. These tales are mostly from wartime, although some have taken place in more modern-day conflicts.

Hearing from Canadians who live from coast to coast to coast and who represent the multicultural fabric that make up Canada is a treasure. You can witness history unfold through the eyes of the private, the orderly, the officer, the military nurse, the seaman, the paratrooper and the young teenage boy who was fulfilling his family legacy by following his father's footsteps. By taking a moment to glimpse into the lives of those Canadians who felt compelled to divulge their occasionally painful memories so that their fellow comrades may be remembered forever, you are choosing an act of remembrance. We can help carry on these memories so that those who perished in war did not do so in vain. Veterans often say that they are more afraid of being forgotten than they are of death. Together, it is our duty to pass on our gratitude to keep their legacy and memories alive. This Veterans' Week, show you remember — lest we forget.

Speaker: Introduction of visitors?

Are there any returns or documents for tabling?
 Are there any reports of committees?
 Are there any petitions?
 Are there any bills to be introduced?

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 59: Act to Amend the Highways Act and the Dangerous Goods Transportation Act — Introduction and First Reading

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I move that Bill No. 59, entitled *Act to Amend the Highways Act and the Dangerous Goods Transportation Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Highways and Public Works that Bill No. 59, entitled *Act to Amend the Highways Act and the Dangerous Goods Transportation Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 59 agreed to

Speaker: Are there any further bills to be introduced?

Bill No. 58: Child Support Administrative Recalculation Act — Introduction and First Reading

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 58, entitled *Child Support Administrative Recalculation Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Acting Minister of Justice that Bill No. 58, entitled *Child Support Administrative Recalculation Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 58 agreed to

Speaker: Are there any further bills for introduction?
 Notices of motion.

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to implement the recommendations of the Select Committee on Whistle-blower Protection by tabling new legislation in 2014.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to increase its contribution to Legal Aid from \$700,000 a year to \$1.1 million.

Speaker: Are there other notices of motion?
 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, yesterday this House and the people of Yukon heard a lot about shovels. Yesterday, the

Premier promised Yukoners that F.H. Collins would be done right before shovels were in the ground. This, of course, follows the numerous promised shovels in the ground at F.H. Collins before the 2006 election and the now-infamous photo opportunity of the Premier with a shovel in the ground during the 2011 election. There seems to be a lot of shovelling by the Yukon Party government around F.H. Collins, but it does not seem to be about construction. The people of Yukon have heard this all before.

The real question is, Why should anyone trust this Yukon Party government to actually build this project after all the years and wasted money?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I am pleased to stand here today in this Assembly to say that the tender was issued for this project last week. It is out in the hands of the contractors now and we are very much looking forward to completing this project. This project will be truly a beautiful school that will be the envy of all the students, and certainly the students will be very proud with the new school. The minister has been down to look at the model that we had adopted from the Province of Alberta. I want to recognize the contribution that the Government of Alberta has provided us to this point. We've had teachers, administrators and students who have all travelled down to Alberta to look at this school and, quite honestly, I've heard glowing results. We're looking forward to the completion of the tendering process and moving forward with the construction of a school that will make all Yukoners proud.

Ms. Hanson: I thought this was a Yukon government school, not an Alberta government school.

The budget approved by Management Board for F.H. Collins did not include geothermal heating or a temporary gym, yet the tender the contractors had to bid on required both of these expensive add-ons. The Premier says that these items were added on after the approval of the budget.

The Premier is the chair of Management Board. As chair, why did he not convene Management Board and change the budget to reflect the additional millions of dollars' worth of items they added to the tender before companies bid on an inaccurate tender?

The problem here is that either the Premier did not do his job as chair of Management Board or he intended this project to fail. Which is it?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Again, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Official Opposition is incorrect in her assumptions.

Quite honestly, as we moved forward through the process and went to tender on this project, it did not, for example, include a temporary gym. However, through the good work of the Minister of Education and consulting with the students and the parents in the fall, it became evident that that was something they in fact wanted.

This was not something that had been considered by the building advisory committee. They had decided to not have a gym — that, in fact, the gym would not be available for an amount of time during the construction. In fact, we all remember a protest right here in this Legislative Assembly.

This government is responsive to the needs and the concerns of its constituents. Based on the fact that there was a strong demand for the temporary gym or to have access to a gym during the construction period, this government went ahead and added that to the budget. This government is responding to those needs of its citizens. The students and the parents of that school required it and said it was important and we agreed with them.

Ms. Hanson: That's difficult to follow. The Premier does occasionally speak of fiscal management, yet we have seen the list of Yukon Party government failures. We have the arrest processing unit, the jail, the Dawson City and Watson Lake hospitals — all overbudget, all redesigned and all not completed on time.

The citizens of Yukon are all too familiar with this government's inability to handle large construction projects and to manage our tax dollars effectively. Now we are seeing the same bungling with F.H. Collins and it has cost taxpayers millions already. The Premier says it is responsible to stick to an out-of-date budget that did not include items that were in the tender and to blame the contractors for their bids.

The Premier speaks of leadership and responsibility, so when will the Premier take responsibility for the F.H. Collins fiasco, rather than blaming construction companies for their bids in his faulty process?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: What we have is a long list of projects that have been built on time and on budget. One of the most recent ones is Betty's Haven, which was constructed on time and on budget. When it comes to financial management, let me again quote Standard & Poor's, world-renowned and international, saying "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." We believe the territory has achieved a track record of strong economic performances, and 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.

This government stands very proudly on its fiscal management and its responsibility to Yukon citizens and taxpayers to spend their money wisely.

Question re: Peel watershed land use plan

Mr. Tredger: After rejecting the final recommended *Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan*, the Yukon Party government invented its own plan. Subsequently, despite Yukon Party's wishes, Yukoners made it clear that they are massively in favour of the original plan and rejected the government's new plan.

One way of dealing with disappointment is denial and this is exactly what the government did. When access to information documents confirmed that an overwhelming majority of responding Yukoners supported the original plan, the minister said that numbers don't matter. What the minister forgot is that those numbers represent the voices of Yukoners.

Does the minister believe that the voices of Yukoners who have spoken on the Peel watershed plan don't matter or will he acknowledge that the overwhelming majority of Yukoners support the final recommended Peel plan?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I think in the member's comments he is discussing the final round of public consultation. It's important, I think, to reflect on the intent and design of that final round of public consultation. It was set up by us to be a process by which Yukoners could provide thoughtful, constructive input into the proposed modifications Yukon was considering to the final recommended plan. We had hoped that Yukoners would participate in that and many of them did, but as we know, some environmental groups in particular — I assume with some aid from the NDP — orchestrated a fairly comprehensive effort to rouse interest from outside of our country and they did so quite successfully. Let me cite some of the numbers that we are discussing here today.

Point of order

Speaker: Order please. Member for Riverdale South, on a point of order.

Ms. Stick: I would point to 19(g), where the member across is suggesting that we've done things that we have not done, which is false.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: There is no point of order. It is a dispute between members. I would caution all members that inflammatory suggestions or suggestions of this nature are not going to help this debate at all, on either side.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So let's review some of those numbers. We received a petition with over 5,000 signatures drafted by CPAWS; 6.9 percent of those were from the Yukon. We received a petition with over 1,700 signatures written by the Yukon Conservation Society; 2.5 percent of those were from the Yukon. We received 585 auto e-mails drafted by CPAWS; four percent of those were from the Yukon. Those numbers and those opinions do matter and we will take them into consideration, but they matter far less than the opinions of those Yukoners who provided thoughtful, constructive input into the process.

We were elected by Yukoners, for Yukoners and ultimately we are accountable to Yukoners.

Mr. Tredger: This Yukon Party government has undermined the Peel watershed consultation process to the point where they have seriously jeopardized the progress of land use planning across the territory. This has created unnecessary economic uncertainty in these difficult economic times. Yukoners are thoughtful people with strong views and strong values. Time and again, Yukoners have shown that they want to work together to build a fair and sustainable economic future for the Yukon.

Will the Yukon government accept the final Peel land use plan as recommended and get serious about working with First Nation governments on land use planning across the Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Mr. Speaker, we are serious about working with our First Nation planning partners — that's why we're in the final round of government-to-government consultations with our planning partners in the Peel watershed land use plan process.

Those meetings are ongoing. The select committee has met a number of times, and my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and I have a meeting scheduled with the four affected chiefs this week. I look forward to working with our First Nation planning partners to develop a land use plan that works for Yukoners.

But what I have to say is that it's a bit ironic that the member terms the final recommended land use plan as an opportunity for economic development when in fact we know that it bans mining in a significant chunk of the Yukon. What we disagree with the NDP on is that land use planning doesn't have to be about banning activities; it can be about land use and planning how we use the land in various parts of the territory. That's a different vision from what the NDP have for the land use planning process. They see it as an opportunity for banning mining. That's why they are asking us to accept this final recommended land use plan.

Mr. Tredger: Again the member opposite shows his polarizing nature and his misunderstanding of land use planning. Land use planning is for Yukoners by Yukoners and for all uses of the land. It is a cooperative venture. It is not meant to set one against the other. It is something we do together.

The Yukon Party government undermined the Peel watershed consultation process. Everyone knows that this process could have been concluded if the government put its own agenda aside and listened to the people. The interim withdrawal of staking under the *Quartz Mining Act* in the Peel watershed area is essential to maintain trust through the completion of this land use process. The interim withdrawal is expiring this December.

Will the minister —

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

Hon. Mr. Kent: As mentioned by my colleague, the Minister of Environment, he and I are working very closely on this. In accordance with the First Nation final agreements, we're currently consulting First Nation governments on the final recommended plan for the Peel watershed. We're looking to conclude our consultation with First Nations before making a final decision on the Peel plan.

As mentioned by my colleague, the Minister of Environment, we do have a meeting of principals scheduled for later this week. We do remain committed to working with First Nations to develop and implement a mutually acceptable land use plan.

I think that at this time it would be premature to speak about extending the mineral staking withdrawal in the Peel watershed. We're working to come up with a plan that's balanced and fair and that respects the good hard work of the mineral and resource extraction industry, balanced against the

other economic and traditional use activities that take place within the Peel watershed.

Question re: F.H. Collins Secondary School reconstruction

Mr. Silver: I have a question for the Premier. When the government began the process of replacing F.H. Collins school, it went to the public to gather input from the school council, parents and students. Here's one of the main recommendations, and I quote: "Any new facility to replace F. H. Collins Secondary School be designed not as the traditional school 'box', but rather as a facility that responds to the latest understanding of student learning and related school design." How has the government responded to this recommendation? It went to Alberta and bought an off-the-shelf box.

After telling Yukoners these plans were free, we found out this summer that it wasn't the case, and the company from Alberta was given a \$900,000 contract, with no competition, to make changes to those free plans. Why did the government try to pretend that these plans were free when it knew all along that expensive changes would have to be made?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I will take this opportunity again to thank the building advisory committee for all the work that they did putting together the thoughts and articulating everything that they gathered to provide input into the design that came out. As we have spoken and as I have said many times, when the lowest bid comes in almost \$10 million over the budget before we've even turned a shovel, that is not responsible. As a government, we speak of ensuring that we use taxpayers' money wisely, and in this case we felt that wasn't the case — because I can do a lot of other things in terms of programs, services or creating infrastructure for Yukoners with that \$10 million.

We did have the opportunity to obtain the design for a school out of Alberta that has been tried and tested and built effectively. In fact, there are other jurisdictions that have gone to Alberta to look for similar types of plans. We did take this plan and then we worked together. We incorporated input from the building advisory committee, we talked to the students, and we talked to the teachers and administrators. From that, we have made alterations to ensure that this school meets the needs of Yukoners and we look forward to building a brand new, beautiful F.H. Collins school shortly.

Mr. Silver: The Premier is so used to just deflecting these questions that he's not even listening to the questions any more. The Yukon Party talks about being fiscally responsible. \$5.5 million was spent on the design and site work that would have to be redone. That money is lost.

The public and the educational professionals were asked for their opinion on the new F.H. Collins. The advice they gave to the government was, don't build a box. What has the government done? It built a box they got from Alberta.

Last week, the government issued a new tender for the school and said the construction budget remains at \$38.6 million. It's my understanding that the new school is going to be substantially smaller. Can the Premier confirm that the new school is 18-percent smaller than the scrapped design?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Again, I will get back to what the fundamental issue here is on this topic, and that is that the lowest bid on the design that came out was almost \$10 million overbudget. I know the opposition, both the Liberals and the NDP, would probably have just gone ahead and built it anyway.

However, as I've said, we can do better and we will do better. We will have money to ensure we can continue to deliver programs and services to Yukoners, continue to have the money to invest in infrastructure, and continue to have the money to create jobs for Yukoners, which also creates opportunities for skilled training and for businesses. That is a priority. We will build F.H. Collins school. I know that the students, the teachers, the parents and the administrators will look forward to that day, as will we.

Mr. Silver: The Premier said the government had two estimates that told them they could build the school for \$38.6 million, when in fact they had two estimates that told them the opposite, including one that put the price within 10 percent of the lowest bid. Instead of trying to reach a deal with the local contractors, the government scrapped the tender and threw out \$5.5 million worth of work. They spent \$5.5 million to save \$4 million.

Then the Premier told Yukoners that they had a new, free plan from Alberta, when in fact those plans cost close to \$1 million. Now we find that the new school will cost as much money but will be 18 percent smaller, and there is no one across the way who will take responsibility for this mismanagement. Instead, the government is looking to pat themselves on the back for a job well done.

What is fiscally responsible about spending \$5.5 million to save \$4 million?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Mr. Speaker, I will again review the timelines because the Member for Klondike continues to be confused about how this happened.

Management Board approved the construction budget in May of 2012. Subsequent to that, we received two independent estimates — professional estimators who both came in with estimates that were lower than the approved construction budget by Management Board Secretariat. We then went and issued the tender on November 7, 2012. Forty-one days later, we received a third estimate that the Management Board at that time did not consider. We continued to wait to open the bids to find that the lowest bid was almost \$10 million overbudget.

That does not matter to the NDP or to the Liberals because the last time the NDP were in power, they left a mountain of debt. The Liberals followed them, and in fact, were mired in so much debt they had to borrow money to pay government employees. Yukoners deserve better than that.

Question re: Pharmacists legislation

Ms. Stick: In all other Canadian jurisdictions, physicians are not permitted to own any portion of a pharmacy. Yukon's dated legislation allows for a blatant conflict of interest whereby a doctor can profit from the prescriptions they write. For decades, Yukon pharmacists

have requested that the *Pharmacists Act* be updated. The government's own internal audits recommend the same, but this government is not acting on the advice of Yukon pharmacists or its own internal audits.

Instead, the Yukon Party enables potentially unethical practices. Why does the Yukon Party ignore pharmacists and its own internal audits by supporting a dated piece of legislation?

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: Hon. House Leader, on a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: The NDP member just appeared to accuse Yukon doctors of unethical practices and I think that is unfair for her to do this while she is protected by legislative immunity. She may want to step outside and accuse those doctors of that.

Speaker: The Member for Riverdale South, on the point of order.

Ms. Stick: That was a mischaracterization of what I asked. I made no such suggestion that physicians would be doing that. I said "potentially unethical practices" on behalf of government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: I'm going to say there's no point of order at this time, but I will be reviewing the Blues to look at these words carefully. If a change of ruling is required, I will issue it at that time.

Again, I remind members that the words that you choose and the context you put them in can bring problems to the floor and to yourselves. Choose your words carefully and with thought. Please finish your question.

Ms. Stick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Why does the Yukon Party ignore pharmacists and its own internal audits by supporting this dated piece of legislation?

Hon. Mr. Graham: As I have mentioned in this House on the previous two days when the member opposite consistently asked questions with respect to an unfortunate incident that occurred in Watson Lake, the Yukon Hospital Corporation takes health and safety very seriously. They have initiated an independent review of the incident in question. They have also enhanced pharmacy supports. They are being provided through the implementation of telepharmacy which was implemented during the summer months, and a pharmacist on call, which has been available since May 2013.

I do believe that my colleague's comments with respect to the comments made by the member opposite were very unfair. In many of our smaller communities we would not have pharmaceutical services provided unless a physician took on the responsibility of providing that service in communities, and Watson Lake is not the only community where a doctor has the requirement or has the responsibility of providing pharmaceutical services.

Ms. Stick: Yukon is the only jurisdiction that allows this. There are other small communities across the country

that have other ways of doing it. The Yukon *Pharmacists Act* states that physicians are entitled to a pharmacy licence and that pharmacists may obtain drugs from any person or place they choose at their discretion. This is in the *Pharmacists Act*. In the rest of Canada, legislation puts parameters on the operation of pharmacies. In the Yukon, licensed pharmacists could purchase drugs via the Internet, prescribe them to patients and open a pharmacy staffed by anybody. This is the *Pharmacists Act*.

When will this government demonstrate a commitment to patient safety and update this legislation, which is proving to be a piece of legislation that is dangerous to the health and safety of Yukoners?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Community Services has a role as a regulator in this, so this is a collaborative effort between Health and Social Services and my department when it comes to the regulation of health professionals, and we have taken a significant number of steps in updating and modernizing the legislation pertaining to health professions under the *Health Professions Act* through the implementation of nurse practitioner regulations and a number of other areas.

Again, what's really very disturbing is the tone coming from the NDP with regard to our health professionals, whether they be doctors or pharmacists. The accusation made by the member that impugns their ethics really is disturbing. As my colleague, the Minister of Health and Social Services, noted, in some of our smaller Yukon communities there have been cases where — and still are cases where — services are available through physicians providing access to those services and currently, if we were to immediately listen to the member's advice, that would in effect be ceasing those services. We are in the process of reviewing this matter, but I can assure this House that any steps we take and any legislation and regulatory steps we take will recognize the reality of the Yukon context and the importance of providing services to Yukon communities. We also respect the ethics of all of our health professionals, unlike the NDP.

Ms. Stick: Only in the Yukon does this legislation allow this — only in the Yukon — and that is despite decades of advice from pharmacists and from their own departments. Their own internal audits say to fix this legislation. It's not right, Mr. Speaker. I'm not impugning anyone's reputation; I'm just pointing out that the potential is there in the current, old legislation that would allow these things to happen. There is no excuse for this party's neglect of this important piece of health care legislation.

Will this government improve patient safety by making a commitment to update the *Pharmacists Act*, as has been requested by pharmacists and internal audits within one calendar year?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, the member opposite says she is not impugning anybody's reputation and yet she has accused the operators of these pharmacies, who are physicians, of potentially illegal operations. If that's not impugning actions — if that's not impugning somebody's reputation — I don't know what is.

I trust these physicians to do the right thing. We will, in cooperation with my colleague, the minister responsible for consumer affairs, be working on this piece of legislation. We have already started consultations with a number of interested parties and we will continue doing so. But we will not introduce this new legislation until it's correct and ready to be done.

Question re: Water management strategy

Ms. White: When it comes to water, Yukoners are telling this government that what is most important is the knowledge needed to keep water healthy and life-sustaining.

In its *Draft Yukon Water Strategy*, ensuring industry access to water is listed as the first goal the Yukon government would like to achieve.

The Yukon Party approach sees water as something to exploit for profit. The Yukon public sees water as sustaining life. The *What We Heard* document from August clearly shows that the Yukon public wants the government to recognize the ecological value of water and wants the government to focus on sustainability of healthy water and ecosystems.

Does the minister recognize that the health of water and the ecosystems it supports should be the main priority of its water strategy?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: For the member opposite to characterize the draft water strategy as having its primary goal as exploiting water for the purpose of profit is a gross mischaracterization of the work done by the Department of Environment in consultation with First Nation communities and Yukoners in general to date.

What I can commit to is developing a water strategy that guides Yukon government and guides our planning partners in water resources, whether it be municipalities, First Nation governments, NGOs or other groups. Of course, industry will be involved. Industry is a user of water and is affected by water use in the territory. So of course we'll take into consideration what they have to say, but at its core, this water strategy will be about the responsible, environmentally sustainable use of water resources in the territory.

Ms. White: Our neighbours in northern B.C. experienced what happens to water and the life it sustains when industry is ensured access to water. In the Horn River Basin, much of the water for fracking is taken from freshwater lakes, rivers and streams. This was permitted even without baseline studies of either ground or surface waters and without requiring reporting or data collection on water withdrawals.

Fracking operations rapidly expanded. Fort Nelson and Dawson Creek have faced drought-like conditions, to the point where the B.C. Oil and Gas Commission required operators to suspend all short-term water withdrawals. Now we are hearing reports that the moose in the area are so toxic that the meat needs to be tested before humans can eat it.

Will the minister commit to adequate baseline studies, minimum quality and quantity thresholds for healthy ecosystem needs and legislation governing industrial water

removals before ensuring industry access to this most fundamental element?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Some of the assertions made by the member opposite are, quite frankly, not based on science, not based on reality and not based on fact. The assertions that she has read on the Internet and on some of her fantasy websites have perhaps misguided her.

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: Member for Takhini-Kopper King, on a point of order.

Ms. White: We can go with 19(i), uses abusive or insulting language, or we can go with 19(g), which imputes false or unavowed motives to another member.

Speaker: Minister of Community Services, on the point of order.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: It appears to me that the Minister of Environment was simply expressing his opinion of the quality of information presented by the member and it doesn't appear to me there was a contravention of any point of order.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: I'm going to rule that there was no point of order; it was a dispute between members. Characterizations of where members get their information or how they choose to portray that information is up to the individual members. It's not for the Speaker to rule on the facts, but on the presentation of the information.

Members are free to portray the facts or any portion of the facts in any fashion they choose. The Speaker is not a judge. I am here to rule on your respectful presentation of information and shared debate.

I believe the Minister of Environment had the floor.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I can commit to is that the water strategy will develop a common understanding of the vision and principles that Yukon government will use when making decisions affecting water resources. I can commit that we will ensure that the water strategy supports the steps we need to take to maintain and improve our access to safe and affordable drinking water. I can commit that the water strategy will generate a better understanding of Yukon's water resources — and especially our groundwater resources, which we currently know so little about.

To that end, we will implement new programs and new infrastructure to generate that information and to provide it to the Yukon public and our partners in water management.

Mr. Barr: The minister's many years at the Yukon Party Cabinet table —

Speaker: My apologies, I didn't notice the time. With the various points of order I lost track of the time. Our time for Question Period has actually elapsed — my apologies.

Notice of opposition private members' business

Ms. Stick: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I would like to identify the items standing in the name of the Official Opposition to be called on Wednesday, November 6, 2013. They are Motion No. 497, standing in the name of the Member for Whitehorse Centre, and Motion No. 495, standing in the name of the Member for Takhini-Kopper King.

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, November 6, 2013. It is Motion No. 492.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, 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): Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 11, *Second Appropriation Act, 2013-14*. 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. 11: *Second Appropriation Act, 2013-14*

Chair: The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 11, *Second Appropriation Act, 2013-14*. We will proceed with general debate.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Madam Chair, I'm glad to be joined here today by my deputy minister. I have tabled two important financial documents: the 2012-13 Public Accounts, which represent the final accounting, fully audited by the Auditor General of Canada who provided an unqualified opinion — meaning a clean bill of health — and also the first supplementary estimates for 2013-14, providing both an opportunity for the Legislature to consider revisions to the current year — the 2013-14 budget — and an update of our financial position.

This first supplementary estimate of the fiscal year really does provide us with two opportunities. The first one is that by

incorporating the results from the 2012-13 fiscal year as reported in Public Accounts, it provides us the opportunity to present to all legislatures and to Yukoners an update on the financial position of the government. At the time the 2013-14 budget was tabled, the audited results, as we know, for the 2012-13 fiscal year were not finalized, and therefore, the summary projections were subject to change. This is in fact the case every year. As a result, now that the results for 2012-13 have been finalized, *Supplementary Estimates No. 1* represents the first opportunity to provide the Assembly a financial update for 2013-14 that is inclusive of the final results — the final audited results from 2012-13.

I want to acknowledge to the members of the Assembly that we are not tabling a final appropriation bill and final supplementary estimates for 2012-13. All departments, for the second consecutive year, managed within their approved appropriations.

Now, I know that all the departments face many challenges. I really acknowledge and appreciate all of their efforts for managing emerging priorities and budget pressures within the approved financial parameters. To manage your budget means making difficult and unpopular choices. I want to thank all the ministers and their officials for their hard work and diligence.

The first supplementary estimates detail the proposed expenditure changes that require legislative appropriation authority in addition to the spending authorities previously granted when the main estimates were approved.

To summarize our financial record, we continue to target balanced budgets with 2013-14, projecting an annual surplus. We continue to maintain a very healthy net financial asset position and avoid net debt. In an environment where many other Canadian jurisdictions are working toward achieving balanced budgets and reducing net debt, that's where Yukon is right now. As one of only two jurisdictions that are not in a net debt position, Yukon is providing a leadership role in this country.

Having managed the government's finances over a multi-year horizon since 2003 and 2004 — in fact, a period now of 11 years — our government has delivered effective, responsible and disciplined spending initiatives and investments on behalf of all Yukoners. Now we're halfway through a five-year mandate and we remain committed to pursuing planned, disciplined and affordable expenditure initiatives on behalf of all Yukoners.

Our fiscal position provides us with the capacity to be responsive to Yukoners' needs and to be responsive to emerging pressures without mortgaging our future. Our government continues to be in a very healthy fiscal position. *Supplementary Estimates No. 1* presents a forecast annual surplus of \$45.363 million, resulting in an estimated accumulated surplus for March 31, 2014 of \$1.274 billion.

Continuing to avoid net debt, our year-end financial position is projected at \$137.388 million. I wish to emphasize to all members of the Legislative Assembly the significance of having net financial resources as opposed to having net debt. This is a very significant indicator of our financial health, as it

means that the government is not relying on future revenues to pay for services that we're delivering today. As I have stated, only Alberta is in this position and my colleagues and I are very proud of this accomplishment.

The 2013-14 mains were tabled back in March with budgeted gross expenditures of \$1.233 billion, of which \$977 million was allocated to O&M and just under \$253 million was allocated to capital. This government budget speaks volumes to the services and programs and to the infrastructure that's delivered by our government. Further, it highlights with emphasis the financial demands facing this government on an ongoing basis.

Building on our 2013-14 main estimates, this *Second Appropriation Act, 2013-14* and accompanying first supplementary estimates for 2013-14 provide for increased spending totalling \$93,084,000. Of this total, \$71,178,000 represents an increase to gross O&M and \$21,906,000 represents an increase to gross capital expenditures.

As I have noted, this supplementary budget provides for an increased O&M and capital of just over \$93 million. This increases our total government expenditures up to almost \$1.323 billion. Of this amount, \$275 million is allocated for capital projects for infrastructure improvements throughout this territory and \$1.048 billion is allocated to operation and maintenance in support of the many ongoing programs and services that we deliver every day to Yukoners.

I'd like to again comment on planning and budgeting as it pertains to how this government proactively manages to ensure and allow for appropriate legislative consideration of our proposed expenditure initiatives. Planning and budgeting is about decision-making, as it is all about identifying priorities and considering, developing, resourcing and implementing appropriate actions to provide the best services possible.

Madam Chair, planning and budgeting requires decision-makers to make choices. The budget process supports us as decision-makers to consider all issues in identifying appropriate solutions. In this regard, the development of a budget serves us both as a planning tool and as a control tool. Decision-making is an ongoing and frequently evolving process. Decision-making is also not an isolated event. It remains the prerogative — dare I say the obligation — of our government to consider emerging issues and priorities and to recommend effective and appropriately resourced solutions and actions to this Legislative Assembly.

Madam Chair, this has resulted in our adopted practice to have in-year adjustments tabled as supplementary estimates for the Assembly to consider to the original budget plan. This approach has served Yukon well, offering significant opportunities within the context of a multi-year fiscal framework to consider resource requirements for competing priorities and to make sound recommendations for scrutiny, debate and approval right here in the Legislative Assembly.

Madam Chair, this supplementary budget recognizes our obligation and commitment to our most valuable resource, and that's our employees. As a matter of principle, this government is committed to due process of collective

bargaining negotiations. Therefore, our government does not make specific provisions in a formal budget document for potential collective agreement settlements. To do so has the potential to bias those negotiations. Our government continues to allow negotiations to conclude and agreements to be ratified prior to the inclusion in the budget, as necessary and appropriate, and we're happy to see that the opposition agrees with that.

At the time our 2013-14 main estimates were tabled, negotiations were underway with the Yukon Employees Union and a final agreement was still outstanding. Therefore, in our estimation, the 2013-14 mains appropriately did not include any related costing provisions.

An agreement between the government and YEU was reached in July. With the ratification of the renewed negotiated agreement, appropriate costing and budget adjustments are reflected in the supplementary estimates that were tabled.

We prepare and table budgets based on the best and most current information we have at the time — notwithstanding that best-laid plans are subject to change, as I have articulated.

Changes to the budget plan through supplementary estimates allows us to be responsive to the emerging pressures and priorities and to the important things that matter to Yukoners. Changes to the budget plan through supplementary estimates maintain accountability to the Legislative Assembly and then, therefore, to all Yukoners.

That brings me to my next point, and that is that the members will recall that this summer we issued a special warrant on a number of expenditure initiatives that were identified. In accordance with the FAA, items previously authorized through a special warrant are to be included in an appropriation bill during the next sitting of the Legislative Assembly. The *Second Appropriation Act, 2013-14* and the first supplementary estimates are prepared inclusive of the amounts that were identified previously through that special warrant. This meets the requirements of the FAA and brings the opportunity for scrutiny, debate and approval right here in the Legislative Assembly.

The special warrant totalled \$8.95 million, the majority of which — \$5 million — was authorized to Community Services related to fire suppression efforts from this summer. The remaining balance of approximately \$3.9 million was allocated to a number of important initiatives advanced by our government addressing flood mitigation as well as upgrades and maintenance of Yukon's highways, rural and resource access roads.

The Yukon government continues to follow its tried-and-true practice of revoting funds to ensure that capital projects continue to move forward as appropriate. Approximately \$38.7 million has been identified in the first supplementary for revote. Departments are seeking capital and O&M authority from the Legislative Assembly for lapses of the previous year. Much of this represents funding required to continue our investment in infrastructure projects.

A final general observation about revotes, if I may — the ability to revote funds provides an important tool for

government to manage appropriately and practically, not artificially, within the confines imposed by appropriation timelines. It allows us to be consistent with our overall prudent, responsive and accountable approach to the management of Yukon's financial resources. Individual members will be pleased to provide members of the Legislature with complete details of their respective portfolios. Members will have observed that my focus has been on our commitment to solid planning, decision-making, budgeting and the strength of our fiscal framework.

Our government is in a very strong financial position. We continue to target balanced budgets, with 2013-14 projecting another annual surplus, and we continue to maintain a very healthy net financial asset position and to avoid net debt. The strength of our financial position and our government's ongoing commitment to fiscal discipline allows us to continue to make resource allocation decisions, such as those identified in *Supplementary Estimates No. 1*, on behalf of all Yukoners. These are significant expenditures made for the benefit of all Yukoners. We continue to provide significant investments and expenditure initiatives on behalf of Yukoners, while maintaining our commitment to fiscal discipline. We do this through a prudent and practical approach to planning, decision making and budgeting.

Madam Chair, our government is contributing to a healthy, vibrant Yukon economy. I am proud of the program, services and infrastructure investments we provide for the benefit of all Yukoners and I'm doubly proud that we maintain a strong fiscal position, allowing for our government to be responsive to emerging issues and priorities on behalf of Yukoners. I look forward to discussing this supplementary budget as we move forward.

Ms. Hanson: Well, it feels like Groundhog Day. We've just heard almost verbatim the speech made by the Premier yesterday. With respect, I'm not quite sure what the purpose of this opening gambit is. I thought we were moving into Committee of the Whole to a discussion of the supplementary budget with respect to the departments. The notice that we had was that we would be dealing today with the departments of Justice and Community Services. The fact of the matter is the Premier has repeated his speech from yesterday. I don't intend to repeat my remarks from yesterday. There are a couple of comments that I would like to make though.

When we talk about government and government planning, it is more than project management. What we've heard the Premier talk about is a whole series of mismanaged projects. What we expect and what citizens of the Yukon expect is a government that has a vision — a vision of governance for this territory that is creative and that's outside of the box. We are not a franchise operation out of Ottawa or Toronto or someplace else. This is the Yukon and people expect us to develop an economy based on the template for governance in this territory that we jointly created. That's the economic certainty.

So when the Premier talks about — it's humorous if it wasn't so direly important to this territory that the territorial

government gets a grasp on what it's missing here, which is a vision for the territory. They have demonstrated that they cannot manage simple projects. It's one thing for the Premier to talk about the fact of the increasing amounts of money that come to this territory. It is not due at all to the efforts or the initiative of the Yukon Party. They benefit from the largesse of the Government of Canada and we're all thankful for that. We are thankful that without any creative thinking on behalf of that government across — because if we were waiting for them to have a creative thought, it would not have happened, but without that — despite that — we still had a nine-percent increase in federal funds last year and we'll continue to get more money from the federal government.

It's not because these folks across the way have diminished our reliance on the federal government. It's not because they have a creative economic vision. It's not because they have any views about economic diversification. It's because they are demonstrating a branch-plant mentality.

That's unfortunate. We are the Government of Yukon — all of us in this Legislative Assembly. We have active and vibrant partners here — First Nation governments, industry and municipalities. We need to work together to create a vision for the future. The fact of the matter is that the annual surplus is reduced this year.

I just wanted to make a comment to both the Premier and his Economic Development minister — and probably to just about everyone over there who have a certain kind of, I don't know, strong adherence to the importance they place on what they perceive as the positive ratings by Standard & Poor's. You know, one thing that is important to keep in mind is that rating agencies do not assess or evaluate the performance of a government in meeting the statutory requirements or the commitments made. They are not value-for-money audits. Standard & Poor's was one of the rating agencies that gave Lehman Brothers an A rating right up to the month that they collapsed in 2008, triggering a global panic. Standard & Poor's lack of credibility, along with its sister rating agencies, played a major role in the 2008 financial crisis by giving AAA ratings to mortgage-backed assets that turned into toxic waste.

I'm not making this up, Madam Chair. I think we'd be better off if we talked about what the real responsibilities of this government are and the real assessments. The reality is, when there are value-for-money audits, when there are performance audits or when there are internal audits done, the performance is not up to what Yukoners expect of a government.

It's unfortunate that we have to listen to a reprise of a series of speaking points from yesterday. I wasn't anticipating that from the Premier and, frankly, I'm disappointed, but I would hope that we can move forward and focus on the substantive matters that are up for debate with respect to the various departments that have identified additional requirements since the Legislative Assembly approved the budget last March.

I do have a question for the Minister of Finance — and for the Premier, actually — and it has to do with the process and parliamentary prerogative of the Legislative Assembly to

deal with budget and budget matters. We saw from the Premier's predecessor a move to dismiss the importance of the Legislative Assembly when it came to budget matters in his releasing of budget speeches at Chamber of Commerce luncheons and that kind of thing.

Yesterday, before this Legislative Assembly had any opportunity to be briefed on the various budgets and the supplementary estimates — the various departmental budgets and their supplementary estimate requirements — before this Legislative Assembly had an opportunity to even commence that exercise, which is our obligation as Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Cabinet communications office was out there selling the merits of the supplementary estimates.

The Premier or his colleagues across the way may find that amusing; I do not. The Official Opposition takes very seriously our obligations and our responsibilities on behalf of all Yukoners to hold this government to account and to ensure that the appropriations that are voted by this Legislative Assembly are done according to the parliamentary system. It's not parliamentary practice to have your budget debate managed or stickhandled by your Cabinet communications folks.

The Official Opposition looks forward to engaging in debate with respect to the supplementary estimates. I would ask that the Minister of Finance could perhaps — since his Cabinet communications folks are enamoured of putting out the lines — simply answer one question. This would then make it a lot easier so that we wouldn't have to come back to it in each area and we can have at least on the record one area — one summary statement from the government with respect to the proportion of the proposed supplementary estimates, which is attributable to the resolution of the collective bargaining this summer. I'm sure the Department of Finance and the Premier will know that, because he would be responsible for having sanctioned or agreed to the cumulative total, knowing the bargaining position of the Government of Yukon. We think that public servants deserve and merit the hard-earned results of that negotiating process. It would be helpful just to have a cumulative total so that we can then focus on those other areas of the supplementary estimates that do not impinge upon the agreed-upon aspect, which would be difficult to have known in advance of the collective bargaining exercise and which, as the Premier has pointed out several times, was concluded this summer.

In order to facilitate us having a focussed conversation on those non-collective bargaining areas, could the Minister of Finance simply put on the record what the cumulative total of that successful collective bargaining exercise was?

Let's get on with the meat of the matter, which is those other areas — because we all recognize that collective bargaining and the positive outcome of it — which is the recognition of the work that public servants do on our behalf and for which they should be properly compensated — are not matters of debate. Let's just separate that piece out and let's focus on the other aspects, which really are worthy of debate.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: For the record, I'd like to make a couple of comments based on some of the statements made by the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

First off, in terms of franchising with Ottawa — and as the Leader of the NDP is fully aware, the Yukon Party has no affiliation with any political party outside of the jurisdiction of Yukon, unlike the NDP, because when you buy a membership in the NDP, you automatically become a member of the federal NDP as well. This isn't the appropriate time to articulate for Yukoners the significance of that, but perhaps one day we will get into that. If there is any party that certainly has franchising, it is in fact the New Democratic Party.

This government is pretty comfortable with working within the box and has found a strong, sound financial management box where we continue to invest in capital projects. To invest in infrastructure — the result of which, when we build hospitals and we build roads and we build schools, is an investment, not only for this generation of Yukoners, but for generations of Yukoners to come. Unlike the debt that we saw when the Liberals and NDP were in power — when they were creating debt, just as I described before just really to pay the day-to-day bills — this government is not mortgaging the future to pay for bills today, and we won't do that.

So we're comfortable inside the box. We have seen some of that outside-of-the-box thinking. It's on the record from the previous administrations, from the two parties on the other side of the floor. Their outside-of-the-box thinking has resulted in what we saw: double-digit unemployment, a mass exodus of people, almost the complete destruction of a private sector economy. I can attest to that, as I was an owner of a business in the private sector during those years of NDP and Liberal rule here in Yukon.

I need to also comment on the TFF, because the Leader of the Official Opposition seems to have some confusion around that and "isn't this just rosy?" I think she just needs to look to the east, to look at the situation that exists in the other two territories, both of which get substantially larger TFF funding than we do. However, neither one of those jurisdictions can talk about the surpluses and the net financial assets that we have. They can talk about large amounts of debt that they carry and, in fact, they requested an analysis to be done by Canada to define the borrowing limits and, as a result of that, have both had considerable increases in their debt limits — both of which are substantially larger than ours. To this day, we don't come anywhere near touching our debt limit at all.

I will take credit for the financial performance we have had. Yes, the other two territories get it. Yes, it is not equalization, as it is in the provinces. But I think the record stands for itself as what has occurred in this territory since this Yukon Party government took over.

I will also comment on the public administration as a percentage of our GDP, because while the total expenditures have increased — in fact, you've seen government increase with a budget when the Yukon Party took over, from about \$550 million to more than double that. But also at that time

we remember that we had a new *Yukon Act*, and we had what the feds call "devolution" — but what I like to call "evolution" — and that is that we assumed the responsibility for the management of the land and the water and the resources. With that assumption of responsibility came all of the people who used to be public servants working for the federal government. Yes, we have increased our O&M to deliver these programs because we have assumed all of that responsibility, but if you look at the percentage of the GDP that comes from public administration — so that includes all of government, including Health and Social Services, Education, and public administration — that percentage of the GDP has continued to fall.

I really do enjoy listening to the Leader of the New Democratic Party because it reaffirms to me and to this government that we are on the right path, that we are doing things the right way, and that we are delivering for Yukoners every day. We are providing those programs; those services. We are providing those hospital beds. We are providing those schools. We are providing those roads. We are providing those teachers to ensure that Yukoners have the best opportunity that they can. We are providing money for investment and we continue to focus on building our private sector economy because we understand how governments pay the bills.

There is no money tree in the backyard where you can just continue to add more process, continue to legislate and regulate, continue to impose more restrictions or impediments on the private sector, and expect that things will continue to grow, because they won't. We have done that. I will also acknowledge the great work that was done by the previous two Yukon Party governments, because I think we actually just passed the 11th anniversary of the election of the Yukon Liberal Party.

When we finally did get the question at the end of the statement, the Leader of the Opposition asked about the cumulative impact of the collective bargaining agreement provided in the supplementary. That total is \$7,811,000. That's a number that reflected by the retroactive payback to January 1, 2013.

Mr. Silver: I think the time for general debate has taken enough time going back and forth with our own looks on GDP and where we are fiscally. I think I am going to hold my questions for Committee of the Whole in the individual departments.

Chair: Is there any further general debate?

We will then proceed to department examination. We are going to start with the Department of Justice.

Committee of the Whole will recess for five minutes while we await officials.

Recess

Chair: Committee of the Whole will now come to order. We're going to begin with general debate on Vote 8, Department of Justice.

Department of Justice

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I rise today to speak to the Department of Justice, *Supplementary Estimates No. 1*. This builds on all of the great work that we have accomplished as a government so far.

I would first like to extend thanks to the Premier for having the confidence in me to lead this department. I truly appreciate the team approach our Premier takes in both Cabinet and in caucus.

I would also like to extend the thanks to Chris Young, Robin Boss and Harmony Istchenko for the incredible support that they offer to me as minister day in and day out. Without their support I would have a very, very difficult task in functioning in my role as minister.

Members of the House will be familiar with our *Victims of Crime Strategy*, where we developed new legislation that established a bill of rights for victims, and new or improved programs and services to assist victims in their time of need.

I'm very pleased to report to this House that once again we have renewed our funding with the federal government's Policy Centre for Victim Issues. This funding arrangement extends a previously announced commitment for another three years and represents \$500,000 per year over the next three years. In this budget, there is the first allotment of these funds, and these funds will be spent on augmenting phase 2 of the *Victims of Crime Strategy*. As minister, I've been very focussed on ensuring that the rights and needs of victims are being addressed, and these funds will go a long way toward this commitment.

We've also renewed our partnership with British Columbia once again in this budget by providing victim services to Atlin, Lower Post and Good Hope Lake. The cost for the agreement that allows us to access their VictimLINK system, which is a toll-free service that assists Yukoners to get the services they need by providing information and referral services to all victims of crime and immediate crisis support to victims of family and sexualized violence, including victims of human trafficking exploited for labour or sexual services — the amount budgeted for the service is \$10,000.

Services to victims and their family are, of course, important, but we also need a strong police force to ensure that there is confidence in our police and that they have the resources and support they need from our community and from our government. After an extensive review of the Yukon's police force, the Government of Yukon issued a report called *Sharing Common Ground* that recommended, among other things, establishing a Yukon Police Council that would make recommendations on improving police services, as well as on the annual priorities for policing.

The report also recommended better training in specialized responses for RCMP officers in the areas of domestic and sexual violence, more transparent complaint processes and more participation in the appointments of detachment commanders.

I am proud to say that we have substantially progressed on nearly all aspects of the recommendations of the report,

and in this budget there is an additional \$295 to continue with the implementation of the report.

As members of this House will recall, our police council consults as part of its mandate on policing priorities this past year for the RCMP. These priorities include: focussing on preventing and decreasing the victimization of children and youth; continuing to improve the response to sexualized assault and family violence, including abuse in intimate partner relationships and child abuse; to work with the public and service providers to identify and address community safety issues; to build and foster constructive and respectful relationships with First Nations leadership, communities and citizens; and improve the police response to vulnerable populations with a particular focus on individuals with mental health issues and addictions. I would like to thank the RCMP for their valuable contribution to our community.

The details of how these are to be accomplished are on the department's website, which I am pleased to report is going through substantial changes and updating at present. While this is a work in progress, the webpage design is much more user-friendly and easier to navigate. If the members have any time, they can take a look and check back from time to time, as there will be many more changes to come.

I'd like to talk briefly about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, or FASD, and the prevalence study that we have embarked on at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. In this supplemental budget, there is \$228,000 for this year to begin this project. This is the first installment of three years' worth of funding that I announced this summer.

I am pleased to be able to say that the Department of Justice Policy and Communications branch has made great progress on this project so far. They have created the methodology, a principal investigator has been contracted, an affiliation with the University of British Columbia has been created to provide analytical services for the data collected, as well as ethical oversight for the project. Staff have been hired within the branch, including an analyst and a psychologist to assist with this project. We expect to begin interviews shortly after an ethics review of the methodology is completed by UBC's Ethics Review Committee. The methodology has been submitted to this committee and our team is awaiting the results of the ethics committee's review before proceeding.

We expect the data to be collected over about 18 months, with analysis and a final report created after interviews are completed. As members know, there is very little data on the prevalence of FASD within the criminal justice system, so it is difficult for practitioners to design programs or provide services to this largely unidentified group. This study will certainly be groundbreaking for our criminal justice system.

While it's too early to speculate on the results, there is no doubt that some of our inmates or persons have FASD. Knowing the prevalence will give us a strong foundation to establish programming and even a diagnostic team to support these individuals.

Madam Chair, I can speak to this more during the general debate, but I should note for members that for the study, participants will of course be given their diagnosis and it will

be entirely up to them if they wish to share this information. The study is not designed to take the place of court-ordered assessments, but is a scientific study about prevalence. Individuals will be able to use their own information to better inform the services that they can ask for. Their privacy will be completely respected during this study and all data within the final report will be anonymous to protect privacy.

This budget also contains funds for Legal Aid in the amount of \$200,000 to assist in expenses incurred by legal aid for high-cost cases this year. I've also recently announced that I have directed the Department of Justice to review the budget of Legal Aid to ensure that it has sufficient resources to carry out its mandate and that they are to report back to me by the end of this year. Madam Chair, I understand that officials have already met with the director of Legal Aid in order to further this assessment and that staff are beginning their analysis of the information that they have received.

The department has also undertaken a resource review for police services in Yukon as one of the commitments from the *Sharing Common Ground* report. This review has a budget of \$55,000 and will assist us in establishing the appropriate level of resources for policing in Yukon.

In addition, Madam Chair, there is \$60,000 for a review of RCMP air services in Yukon. This review will assist us in determining use of air services, including the use of the RCMP-owned airplane.

On the capital side of the budget, I'm pleased to say that we are making great progress on the introduction of our new justice enterprise information network, or JEIN system, which will replace the court registry information system, or CRIS. The old system is approaching 25 years of age and is not meeting the needs of the court registry and is not integrated with other systems within the department. The new JEIN system will be integrated with the Court Services, the Sheriff's Office, Victim Services and Correctional Services.

Two of the smaller modules have gone live in the past year at the Sheriff's Office and at Victim Services. The larger modules should go live in the coming months. The supplementary budget for this project is \$231,000.

The first set of modules I mentioned are for the criminal justice system. When they are complete, our staff will begin the implementation of the civil courts into JEIN. This is an ongoing and complex project that has to manage two systems at once over a period of time while the new system is installed.

We're also working on making our court appearance system more efficient by installing video conferencing and video remand at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre and at the court building. This system will allow, among other things, the ability for inmates at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre to make routine appearances in court via videoconference, rather than being transported from the centre to the court house and back again. This project includes \$121,000 for the Community Justice and Public Safety portion of the project and another \$49,000 for Management Services to continue to implement the project.

There is also \$400,000 to replace the fire alarm system in the Andrew A. Philipsen Law Centre building. This system has failed, and an alternate system has been put in place until a permanent solution can be installed. I should note here that the sprinkler system is still functional and is unaffected by the alarm failure. An alternate alarm system was put in place in cooperation with the fire marshal, and Occupational Health and Safety and staff were trained in its use. It is expected that a new system will be completed before the end of the fiscal year.

There is also \$1.1 million for the demolition of the old Whitehorse Correctional Centre. It is expected that the centre will be demolished by the end of this fiscal year as well. Property Management is overseeing this project. I'd like to thank the Minister of Highways and Public Works for his role on the demolition of the old WCC. There are some toxic materials such as asbestos that will need to be remediated as part of the demolition project.

Members will recall that a study was commissioned to see if this building was worth repurposing for another use, and it was determined that the upgrades required would not be worth it for the building to be reused. There is also \$369,000 for the remaining capital for the Whitehorse Correctional Centre that is requested here as a revote.

Members are no doubt aware that there have been some minor commissioning issues with the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre, including issues with ensuring that the heating system is working properly. The heating system was not performing to design specifications and, as such, some areas of the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre were either too cold or too hot for both staff and inmates. This is not acceptable, of course, and we are working with the contractor under the warranty to correct this problem. As members can imagine, this is a large and complex building that is quite different from a normal commercial building. We will see as we move into the winter months whether repairs to the system are working out in practice.

The arrest processing unit is now clad to weather and work continues at a rapid pace. I was in the unit a few weeks ago and was pleased with the progress made to date. We expect this building to be finished by the end of this fiscal year. This budget contains \$516,000 for this project, including \$116,000 of the revote — which is \$58,000 net of recovery — and \$400,000 allocated as a one-time supplemental funding for this project. The arrest processing unit will be used as a replacement of the Whitehorse detachment police cells. A temporary solution is in place now with the Whitehorse Correctional Centre intake area, but this new building will take pressure off the intake area and provide for a cell area designed to meet the needs of clients by getting access to health care and other government services.

I am deeply indebted for the hard work and the dedication of the staff at WCC and within the arrest processing unit, and I'd like to thank them for being a part of this project. The arrest processing unit was one of the recommendations of the *Sharing Common Ground* report.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the staff from the Department of Justice for their hard work and dedication in delivering high quality justices services to Yukoners. The staff have been instrumental in ensuring new programs of our government, such as the Community Wellness Court, implementing a new model of corrections, implementing a new vision for victim services, implementing a modernized land title and condominium regime, and implementing the *Sharing Common Ground* report to improve our police services. All of these important initiatives and more have occurred on our watch here in government, and I'm so very proud to have the support in executing our vision for the justice system in Yukon by the men and women who serve Yukoners so well day in and day out.

Ms. Moorcroft: I am pleased to stand in general debate for the supplementary budget for the Department of Justice. The mandate of the Department of Justice promotes a high quality and cost-effective justice system and Yukon laws that are fair, accessible and impartially administered. It promotes the rule of law, the separation of powers, human rights and gender equality. Those are all important values that I share. I note that the Department of Justice also works to build relationships with others to support good governance to reduce, resolve, and mitigate conflict, and to foster safe communities with opportunities for healing.

I want to thank the Department of Justice officials who do good work every day and I want to thank the officials who provided information on the details of the supplementary estimates before us. I want to address a few issues in general debate, as well as asking detailed questions related to the expenditures.

Overall, there is an operation and maintenance increase of \$2.77 million for the department, with \$595,000 of that as a recovery. The capital increase is \$2.9 million.

The minister just spoke about the arrest processing unit. In the spring of 2012, the minister told this House that the concrete foundation for the arrest processing unit was going to be built next to the admitting area of the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre. The minister said that tenders would be going out soon and that hopefully the arrest processing unit would be ready and opened by fall of 2012. Then again this spring, the minister said the tenders should be going out soon. Then we discovered that the reason for the delay was a redesign. The problem is that the heated concrete pad that had already been installed was too big and it had to be broken up and rebuilt to fit the new design. I asked the minister to tell this House how much this government was going to cost the public — or how much this mistake was going to cost the public.

So we have in these current supplementary estimates an additional \$400,000 in the budget. I wonder how much the costs will increase over the life of this project and how much of that \$400,000 was for having to re-do the work that had already been done on the heated concrete pad. That occurred after nearly \$1.3 million had already been spent on the arrest processing unit. The minister said that the Department of Justice and Highways and Public Works carried out a review

of the scope and the design parameters of the arrest processing unit project and that review led to design modification.

I want to know why this review wasn't completed before the oversized concrete pad was built in the first place. If a family decided to make a big investment in building a new home, I am certain that they would not go ahead and build a part of a foundation before they knew what the rest of the house was going to look like, but that's how this government seems to work.

This government has a pattern of bungling large capital projects that often come in many years behind schedule. The government seems to make decisions on these major capital projects on the fly and without a plan. The Whitehorse Correctional Centre is a case in point. The original budget was less than half of the total costs and we have even more allocations in the current supplementary budget to complete the infrastructure projects.

Schools, jails and hospitals have been designed on the fly, with the result that the taxpayers have to shoulder the financial burden of government mistakes and shifting priorities. The minister has to recognize that it is project mismanagement and he is trying to present it under the guise of review and redesign, but Yukoners are going to have to foot the bill for a \$400,000 increase. We shouldn't be rebuilding something. The government should have made its decision about final plans for the arrest processing unit before they spent the money on too large of a footprint.

The government says over and over again that it makes decisions based on fiscal responsibility. The Premier has been repeating that line to us over the last two days in reference to the F.H. Collins boondoggle, but government needs to be able to make a responsible decision and stick to it. The government thinks that building, redesigning and rebuilding at great cost to taxpayers passes for fiscal responsibility. Well, it doesn't.

It's not just about the additional \$400,000 of taxpayers' money being wasted; it's about repeated construction delays. I'm calling on the government to do the job right. It's not fiscally responsible to build a footing and then come in and say that we can't afford that or it's not right.

When the minister told the House last May that the arrest processing unit would be 25 metres square, we found out that the concrete pad had been built too large and that it had in-floor heating and utilities throughout. That's not just a slab of concrete; it's an expensive and important part of the building's foundation. Again, anyone who has decided to invest in a new home is going to make sure that they don't have to pay for a foundation that they then have to break up and rebuild.

How much more time and money will be wasted before we see the building that was promised two years ago completed? I hope the government does not truly believe that these costly mistakes and delays in the arrest processing unit at Whitehorse Correctional Centre are an example of improving project management. If that's the case, I am quite concerned about their understanding of project management.

Projects are well-managed when thoughtful and thorough planning takes place before construction. The minister said

that the arrest processing unit is clad to the weather and that with the outside siding on they hope to have it completed by spring of 2014. I'd like to know from the minister how many change orders there have been in this construction project other than the concrete base.

The minister also spoke about legal aid and he mentioned that there was \$200,000 for expenses related to unique high-cost trials. There was also an increase for Court Services for those high cost trials for \$227,000. Legal Aid was provided with an extra \$180,000 in the 2010-11 year to cover high-cost cases before the courts. A year later, the government gave another \$235,000 in one-time funding to cover more cases.

Once again this year, the government is providing \$200,000 for high-cost trials, but this doesn't solve the problem of an underfunded legal aid program. Recently, Yukon Legal Aid had to suspend some of the services that it offers to those who can't afford to otherwise hire a lawyer. Legal Aid's poverty law assistance — which includes representation in disputes over employment insurance, social assistance benefits, landlord and tenant matters, and refugee cases — has not been accepting new clients since the beginning of the month. In an interview, the minister said he was not aware Legal Aid had suspended some services, but this is the third year the government has stepped in with a one-time increase.

This isn't because Legal Aid isn't a well-run and efficient operation. They are a well-run and efficient operation, as the minister himself acknowledged. The one-time funding doesn't solve the bigger problem in the territory of an underfunded legal aid system. The current way of budgeting makes it difficult for legal aid services to run their services, causing staff to work under a state of constant stress. The fact of the matter is that legal aid is a very good deal for the government. Its costs are well below government or private practice rates. This is a matter of access to justice for the most vulnerable people here in the Yukon.

When we look at the legal aid system, we see that the most vulnerable members of society, who often have the most complex legal issues for the defence to deal with, are underfunded when you consider the resources that are available for the other parts of the system. In order for the system to be fair, there needs to be more resourcing of Legal Aid. Why is it that the government can't see fit to fund it properly when we see in this budget that the government has no problem finding money for its own legal costs?

The minister has ordered a budgetary review of Legal Aid. Officials are to report back to him before the end of the year with recommendations regarding funding. Legal Aid would like to see the territorial government increase its core contribution to about \$700,000 a year. Will the government be creating a system to allow high-cost trials to be paid on a separate track so that they do not interfere with Legal Aid's work in poverty law and other vital services for low-income Yukoners?

It's hard to understand why the minister didn't see this coming, since Legal Aid notified the department of the need last April when it saw its budget for the fiscal year. According

to the most recent Yukon budget, \$864,000 of Legal Aid's \$1,618,000 core funding comes from the federal government. That works out to about 53 percent of funding from federal dollars, leaving about 47 percent from the territory.

With the extra \$200,000, the territory's contribution jumps to about 52 percent. I'm hoping that the minister, as a result of the review he has asked his officials to conduct, will be able to increase the funding so they have the support they need to represent people who could not otherwise afford a lawyer.

I want to also turn to the fetal alcohol spectrum disorder prevalence study in Yukon's correctional population. This is an important issue and I'm pleased to see that work being done. The minister indicated that the methodology has now been prepared and that they have hired staff for the Department of Justice to work with someone from the University of British Columbia and that the methodology is now before the UBC ethics committee for review of the ethics.

I want to ask the minister if he is able to provide the Official Opposition with a copy of the methodology that will be used in the FASD prevalence study.

I also want to ask the minister — he did indicate that care would be taken to make sure that when the reports were released at the end of the project, the data would make sure that all privacy was respected and that any information related to inmates would ensure that their anonymity was protected. I would like to know whether people can refuse to participate in the study if they do not want to take part in this FASD prevalence study.

I also don't understand why there was, in the tender management system, a document issued after the closing date of August 22 that indicated the tender for the FASD prevalence study had been cancelled because there were no qualified bids. We now hear that the tender has been awarded. Perhaps the minister can explain that.

I do have other questions. I'm not sure how much of my time is remaining. Perhaps I'll address one other issue before I move on and that would be to start on Victim Services. There is \$500,000 for augmenting the Yukon *Victims of Crime Strategy*.

The federal minister and federal officials came to Whitehorse, and there was coverage in the media about a former colleague of some of the members opposite — a former Yukon Party Minister of Justice who is now the president of the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council — who was quite disturbed about the fact that the federal minister did not choose to consult with the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council about victim services, so I think that that is truly unfortunate and I will be looking for further details related to the various Victim Services projects.

The minister in his opening remarks referred to the provision of VictimLINK for some of the communities in northern British Columbia — Good Hope Lake, Lower Post, and Atlin — and that the amount is recoverable from the Province of British Columbia. I wonder if the minister can tell the House whether that VictimLINK service is provided by

people who are in the Yukon, who are based in the Yukon, and who are familiar with Yukon services and Yukon legislation, which are somewhat different from British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: This government has committed to addressing the needs of victims of crime. In August 2009, we released our *Victims of Crime Strategy*. Since that time we've been actively implementing a workplan that fulfills its goals.

The *Victims of Crime Strategy* complements components of the work of the *Sharing Common Ground*, especially Item 4.1, Domestic Violence and Sexualized Assault Framework. The *Victims of Crime Strategy* was developed by the Department of Justice and the Women's Directorate in collaboration with First Nations and community agencies in order to enhance our responses to the needs of victims, families and communities.

The strategy has been designed to acknowledge, formalize and continually strengthen the Government of Yukon's existing services and to explore new and emerging initiatives — in particular, working with others to support victims of crime. The *Victims of Crime Strategy* is being guided by an implementation advisory committee. This committee has representatives from community groups, First Nations and women's groups, Health and Social Services, other justice organizations and the RCMP.

The committee has met up to twice a year throughout the duration of the strategy. The *Victims of Crime Strategy* has provided a foundation on which to seek funding from other sources for specific initiatives. The Policy Centre for Victim Issues has contributed up to an additional \$500,000 for 2013-14 to enhance the Yukon *Victims of Crime Strategy*. This is part of a five-year agreement from 2011-2016.

In the 2012-13 year, Victim Services completed the development of a logic model and evaluation framework for the *Victims of Crime Strategy* with the financial support of PCVI. The evaluation plan will be implemented in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

The strategy has five areas of focus and I'd like to now update you on what we have achieved in each of these areas.

We have committed to strengthening the focus on the needs of victims of crime — the strategy-initiated funding to support two additional Victim Services workers who have improved our ability to respond to victims in all Yukon communities. With the assistance of the Policy Centre for Victim Issues, Victim Services hired an additional Victim Services worker in Watson Lake — a term position from 2013 to 2016.

Victim Services has offices in Whitehorse, Dawson City and Watson Lake. All other Yukon communities have a victim service worker assigned to work directly with victims of crime and community supports. Services to rural communities continue to be a priority, including staff travelling to communities during court and between court appearances.

The Victim Services unit is a voluntary service that provides support and information to victims of all crime, whether or not a charge has been laid. This victim support includes information about the criminal justice system, the

role of the victim in the criminal justice system and opportunities to participate in criminal justice processes.

It also includes assistance in the court process by supporting applications for peace bonds and emergency intervention orders — also information about court proceedings, preparing victims to testify as witnesses, working with federal Crown witness coordinators, and supporting victims in preparing victim impact statements. Also, there is information to victims about options available, the status of the investigation, the next Court appearance; the final outcome of the proceedings and the notification of reduction of level of supervision of the accused.

Also, there is emotional support regarding the impact of victimization and referrals to other agencies as deemed appropriate. Also, there is practical support such as the victims of crime emergency fund, the emergency cellphone initiative, letters of support for housing and referrals to other agencies, as well as information and support for victims whose partners are involved with the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court in Whitehorse and in Watson Lake, and/or the Community Wellness Court here in Whitehorse, as well as representation on the Youth Justice Panel. Also, there is 24-hour access to VictimLINK, a B.C. crisis line and support for inter-agency and community requests for programming and for training.

Accessibility to victim services is very important. As part of the *Victims of Crime Strategy*, we have released new Victim Services brochures to inform the public about the rights of victims and the unit's services. Victim Services has completed the development of a communications strategy. In September 2013, the Victim Services' website was updated with extensive collaboration with community service providers.

A victims of crime emergency fund has been implemented to address some of the emergency aspects of being victimized that cannot be covered by another source. One component of the victims of crime emergency fund is the emergency cellphone program. Emergency phones are provided to address safety concerns as a result of victimization. Many referrals to Victim Services come from the RCMP after a call for service. Victims and their families also refer themselves to Victim Services by calling the office or just walking in. Other victims are referred to the unit by other agencies and government departments.

The Victim Services unit has implemented a consent card so that referring agencies can provide victim information to Victim Services with the permission of the victim. Many victims accept the support at first contact with the justice system. Others may return to Victim Services at other times in the criminal justice process. Victim Services offers information and support to all victims of crime who are referred to the unit. Victim Services implemented its component of the JEIN system in early August 2012. This new system provides enhanced case management processes and data collection on services for victims in Yukon. JEIN has allowed Victim Services to report more comprehensive statistical information.

Also, addressing violence against women is another area of focus for our government and in the *Victims of Crime Strategy*. This complex problem is especially prevalent in the north and requires a multifaceted response. Here are some of the services that we have for women victims — during the review of Yukon's police force, service providers and clients called for police and other agencies to have a more consistent, effective, coordinated and informed response to domestic violence and sexualized assault. In implementation of the resulting recommendation in *Sharing Common Ground*, an inter-agency working group of members from CYFN, women's organizations, Government of Yukon, health providers, RCMP and the public prosecution office has been established.

This domestic violence and sexualized assault framework committee needs to share information and coordinate services. The committee works together in planning joint initiatives, including research projects. In addition, the committee is exploring a number of specific service delivery areas — including clarifying protocols and practices relating to police charging practices, including dual charging and the use of primary aggressor assessments — and is also supporting research being conducted by the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues to better understand the concept and service gaps related to a legal advocacy for women.

A subcommittee of the framework committee is working to clarify RCMP policies related to dual charging and RCMP policy and practices regarding the use of primary aggressor assessments in cases of domestic violence. Dual charging refers to both partners being charged in cases of domestic violence. Primary aggressor policies direct law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to investigate and determine the most significant, rather than the first, aggressor in cases where it is alleged that both partners committed an assault. The issues of dual charging and of women who are victims of violence being arrested and charged with assault was raised a number of times during the 2010 review of policing.

The subcommittee is also monitoring the use of these policies and ensuring that open communication lines exist between the RCMP and service providers. The framework development committee is supporting the RCMP to update M Division policy and procedure manuals. This complex issue is being discussed across the country and it's not an issue unique to Yukon. Open lines of communication, coordinated service provision and specialized response teams are some of the key success factors in other jurisdictions dealing with the issue. Justice officials and RCMP M Division are working closely with other service providers to develop coordinated services and ongoing communication here in Yukon.

During the review of Yukon's police force, one of the items specifically raised by women's organizations was to consider establishing a legal advocate for women. The *Sharing Common Ground* report recommended further consideration of a legal advocate position to support women and/or a court watch program.

The Women's Directorate and the Department of Justice provided funding to the Yukon Advisory Council on

Women's Issues to define and to research the scope and options for a women's legal advocate. The draft report, called *Gaps, Needs and Options: Legal Advocacy for Yukon Women* from the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues, was released in June 2013. The report provided an in-depth review of perceived and actual gaps, as well as needs and options for legal advocacy services for women.

Madam Chair, at this time, YACWI has reviewed responses to the draft report from organizations that participated in the research processes and is currently developing advice for consideration. The Yukon Status of Women Council has received funding from the crime prevention victim service trust fund to run a Court Watch program. Court Watch is a program that provides the oversight necessary to address gender equality in court, finds opportunities to give a more effective voice for victims in the criminal justice system and supports improvements for services and supports for victims. Trained observers attend local court proceedings and document cases of spousal assault and sexualized assault. The program is scheduled to run from April 2013 to March 31, 2015. The program will begin in Whitehorse and expand to Dawson City and to Watson Lake.

The Yukon Status of Women Council has engaged FREDA — the Feminist Research Education Development Action Centre — at Simon Fraser University to assist with the research part of their project. Victim Services branch has met with the Yukon Status of Women Council and has offered to provide information about court processes and schedules to the Court Watch volunteers.

Another recommendation of the *Sharing Common Ground* report was that a team within the RCMP be created to respond to domestic violence and sexualized assault. Accordingly, the Government of Yukon has provided funding to the RCMP to establish a four-person specialized response unit, or SRU, within M Division. By establishing this unit, M Division can be more effective in responding to domestic violence and sexualized assault and improve coordination with other agencies. The RCMP advised that the unit is close to being fully staffed, and has begun work on files related to its mandate.

The SRU responds to domestic violence, sexualized assault, child abuse and elder abuse. The unit will have specialized training and an enhanced knowledge of investigation techniques and specific responses appropriate to sexualized assault and domestic abuse. The unit provides guidance; it provides assistance and oversight to detachment members who are conducting domestic violence and sexualized assault investigations and they are lead investigators in domestic violence and sexualized assault investigations where specialized services are required.

The specialized response unit will also identify training and divisional needs related to domestic violence and sexualized assault. This unit will work with service providers and key stakeholders for enhanced inter-agency collaboration and consistency in response across Yukon. The RCMP have made changes to their domestic violence policy with the support and input from their community partners and are

working to develop new training for front-line officers. The approved ongoing budget for the specialized response unit for 2013-14 is \$678,000.

Victim Services continues to support the Yukon Sexual Assault Response Committee, or SARC, which consists of representatives from government and community-based service providers. The committee is focussed on collaborating services and developing a standard of practice when responding to victims of sexualized assaults. The Yukon Sexual Assault Response Committee has confirmed its new terms of reference and is now meeting monthly with support from the Victim Services and Community Justice.

Sexual assault nurse examiner training was offered in September 2012, with support from members of SARC. Fourteen nurses in the Yukon were trained to provide forensic medical examinations for sexualized assault.

Another area of focus in the *Victims of Crime Strategy* is the development of new legislation. In May 2010, this government passed the *Victims of Crime Act*, and the act and regulation were proclaimed on April 8, 2011. The act has been supported with a number of public education initiatives outlining information on Victims of Crime Have Rights. This includes posters, fact sheets, information brochures, flashlights and pens. The director has assisted two individuals requesting support for complaints under this act.

Madam Chair, I have much more to add to this debate but seeing that my time is up, I will have a seat and let the member opposite continue.

Ms. Moorcroft: I just would like to put on the record two questions that I would again like to ask the minister to answer, if he would, in relation to the fetal alcohol disorder prevalence study at Whitehorse Correctional Centre. Would he provide a copy of the terms of reference for that study?

The second question, in reference to the VictimLINK services administered out of British Columbia and provided to Yukon communities as well as northern B.C. — are the staff of that service aware of the Yukon legislation regulations and services that are available so that they can provide appropriate information to callers from Yukon communities and northern B.C.?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I have more to say on Victim Services, but I know the member opposite had a number of questions and one of them was the prevalence study on FASD in the Yukon corrections population. The member opposite had asked about a separate track for high-cost cases, and that's something that we are looking at within the review.

The Department of Justice recognizes that a number of people in the adult correctional population have cognitive impairments along with mental health and, perhaps, substance abuse issues that may be hindering their ability to successfully benefit from treatment and programs. Persons with FASD often experience brain-based difficulties like decision-making and problem solving, mental health problems or problems with drugs and alcohol abuse. There is a need to improve services, case coordination and outcomes for these offenders.

Unfortunately there is very little empirical data on the prevalence of people in the criminal justice system who have

FASD. This is true for Yukon and it's true for other jurisdictions as well. Interest in determining the prevalence of FASD arose at a national conference held right here in Yukon on access to justice for individuals with FASD. One of the conference recommendations was the need for research to determine the prevalence of FASD in the adult corrections population. It was also identified that, in order to determine prevalence, diagnostic capacity needs to be developed as well.

Case management, case coordination and post-diagnostic service provision have been recognized as challenges to improve outcomes for individuals with FASD.

The FASD project was developed as a collaborative effort between the departments of Justice and Health and Social Services to address FASD issues in Yukon. It is divided into two streams: Department of Justice leads the prevalence research study stream, and Health and Social Services leads the adult diagnostic capacity and case management stream. I'd like to extend my appreciation to the Minister of Health and Social Services for his role in this study.

As a result of the access to justice conference, along with funding support from Justice Canada, the Northern Institute of Social Justice, Yukon College and the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Yukon Department of Justice is undertaking the FASD prevalence study. With funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada, Yukon Health and Social Services is developing a local diagnostic capacity for adults and implementing an integrated case-management approach for FASD-affected individuals.

The goals of the FASD prevalence study are to determine the prevalence of FASD and other neurocognitive disorders in Yukon's adult correctional population, to identify mental health and substance abuse problems, to assess and test adult FASD screening tools, and to ensure the adaptability of the research methodology to other jurisdictions in Canada.

Neuropsychological measures chosen for the FASD prevalence study were selected in an effort to closely mirror past prevalence studies conducted by Correctional Services Canada in order to facilitate a comparison of the results across samples. Each participant in the study will receive a report and letter outlining results from the assessment, including a profile of strengths and limitations, any diagnosis and recommendations regarding programming or referrals. A post-study clinical coordinator will be available to all participants who are identified with FASD or significant mental health or substance abuse problems following the end of assessments. The goals of the adult diagnostic capacity and case management stream are: to increase Yukon adult FASD diagnostic assessment capacity and also to develop programs and the framework of existing services; to analyze gaps and make recommendations for improvements; to improve case management and case coordination, access to services and support for offenders with FASD; and to improve awareness of FASD within our territory. Work is currently proceeding concurrently in the two streams so that each stream can inform the other.

A project partners board oversees the development and implementation of the FASD project, which includes Yukon

Justice, Yukon Health and Social Services, Correctional Services Canada, Justice Canada, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, Northern Institute of Social Justice, Yukon College, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society Yukon and First Nations Health and Social Development Commission. The project partners board oversees both streams. I'd like to thank all of them for their hard work in this study.

Justice Canada, the Northern Institute of Social Justice and Yukon College funded the development of the research methodology for the FASD prevalence study. The Public Health Agency of Canada funded parallel work to determine what level of programming, services and case management techniques are required to meet the needs of this offender population and reduce their involvement in the justice system.

There are two phases to the FASD prevalence study. We are currently in phase 2. Phase 1 saw the completion of the research methodology and project plan. Phase 2 includes the implementation of the study, enrollment and participation of adult Yukon offenders, the completion of participant assessments and diagnosis, data analysis and the final report outlining the research results and conclusions. Any correctional population involvement with the phase 2 of the research study is completely voluntary.

There are two phases to the adult diagnostic capacity and case management stream. Phase 1 includes the review of current practices locally, nationally and internationally for FASD diagnosis. It includes the research, development, and training of FASD diagnostic and assessment programs, as well as the research, development, and training of case management and case coordination models and the development of evaluation frameworks for both FASD diagnostic and assessment programs and case management models. Phase 2 of the adult diagnostic capacity and case management stream includes providing FASD diagnosis and assessment for adults in Yukon, as well as the implementation of a case management and case coordination model that monitors the implementation of both aspects and the gathering of data for evaluation and service improvements.

A principal investigator affiliated with the University of British Columbia was hired in June 2012 to develop the research methodology for the FASD prevalence study and to submit that methodology for a university ethics review and investigate funding opportunities for conducting the study. The prevalence study project partners review and approve the research methodology. This document includes a description of the project rationale, research questions, study methods — including participant selection and recruitment strategies — general studies, procedures, a discussion of pertinent ethical issues, and a preliminary draft budget for the study. The budget for the FASD prevalence study was approved in May 2013.

The Department of Justice released the funding information to the public on August 2, 2013. Eight personnel are required to conduct the study. There is an on-site research manager, a clinical coordinator, a psychologist and supervisory neuropsychologist, a physician, a research assistant, a post-study coordinator and the principal

investigator. The study budget also covers the costs of neurological tests and assessments, as well as travel for the principal investigator and neuropsychologist, administrative costs and knowledge translation costs.

In the adult diagnostic capacity and case management stream, Health and Social Services is reviewing and analyzing existing programs and supports for individuals with FASD — specifically, to determine gaps in service, as well as develop local diagnostic capacity for adults with FASD and improving case management for diagnosed adults with FASD who come into conflict with the law. In both streams, meetings have occurred with services, agencies, stakeholders and key informants to share project information, to raise awareness of FASD, to gain perspectives and support, and to build relationships.

We know that in a project of this nature, the complexities, research protocols and different understandings of FASD can bring challenging delays during the implementation phase. We are currently experiencing these delays. During meetings with stakeholders, service agencies and front-line workers, we have consistently heard that assessments must go beyond a clinical diagnosis of FASD to include a strength-based functional assessment. The functional assessment provides more potential benefits for individuals, for their caregivers and for their caseworkers.

In order to be consistent with client-centred service delivery and the wraparound provision Yukon has intended, the sharing of FASD clinical information, such as a diagnosis, is an important conversation to have before recruitment starts. We must consider and be mindful of the stigmas related to an FASD diagnosis and address these considerations early on. Improved diagnostic and assessment services must consider post-diagnosis service provision. Having a comprehensive, functional assessment provides little advantage where significant gaps exist in programs and in services.

The project partners board recognizes that a project of this magnitude will require a multi-year, multi-pronged approach. With research methodology completed and funding secured, it is expected that recruitment of this first participant may begin in the winter of 2013. The research study is expected to require a minimum of 18 months to complete, with approximately 150 assessments to take place.

Funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada will fund the capacity development and case management stream until March 31, 2014, as well as the prevalence study manager until March 31, 2014. Colleagues across Canada in both justice and health and social services fields are looking forward to the documents and results of Yukon's FASD prevalence study.

The tender for the clinical coordinator was withdrawn because two bids were over the budget limit. An alternate delivery of this part of the study is being assessed and will be implemented to stay within the budget allocation.

Mr. Deputy Chair, how much time do I have left?

Getting back to victims of crime, another area focussed on in the *Victims of Crime Strategy* is working to support mentorship and capacity building in communities. Victims of

crime in Yukon are able to, and do, seek support from a variety of sources: friends, family, community groups and others. This government currently supports a number of community and advocacy groups to provide services to victims.

Victim Services and Community Justice work with other justice workers, such as community justice coordinators, aboriginal courtworkers, probation officers and other allied professionals, to address needs in Yukon communities. We're also continuing to develop appropriate and skilled responses to the unique and specific needs of victims of crime. We are working with many communities on the development of community-based initiatives related to victimization. We are doing this in the following ways: the Dawson City Victim Services office supports the communities of Dawson City, Pelly Crossing, Mayo and Old Crow and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Selkirk, Na Cho Nyäk Dun and the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nations. An essential skills for northern victim services workers program targeted existing Victim Services workers and others in communities who want to respond to victimization and is being developed in cooperation with Nunavut and Northwest Territories through the Northern Institute of Social Justice. Phase 1 concluded in April 2011 and resulted in a pan-territorial working group committed to developing the program. Phase 2 is underway and is focussing on confirmed core competencies for Victim Services workers and developing training modules to address endorsed competencies. Work is underway with the Northern Institute of Social Justice to secure funding to continue with phase 3 for 2013-15.

An 18-month plan to address compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma has been developed and is now completed. More than 10 workshops to address the effects of compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma have been offered in most Yukon communities. The trainer workshop was offered in 2011 and 2012 with ongoing coaching and mentoring of all eight trainers throughout 2011 and 2012. These local trainers offer training across Yukon in various formats. This training is supported by the additional funding received through the *Victims of Crime Strategy*.

Madam Chair, I have much more to say. I see that my time is up. I'll let the member across have the floor again.

Ms. Moorcroft: I appreciate the information that the minister read into the record regarding the FASD prevalence study. That was quite helpful. I would, however, like to ask him again if he will provide a copy of the research methodology.

I would like to take the time that I have to put a couple more questions on the record and see if I can get a response from the minister.

The minister spoke about the *Sharing Common Ground* report and ongoing work that is being done involving the RCMP, the many community agencies, the Department of Justice and Yukon women's groups. Part of that response to *Sharing Common Ground* that the minister referred to was the new specialized sexual assault four-person response team who

investigates violence against women as well as child and elder abuse cases.

There are many sexual assaults that occur in rural communities and I would like the minister to speak, if he would, about the specialized response team — that I believe is based in Whitehorse — and to indicate whether they provide specialized training on investigation techniques and investigating sexual assaults and child and elder abuse to members of detachments in rural communities. I'd like to hear from the minister what training occurs for members who are posted to rural communities where, sadly, there is a very high incidence of violence against women, as there is throughout the territory.

Also, in looking at the review of Yukon's police force 2010 and some of the activities that were undertaken both during and following that review, I'd like to ask the minister to provide some information about the protocol that was reached between the Watson Lake detachment of the RCMP and the community and the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society. I am very grateful that the Watson Lake RCMP and the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society were able to conclude that important work. They held a number of workshops on a Together for Justice project. Many of them were in Watson Lake — in your home community, Madam Chair — and there were also some in Whitehorse.

The goal of the coalition of Yukon women's groups, which included organizations based in Whitehorse as well as organizations based in the communities, was to try to also reach a protocol agreement between the Whitehorse detachment of the RCMP and Yukon women's groups. I'm wondering if the Minister of Justice can give me an update on that. I'm going to leave my questions at this point and seek a response from the minister.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I've got some more information to share with this House on victims of crime. I'd like to do that before moving on to some of the other questions that the member has asked.

Four members of the Victims of Crime Strategy Advisory Committee attended a national knowledge exchange on victim-focussed risk assessment and safety planning in October 2012. Community Justice and Public Safety developed a divisional work plan to coordinate risk assessment and safety planning. Victim Services workers have reviewed several approaches to risk assessment.

The VSU and OSS have compiled an inventory of risk assessment tools. Information from the knowledge exchanged is being applied to the Yukon context. This work will proceed in collaboration with other justice professionals, including offender services and supervision and the RCMP. We're also providing funding through the crime prevention and victim services trust fund for several other victim-related projects, including a project for young women in Ross River — which is an equine therapy project. There is also an equine therapy project in Watson Lake, an aboriginal women's advocate and community-based support programs.

The trust fund supports projects that are intended to reduce the episodes of crime, prevent violence against women

and against children, address the root causes of criminal behaviour, and provide and promote information on crime prevention and protection from victimization, the needs of victim services offered to victims.

The *Victims of Crime Strategy* supports the development of ways to integrate responses for victims, for offenders, for families and for communities. Currently this is what we are doing in this area of focus. Victim Service staff participate in monitoring of safety with respect to victims in both domestic violence treatment option and the Community Wellness Court.

The Department of Justice has operated the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court since March 2001. The Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court continues to operate in Whitehorse as well as in Watson Lake.

The Department of Justice provides programming for offenders, both individually and in group, at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre and in the community. Victim Services offers information sessions to victims whose partners are attending the program in the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court. Victim Services staff participated in integrated offender management case conferences to ensure the victim's voice is represented in case planning.

Victim Services staff liaise with Community Justice staff and committees to explore interest in reconciliation initiatives. As well, Madam Chair, as part of the additional support offered by Canada, Victim Services is working with a multidisciplinary team to enhance responses for child and for youth victims and witnesses of crime.

The Links project will implement national best practices for working with child victims and witnesses. There are 10 identified best practices and the department is working with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, the RCMP, Health and Social Services, Whitehorse General Hospital, Court Services and other service providers to develop a coordinated and integrated approach to this area. Best practices include a multidisciplinary team approach, development of child-friendly environments, developmentally and culturally appropriate forensic interviews and forensic medical examinations, clinical interventions, testimonial aids, case tracking, and research.

In addressing the question from the member opposite regarding the *Sharing Common Ground* implementation — we have made great progress toward implementing the recommendations in *Sharing Common Ground — Review of Yukon's Police Force — Final Report*. Implementation of these recommendations has resulted in significant structural policy and process changes to help policing as administered in our territory. Implementing these recommendations has strengthened relationships between RCMP, the Council of Yukon First Nations, Government of Yukon, women's organizations, the Northern Institute of Social Justice, and communities. It has stimulated productive dialogue and allowed for collaboration in addressing key community safety issues. The Department of Justice and the RCMP have been working to ensure that the new services, processes and ways of working together are integrated into our core operations as we move forward. While we will transition from

implementing projects over the course of this fiscal year, we have ensured that the learning from the review and *Sharing Common Ground* implementation are incorporated permanently.

In the spring sitting, we tabled a formal report of *Sharing Common Ground* implementation. The report outlined how the recommendations have been implemented and will demonstrate how changes in policy, processes and structures provide ongoing and lasting change. A formal report will be tabled —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Madam Chair, if the Leader of the Official Opposition would like to continue to heckle me while I'm reading —

Chair: Order. Mr. Nixon has the floor.

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

During the review of Yukon's police force, when looking at domestic violence and sexualized assault framework, service providers and clients called for more consistent, effective, coordinated and informed response to domestic violence and sexualized assault by police and other agencies. As part of the *Sharing Common Ground* implementation, an inter-agency working group of members from the Council of Yukon First Nations, women's organizations, Government of Yukon health providers, RCMP and the public prosecutions office has been established.

This Domestic Violence and Sexualized Assault Framework Committee meet to share information and coordinate services. The committee is developing an overarching framework to describe Yukon's responses and show linkages between services. In addition, the committee is exploring a number of specific service delivery areas, including clarifying protocols and practices relating to police charging practices — including dual-charging and the use of primary aggressor assessments — as well as supporting research being conducted by the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues to better understand the concept and service gaps related to legal advocacy for women.

The Government of Yukon has provided the funding to the RCMP to establish the four-person Specialized Response Unit within "M" Division. By establishing this unit, M Division can be more effective in responding to domestic violence and sexualized assault and improve coordination with other agencies. This four-member unit has training which has enhanced their knowledge of investigating and responding to sexualized assault and domestic violence. The unit provides guidance; it provides assistance and oversight to detachment members who are conducting domestic violence and sexualized assault investigations, and they are lead investigators into domestic violence and sexualized assault investigations where specialized services are required.

The SRU also identifies training and divisional needs related to domestic violence and sexualized assault. This unit works with service providers and key stakeholders for enhanced inter-agency collaboration and for consistency in responses across Yukon.

The RCMP has made changes to their domestic violence policy with the support and with the input from their community partners, and has recently piloted a new training for front-line officers. This training included input and presentations from a range of Yukon service providers.

The framework committee continues to meet and a framework document is under development. It is anticipated this portion of the work will be completed over the next few months. The process of developing a framework has allowed for the development of cross-sector relationships and strengthened interest in working together.

On to the issue of legal aid — we talk about funding. Now, it's important to note that Legal Aid had an accumulated surplus that they had built up over a number of years. We have been back-shopping their costs and they have been able to draw down on that surplus. It's also important to note that the suspension of the services through Legal Aid was only a result of a vacancy and a new hire is underway, and it's being advertised now.

In 2012-13, Yukon provided Legal Aid with core funding of approximately \$1.6 million along with almost \$200,000 in additional funding to deal with high-cost criminal cases. A further \$35,000 was provided for lawyer services specifically related to the Community Wellness Court. Of that \$1,798,751, Canada provided Yukon with \$864,000 through the access to justice service agreement. Yukon contributed the remaining \$934,751 as well as the additional \$35,000 mentioned above.

Since 2003, federal funding for legal aid has remained the same and it will continue to be frozen until 2017. This will put added pressure on Yukon to make up Legal Aid's inevitable funding shortfalls.

The Department of Justice officials have been working with Legal Aid to ensure that it has enough funding to cover its high-cost cases and provide its regular services under the access to justice service agreement. As a result of those discussions, the department provided Legal Aid with a one-time funding increase of \$180,000 in the 2010-11 year to cover the cost of high-cost cases that were before the courts. The Department of Justice also provided \$235,000 of additional one-time funding to cover Legal Aid's high-cost cases for the 2011-12 year. This year, the department provided Legal Aid with an additional one-time funding of \$200,000 in September 2013 to cover its high-cost cases.

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

I'll let the member — perhaps the Leader of the Official Opposition seems to have questions as well. I'll sit down and let them ask.

Chair: Thank you. 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 come to order. We're going to resume general debate on Vote 8, Department of Justice.

Ms. Moorcroft: Just before the break, the minister was responding to questions regarding the legal aid services, and I was about to ask the minister what he would be prepared to do to ensure that Legal Aid would be able to offer poverty law services before April 1, 2014, at the start of the new budget year. The minister stated that it was only because of a vacancy that Yukon Legal Services Society had to cease offering the poverty law services. Well, my understanding is that Legal Aid did not feel able to fill a vacancy because of their funding shortfall. If they are now able to advertise for a position, that would be great.

I think it's vital that those poverty law services are available. I think the minister should take into account that probably a reason contributing to a legal aid lawyer deciding to seek work elsewhere is that the lawyers working for Legal Aid earn far less than members of the private bar or the federal public prosecutions or Yukon government lawyers. This comes back to the issue of core-budget increases, and I hope that the minister will be prepared to ensure that, if Legal Aid requires further funding before the end of this fiscal year in order to offer the full range of services, they will have the funding that they need to do that.

I had also asked the minister some questions in relation to policing services and services for victims and the sexual assault response team. I spoke about the fact that a protocol agreement had been reached in the community of Watson Lake because there was a mutual desire by the RCMP and Kaska women of the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society to address violence against all women. The guiding principles in that agreement are ones that I am certain that the Whitehorse detachment of the RCMP and the Minister of Justice could endorse.

They set out principles to guide a relationship between the police and women's groups, which various reports submitted to the review of Yukon's police force indicated that that relationship did need some improvements. Those principles are to advocate for the safety and dignity of women, to be committed to building a shared understanding of our past, present and future, to work as allies in eliminating violence against women and restoring equity and inclusion. The protocol acknowledges that women have been resisting diverse forms of violence for many years and they continue to protect themselves and their children. The RCMP and the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society have agreed to work collectively to promote positive social responses to those who have been harmed by violence and to acknowledge the importance of using accurate language to describe violence and resistance to violence.

It understands the importance of documenting progress, of communicating in a timely and accurate manner, and celebrating results. The objectives are to foster a secure and sustainable relationship, to increase intercultural awareness, understanding and respect, and to respond to violence against community members. It sets out ways of doing that, such as involving First Nation elders to guide them.

Again, I would like the minister, when he stands up to respond, to indicate what progress has been made in Whitehorse between the RCMP and the coalition of women's groups — this should be part of the implementation of the *Sharing Common Ground* report.

I'd like to know if he can give us an update on when a protocol agreement might be reached in Whitehorse for the M Division Whitehorse Detachment with Yukon women's groups.

The minister put out a media release this morning about Whitehorse Correctional Centre expanding its First Nations programs. There are a number of budget items both in operation and maintenance and in capital that are related to Whitehorse Correctional Centre, and I have some requests to the minister for information. In the release that went out this morning, the minister announced that the heritage and culture essential skills program will be piloted with Yukon College to offer daily programming to inmates to teach essential skills and education about heritage and culture in the Yukon. I want to applaud that; I'm very pleased to see that. I think it's a great step and we've been looking for an announcement of some new programming at Whitehorse Correctional Centre that would be of assistance to the — generally 75 percent or more of the inmate population that is of First Nation ancestry.

The release went on to say that there are a number of ongoing traditional activities at the Correctional Centre, such as smudges, elder visits, talking circles, traditional foods, traditional awareness workshops, solstice celebrations and traditional teaching, such as talking sticks and eagle feathers. It refers to other activities such as carving, beading, drum making, medicine pouches, button blankets, traditional medicines and First Nation language classes in Southern Tutchone.

I'd like the minister to report when the last time was that inmates were able to smudge. We do get calls in our office on occasion from inmates and we often hear, "We would like to speak with the elders." So how often in the last month — how often in the last three months have inmates and elders used the purpose-built First Nation healing room? How often in the last three months have elders met with inmates and held talking circles? How often in the current fiscal year have carving, beading and drum-making programs been offered?

I also want to ask the minister a question about the solstice celebrations. I've attended those solstice celebrations in the past and I know the minister has. Previous ministers of Justice have attended the solstice celebrations. Before moving into the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre facility, at the solstice celebration all inmates and their families and members of organizations — perhaps First Nation workers and representatives of the Elizabeth Fry Society, other

organizations that provide service for inmates — were all able to attend and inmates were able to attend that solstice gathering and eat together. Why has that practice now been stopped?

There are now separate feasts held for each unit within the Correctional Centre. I'm sure that it's possible to have a solstice celebration with all of the inmates from all of the units being able to come, along with any family members and others who are there. Those are some of the questions that I have in relation to Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

I also would like the minister to provide some information about the phone system. The cost to inmates is problematic and I'd like to know what the rationale is for cutting off access to the outside world for inmates. It makes it very difficult for them to make bail plans or release plans or call potential witnesses when they can't leave a message — when they must reach a person in order to speak and are unable to leave a message. I do understand that the minister and the institution want to prevent any abuse of inmates calling people who don't want to be phoned, but I'm sure there is a way of doing that without curtailing the ability of inmates to speak to people outside of the Correctional Centre.

Earlier in his remarks, the minister spoke about services for victims and how there was work being done, for example, to assist with finding housing. Many of the inmates who are present at Whitehorse Correctional Centre are also victims. I think that the FASD prevalence study is going to reveal some helpful information about that. But it's necessary for people who are in the Correctional Centre and going to be released to be able to make some arrangements for housing and for stability when they do come out of the Correctional Centre in advance of their release so that they're less likely to engage in destructive patterns of behaviours that may result in them returning to the Correctional Centre.

I'd like the minister to imagine if we were smart and not just tough on crime. In other countries, a focus on rehabilitation has resulted in markedly low re-offending rates. Governments in the United States are opting for programs that tackle generational disadvantage, that emphasize rehabilitation and prevent re-offending. The result has been a significant drop in crime and prison numbers and a \$2-billion savings in Texas alone. With evidence like this, all sides of politics are uniting behind the case for more responsible spending that stops crime and emphasizes community well-being. We need our prisons to have community well-being as their overarching purpose. This means putting resources into helping the rehabilitation of people who are incarcerated at Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

This does not mean, of course, that we should dispense with tough options for the gravest of crimes or for offenders who will simply not reform. But we cannot contain every risk by simply being punitive. We need to be smart so that we are bound to a system that will not leave more victims in its wake.

I'd like the minister, if he would, to answer those questions about the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. One of the questions that I did speak with the officials about when we had the briefing yesterday was the cost of the phone system

and the funding of the phone system and I'd like the minister also to clarify that.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I think it's important for me to note how much I appreciate the department officials being here, assisting me in providing detailed information. I truly appreciate their professionalism and their expertise that they provide to me on a daily basis.

I also want to take a moment to talk about the staff at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. Often we are talking about the inmates at Whitehorse Correctional Centre, but not very often do we recognize the terrific job that the staff at the Correctional Centre do and the tremendous responsibility that is on their shoulders day in and day out at the correctional facility. As minister, I've indicated on the floor of this Legislature that on a number of occasions — I try to get up there every three or four months just to walk around the facility and see how it's operating, talk to the staff — and every single time that I go there, I am impressed by the work that the staff at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre are doing, both administratively, in the front line, and the management of the correctional facility.

We have a top-notch facility with top-notch staff working with the inmates, and I'd just like to take this opportunity on the floor of the Yukon Legislature to thank them for their hard work and for their dedication. I sincerely appreciate the role that they play at the WCC.

Another role that I've appreciated as the Attorney General and the Minister of Justice over the last two years has been that of developing a relationship with our police force in Yukon, the RCMP. They have tremendous leadership here in the territory. I think it would be safe to say that almost every member looks up to the commanding officer of the RCMP in our territory. The management and staff of the RCMP also do a terrific job, and I'd like to thank the front-line constables and inspectors who are out there creating a safe environment for Yukoners, day in and day out, putting themselves at risk so that we can be safe. So, thank you to the RCMP in Yukon for doing the tremendous job that they do, as well.

Sharing Common Ground, the final report of the review of Yukon's police force, recommended further consideration of a legal advocate position to support women. This was part of a larger recommendation focussing on improving the consistency, the effectiveness and the coordination of the response to domestic violence and sexualized assaults by the police and by other agencies.

The Women's Directorate and the Department of Justice provided funding to the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues, otherwise known as YACWI, to better define the issue and the need around women's legal advocacy here in Yukon. Through the research, it is apparent that this is a complex issue that will require a multifaceted response. That response will need to include the strengthening of services and improved connections between service providers. YACWI recently shared a draft report with stakeholders and is now working toward providing recommendations on moving forward.

Within the Department of Justice, Victim Services workers support their clients in court appearances and help them understand their rights and the criminal justice process. The *Victims of Crime Act*, proclaimed in the spring of 2011, reinforces the rights of victims, including their right to information throughout the justice process. Victim Services workers work closely with the Crown and with our RCMP to ensure that a victim's voice is heard and that their views are considered as an integral part of the criminal justice system.

A key element of the *Victims of Crime Strategy* over the past three years has been to strengthen the focus on the needs of victims of crime and much work has been done in this area. Victim Services is working with the Northern Institute of Social Justice and the Policy Centre for Victim Issues to develop core competency training for Victim Services workers, which will provide training focussed on court processes and the criminal justice system for non-criminal justice NGOs. The newly implemented justice enterprise information network will allow the Department of Justice to better track the experience of victims of crime.

In speaking to the good work of the RCMP and in speaking to the good work of the Department of Justice — and specifically to the employees at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre — it's important to note that the Department of Justice, in collaboration with the RCMP and other partners, has established a prolific offender management program which has been in operation since 2011 here in Whitehorse. The prolific offender management program, or POM, has experienced success in reducing crime by targeting the small number of persons who commit the most crime. The prolific offender management program is in its third year of evaluation and is showing some promising results in decreasing the rate of offences committed.

At present, the program has 18 clients who were selected based on specific criteria, which included the frequency of their offending, their history of non-compliance with court orders, and the impact their offending has had on the community. The program aims to reduce the total crime committed by prolific offenders and to improve the coordination and access to services for prolific offenders to enable positive behavioural change.

The program also ensures effective risk management of prolific offenders through appropriate sanctions and intensive supervision by RCMP and by Offender Supervision and Services. These objectives are met through monthly meetings of a multi-agency prolific offender management team, which includes representatives from the Department of Justice, from Health and Social Services, RCMP, First Nations, Council of Yukon First Nations, and the Public Prosecution Service of Canada. The team works to create an intensive and effective package of interventions by combining and coordinating our resources.

Also speaking about the good work that the RCMP does for our territory, it's important to note that the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP completed a six-month pilot project in the territory, which ended in December of 2011. As a result of the project, the commission established

a dedicated phone line and e-mail for complaints from Yukoners and assigned an analyst who would respond to those complaints. This level of service provided by the commission is unique in comparison to any other jurisdiction in the country. The commission continues to review relevant complaint files at the request of a complainant. If on review the commission believes it is necessary, they may request further investigation, initiate its own investigation or hold the public meeting. The commission continues to provide information to the public regarding the complaint process in order to inform clients who may wish to file a complaint related to police conduct.

Bill C-42, *Enhancing Royal Canadian Mounted Police Accountability Act* recently passed in the House of Commons. It creates a new civilian review and complaints commission for the RCMP, replacing the existing Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP. The creation of the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission increases the transparency of investigations into serious incidents involving a member of the RCMP. It reduces the potential for bias and promotes public accountability. The Civilian Review and Complaints Commission will have the same powers of the former commission along with new powers and authorities to carry out its mandate.

I've spoken a bit about the specialized response unit. I have some more information that I would like to share with this House. During the police review, when clients called for more consistent, effective, coordinated and informed response by police and other agencies to domestic violence and sexualized assault, we know that the final report of the review, entitled *Sharing Common Ground*, recommended that a team within the RCMP be created to respond to domestic violence and sexualized assault. The unit is now fully staffed and has begun to work closely with stakeholders, to advance investigations on files related to its mandate. By establishing this unit, M Division can be more effective in responding to domestic violence and sexualized assault and they can improve coordination with other agencies.

The SRU is currently being evaluated. The evaluation will involve a framework, which includes quantitative and qualitative data in reporting over the period March 2013 to February 2016. Madam Chair, the overall purpose of this project is to provide an evaluation of the specialized response unit that will allow decisions that will assist in the future planning of that program. This four-member unit has specialized training and they have an enhanced knowledge of investigation techniques and specific responses appropriate to sexualized assault and domestic violence and abuse. The unit provides guidance; it provides assistance and oversight to detachment members who are conducting domestic violence and sexualized assault investigations and will act as lead investigators into domestic violence and sexualized assault investigations where those specialized services are required. The approved and ongoing budget for the SRU for this fiscal year is \$678,000.

In speaking to the RCMP, I think it's important to note the policing priorities that were set out by the Department of

Justice and me. There are five priority areas of focus for policing in Yukon. First is to focus on preventing and decreasing the victimization of youth and children. The RCMP continues to deliver effective, meaningful programs supporting diversion of youth from involvement in the Yukon justice system, underage drinking and illegal drug use. M Division continues to seek out new ways to connect with youth to reduce criminalization and victimization opportunities.

Second is to continue to improve the response to sexualized assault and family violence including abuse in intimate partner relationships and child abuse. The SRU team is fully staffed and continues to provide that effective oversight on all family violence and sexualized violence investigations throughout our territory.

Third is to work with the public and service providers to identify and to address community safety issues. The Whitehorse detachment general investigation section initiated a time-limited project designed to combat local street-level drug trafficking and criminal activity in the downtown core and along the waterfront. This successful initiative resulted in numerous charges and seizures of both drugs and alcohol. Members of the Whitehorse detachment also began conducting random foot patrols along the waterfront and in the downtown core. This proactive initiative resulted in favourable comments from the public.

Fourth on this list was to build and foster constructive and respectful relationships with the First Nation leadership and communities and citizens.

All of the detachments understand that there is an expectation to consult with the aboriginal community and all have completed the consultation with their First Nation's leadership and community group in the development of annual performance plans.

Number five in the priorities was to improve the police response to vulnerable populations, with a particular focus on individuals with mental health issues and addictions. A senior member of the RCMP has been selected to work with the government and non-government agencies and groups to improve the police response to vulnerable populations with a focus on mental health and addictions.

The RCMP is actively engaged in a number of different initiatives stemming from the *Sharing Common Ground* report and in response to the policing priorities for 2013-14. As we talk about policing priorities, I think it's important to talk about what process was used to establish the priorities.

This year, Yukon's policing priorities were informed by recommendations from the newly created Police Council. The Yukon Police Council was created out of recommendations flowing from the review of Yukon's police force. The council's recommendations are intended to reflect the unique needs and values of our Yukon communities. A broad range of citizens, First Nation organizations and governments, and community organizations were involved in the Police Council's community engagement process and full consideration was given to the council's recommendations in setting the policing priorities for our territory.

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

Another example is the RCMP's work in collaboration with the Department of Justice, the Northern Institute of Social Justice, the Council of Yukon First Nations and other stakeholders on establishing a unique training and development framework for all new members joining M Division. Such a framework would inform the RCMP's strategic training plan and may include modified or enhanced training in areas such as First Nation cultural awareness and history and responses to vulnerable populations.

There has been significant investment in the territorial police budget and in new resources over the last six fiscal years. As well, as a result of the *Sharing Common Ground* recommendations and changes to the RCMP nationally, M Division is actively engaged in a number of initiatives and programs to improve and enhance the delivery of police services in our territory. With this in mind, the Yukon government believes that the RCMP can respond to the policing priorities effectively within its current budget.

Again, I thank the men and women of the RCMP in Yukon for their dedication, for their hard work, and for standing in front of safety issues to ensure that each and every one of us in these communities remain safe.

Ms. Moorcroft: The minister responded to some of the questions that I put on the record, but I'm again going to attempt to follow up. The minister spoke about the resources that have been provided to the RCMP to enable them to offer services and to improve the response to the Yukon public based on the *Sharing Common Ground* report, and that's very good to hear.

I too want to acknowledge that we appreciate the work of the RCMP in Whitehorse and in all of the communities to keep all of us safe. They are out there in the communities each and every day and every hour of the day.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the staff of Whitehorse Correctional Centre. In fact, two of our Official Opposition caucus members previously worked at Whitehorse Correctional Centre. The Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes offered the White Bison program for all inmates and also was, I believe, involved in programs that used art and music, which is very beneficial to every human, not only to people who may be incarcerated in correctional systems. The Member for Takhini-Kopper King worked with women inmates on life skills and other programming. So we know that correctional staff do good work and we appreciate that.

I am trying to get the minister to respond to specific questions about the kinds of direction and resources that he provides to the centre so that they can, as an example, offer First Nations programming that meets the needs of the aboriginal inmates. We know that particularly in the north and

all across Canada, Inuit, Métis, and First Nations people are over-represented in the criminal justice system. An emphasis on rehabilitation would support activities such as smudges and elders' visits. I would like the minister to let us know what is happening and how that is being supported on an ongoing basis at the Correctional Centre.

The minister also spoke about the RCMP sexual assault teams and the four new detachment members who have specialized knowledge that they can share and that they do provide oversight to other officers who may be involved in investigating sexual assaults. What I did ask the minister and would still appreciate knowing is whether the members of the RCMP specialized sexual assault team will share that specialized knowledge on a regular and a consistent basis in communities outside of Whitehorse and in Whitehorse.

I'd also like to ask the member about land titles. As we've discussed previously — and the Department of Justice website includes the discussion paper on modernizing the land titles system that we've been discussing since it was released in the fall of 2012. I'd like to have a bit of an update on that. The phase 1 consultation process has been completed and the phase 2 will include drafting of new legislation based on the comments and purchasing new land titles computer system and developing new business processes. We had a brief discussion yesterday when the Official Opposition members had an opportunity to sit down with the Justice officials.

Regarding First Nation interests, the *Modernizing the Land Titles System in Yukon* paper states that, "Some Yukon First Nations have expressed an interest in registering specific parcels of Settlement Land in Yukon's Land Titles Office. Discussions about options around such registration will occur directly with Yukon First Nations parallel to the modernization project so that a potential exists for a registration process to be implemented prior to completion of land titles modernization." The last time that we were in debate about this, there was not really anything to report from the Department of Justice other than that they had done some research.

However, I want to point out to the minister that Yukon First Nations are still looking for the development of a system of land titles law and an electronic land registry. Seven of nine Council of Yukon First Nations members have signed a document with a new agreement that calls for the development of this electronic land registry. This registry agreement would provide banks and lenders with certainty and collateral so they can approve mortgages on a First Nation's traditional land without the First Nation having to give up its rights and titles to the land.

I'd like to know if the minister and the department have been able to arrange for a registry that could guarantee the protection of aboriginal rights and titles and that could allow for an electronic land registry that would accommodate the needs of First Nation citizens within the Yukon, as well as the general population.

There were some other unanswered questions, but just to try and keep the discussion on track, I think I'll pause there and see if the minister has any answers for me.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Madam Chair, this government acknowledges the importance of ensuring that First Nation offenders have access to culturally relevant programming in order to help them move forward in their lives. An elders advisory group works with management and staff to provide advice on the operations of the Correctional Centre in ensuring that First Nations traditions and values are appropriately reflected. Any programming for First Nations at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre will involve First Nations in the development and provision of that program.

There are a number of First Nation program options available at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, including beading, carving, crafts, drum making, traditional foods and traditional medicines. The Correctional Centre also offers spiritual services and cultural celebrations such as solstice and smudges.

First Nation offenders take part in an array of traditional programming and activities, such as elders counselling, spiritual guidance, talking circles and traditional crafts. The Whitehorse Correctional Centre has worked with First Nation staff, the elders advisory committee, the community advisory board, and inmate representative committee members to develop a First Nation programming strategy. This initiative is anticipated to be completed and implemented by the end of the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Inmates have separate solstice celebrations. They do that to manage risk and maintain security for our staff, as well as security for the inmates and families during these celebrations. Protective custody inmates should not be mixed with other inmates. Men should not be mixed with women, for example.

Whitehorse Correctional Centre has recently contracted with the Council of Yukon First Nations to pilot a First Nation reintegration program. A First Nations worker has been hired and is working with the case management team on release planning for offenders. WCC recently worked in partnership with the First Nation Training Corps to recruit more First Nations persons as correctional officers. They are pursuing a second hiring initiative with the training core to be completed at the end of this fiscal year.

I'm glad that the member opposite asked about land titles. There is much to be shared about the land titles and the condominium acts. An efficient land management system is truly a foundation for any healthy economy. Efficient land transfers, access to land and information about land drives our economy and it drives economic activity. This area of government responsibility must be maintained at peak efficiency in order to ensure that the progress of the economy is not encumbered by any outdated management system.

In other jurisdictions, the Land Titles Office is an area where there have been significant improvements in practice that have allowed for the transfers of title to be completed in days rather than in months. The norm for registering instruments in other Land Titles Offices in Canada is 24 hours to 48 hours, but in Yukon it has been as high as nine weeks. While delays in registration are primarily due to shortcomings in the computer system and the business processes, the legislation—the *Land Titles Act* and the *Condominium Act*—

are archaic and contribute to confusion about the interpretation of terminology.

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

On May 1, 2012, the Department of Justice brought into effect some quick fixes to the present *Land Titles Act* and *Condominium Act* that have improved efficiency and removed some of the obstacles to land development. These specific, short-term changes to the *Land Titles Act* and the *Condominium Act* improve the operations of the Land Titles Office by means of amendments that could be done quickly and could be done easily. The Department of Justice also made some small alterations to the existing computer platform to improve performance. At the same time, I undertook a further initiative to move forward with our intention to improve and to modernize the land titles system here in Yukon.

In March 2012, I appointed an inspector of land titles under my authority in section 12 of the *Land Titles Act*. Inspector Lora Bansley of Saskatchewan assumed responsibility to conduct an independent operational review of the business procedures of our Land Titles Office in order to identify areas for improvement and also made recommendations to me that address our need for improvement. The inspector's report contained a number of recommendations, such as allowing for title searches to be completed on-line, replacing the *Land Titles Act* and the *Condominium Act*, increasing staff training opportunities and replacing the computer system with one that perhaps has better user abilities as well as improved security. The report provided a foundation upon which consultation with our stakeholders, with their expert advice and further analysis, were obtained to determine what improvements really needed to be made.

In April of last year, I announced the government's intention to modernize the land titles system to achieve timely and more efficient land transactions. In order to make this project a success, the department realized that we require the expertise and the cooperation of our stakeholders who regularly use the land titles system. Accordingly, the department established a stakeholder advisory committee to assist and support the scoping, development and implementation of this modernization project.

The department invited representatives from each of the following to sit on the committee: the Yukon Law Society, the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce, Natural Resources Canada's Surveyor General Branch, the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors, Yukon First Nations, Yukon Real Estate Association, Association of Yukon Communities, architects practising in Yukon, and the City of Whitehorse. In

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

This committee is not a decision-making body, but it will provide ongoing advice to the Department of Justice throughout the scoping, development and ultimate implementation of the modernization project. The modernization project has three phases. Phase 1, the scoping phase, was extended from May to December 2012. The department reviewed Yukon's existing legislation, as well as legislation in other jurisdictions for best practices. They looked at up-to-date computer platforms that currently support other land titles systems. They reviewed the business processes needed for efficient and accurate registration of land titles and they examined the governance models and fee structures used in other jurisdictions.

A land titles modernization project website was set up on the department's public website. On this site, the department posted discussion papers addressing the modernization of the land titles system and the *Condominium Act* and invited responses from interested stakeholders. The discussion papers were finalized with the input of the stakeholder advisory committee.

Department of Justice officials, as well as representatives of the Yukon Law Society and the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors, met with Land Titles Office officials in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. During those meetings they discussed their modernization experiences, their modernized computer systems, their business processes and their governance structures.

A *What We Heard* paper was prepared and was also posted on the website. Department officials concluded phase 1 by putting together recommendations to me regarding the essential elements that we will need to develop new legislation, to develop an appropriate computer system, relevant business practices and a business model that will work for Yukon as we move forward together.

The recommendations were prepared with the benefit of advice from stakeholders for government's consideration. A concept paper on the modernization, containing recommendations for the development phase, was also produced for me to consider.

Phase 2, the development phase, will extend through 2013 to about March 2014. In this phase, the department is working on developing principles for new land titles legislation that will allow for: up-to-date procedures, modern best practices and new technology; drafting a new *Condominium Act*, which is already underway; working out most of the advantageous business processes for Yukon to digitize Land Titles Office processes, as well as change management practices that will be needed; also exploring and selecting the appropriate computer system that will properly support the land information functions performed in the LTO and ensure that the land title information used in other government departments and branches is accessible; and working with our stakeholders and internal government users

to ensure that the activities that they employ to do their work are taken into account in developing new processes.

The last phase, phase 3, will be the implementation phase, which will extend from April 2014 to about December 2015. In this phase, the department will put in place the new business model, including bringing into force new legislation, transitioning to new digitized processes and shifting to new supporting software for the new model.

At this time, I'd like to take a little time to remind this House of the purpose and function of the LTO and its role in the land development in the Yukon. The Land Titles Office operates under the authority of the *Land Titles Act* for titled parcels and the *Condominium Act* for condominium units. The land titles system is based on the Torren system, which is used in all of Canada's western provinces and northern territories. It is considered the best system in existence for fee simple land. In a Torrens or land title system, all original certificates of title are retained by government's Land Titles Office and interests against that title, such as mortgages, are registered in the Land Titles Office. The priority of these interests is determined in the chronological order in which they are filed within that office.

The registrar keeps a day book to record the exact date and time of registration. The originals of these documents and survey plans are kept in the Land Titles vault. When a member of the public registers ownership in a parcel of land, the registrar issues a certificate of title and the public is entitled to rely on the certificate of title as evidence of the correct state of that title. The fact that the interest is registered on the title means that any member of the public has the right to rely on it as a valid interest.

Throughout the land titles assurance fund, the Government of Yukon indemnifies anyone who suffers a loss because of an error on title. This means that the Land Titles staff must check and recheck the accuracy and completeness of documents filed before finalizing or registering the documents.

The assurance fund is financed through a system of fees established by statute to be paid for transfers of land. Yukon has the lowest fees for registering land transactions in the country. The assurance fund fee schedule is inadequate for current needs at less than \$4 million currently. It would not cover even one claim for a commercial loss. Fortunately, there have been very few withdrawals from the fund, and only one was paid to a party who suffered a loss. Perhaps it's worth a review of this fund at this time.

Our legislation requires a manual, paper-based system for keeping track of registered parcels of land. Being out of date, our registration practices are onerous for citizens to use and they are faced with excessive delays in processing transactions. Our current computer system — known as the Land Information Management System, or LIMS — duplicates rather than replaces the paper system, thereby adding even more delay into the process of registration. The system predates the Internet and cannot make use of any digital efficiency that is now commonplace.

Yukon is registering over 7,500 documents annually. Moreover, the nature and complexity of the documents is increasing due to the new and complex instruments being registered as part of the title process. The Land Titles Office operates a comprehensive system of registering title to land similar to systems elsewhere in Canada and other commonwealth countries. In Yukon's land titles system, titles to land are registered in the government's titles office.

Madam Chair, seeing the time, I move that we report progress on Bill No 11, *Second Appropriation Act, 2013-14*.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Nixon that the Chair report progress on Bill No. 11, *Second Appropriation Act, 2013-14*.

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. 11, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2013-14*, and directed me to report progress.

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

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

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

Motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 5:27 p.m.