

**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Monday, December 9, 2013 — 1:00 p.m.**

Speaker: I will now call the House to order. At this time, we will proceed with prayers.

Prayers

DAILY ROUTINE

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

Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In remembrance of Nelson Mandela

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I rise today to pay tribute to the late Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mr. Mandela was one of the most remarkable and inspiring leaders of our time. He came to prominence in the 1960s as a powerful voice against the oppressive apartheid regime that had existed in South Africa since 1948. His campaign for the freedom and equality of all South Africans led to his eventual arrest and imprisonment. For 27 years, he was a political prisoner. Despite this, his message continued to spread and his reputation within his country and around the world continued to grow. Following his release, people around the world watched Mandela with admiration and even astonishment to see the grace, humility and forgiveness he showed to all, including his oppressors.

Apartheid was ended in 1994 and on May 10 of that year, Nelson Mandela made history by becoming the first black President of the new republic of South Africa. He served in that position until 1999.

Mr. Mandela inspired the world with his work toward national reconciliation, allowing his beloved country and all its citizens to begin the healing process. He and many South Africans struggled and sacrificed to achieve freedom and equality for all.

Nelson Mandela set an example for the world of how to lead through times of tremendous change and conflict. He showed us how to balance competing views and arrive at a solution that balances the interests and well-being of all. His achievements will live on and continue to give hope to people not only in South Africa, but around the globe. We have all learned from his life and his unwavering belief in the goodness of humanity.

We all share in his loss and are humbled by his many accomplishments. Tomorrow, our Premier will join with the Prime Minister of Canada, other premiers and national leaders — both past and present — in representing our territory and our country at the memorial for Nelson Mandela to honour this extraordinary world leader. Along with leaders of all political stripes and with people from around the world, our Premier will carry our deep condolences to the people of

South Africa and express our admiration for Nelson Mandela and his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wanted to leave one of his many honourable quotes and it pertains to this. He says, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” May we learn from this great man and continue to promote education, forgiveness and understanding as the means to instill change in our lifetime.

Ms. Hanson: I rise today on behalf of the Official Opposition to pay tribute to Nelson Mandela.

The world has responded with grief and gratitude to the news of his death last week — grief that the man who came to symbolize the power of forgiveness to bring about change is no longer present on this earth; gratitude for the strength of character that he demonstrated time and again as he faced challenges that most of us could never imagine facing — brutal repression, death threats and a harsh and interminable imprisonment.

Like many others, since the news of Mandela’s death, I have been preoccupied by thoughts of who Mandela was, what he symbolized and how we are challenged to carry his legacy forward, not just in South Africa, but here in our own country. I have been struck by the ironies.

Tomorrow, as dignitaries and ordinary South Africans alike gather for the memorial service in Johannesburg, the world will also be celebrating International Human Rights Day — a day established by the United Nations in 1948. 1948 was the same year that the South African government put in place the apartheid laws that drove a young 30-year-old black lawyer to begin the decades-long challenge of a regime that denied the original inhabitants of the vast and beautiful South African country any semblance of basic human rights.

It is when thinking of the anti-apartheid struggle with which Mandela — the man and the name — became inextricably linked that the issue of the power of language to dismiss or to condemn comes to mind. When did Nelson Mandela the freedom fighter, the activist, become a terrorist? That is not a rhetorical question. It is one that we need to consider carefully as we see an increase in the frequency of labeling those who challenge injustices — economic, political, environmental or human rights injustices — quickly denounced by those in power as terrorists.

Mandela had worked since the inception of apartheid on peaceful means of resistance and challenge to the repressive laws. The Sharpeville massacre on March 21, 1960 changed all that. Word of the brutal repression and violence in South Africa spread around the world. Civil society, church leaders and labour unions joined forces to call for action to end apartheid. I can recall being a member of an NGO that supported peace and development work.

As the call for economic sanctions against South Africa grew, our group chose to symbolize that by calling for boycott to South African wines by the Alberta Liquor Control Board. Even that was too much for governments. They threatened to cut off any financial support for NGOs involved in that kind

of activity. The NGOs were undeterred, but it left a lingering sense of how those in power will use their power to retain it.

In 2007, my husband and I visited Robben Island. It is as a song, “Asimbonanga”, describes — across the bay, seven miles from Cape Town. Asimbonanga means: “We have not seen him”. It goes on to say, “We have not seen Mandela in the place where he is, in the place where he is kept.”

Robben Island is where Nelson Mandela and his African National Congress comrades were imprisoned after the Rivonia Trial in 1964. Facing the death penalty for over 200 charges of sabotage against the apartheid regime, Mandela’s last words at the trial were, “During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.”

How many leaders today believe so deeply in a cause for their fellow human beings and in the absolute vital importance of democracy — not just the rhetoric, but the inherent struggle that democracy represents — and believes so deeply that they are prepared to die in its defence?

Robben Island was and is a harsh place. It is difficult to imagine maintaining one’s sense of self-worth and humanity in an environment created to treat you inhumanely.

Mandela’s eventual release after 27 years served of a life sentence was remarkable in its own right. More remarkable was the compassion he showed those who had brutalized him, whose legal and governance system had outlawed any public reference to him for all the years of his imprisonment.

From the symbolism of inviting his jail guards to his inauguration ceremony when he became the first elected black President of South Africa in an election where black people were allowed to vote for the first time, to the defiantly symbolic support of the South African team in the 1995 Rugby World Cup, Mandela, by his actions, made it clear that the time for resentment and anger was past. As he said, “Resentment is like drinking poison and then hoping it will kill your enemies.”

Nelson Mandela forgave his enemies. It is sad that many of his have been slow to reciprocate. It gave me great pause to realize that it was not until 2008, on the eve of a visit to the United States, that the American government took Nelson Mandela off its terrorist list.

At his inauguration on May 11, 1994, Nelson Mandela said, “Out of the experience of an extraordinary human disaster that lasted too long, must be born a society of which all humanity will be proud...That spiritual and physical oneness we all share with this common homeland explains the depth of the pain we all carried in our hearts as we saw our country tear itself apart in a terrible conflict, and as we saw it spurned, outlawed and isolated by the peoples of the world, precisely because it has become the universal base of the pernicious ideology and practice of racism and racial oppression.”

He went on to say, “We, the people of South Africa, feel fulfilled that humanity has taken us back into its bosom, that we, who were outlaws not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on our own soil...Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another...”

So, Mr. Speaker, Nelson Mandela was one of those rare human beings who not only believed but led his life based on the deep understanding that our human compassion binds us the one to another, not in pity or patronizingly, but as human beings who have learned how to turn our common suffering into hope for the future.

Mr. Silver: I rise on behalf of the Liberal Party to tribute the life of Nelson Mandela. Mr. Speaker, in writing this tribute, I could have stared at the pages for hours. He is a man beyond our comprehension. His courage, his grace and his forgiveness defy parallel in our world.

From a prison cell half a world away, he motivated our leaders to stand tall. He brought titans to disagree with titans on how to find the right side of history. Inevitably, it was those in support of Mandela and an end to apartheid who chose the right path. Today it may seem clear, but when Mandela sat in prison 23 years ago, it was no small feat for Canadian leaders to stand against apartheid.

Mandela appreciated Canada’s stance and we as a nation were forever humbled by the thanks that he showed us. When he spoke to our Parliament before he was able to speak to his own, we were honoured. When he accepted Canadian citizenship, it made us prouder to be Canadian. Three years later, when he was elected President of South Africa, Canadians knew that they had landed on the right side of history.

While our struggles in the Yukon may not be as great, we need to ensure that we also land on the right side of history. Our only hope of this will be by fulfilling our work as honestly, as courageously and as compassionately as possible. We can attempt to honour Mandela by treating our fellow legislators and our fellow citizens with the utmost of respect. We can do him some justice by engaging our First Nation leaders cooperatively and learning from their wisdom. We can make a small start by setting no limits to our efforts to create an equal playing field for women. We can start to honour Mandela’s life by striving to help the economically disadvantaged.

I am one of millions who will salute Mandela this week. My words will fade quickly against the world’s great orators and great leaders visiting South Africa and I am humbled in the comparison. I am honoured, though, to contribute in even the smallest way to the collective tear that the world sheds. If each of the millions who salute him and each of the billions who mourn him can stand a little taller today, then we have a faint hope of replacing the light that the world has lost in the passing of Nelson Mandela.

Speaker: Introduction of visitors.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Ms. White: I ask the House to join me in welcoming Denise Leschart, who is the very public face of the Yukon NDP caucus office, and her friend, James Potter, who grew up in the territory and now resides in Calgary. They have a friendship that spans four decades. Please join me in welcoming them.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions to be presented?

PETITIONS

Petition No. 17

Ms. McLeod: I have for tabling the following petition:

This petition of the undersigned shows:

THAT the people of South East Yukon and surrounding area are eager to see progress by the Yukon Government in securing adequate physician coverage in that area.

THEREFORE, the undersigned ask the Yukon Legislative Assembly to urge the Department of Health and Social Services and the Yukon Hospital Corporation to:

- 1) Work cooperatively with Parhelion Medical Services to move into the Watson Lake Community Hospital;
- 2) Work cooperatively with Parhelion Medical Services to move the dispensary into the Watson Lake Community Hospital; and
- 3) Form a committee composed of:
 - a) the Yukon Hospital Corporation CEO,
 - b) Chairman of the Yukon Hospital Corporation Board of Trustees,
 - c) one or more members of the YHC Medical Advisory Committee,
 - d) one or more members of the Yukon Medical Council,
 - e) the Minister of Health and Social Services,
 - f) resident physicians Dr. Said Secerbegovic and Dr. Tanis Secerbegovic to engage in planning for the use of *International Medical Graduates* and the recruitment of *Certified College of Family Physicians* licensed physicians to provide services and reside in Watson Lake, Yukon.

Speaker: Are there any other petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to continue to recognize the contribution of big game outfitting to Yukon's economy.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to:

- (1) implement recommendation 108 of the Auditor General of Canada's 2009 report, *Public Schools and Advanced Education*, to ensure that the Department of Education conducts regular and comprehensive facility audits to ensure that major building deficiencies are identified, including environmental, health and safety issues; and
- (2) develop a publicly available strategic plan that establishes timelines for replacing Yukon's aging public schools.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT the Government of Yukon urge the Canadian government to:

- (a) reinstate the federal ecoENERGY Retrofit program cancelled in 2012; and
- (b) recognize the importance of federal support for incentives programs that create jobs in the green-energy sector, ensure greater access for Canadians to energy retrofits and other energy efficiency initiatives and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Canada Pension Plan

Ms. Hanson: Next week, provincial and territorial Finance ministers will meet with the federal Finance minister. For years, the federal Finance minister has been called upon to make improvements to the Canada Pension Plan. It has been clear for some time that reforms are needed to make saving for retirement more affordable and more secure for Canadians.

Despite strong public support from across the country, the federal government does not appear to be willing to consider action now to improve modest Canada Pension Plan increases. The issue is becoming increasingly urgent for millions of working Canadians, particularly those nearing retirement age without adequate savings or access to adequate pensions.

What message will the Yukon Finance minister take to the December 16 meeting to ensure that working Canadians have adequate and secure pension coverage?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: This has been an issue that has been top of mind for Yukoners and all Canadians. Our ministers of Finance, present and past, will continue to raise this and many other issues of importance when it comes to the longevity of pension planning and income security for all Yukoners.

I do not have the specific agenda in front of me, but I do know that the Premier will be raising these issues and others with his respective counterparts as we move forward into the coming years.

Ms. Hanson: Retirement experts have been warning governments about the decline in pension coverage in the private sector, particularly defined benefit pension plans,

which provide the most adequate and secure income in retirement. This worrying trend will continue if the federal government doesn't act now to enhance the Canada Pension Plan.

Many middle-class Canadians are increasingly at risk of having a sharp decline in income, with little left over after taking care of bills and demands on their income such as rising personal debt.

Without the details, would the Deputy Premier be able to tell us that this government will tell the federal Finance ministers that Yukoners need Canada Pension Plan benefits that are indexed, secure and portable across all job sectors?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: As I mentioned before, the Yukon government, through our Minister of Finance in his capacity as Premier, will continue to work with all provinces and territories on this issue of fundamental importance to all Canadians.

What I can say from this government is that this government continues to make efforts and continues to take action in terms of enhancing income security for all Yukoners, starting with the public utility grant when it comes to indexing and increasing it by 35 percent and so forth. Those are additional dollars in Yukoners' pockets.

When it comes to the seniors income supplement, that is another initiative that we have doubled, actually, over a number of years. That — and continuing to maintain our taxation, continuing to ensure that we do have a delivery of programs and services available to those most in need — is of utmost importance and we will continue to work in that respect through all of the respective departments.

Ms. Hanson: Mr. Speaker, two-thirds of working Canadians don't have any access to a workplace pension. Only one in three Canadians have a registered retirement savings plan. The Canada Pension Plan is the only pension option for a growing number of Canadians, which is why it is so urgent the plan be enhanced.

This is supported by labour leaders, pension experts and the majority of the provinces and territories. So far the Yukon has been silent. A modest, phased-in, fully funded enhancement to the Canada Pension Plan would have to be affordable for both employees and employers.

I'm not looking for the details. Yukoners need to know that the Yukon Minister of Finance will go to the meeting in Ottawa and will deliver a clear message. Does the Yukon government support improvements to the Canada Pension Plan that would provide more Canadians with access to low-cost pensions?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Again, for the public record and the member opposite, what the Minister of Finance and the Government of Yukon will continue to do is work on all Yukoners' behalf in terms of enhancing income security and ensuring there are more dollars in Yukoners' pockets. We will ensure that the quality of life for all Yukoners continues to be enhanced through the delivery of affordable land, through the delivery of affordable housing, through the delivery of affordable numerous programs and services. As I mentioned before, we have taken a number of initiatives in the past, one

of which includes the seniors income supplement — we more than doubled it — and through the pioneer utility grant, which we have increased by 35 percent and indexed it against inflation.

We continue to deliver on making affordable housing available through new units of seniors and elders housing throughout the territory and in all communities. We would encourage the Opposition to vote for the budgets that support these and other initiatives. Unfortunately, that is not what we have seen in the past.

Question re: Mental health services

Mr. Barr: In Yukon, suicide places sixth in causes of death, higher than the national average of ninth. Suicide has caused more deaths in the Yukon than diabetes, for instance. Suicide is not sudden; there are warning signs and behaviours. Yukon participated in the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children study. The data collected about young Yukoners points to the need for mental health services for youth and young adults. Risks have been identified, so the next steps are ranking priorities and setting timelines and targets for addressing them.

What targets has the minister responsible for Health and Social Services set to improve mental health services for Yukon's rural youth?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Youth-specific mental health services are provided through the Family and Children's Services branch of the department in cooperation with Alcohol and Drug Services and also through Community Health Programs in the various communities.

We offer these services through a number of contractors — Many Rivers is one of them. We also have mental health workers in at least two communities throughout the territory. More and more what the department is attempting to do is work not only through Mental Health Services, but also through Alcohol and Drug Services, to form a more comprehensive team approach to dealing with mental health issues in all of the communities. We work very closely with First Nations and with the Hospital Corporation, through their facilities in Whitehorse, Dawson and Watson Lake, to support effective mental health planning and programming service options throughout the territory.

Mr. Barr: In Yukon, through high school, there is, and I quote from the Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children study: "...an increase in the proportion of young people who feel low or depressed... rural grades 9 and 10 boys are much more likely to report feeling depressed than those from Whitehorse..."

We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge those staff who are on the front lines of mental health in Yukon. Often they are parachuted into sad situations that are felt deeply by the whole community. In rural Yukon, many people are living the legacy of a troubled history.

Can the minister tell this House how many rural mental health workers there are in the department and how many times a year they are in each Yukon community?

Hon. Mr. Graham: As I indicated in my previous answer, we have two mental health nurses, one in Dawson and one in Haines Junction. These two professionals visit other communities to provide assessment and treatment services. They have, in addition, a number of other support workers who provide practical assistance to clients. They monitor their health status and they visit in communities — such as itinerant counselling services, that is — in Ross River, Faro, Old Crow and other communities. Mental Health Services not only provides workers in these communities but, as I said before, we also provide funding to the Many Rivers Counselling.

These folks from Many Rivers travel to the communities on a regular basis as well, so it's very difficult for me to say we provide services in X community, seven times a year. We attempt to prioritize the requirement from Mental Health Services and visit communities on that basis.

Mr. Barr: Mr. Speaker, Yukon rural grades 9 and 10 teens are more likely to feel bad-tempered and irritable, compared to urban teens. More than one-third of rural grade 9 and 10 girls report wishing they were someone else. I quote again from the Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children study: "...there is also a worsening of students' states of mental health and well-being for both genders as they get older."

Yukon's rural youth should have sufficient contact with mental health workers.

Mr. Speaker, is the minister responsible aware of the caseload of Yukon's rural mental health workers, so that he can determine if they are adequately resourced to fulfill their own professional expectations and provide meaningful help to Yukon's rural youth?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons that we have professional mental health services workers within the department and within the communities is to provide that advice to me. I'm not going to look at a mental health caseworker and determine whether or not their caseload is adequate or less than it should be or greater than it should be. That's what I depend on the professionals in the department to do. Once they indicate to me that perhaps we need more mental health workers or we should provide additional funding in an area, then I will attempt to bring that information forward and give it to my colleagues here. But to say that I should go forward and check the workload of mental health workers around the territory is — Mr. Speaker, I'll leave it at that.

Question re: Emergency medical services building

Mr. Silver: I have a follow-up question in regard to the new EMS facility at the top of Two Mile Hill. The minister told Yukoners last week that discussions with the RCMP about them using the new dispatch centre are ongoing and that has delayed any potential move of EMS dispatch personnel from the current location in Riverdale. It sounds like the government went ahead and built the building without knowing who was going to occupy the dispatch centre. Usually you don't custom build something for a client until you have a signed agreement in place with that client. Mr.

Speaker, the upstairs dispatch centre at the new EMS is custom built for the RCMP.

Why did the government build it this way without actually having an agreement in place with the RCMP?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I'm not sure if the members have had an opportunity to tour the facility. What I would note to the member is that the facility was designed to meet the space requirements for a potential call centre but, of course, if an outcome that we do not expect were to occur and there were to be an issue with the RCMP moving there, we would find other purposes for the space. Again, we do expect that that facility will become a dispatch centre and, because of the stage of those discussions we were at when the facility was designed, it seemed appropriate to accommodate the ability to provide dispatch, both for our own services and for RCMP, in the facility design.

Mr. Silver: I appreciate the answer, but Mr. Speaker, the government custom built a dispatch centre for the RCMP with no signed agreement in place. The new building is open and the dispatch centre sits empty, while the government tries to conclude an agreement after the fact.

Currently there are very few, if any, emergency medical services dispatched by the RCMP. This is done now in-house by EMS personnel. What benefit to Yukoners does this government see by transferring these responsibilities for dispatch over to the RCMP? In addition to that, is there any evidence to show that these benefits could actually be achieved?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: The member has not quite properly understood what is being discussed. We understand the importance of having a shared dispatch service that involves the RCMP, as well as staff of Emergency Medical Services. The discussions and details of this are very technical in nature, and those discussions are ongoing. As I've noted previously in the House as well as in the media, we do anticipate that the outcome will be shared dispatch with the RCMP. At this point, as I indicated previously to this House, because right now the design of the facility accommodates neither the RCMP — which is for a secure room that cannot be accessed without the proper keys, et cetera, and which is not currently in place in our existing ambulance station — it would have an impact on dispatch operations if EMS staff were to move up the hill at this point in time, so they will not be moving up at this point in time.

We are continuing to have discussions with the RCMP and are waiting for the results of that before making any moves that would affect dispatch.

Mr. Silver: Before getting into negotiations with the RCMP, I think it would have been a good idea to actually discuss these possibilities with EMS personnel who currently provide the dispatch services. I'm sure it was news to them that the government was looking to transfer their jobs and possibly themselves to another employer.

The new building is now open, yet dispatch services continue to be handled from the old facility in Riverdale due to a lack of planning by this government. Negotiations with the RCMP that would see them move into the new building

and provide dispatch services are still ongoing. A facility custom built for them remains empty.

Mr. Speaker, what is this government's plan B, should the RCMP choose not to accept this arrangement?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: It is unfortunate the way the member is choosing to characterize this. I don't think he understands the technical details.

The new facility, regardless of what occurs with dispatch, will and has enhanced the response times significantly and enhances our capacity to respond to Whitehorse and the surrounding area. Contrary to what the member has asserted — that people are going to be transferred over to a new employer — it is unfortunate that the member is choosing to start spreading rumours, rather than relying on facts.

In fact, the importance of ensuring that there is stability for our staff is a key consideration in any discussions that occur. Input of staff has resulted in some of the changes to the design of the facility that were made in the final stages — changes the member previously criticized in this House — when, in fact, we were not only making adjustments that provided for fitting out the upstairs but responding to input from staff. The member unfortunately opposed that previously. Again, in this case we do expect discussions with the RCMP to have a positive outcome, but until and unless we are convinced that a change to dispatch will have positive outcomes, dispatch is going to continue to operate exactly as it does right now.

Question re: Peel watershed land use plan

Mr. Tredger: Mr. Speaker, for seven years, First Nation governments, industries, business and the Yukon public — in particular residents of Mayo and Dawson — engaged in good faith to develop a land use plan for the Peel watershed. The final recommended Peel plan was presented almost two years ago. It is readily apparent that the Yukon government's ensuing consultations have stalled with the First Nation governments. The First Nations assert that any consultation is to be on the final recommended Peel plan while the Yukon Party government is insistent on pushing its own unilateral, eleventh-hour plan. This is not helpful to the public, to the economy or to relationships with First Nation governments.

Will this government fulfill its obligations and commit to adopt the final recommended Peel plan?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Over the past number of years we have been consulting both the public and our First Nation planning partners on the final recommended plan as well as a number of proposed modifications to that plan that government proposed in an effort to try to improve certain aspects of the final recommended plan that we thought needed improving. We, of course, have been engaged with First Nations in the final round of government-to-government consultations on both the final recommended plan as well as the proposed modifications I just referenced.

At the end of the day, we will have to adopt a land use plan that we feel is in the best interests of Yukoners, of our environment and of our economy. Ultimately we hope that

land use plan will provide special protection for key areas in the Peel watershed region but also allow for a balanced approach to economic development and ensure that the footprint of any development is managed and undertaken in a responsible manner. It's regrettable that the NDP continues to mischaracterize this process and we will continue to follow our obligations under the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, which clearly spells out our opportunity to complete this land use plan.

Mr. Tredger: After seven years of consultation, the land use planning commission recommended 55-percent protection as balanced and in the best interest of Yukoners. The public knows this, the resource industry knows this, the tourism sector knows this and First Nation governments know this.

The Yukon government has a legal and moral obligation to remain true to the land use planning process. This government is undermining land use planning in the territory. It is risking economic uncertainty and is risking costly, long-running court battles. As an act of good faith, will this government extend the interim mineral withdrawals until the final recommended Peel plan is implemented?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: The only ones undermining anything are the NDP here. We know they would like to reduce this debate to a bumper sticker and we're not going to do that.

We'd like to develop a land use plan that is consistent with our obligations under the *Umbrella Final Agreement*. It's going to be a land use plan that we hope will balance the needs of our economy moving forward into the future, but will also provide new levels and new kinds of protection for special areas in the Peel watershed region.

Ultimately, we want a land use plan that's balanced, and that's exactly what we're talking about here today. We feel that we have followed the process outlined in the UFA to a "t" and will continue to do that into the concluding stage of the land use plan. At the end of the day, as I said, we want a land use plan that's balanced and respects both the environment and the economy.

Question re: F.H. Collins Secondary School reconstruction

Ms. White: Can the Minister of Highways and Public Works please explain to this House what a professional, independent cost estimate is?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I thank the member opposite for the question. I've said this in this House before — we've explained ourselves, with the department clarifying some of the concerns put across by the members opposite and some of the rhetoric we hear across the opposite that they put in the media about the school.

When it comes to independent cost estimates, the details are in the contract and that is the responsibility of department officials with the expertise in those areas. I know the member opposite is a little disappointed, like previous questions asked, that we're actually doing something in the Yukon. We're building a new school. We're also looking at locals working.

That's our priority here, and it's the responsibility of this minister to be fiscally responsible and represent the interest of the local contractors and keep Yukoners working.

Ms. White: My question was all in the interest of fiscal responsibility. According to the *Project Management for Construction* handbook, published by the Carnegie Mellon University, I quote: "Cost estimating is one of the most important steps in project management. A cost estimate establishes the baseline of the project cost at different stages of development of the project."

The experts go on to note that cost estimates use scientific principles and techniques to address, and I quote again: "...the problem of cost estimation, cost control and profitability."

Would the Minister of Highways and Public Works agree that using this important tool is a good way to estimate and contain cost in large construction projects, such as F.H. Collins?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: When we went forward with looking at a \$10-million cost — in excess of \$10 million on the original F.H. Collins — we got after Barr Ryder, which was a company that we used to help us in the next phase of F.H. Collins. They have been contracted to work with us on such issues as the member opposite has brought across.

I just want to get it across to the member opposite again that our responsibility here is to build a school for Yukoners, and that's what we are doing. Our second objective is to ensure that the school is built well, in a timely and fiscally responsible manner. That's why we rely on the department for the good work that they do and we rely on the fact that this government wants to be fiscally responsible and accountable to Yukon taxpayers.

Ms. White: The last time the F.H. Collins school came out with a design, the government thought that the independent cost estimate was so important that they got three. The government, in addressing the costs of the new F.H. Collins school, is relying on the same company that did the sole-sourced design to provide an order-of-magnitude cost estimate. An order-of-magnitude cost estimate provides a contract with a range for a budget on the original design and nothing else — the original design.

Considering this government's track record on project mismanagement, a professional and independent cost estimate is a necessity. This project already has two addenda and an order-of-magnitude estimate is no longer appropriate. Even more worrisome is the fact that on Tuesday, the minister called the cost of F.H. Collins rebuild — and I quote, "details into the contracting".

Why has this government not sought an independent professional estimate of the construction of F.H. Collins and does the minister still think that the cost of the project is a mere detail?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: As the Minister of Highways and Public Works just pointed out for the members opposite, the Yukon government — contrary to the members opposite — is very much committed to developing a new school for the students of today, as well as tomorrow, that will actually meet the long-term needs of our community.

We're very pleased to be able to proceed with providing a learning environment that will reflect the needs of tomorrow's student learners and will reflect the needs of our communities, as we go forward.

It's based on a design that has been very successfully built on a number of occasions, and it is one that has been modified to reflect years of consultation with Yukoners. We look forward to building this school, we look forward to opening the doors of the new school and we look forward to being able to deliver programming that will reflect 21st century learning.

Question re: Public guardian and trustee's office

Ms. Stick: In August we saw two government departments, Health and Social Services and the Justice department, arguing in the Supreme Court over whether the government still had responsibility to maintain public guardianship for an individual with a mental disability. In the decision handed down, the judge encouraged the office of the public guardian to pursue more protocols to clarify the office's authority and further protect adults requiring guardianship services while maintaining their guardianship for this particular individual.

Can the Minister of Justice tell us what steps the public guardian's office is taking to clarify the authority of public guardians to appropriately protect adults with mental disabilities?

Hon. Mr. Graham: The member opposite is correct in that the Department of Health and Social Services did pursue an action in the Supreme Court. One of the reasons we did that is that we believe the public guardian should be responsible for adults who do not have the capacity to control all of, shall we say, the necessary living functions and arrangements while into their life. During our subsequent conversations with the Department of Justice, we've decided that we should form a joint committee and determine exactly where responsibility with Justice should begin and where Health and Social Services should end.

We'll continue doing that into the future, and we look forward to some very positive results, especially for people who don't have the necessary capacity to handle their own affairs.

Ms. Stick: On this issue I would agree with the Minister of Health and Social Services. This is important, but the question was about the public guardian and trustee's office. In the same court hearing and decision, it became obvious that there are still vulnerable individuals in our communities who require a guardian and may not have someone in their family or life to fill that role. The *Decision Making, Support and Protection to Adults Act* was passed in 2003 to work in conjunction with both the *Adult Protection and Decision-Making Act* and the *Public Guardian and Trustee Act*.

Can the Minister of Justice tell this House whether the office of the public guardian is adequately resourced to provide the service outlined in this legislation and to help the individuals in our communities requiring public guardianship?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The public guardian and trustee is guided by the principle that personal autonomy of an adult is of the highest importance. The public guardian and trustee applies for guardianship of an adult only as a last resort when the adult cannot make decisions, even with assistance and supports, and also the guardianship results in an actual benefit to that individual.

Under the *Adult Protection and Decision-Making Act*, a guardian must apply to the Supreme Court for a review of the guardianship when the adult's circumstances have changed significantly. The application may include a request to be removed as the guardian. In that instance, Mr. Speaker, the circumstances of the adult had changed, and the public guardian and trustee considered that it was appropriate to be removed as a guardian.

Ms. Stick: In fact, the judgment was that the individual still required a guardian to help with their decision-making and that person's circumstances might change but their ability to make decisions wouldn't. We've heard from service providers in the community and NGOs that are trying to provide supports to adults with disability that there is a need for more access to guardian services for vulnerable adults. Many do not have people in their lives who are willing to take up that role. That's the role for the public guardian.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Justice tell this House how many adults are currently receiving the services of the public guardian and trustee's office, and is there a waitlist for individuals needing this protection?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: As I indicated to the member opposite in my previous answer, under the *Adult Protection and Decision-Making Act*, a guardian must apply to the Supreme Court for a review of the guardianship when an adult's circumstances have changed significantly. That application may include a request to be, in fact, removed as guardian. In that instance, the circumstances of the adult had changed and the public guardian and trustee considered that it was appropriate to be removed as guardian.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services had a slightly different view of the adult's needs and believed that it could possibly be better for the adult if the public guardian and trustee remained as guardian. But both the public guardian and the trustee and the Department of Health and Social Services were of the opinion that it would be beneficial for the matter to come before a judge, who could then hear both perspectives and make a decision from that point.

As the Minister of Health and Social Services had indicated in his first answer, we will continue to work from the Department of Justice to the Department of Health and Social Services on important matters like this.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has elapsed. We will proceed to Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chair (Ms. McLeod): Order. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Vote 11, Women's Directorate, in Bill No. 11, entitled *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* — continued

Chair: The matter before the Committee is Vote 11, Women's Directorate, in Bill No. 11, *Second Appropriation Act, 2013-14*.

Women's Directorate

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I am pleased to be able to present the supplementary budget for the Women's Directorate for 2013-14.

The additional resources for the Women's Directorate essentially cover collective agreement management market increases, as well as ensuring a number of key projects continue both through our funding commitments to aboriginal women's organizations, as well as a continuation of the "Am I the Solution?" campaign and the completion of Betty's Haven.

There is an overall increase of \$361,000, which brings this fiscal year's budget for the Women's Directorate to just over \$3.2 million, from \$2.867 million. The changes include effectively a total increase of \$92,000 in operation and maintenance. Again, this increase represents a compilation of revotes and collective agreement management market increases. There is a total increase of \$269,000 in capital expenditures, as well.

The increases for the operation and maintenance portion of this supplementary budget include \$18,000 for collective agreement increases, as well as \$9,000 for management market and merit increases. The O&M increase also includes a revote of \$11,000 for the completion of a couple of projects

from the northern strategy, delivered in support of aboriginal women's programs.

Six dynamic projects were developed — as members will recall — between 2010 to 2013 — to address a number of key recommendations from the first Yukon Aboriginal Women's Summit held back in 2007 — in the areas of education, leadership and wellness. The remaining two projects are those which will be completed this year.

To continue the victims of crime social marketing campaign, "Am I the Solution?" — there is a revote of \$54,000. This revote has enabled the social marketing analyst's position to be increased to fulltime so the design and delivery of phase 2 of this successful campaign can be carried out. It builds on the commitment of \$50,000 by the Department of Justice in March 2013. I'd like to thank the minister responsible for that.

The positive — and what we could coin as provocative — campaign, as members will recall, uses social media, workshops and public debate to prompt critical discussions on the high rates of violence against women and the culture and the norms that support it.

In the past number of months, there have been a wide variety of initiatives that have been undertaken in support of the campaign, inclusive of a number of components in support of public education. More recently, earlier this fall there was a successful interactive booth that was engaged — and actually was kicked off at Yukon College during the orientation week of the actual student season, or student year.

The booth directly engages Yukon youth where individuals could go into the booth and write anonymously various messages to individuals in their lives or not in their lives, completing the prompt, "I wish I could say...". I can say that the booth was a very interesting initiative and it really prompted a lot of debate and a lot of critical discussion, which is what the campaign is really intended to do.

Over 300 comments were collected at 17 different sites, around Whitehorse and Watson Lake primarily, representing thoughts and hopes of 14- to 17-year-old youth. The best comments were then turned into posters and highlighted on a unique Facebook site, "Am I the Solution?"

I'm sure many of you have tuned in to that Facebook site. I believe that there are almost 900 subscribers to Facebook on that particular site. It has been hugely successful and it serves to highlight the connection between healthy relationships and ending violence against women and girls.

There is also a \$269,000 increase in capital for Betty's Haven, Kaushee's second-stage housing project, and I'm very pleased — as members will recall — to reconfirm that the project was on time and on budget with the official opening at the end of August.

I just want to congratulate all of the many individuals who helped bring Betty's Haven to fruition. As I mentioned on August 26 when we actually took part on the ribbon cutting of Betty's Haven, Betty's Haven has been an initiative that has been in the works for some time and it has involved many hands and many groups — women's organizations and individuals all working toward one goal, and that's to ensure

that women and children fleeing abuse have a safe and caring place to go.

Thanks to this ongoing partnership, we do have Betty's Haven and it is a tremendous facility. It is making a difference in many families' lives.

I want to thank the Yukon Women's Transition Home Society, the board and their staff in particular, for their work over these years that has led us to where we are today. The opening of the actual facility is testimony to their leadership and to their commitment to that project.

I also want to thank the Women's Directorate — our staff who led the project on behalf of the Yukon government — on time and on budget, I'll again reconfirm. Likewise, I want to thank the Department of Highways and Public Works which also provided the technical assistance and the project management support throughout the entire process. Also thanks to the excellent work carried out by the contractors, Narrow Gauge, NGC Builders and Kobayashi & Zedda.

I recall back in August when that facility was opened, the executive director made reference to how it takes a community to realize a significant achievement such as this to come to fruition.

It was great to see many leaders, officials, governments and individuals of past and present who have always contributed to this project.

Of course, Betty's Haven will continue to provide support and advocacy to women in establishing those plans — individual plans for themselves and their families. Unfortunately this facility is needed, and we know that it takes tremendous amount of courage and strength to leave one's home. It's not an easy decision and it takes a lot of strength and the support of the community to make that start possible.

Betty's Haven, as I mentioned earlier, will be an important step in this journey and we could not be more pleased that there is this facility for women and their children when they need it. Again, I just wanted to take a couple moments to say congratulations to all involved and to thank the many partners who have contributed to the overall success of this very creative and unique housing initiative for Yukoners.

I also just want to make reference that I know that the members opposite received a briefing by the Women's Directorate. I believe it went well, so I want to thank the officials for joining us today — our director for the Women's Directorate and to thank her for her leadership and her commitment over these many years — and to thank the staff of the Women's Directorate and to all of the organizations that we work with on a daily basis to advance women's equality on many different fronts.

With that said, I will perhaps provide an opportunity to have questions come forward from the members opposite.

Ms. White: I'd like to thank the official from the Women's Directorate for being here today. The Women's Directorate addresses difficult issues that have a long history: women's economic inequality and women's experience of violence. The work of the Women's Directorate is a massive undertaking since the roots of inequality and violence are

systemic and cannot be fixed in isolation. So it is my pleasure today to salute the staff of the Women's Directorate and thank them for their good work and encourage them to keep going. It's always a pleasure to see them at the Young Women Exploring Trades and Technology conference. They are absolute professionals with the volunteer roles that they have been doing for many, many years and it's always fantastic to see them there.

Despite the good work of the Directorate, it is true that the gap between the earnings of men and women has not changed substantially in the last decade. Despite best efforts, it is still true that women in the north experience higher levels of violent crime than women in the provinces. It is also a terrible truth that aboriginal women experience spousal violence three times more than non-aboriginal women.

It is because of both of these realities that the work of the Women's Directorate is more important than ever. These persistent, systemic issues would be much, much worse were it not for the work of the Women's Directorate and their non-government partners like Les EssentiElles, the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre and the Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle, Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council and all the other good groups. I salute and encourage the ongoing work to address the deeply unfair and destructive systemic issues and thank them for all they do.

I'll get right into my questions. My first question is: can the minister responsible explain if and how social marketing campaigns are evaluated?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I'd like to thank the member opposite for her question. Yes, there have been a multitude of different campaigns with the Women's Directorate over the course of the last 11 years that I have been involved with, with the Women's Directorate, off and on as minister responsible. This specifically, though — the "Am I the Solution?" — is really the first of its kind in terms of social marketing. It's very unique and it's very innovative and very creative, and hats off to the Women's Directorate and Aasman Design who helped create the many different elements.

So, yes, there are evaluations built into each of these campaigns. This really started as a result of the *Victims of Crime Strategy* — back as a result of the ongoing work of *Sharing Common Ground* with the Department of Justice and working in collaboration with the RCMP and a multitude of different stakeholders, such as the women's coalition and so forth. There is an overall evaluation of that particular strategy and of course, "Am I the Solution?" was one of those elements that flowed from the strategy itself.

Yes, we continue to measure the success of the campaign "Am I the Solution?" on many different fronts from the number of hits that we receive through the Facebook site itself, of course, and through different questionnaires.

There was a survey completed not long ago in which we received a lot of great feedback in terms of the strength of the program and where we also need to look at engaging men and boys. I know that was one of the recommendations put forth by stakeholders when surveying. I know that is a component

we are working into the campaign itself, and I know that it's also being delivered by other stakeholder groups.

Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council, for example, is doing a lot of work through their funding mechanisms. As a result of their partnership with the Women's Directorate, they are also working on culminating engaging men and boys — the same thing with Les EssentiElles. The member opposite would probably be familiar with that work.

They have also received and been able to leverage that funding through the Yukon government, as well as through Canadian Heritage, I understand, in being able to build on their good work.

We continue to evaluate these programs and continue to use that direction in guiding our path forward and to where we take the campaign next.

Ms. White: I thank the minister for the answer and am in agreement that the "Am I the Solution?" campaign is like none we've ever seen before in the territory.

Along the same lines, can the minister responsible tell the House if and how gender-inclusive analysis is applied to the other departments within the government and to their work? What I'm trying to figure out is whether a gender lens is applied to departmental initiatives, whether through advertising or the language we choose to do the writing with. Are there any policy review committees that provide that gender lens for government initiatives as a whole?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Yes, there is a tremendous amount of work. As I've referenced, the Women's Directorate is a relatively small shop, but a very effective shop, in terms of its outreach with the departments and, of course, the gender-inclusive analysis — or gender-based analysis — is but one of five different areas of importance that was identified, going into the next five years of the work of the Women's Directorate to strengthen that work.

It's not that that work has not been done, but actually really evaluating how we are doing. How effective we are, in terms of working with the government departments, in terms of working with our stakeholders, and really being able to receive an assessment of how we are doing and to be able to take that assessment and to be able to strengthen the ongoing work.

One of the key strategies that the Women's Directorate has is having a strong policy unit within the directorate itself. That I can say, hats off to the Women's Directorate for having strong policy analysts who provide that gender-inclusive analysis to all respective departments and through a committee structure.

We work with departments on numerous initiatives at the policy and program, and the legislative, level. Obviously the quality of the advice that is provided and offered by Women's Directorate officials really impacts the departments on a horizontal basis.

We also use and leverage government committee structures to integrate this analysis through the policy review committee, which includes all policy directors across the government, receives advice, evidence-based research and suggestions from our policy representation. It helps integrate

gender-inclusive analysis prior to decisions being made. Our director sits on both the assistant deputy ministers advisory committee and the Deputy Ministers Review Committee, which provides that more senior level table to advance that analysis going forward.

We continue to consult and to be able to collaborate with all the departments throughout the government to really enable a better understanding of the knowledge and the tools that are available to departments in terms of the policy work that is done throughout the government organization and for those respective analysts to be able to integrate that work into their day-to-day work.

We are committed to doing a more formal assessment of our work on a go-forward basis, just as we have in the past. Of course, that will help us strengthen the way we are able to communicate and the way that we are able to enhance the skills and capacities available to all the departments as they build and incorporate a gender-inclusive analysis into their work.

We have developed our own assessment training, using elements common to many various gender-based analysis training packages, but again with a more deliberate and extensive emphasis on understanding gender as a concept and locating it in societal power. We continue to offer a gender-inclusive analysis course, and we have actually shifted that focus to place emphasis more on the critical thinking.

Again, through this work — and I should say that is really on the local level in the territorial front — we are also collaborating with our national counterparts, through the Status of Women Council, looking to other best practices offered through other provinces and territories, Quebec being one of the more progressive regions.

There is more work being undertaken but yes, I would have to say that the Women's Directorate here, as represented through the Yukon government, is regarded as a national leader on many different fronts for its progressive work and for being able to advance this work throughout the government. As I mentioned earlier, we also play a very strong role in liaising with women's organizations on a daily basis, working with them and ensuring that they also have the ability to communicate strongly and clearly, articulately, with departments on issues that may impact women's and/or girls' equality in the north.

There's a lot of work being undertaken and there's more work to be done — there always is. I think that, on a go-forward basis, in the next five years, we only intend to be able to strengthen that analysis on a go-forward basis.

Ms. White: I concur that the opening of Betty's Haven was something that was incredibly special, especially hearing Betty herself speak in such a humble fashion about the honour of having such a place named after her. It was a long time from dream to occupancy, but the fact that there are families there now is an astounding feat for the community.

Could the minister provide a breakdown of the total cost of the project since it first appeared in the 2011 budget?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I also just wanted to say that Betty's Haven really builds on the good work that's being

done throughout the territory. I also just want to make reference to the Dawson City Women's Shelter, for example, and the good work that they're doing. Every time I am in Dawson, I always stop into the Dawson City Women's Shelter and have a coffee with the director and the staff.

I'm always very impressed with their passion and the delivery of their programs and the calibre of their programs. Likewise, the Watson Lake Help and Hope women's shelter is doing some very progressive work and continues to grow, working to integrate those programs and the delivery of services throughout the community. It is not always easy work. It can be very challenging to be able to engage with the community on a very difficult issue such as family violence.

The work that they are doing the Dawson City Women's Shelter, for example — thanks to the collaboration with Yukon Housing Corporation and Women's Directorate — we were able to facilitate the other half of the duplex being opened in Dawson to facilitate the growth of that shelter and to be able to have more space readily available for the community for various purposes.

Likewise, in Watson Lake, we were also very pleased to be able to work with them — the organization — in years past, on the expansion of their services when it comes to second-stage housing — the first of its kind outside of Whitehorse. I had the opportunity to visit that facility on a number of occasions with you, Madam Chair, as the MLA for Watson Lake.

I'm very impressed with the amount of community outreach being done in the communities and the outreach with the community stakeholders and having more buy-in that it is a very welcome space. It is available for community use on many different levels and fronts.

Again, I just wanted to mention those two facilities — as those two are very important — in addition to Betty's Haven.

As I mentioned earlier — and I'm very proud to say it again — the on-time, on-budget \$4.5 million included the land purchase and the design/build. I believe the member opposite was looking for a year-by-year overview of the expenditures undertaken for the public record. The Women's Directorate did put that together, and I would like to thank them for that.

In 2011-12, as members opposite may recall, \$1 million was allocated in the capital budget for the land purchase, the design and construction. Again, because the actual RFP was not released until the spring of 2012, the funds were not spent in the first fiscal year.

In 2012-13, the amount of funds allocated for the project was \$4 million, as was outlined in the Budget Address, and the funds covered the costs for the purchase of the land, the professional design and basically some 10 months of building. It included \$3 million in capital, and \$1 million was revoted from 2011-12. We spent \$2,716,389.97 — right on the dot — on the design/build contract with the contractor NGC.

\$315,000 was also spent on the land purchase through a transfer payment with the Yukon Women's Transition Home Society. The total amount spent in 2012-13 was \$3,031,389.97, as I referenced earlier. We allocated in the next fiscal year just over \$1 million — \$1.469 million — to

the initiative. There's a huge amount of breakdown but, in a nutshell, \$500,000 was allocated from capital mains, \$700,000 was a carry forward from the year before, \$269,000 was a revote from the year before, and, as I mentioned, the total amount spent in 2013-14, to date, is \$1,352,713.65.

Those funds have been spent to complete the building and bring it ready for occupancy, as we know it today. We are on budget. We have spent a total of \$4,384,103.62. I think that probably would sum up the specifics right down to the specific cents.

I just want to thank the Women's Directorate for putting that work together. As I referenced earlier, it was a very interesting project to put together in collaboration with an organization such as the Yukon Women's Transition Home Society and to be able to engage with the contractors and a couple of departments, inclusive of the Women's Directorate. All in all, it worked very well, and we're very pleased with the outcome.

I had the opportunity, as I mentioned, to attend the actual ribbon-cutting and had a tour along with Betty herself. I can say that really brought emotion to the room, because she was overwhelmed — I think every single one of us was overwhelmed — with just how beautiful that facility is and how welcoming it is — the color palette that was used, the actual furniture and just the space that was designed. It was very clear to me that there was a lot of creative thought and a lot of sentiment that was put forth over the years, thinking on how to make this facility work in the space accordingly.

It's a great space. The views from the top floor are outstanding. I think that Betty herself saw that first-hand and was overwhelmed. It is a testament to individuals such as her and many other long-standing advocates who have worked so hard on behalf of advancing women's equality over the years and, again, just to thank those individuals out there for their continued work on women's behalf.

Ms. White: I thank the official for what will probably be the most accurate, down-to-the-penny number we will ever get in this House.

Can the minister responsible please tell this House if the monies for Betty's Haven came from the northern housing trust or from general revenue?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Yes, that is correct. It did come from the northern housing trust fund.

Ms. White: In looking through the press releases starting in July 6, 2011 with \$1 million — June 18, 2012 and March 6, 2012 — there's a quote in the June 18, 2012 release that says: "The Yukon government has committed a total of \$4.5 million towards the completion of Betty's Haven."

Does it include the northern housing trust in that statement? On March 6 it also has a press release that says, "...the Yukon government has committed a total of \$4.5 million, subject to legislative approval". My concern about the money coming from the northern housing trust is, are there any restrictions or specific requirements that have to be followed now that the money has been spent on a project that's now owned by the Yukon Women's Transition Home Society?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: The northern housing trust came from Treasury Board, Government of Canada, and was then transferred over to the Government of Yukon. The Government of Yukon then chose to invest in this particular project. It was after years of working with the women's community, in particular the Yukon Women's Transition Home Society. This was a good investment and certainly is going to make a difference to the lives of many women and children over the next coming years. This project also builds on other housing initiatives. The multi-focused family housing initiative in Riverdale, for example, is another example of another housing initiative that has been delivered to support primarily single-parent families. The lion's share, unfortunately, happens to be women who head up those lone-parent families, but it's another good example of the welcoming environment for families.

Within our budget this fiscal year — although perhaps not specific to this supplementary — there are funds for a housing coordinator that was first started as a pilot project. The former minister responsible for the Housing Corporation and I announced earlier this year, this summer, that we would be extending that for five years and that we would be doing an evaluation at the end of that time. It has worked very well in terms of providing not only tenant relations with the tenants through the Yukon Housing Corporation, but it has also provided some assistance in terms of being able to facilitate workshops or being able to facilitate discussions by a multitude of different stakeholders in support of tenants, families and essential skills — to being able to provide healthy families.

That is just another example of how we have been creative over the years in working with organizations to meet some of the defined needs.

Ms. White: Just to be clear, there are no expectations or restrictions regarding this money now for the organization that runs Betty's Haven?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: When it comes to the actual physical asset, no, there are no outstanding ties. I believe that all the requirements have been duly met. We're very pleased with the project and the outcome, and we're very pleased that it is on time and on budget.

I should also reference that the Yukon Women's Transition Home Society has been working alongside the Department of Health and Social Services on the delivery of programming and being able to facilitate an increase in their programming needs and the delivery of actually meeting the defined function of what they are doing.

So they have been working alongside the Department of Health and Social Services. I'm sure the minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services can elaborate a bit more on being able to enhance the funding commitments to this and other organizations.

Ms. White: I thank the minister for the clarity. In speaking of the support of family housing that it's in Riverdale with the full-time staff person, I believe, can the minister please elaborate on the programming that's being offered there?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Madam Chair, I know that this particular individual — and I should also pay tribute to the other individuals who have actually served in that particular role in past years. But as I understand it, one of the primary responsibilities would be to work with the tenants themselves to identify the priorities and to identify the needs that may fluctuate over the years and fluctuate with the specific, defined needs of each of the tenants — but coming to an understanding of where those defined needs are and then being able to tailor that programming accordingly.

As I mentioned in my remarks earlier about bringing in other stakeholders to support those defined requests, there are many different organizations that are providing supports in many different ways. As to the defined list, I don't have that in front of me, nor would I, but I can also say that another important function is being able to do community outreach and to be able to work with the community on being able to make the family-focused housing initiative part of the community, and to be able to collaborate with the community on many different fronts.

I think it was last summer, if I'm not mistaken, that there was a greenhouse or there were some garden boxes built through Yukon Women in Trades and Technology. It's an example of a great partnership by being able to grow home-grown food and have nutritious, healthy food available for tenants, and being able to invite the community to participate in that, as well.

I know that there was a community barbeque, if I'm not mistaken — I could be wrong, but I do know that that is another one of those functions of that particular coordinator. Again, this very unique position is working fairly well, and that is why we have expanded it to five years of funding commitment, until such time as we can again fully evaluate and see what is working and what isn't working, where we can strengthen and further define those services provided by that individual.

Ms. White: Would the minister consider the position then of offering that support to those families as being successful?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I suppose when one takes a look at some of the activities that are being undertaken with the actual tenants — by having those monthly meetings, by having the outreach with the actual tenants on facilitating workshops — I guess you could say the preliminary indicators are positive. Of course, as we go forward, we continue to evaluate — in terms of evaluation, defining what those true indicators are that we are looking at on a go-forward basis.

It's to be able to reach out to those tenants and to be able to facilitate those discussions one-on-one and as a collective and to be able to have monthly meetings. I'm not familiar with the actual community uptake or the uptake among the tenants, but they are, as I understand, being held on a routine basis. From there, there would be requests made known or priorities made known as to what facilitated meeting or workshop or skills development we need to work on and to bridge those partnerships with other stakeholders or other departments.

That is really part and parcel — with respect to the specific role on the tenancy side of it, the landlord/tenant side of it — probably the minister responsible for the Housing Corporation would have better statistics on those. In terms of uptake, the preliminary indicators would appear to be positive.

We're always looking to strengthen how we can be effective and how we can really work to meet the needs of the actual individual tenants, and that is really the outcome that we're looking for — positive, healthy relationships; healthy, content families and working with the community to facilitate that strength in-between.

Ms. White: Based on these initial positive achievements and feedback, has the minister taken this experience back to her Cabinet — regarding the idea of supporting housing and how it might work as far as tenant happiness, conflict resolution and building well-being? Is this something that would possibly be considered in other government-owned housing?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: What I can say is that this is really a position that was specific to this particular housing initiative. I can say that going back — years back — in the Women's Directorate when we did undertake a consultation with the community, women's organizations and tenants — social housing tenants and so forth — there are housing needs. That is, in fact, why we're undertaking a housing action plan for the territory — to work in an integrated fashion with other stakeholders, other levels and orders of government, to meet the housing needs.

This was a specific housing need that was identified early on, and that is why we pressed on and I'm very, very proud of that particular housing facility that provides over 30 units for single-parent families. I think it's working well. It's a position that came about at the same time — as well as being able to help effectively, working with single-parent families primarily. It is specific to this housing initiative. These are early days but, as I mentioned, the preliminary indicators would indicate that we're receiving some good uptake and the relationship that is built between the facilitator, or the coordinator, and the actual tenants is just as important as the position itself as well. We're always trying to find ways to be able to strengthen how we deliver services.

Specific to this housing initiative, it's working relatively well. It is in collaboration with Yukon Housing Corporation, so it is a unique partnership.

Mr. Silver: I'm very glad to rise here today and to speak of the Women's Directorate. I would like to thank the officials for their time today. It's much appreciated.

The Directorate has an incredibly important — although all too often undervalued — role. Fortunately the Directorate is staffed by a group of very strong, passionate and talented individuals who are working very hard on this vital mandate. I have a couple of conceptual questions and then one about measurables.

The Directorate is responsible for ensuring that gender considerations are integrated into all aspects of government policy-making, legislation and program development. What can we as legislators do to help move this direction and the

Directorate's agenda forward? For example, are there any areas that the minister or the representatives feel we could improve on to help move the agenda of the Women's Directorate forward?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I'd like to thank the member opposite for raising the question. I don't want to start on a negative note here, but I was going to say that it would certainly assist if the budget received a positive vote in support of the programs and services delivered, because that is going toward the delivery of this and other initiatives undertaken by the Women's Directorate.

What I have learned over the years is that the Women's Directorate has grown to be very influential. I don't want to go back to the days before I came on board here because that was another time, but the Women's Directorate, I believe, is a very effective mechanism. It's a very effective shop for being able to work collaboratively with departments across the spectrum.

As I mentioned, we work on numerous different fronts — the policy and the programming, delivery of programs, and the legislative front as well. I can say that they have a very good, strong working relationship with women's organizations, not just here in Whitehorse, but throughout the territory.

I have seen through our budgets that we have been able to really enhance the delivery and fiscal capacity of women's organizations. I think it is important to be able to help build capacity in those organizations. We have seen some reductions in funding on the federal front for advocacy purposes, and that's not the case from the territorial point of view. We believe that there should be dollars afforded to organizations and what we've heard is just by being made available to support basic core services and core funding — which is what we're doing through the women's equality fund. We've been able to grow that from, I think, \$175,000 to about \$300,000 a year — and then through other funding mechanisms through the prevention of violence against aboriginal women. That's another fund that has helped assist women's organizations in support of programs or projects that are developed and implemented by aboriginal women themselves.

More recently, we were able to announce funding of \$450,000 over three years for aboriginal women's organizations to carry on the good work that they started back in 2007 through the Aboriginal Women's Summit, which really led to a number of recommendations.

The reason why I say that is that there is some very good, instrumental work being done through our grassroots organizations and for us to be able to help strengthen their role in their interactions with the Yukon government, the Government of Canada, First Nation governments, municipal governments and other stakeholders. It's another way we are able to advance the strength of women's equality initiatives underway.

As I mentioned, we are present at a number of different committees at a senior level and an administrative level. I

don't want to be repetitive because I already alluded to that earlier to the member opposite.

We also deliver a number of training initiatives, working with policy analysts on the front line as well. As I mentioned before, that is one of the five core initiatives that the Women's Directorate has identified as a priority going forward in our strategic plan over the next five years — how we can strengthen gender-inclusive analysis and how we can evaluate how we are doing, how effective are we as a directorate with the ongoing work of the Yukon government?

There are a number of mechanisms fully underway, but I am excited about a more formal assessment of how we are doing to be able to showcase that to our government departments and to work from there to strengthen how we deliver that. I think that the way that we have delivered our budget — a lot of this speaks to the importance of public education.

There is a lot of work that is being done in terms of delivering actual programs and services through the Department of Justice, Department of Health and Social Services and other departments, but on public education, the Women's Directorate has been the lead on many different fronts, in terms of prevention of violence against women and girls.

Coming up with creative ways, such as the "Am I the Solution?" campaign and all the different elements and initiatives flowing out of that campaign — social marketing, the use of Facebook, for example — the use of interactive booths, as I just mentioned — the use and the development of a very interesting and interactive children's book that was launched with the Childcare Association earlier this year. It's also being delivered through different childcare organizations and childcare centres throughout the territory. It's an excellent book — I might add, illustrated and written by local individuals — and it has been very well received. It's a book that I've shared with my son many times and it's a good one.

Those are just some very different tools that we are using — likewise, partnering with different youth organizations, coming up with YouTube videos and being able to disperse those, so having youth speaking out to youth. That's really what we're trying to do. We're trying to reach out to mainstream Yukoners to have them think differently as to how they can be part of the solution — how we're all part of the solution in terms of addressing violence against women and girls in our communities.

Thanks to the Women's Directorate and thank you to the member opposite for his question.

Mr. Silver: I do appreciate the minister's response. It's worthy of note that the minister and I both know that we don't vote on the budget department by department but, if we did, we would get a chance to hear if the opposition believed that this department had enough money to accomplish their goals.

That would lead into my next question, which is, overall, does the minister believe that the Women's Directorate is sufficiently resourced? What departments would the minister believe have the greatest ability to move women's issues forward?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: In terms of the funding levels, I can say that we have developed a number of different funding mechanisms available to the Women's Directorate over the years. Back in 2002, we didn't actually have a stand-alone Women's Directorate at that time. I don't want to go back in history, but we did reshape and reorganize the Women's Directorate, so now it is stand-alone. It has its own separate budget vote. The funding mechanisms, as I mentioned, we have really been able to build in terms of the availability of policy analysis specific to aboriginal women's priorities — specifically, that's an identified priority. We have been able to enhance the funding availability for women's organizations.

I'm just trying to think back to 2002 but, at that time, I think we only had funding available to, I think, Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre and the Yukon Status of Women Council, and that was it. We have been able to grow that in leaps and bounds by developing new initiatives, such as the women's equality fund, which currently funds several different women's organizations — and not just for one year, but three-year, multi-year funding. Again, it's designed to leverage other funding mechanisms as well.

We actually did a review of the women's equality fund just this past year, so we did a re-tweak according to what we heard from the women's community and so it is specific to women's organizations. We're not funding project-specific initiatives as we did in the past under the women's equality fund, but it's now basically to support core mandated programs delivered by a number of key organizations throughout the territory.

Likewise, as I mentioned, we also brought in the Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women fund. PVAAW is the acronym we use. That has also grown over the years and it has again helped support a number of women's organizations and aboriginal women's groups to be able to come up with a project specific to their communities, specific to their priorities and their needs, and to be able to deliver them by aboriginal women themselves. That has been a very creative funding mechanism as well.

Likewise, we were also able to introduce to the Women's Directorate and make available to the community the multi-year, three year funding in support of aboriginal women's priorities. Again, back to 2007 when we first had — I believe it was the first National Aboriginal Women's Summit. From there we had our own Yukon Aboriginal Women's Summit held in the community of Watson Lake and Whitehorse, which came up with a set of recommendations made specifically by aboriginal women on many different fronts.

In fact, one of those initiatives was the Yukon's Sisters in Spirit initiative. I remember speaking with the president of the national aboriginal women's association on a couple of occasions and how she commended the Women's Directorate and the Yukon government for actually taking up the initiative to help fund that. That was originally an initiative that was funded through the Government of Canada. The funding came to an end, so fortunately we were able to help fund that over a series of three years. We were then able to renew that funding as well through this year's fiscal budget — a three-year

funding. It's just one example of many initiatives that are underway.

Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council, for example, is currently funding their continued work, but is really targeting men and boys in terms of prevention of violence against aboriginal women and girls. It is very dynamic work. Being able to leverage the funding they receive from Yukon government in working with First Nation governments themselves and other entities — it means a lot. Those are just some of the examples of where we've been able to literally triple, if not quadruple, the amount of funding available for the Women's Directorate over a number of years.

Likewise, in support of a number of public education campaigns — the "Am I the Solution?" campaign is the more recent campaign that we've been working on in the last couple of years through the *Victims of Crime Strategy*. We have done a number of initiatives in collaboration with other departments.

One thing I can say is that we have to be strategic in our work with the departments, and I believe we have. I think that we have done some progressive work on the housing front through second-stage housing — Betty's Haven. It was very progressive work and it is work that has worked well in collaboration with the Yukon Women's Transition Home Society and other departments, like Highways and Public Works.

Working with the contracting community — kudos to them for donating a lot of their time, energy and expertise as well that they did not necessarily get paid for. They chose to donate their services and time as well — a tremendous partnership in terms of the multi-family focused housing initiative to helping co-fund a position, as we were just talking about with the coordinator for the lone-parent family focused housing initiative.

Those are some fundamental ways that the Women's Directorate has been working very creatively and very strategically. We work very seamlessly as well with the Department of Justice.

The Department of Justice has been working very progressively on many different fronts, primarily through the more recent work of *Sharing Common Ground*, the report that came out of the police review and working collaboratively with the women's coalition.

There have been tremendous strides and I know that the Minister of Justice has spoken to this many times extensively, so I won't go over that specific work. Domestic violence, sexual assault framework, response systems — how can we work collaboratively in terms of enhancing our support and being more strategic and effective in how we respond to those crises.

Likewise with the Department of Health and Social Services on the health side — women and addictions. There was a substantive piece also undertaken with substance abuse and putting the gender lens on how we deliver a number of those programs available through the Department of Health and Social Services. There are many different examples of how the Women's Directorate has been working effectively

and very strategically — very focused. I believe it has been coming up with some great results.

As I mentioned earlier, we are undertaking an assessment of the work that we are undertaking with our departments. It is going to be two-way. It is going to give us a better understanding of the effectiveness of the work that we are delivering and also be able to showcase to all departments that this is the work that is being undertaken and it is a two-way street.

Mr. Silver: I do appreciate the response to the question of whether or not the minister thinks that the Directorate is sufficiently resourced, and her answer did give me pause.

It would be interesting to hear from the ministers of that 2002 government and to hear their opinions as to whether or not the funding in women's initiatives were adequate at the time, but I digress.

Madam Chair, I was wondering if the minister can talk to me about the measurables tracked by the Women's Directorate. In order to ensure that we are making progress, we'll have to know where we currently are. Are there any shortfalls in tracking statistics — for example, in pay equity, or violence against women, or just issues in general that are affecting women?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I'd love to have that debate with the MLA for Klondike any time. I was here in 2002; I was the minister responsible. I've seen the Women's Directorate grow in leaps and bounds, and I'm very proud of the work that our government has done and very proud of the work that is being undertaken by many organizations throughout the territory. I could go over a number of other things that we've been working on.

In terms of tracking measureables and delivering results — as I mentioned before on a number of occasions, that has been identified as a strategic outcome of our five-year strategic plan, which is really being able to fully assess the programs that we're delivering and to be able to evaluate and assess the work that we are doing with our departments and overall.

How are we actually counting and counting us in? In fact, there was a report that was provided back in 1999. We're actually working on a subsequent check-in point from there and I think it's based on the 30th anniversary of the Women's Directorate, if I'm not mistaken. That work is being undertaken and will continue to be undertaken, but we're looking at the next couple of years of being able to undertake that thorough assessment and being able to strategically look at specific indicators of women's equality to see how far we have advanced women's equality — or we haven't. That work will help enhance the delivery of where we go from here, where we strengthen different areas, different sectors. We could be completely off the mark on one front but completely on the mark on other fronts.

We haven't done perhaps as thorough an assessment as we have, but that's why we're working on it right now. That will help further evaluate our gender-inclusive analysis, our work with the Department of Health and Social Services and our work when it comes to violence against women. These are

all very important issues that impact the advancement of women's equality throughout the territory.

It's something that I know the Women's Directorate is very much engaging and we have identified it as a priority on a go-forward basis for our strategic plan from here for the next five years. Specific initiatives we evaluate, but the overall engagement on the work and whether or not we are advancing women's equality on many strategic fronts — that work is currently being undertaken right now as we speak.

Chair: Is there any further general debate? We will proceed with line-by-line debate.

Ms. White: Madam Chair, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 11, Women's Directorate, cleared or carried, as required.

Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 11, Women's Directorate, cleared or carried

Chair: Ms. White has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 11, Women's Directorate, cleared or carried, as required. Are you agreed?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: Unanimous consent has been granted.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$92,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$269,000 agreed to

Total Expenditures in the amount of \$361,000 agreed to Women's Directorate agreed to

Chair: Would members like to take a recess before we proceed with Health and Social Services?

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. We are going to begin general debate in Vote 15, Department of Health and Social Services.

Department of Health and Social Services

Hon. Mr. Graham: Madam Chair, I would like to first of all introduce you to the two departmental officials who are here with me today. Birgitte Hunter is the assistant deputy minister in charge of finance and administration. Brian Kitchen is the director of policy and planning with the Department of Health and Social Services.

I'm very pleased to have this opportunity to introduce the Department of Health and Social Services supplementary budget for the year. At this point in 2013-14, the department is requesting an overall budget increase of approximately four percent, for a combined total capital and O&M budget of

\$351,719,000. The increase amounts to \$14,081,000 and is made up of an increase in O&M of \$8,140,000 and \$5,941,000 in capital. The operation and maintenance budget increase is primarily made up of salary increases from the new collective agreement with the union. It also features revotes for initiatives already brought to the attention of this Legislature or initiatives that are 100-percent recoverable.

The projected capital budget is increased by \$5,941,000. \$2.04 million of this amount are revotes and \$3.414 million of this increase is for the Hospital Corporation — \$2 million for the MRI equipment and set-up and \$1.414 million to begin the Whitehorse General Hospital expansion work for the MRI suite and the expansion to the emergency services area. These projects are necessary to advance the evolving acute care system in the territory and I'm very pleased to be part of these changes.

Preparing ourselves for the future is a fundamental priority that I take very seriously as Minister of Health and Social Services, so in this budget I'm requesting funding to support that responsibility. In addition to the support that I just mentioned to the Hospital Corporation to accommodate the needs of new technology and expanded services, the following are some of the specifics I would like to highlight in this supplementary budget.

We are moving forward with a number systems development projects, and over \$1 million is requested to proceed with this work. As you can appreciate, keeping up with advancements in information technology for the IT-enabled health care for the department are necessary for the effective management of our health and social services in Whitehorse and in the communities around the territory.

\$651,000 is required for the hospital information system electronic medical record connect project, of which \$608,300 goes directly to the hospital and is reimbursable. This project is funded by Infoway and is an enhancement to the lab information system at Whitehorse General Hospital.

This system is intended to improve electronic communications between the Whitehorse General Hospital lab services and Yukon physician offices by improving existing information technology at Whitehorse General Hospital that will support electronic ordering of lab tests and automatic electronic distribution of Yukon lab reports and reports back to physicians.

We are also requesting revoted funding for a variety of projects, such as implementation of the integrated case management system, improvements to the insured health claims processing system, implementation of an electronic system for vital statistics and the incident management system.

We are fully engaged, as I've mentioned before, with B.C. on the Panorama public health information system, which is a joint Yukon-B.C. project. The revote for this project is needed due to delays with B.C.'s implementation of the project.

Another challenge for us that I'm taking very seriously and planning for is the demographic shift that will result in an aging population remaining in the Yukon. As we've discussed

many times over the past few months, many of our seniors and elders have contributed to the growth of our community and our territory and are choosing to enjoy their retirement here in the territory, but we need to plan for that and the implications for our programs and services.

Recently we increased the Yukon seniors income supplement that supports our low-income seniors and elders by \$25 a month. We've also committed funding in this budget to the planning phase of a new continuing care facility in Whitehorse as well as to the phase 2 design/build RFP for the McDonald Lodge in Dawson City. The specific amounts included in this budget are: \$559,000 for the McDonald Lodge replacement project and \$168,000 for the business-case planning for the new continuing care facility here in the City of Whitehorse.

In planning for the future, we're making significant investments now in the acute and specialized care sector of the health care system. We are now looking at enhancing primary and community care with the adoption of an integrated service delivery approach. This is a model of service provision that utilizes teams of health care providers from across disciplines to provide patients with a comprehensive range of services appropriate to their needs.

Examples of integrated service delivery initiatives currently underway include the collaborative care initiative introduced through the new Yukon Medical Association agreement and the expansion of the Referred Care Clinic, which served clients with complex needs.

Planning for the future means, first and foremost, investing in future generations and supporting Yukon families and their children. In this budget, we have included \$130,000 to fund family support workers for First Nations in the territory and an additional \$302,000 is included for the Stop Now and Plan girls program. We've also increased funding to the adoption subsidy program by \$200,000 due to the increased demand in that area.

Recently, we were happy to witness the opening of Betty's Haven, a second-stage housing facility for women victims of violence and their children. This was part of our platform commitment to invest in a second-stage housing option. Now that it's open, we are proud to contribute toward their O&M funding in the amount of \$166,000 this year. This is partial-year funding that will be increasing in future budgets to support the full year of operations.

Options for Independence, OFI, is another important housing project that is almost now a reality. It was part, again, of our platform commitment to work toward providing appropriate support for people with FASD and to work with Options for Independence to expand its current complex for adults living with FASD. We are glad that the new 14-unit care facility is expected to open in the very near future and we are committed to supporting the increased O&M funding need for their expansion once this building becomes operational.

That provides a few of the highlights for the 2013-14 supplementary budget for Health and Social Services. I look forward to proceeding through the budget and answering what

I'm sure will be very limited questions, but I look forward to answering the questions from the opposition.

Ms. Stick: I feel like I've done opening remarks on Health and Social Services a couple of times this sitting. So I'm just going to move into questions, but I will first thank the department staff who provided the briefing for us and — I call them the “budget cheat sheets” because I find a lot of information very helpful in these, and it certainly helps me set up my questions.

I'm going to move right into O&M. One of my first questions has to do with an increase of \$249,000 to support the policy work around the internationally educated health professionals. I realize that this is 100-percent recoverable from Health Canada, but I'm wondering: have there been outcomes, or what are the expected outcomes from this program?

Hon. Mr. Graham: The money is necessary to support policy work, but this program is to increase Health and Social Services' capacity to work with internationally educated health professionals — not only to work with them and ensure that they're able to meet Canadian standards, but also to integrate them within the Department of Health and Social Services as well as within the local medical community.

It doesn't only include doctors and IMGs, but it includes everything from physiotherapists to any other kind of health professional who works in the territory. So the fund is to increase the department's capacity and ability to integrate these people into the Yukon medical community.

Ms. Stick: I've just found six more pages of questions. The next question I have has to do with FASD. We see a number of different lines in the O&M budget, the first one being another 100-percent recoverable from Health Canada — \$270,000 for the prevalence study and case management in adult corrections. The other one is another \$175,000, which is also recoverable, for the tri-territorial FASD project.

My question around those two would be, is Health and Social Services leading that FASD initiative? In the second, the tri-territorial FASD project — just a bit more information about what that is, what is its purpose and what are the hopeful outcomes of that project?

Hon. Mr. Graham: The first amount of \$270,000 is made up of two separate amounts — one is \$87,000 in personnel expenses and that's to pay for the diagnostic team for the integrated care management group that will be working with the Justice department. So as required, the Department of Health and Social Services brings in experts in various areas necessary to diagnose or work with people in the correctional centre suspected of having FASD. The \$83,000 is for things like training for individuals, travel — because it has to be coordinated through the department for all of this integrated team to come to the territory, to come to Whitehorse, and work with them at corrections.

Ms. Stick: I just wondered if I could have a bit more of an explanation around the tri-territorial FASD project.

Hon. Mr. Graham: The tri-territorial work is being led by Nunavut, funded again by THSSI or THAF, and it's dealing with prevention, so it's more working with the

territories to institute programs to prevent FASD, rather than deal with it once it has occurred. It's two separate tracks that we're running on, and the tri-territorial work is being funded by Nunavut through THSSI funding again.

Ms. Stick: The minister spoke to a \$200,000-increase for legislated grants for adoption subsidies. I just wanted to clarify whether the increase is — are there more adoptions taking place, or are these grants being increased in size?

Hon. Mr. Graham: It depends on who is applying for the adoption subsidies, because they are income-tested. We are seeing an increase in the number of people applying for these adoption subsidies but, depending on their income level, it could be higher or lower — the total amount of funding for that particular adoption — but the number of adoptions that are requesting funding through this program has increased.

Ms. Stick: With regard to the \$1,137,000-increase requested for the St. Elias group home — this is a large amount for one group home. What does that increase entail?

Hon. Mr. Graham: The member opposite is bouncing around here and I'm having trouble getting to any notes that I have, but the money required for the St. Elias group home was as a result of the territorial government taking on the responsibility for those individuals and taking over the group home, when a private operator got out of the business — I guess is the best way to put it — a few years ago.

The St. Elias group home until this time has just been funded on an ad hoc basis.

Ms. Stick: I'm going through these sheets so I'm going down them.

There is a \$718,000 revote requested for the territorial health access fund, or THAF, and again, another 100-percent recoverable from Canada, from the federal government. I understand that. I just wanted to clarify or make sure I'm correct on this — that a large portion of this is for medical travel. I'm wondering if that is for medevacs in the territory or medevacs to individuals outside the territory?

Hon. Mr. Graham: No, none of this is for medical travel. Medical travel is in a completely separate part of the total THSSI or THAF funding.

This one is for various projects that are run throughout the year. This one is being revoted because not all of the projects that the government had — or the Department of Health and Social Services had — were run at this time.

We were given a lump sum, and if we're unable to spend it in one year on projects that are acceptable to Canada, we are able to move it over into another year. But this is the last year that we will be able to access this funding until April 1, 2014, so we need projects in place for this funding in this fiscal year.

Ms. Stick: Which leads right into my next question. We understand that THAF and THSSI will be coming to an end. I just wondered where negotiations are in terms of ongoing funding. It's a lot of money that is fully recoverable. What are we anticipating will come up when these funding programs end?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I guess first of all I'll get into a little bit of what THSSI is all about. THSSI has funded all kinds of projects here in the territory, including the Yukon

HealthLine and the 811 line. It has funded medical travel to some extent — not this particular portion, but another portion. It has funded palliative care. In fact, the palliative care unit in the territory was established using THSSI money. We have also done major strategies such as social inclusion, poverty reduction — and the wellness strategy was funded completely by THSSI as well. We have also done the mentorship program that was funded.

We did a business case — in fact, the Government of Yukon's Health and Social Services led the three provinces providing, first of all, the projects that we have been involved in over the last years. The results of those projects included things such as the 811 line, which has been so popular with Yukon, and also the palliative care initiative, which, once established, has grown and the need for that unit is seen throughout the territory.

There are a number of tremendous successes as a result of the THSSI funding. We put that case to the then minister and received a not really positive response. Since then, we've gone back and attempted to use a slightly different strategy. We've asked for additional funding in a number of other areas, and while we haven't heard anything back yet, the response was a lot more positive the second time around. That's about all I can say. We're continuing discussions with Ottawa. The Yukon has taken the lead in those discussions, but as of this time, we do not have any kind of commitment from Ottawa to continue funding in a similar manner. Any way you look at it, we won't be funded for THSSI again, or THAF. It will be a different program established under different rules.

Ms. Stick: One of the revotes of \$200,000 was requested for a collaborative care initiative with the Yukon Medical Association. I realize this is not the collaborative care clinic, but I'm wondering what this \$200,000 was to cover, and is it application-driven?

What we are trying to do this year is establish permanent funding for the group home as we see ourselves running it, rather than going back out to private tender. We tried to go out on a number of occasions for a private operator for the group home and were unsuccessful. We finally received one proposal and felt that the department was better suited to do it at this time. So of the total amount, \$1,066,000 is for personnel; \$71,000 is for other O&M costs for the building itself.

Hon. Mr. Graham: We would love to see it application-driven, but we'd love to have all of the clinics in Whitehorse applying for this money so they could each have a nurse practitioner in their clinic who would be paid for out of the funding from the Yukon Medical Association grant. Unfortunately that hasn't transpired, so what we've had to do is, the department has sat down with a number of clinics to try and have some interest in this program. A lot of it, we find, is providing information about what collaborative care means to the clinics — to the physician clinics — in Whitehorse and what we can do for those clinics having nurse practitioners involved — but not only nurse practitioners; it involves a

number of other medical or health professionals as well, so a lot of work is being done in that area.

We have one clinic in particular that has agreed. We haven't worked out the details yet, but we expect to see another, because we do have the Referred Care Clinic, and that we consider a real example of collaborative care. We expect to see one more clinic showing an integrated care model very, very soon in the future.

Ms. Stick: I'm curious about the \$114,000 for the mental health first aid. Again, this is a tri-territorial project, and again it's 100-percent recoverable. I'm just interested in some of the details in whether this is — how it might be accessed by Yukoners in the communities.

Hon. Mr. Graham: I'll get back to the member opposite with a little more information. I was exposed to the mental health first aid program some time ago as a program that was for early identification of mental health problems. In fact, I think I answered a question some time ago in the last session with respect to exactly how it was done — if a person recognized changes in a friend or a family member and felt that intervention or some kind of assistance was required, that this provided training and an opportunity to provide that mental health first aid.

If you'd like, we'll come back with some additional information.

Ms. Stick: I would appreciate having that information. My last question in O&M would go back to the collective agreement and management increases of \$2,651,000. I wondered if the minister could please give us a breakdown — which portion of that is for management and which is part of the collective agreement?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I'm sorry, I don't have those two numbers available, but we can get them. They're spread out throughout the department, so it will take some time to get the information, but we will provide that.

Ms. Stick: I would appreciate that information.

Moving on to capital costs, one of the ones I noticed is actually in O&M and capital, and I'm just wondering about the difference. Under O&M, under continuing care, we saw a \$70,000 revote for the new care facility feasibility study, and then under capital, another increase of \$168,000 for the business case. I'm wondering why they are in two different streams, when I would have assumed they would have been under O&M.

Hon. Mr. Graham: The initial feasibility study was probably a little bit broader in scope. We hadn't really, at that time, defined exactly what it was we were looking at. Other than that, I don't really have an explanation.

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Graham: I have it now, Madam Chair.

The initial feasibility study — which was, as I said, broad in scope — identified the need, which then brought us to the capital plan. I think it's the \$168,000 that we're talking about. The \$168,000 in the capital is for an actual business case for a new continuing care facility.

Ms. Stick: I'm wondering if the department has an idea of what level of continuing care this new facility might

be — whether we're looking at a facility similar to Copper Ridge, or something where people are more independent such as Macaulay or Thomson Centre, and whether that decision has been made yet?

Hon. Mr. Graham: We haven't really made a decision as such, but we know anecdotally from all of the information we get. I just listened to CBC — and I know I shouldn't believe everything I hear on CBC, but I listened to a CBC program this morning about the increase in dementia experienced not only in Canada, but all over the world, and how they foresee an exponential increase in dementia and Alzheimer's over the next few years.

One of the preliminary things that we looked at, of course, was that if we construct a continuing care facility, we'll have to make sure, first of all, that it's big enough to service the needs of that increased population. But we also have to make it flexible enough, because we know that the number of dementia patients in the territory is going to rise dramatically so we want to make sure that it's designed in such a way that it can accommodate not only the dementia "wards" — I guess that's what you could call them — that we're going to need, but it will also be flexible to provide other assistance at a lower level when required.

Ms. Stick: Further down, there was a transfer out of \$400,000 for the Destruction Bay Health Centre projects. I'm wondering what has caused this money to be taken out, and what projects will that impact for the Destruction Bay Health Centre?

Hon. Mr. Graham: This money was originally intended to do some work in Destruction Bay and, in fact, probably construct a new health care, or a new station or whatever we call it, in that area. But we've decided to delay it in light of new information that has come to our attention and actually do some more needs assessment for the whole area to determine the best way to proceed. It guess it is part of the whole fallout, maybe, of needs assessments for Dawson and Watson, but we felt that some additional planning and some additional needs assessments were required before we proceed with that project.

Ms. Stick: I'm glad to hear that an assessment will be taking place. Just to clarify: would it just be for the highway from Haines Junction to Beaver Creek?

Hon. Mr. Graham: That was the intent.

Ms. Stick: The minister spoke about the money going to the Yukon Hospital Corporation — another \$3,414,000, of which \$2 million is for the purchase of the MRI and the rest for the expansion at Whitehorse General Hospital. I know there has been talk of expansion of the ER and I have a couple of questions on this.

Since the opening of the new referred clinic, have we seen some of the numbers at the ER go down?

Is there anything else besides the ER being considered for expansion?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I'll answer the bit about the ER first. We haven't seen a great drop. I think I went through this the last time as well.

One of the things we experienced with the Referred Care Clinic when it was only on a part-time basis was that we weren't even aware of people who required services and hadn't appeared at the emergency department — they were people out there with complex needs but they hadn't really come to the department's attention, and when the Referred Care Clinic was established and word got around that such a clinic was available, these people were actually coming to the Referred Care Clinic. So it was an unexpected group of people who were coming there — they had complex needs, too, so rightfully should have. That was one of the reasons we decided to expand to full-time — we were getting a different demographic. But we're continuing to refer those we see as our high users at the Whitehorse General Hospital to the clinic for their medical needs, and we expect that as the Referred Care Clinic ramps up to full time and as it becomes more well-known within that community, we'll expect the use of the emergency room by these folks to decline somewhat.

Ms. Stick: I appreciate that answer and wonder if the minister has also considered perhaps looking at another type of collaborative care clinic that might be available for the many people I hear from with chronic conditions who are having to overuse the emergency room, in terms of getting prescriptions renewed or having attended their chronic care needs, when they don't have their own family physician.

Hon. Mr. Graham: With unlimited money, we would do all those good things. I should also tell you, Madam Chair, that the emergency department was not only intended to be expanded, but it was intended to be modernized at the same time. Anybody who has gone to the emergency department has seen the changes that have evolved over the last few years, that were evolved in a facility that really wasn't designed to accommodate what is now happening in the ED.

The new emergency department will have much better sightlines, it will have much better and more secure access into the emergency department, much better flow of patients in and out, and it will be much more efficient, from a medical practitioner, nurse and doctor point of view. That's all part of what the Hospital Corporation will be doing over there.

We're also looking at extending the referral process for the Referred Care Clinic beyond the ER. I think I just recently read an interview given by the doctor at the Referred Care Clinic when she said, in the very near future, they will be accepting referrals from places other than just the emergency department. We suspect that, as the clinic gets ramped up and reaches full capacity we'll see a new demographic coming to that referral clinic, as well.

Again, I can't predict at this time exactly what will happen, but I look forward to seeing it.

Ms. Stick: Looking at revenues, there was an increase of \$548,000 in daily user fees for continuing care facilities. I'm assuming these are the daily increase, or per diem, that went up in this fiscal year, but I'm wondering if the minister has heard of situations where this is leaving some individuals with very little extra monies. I'm certainly aware of individuals — a couple, where one might live in the Thomson Centre, one might live at Copper Ridge, so they're paying two

different per diems, leaving very little money for the one to go visit the other. Often the bus service is not appropriate for them to take and they're trying to use cabs to go and visit their partner, one way or the other. I'm wondering if the minister has heard of this or individuals who are really left with not much money because of poor pensions or little savings when they are in the continuing care facilities.

Hon. Mr. Graham: We set the rate at \$35 a day because, after doing some of the math, we found that even if a person was on the very minimum pension from Canada, they would be eligible for the Yukon supplement or if they were on social assistance, the \$35-a-day figure would still leave them in the neighbourhood of \$400 a month for other purchases. We tried to make sure that we didn't leave anybody destitute — that was never the intent.

What has to be realized is that the \$35-a-day makes up only 11 percent, roughly, of the total operating expenses of those long-term care facilities. It was something that we had to do. But I also think that the instance that the member opposite gave wasn't probably as bad as the one where one spouse is still remaining in the family home and the other spouse is in the continuing care facility. Those are the ones who are probably hurting even more.

So we're working around those. Staff at the continuing care clinics, as well as in Adult Services, has worked with everyone who came forward at any of the continuing care facilities to ensure that, first of all, they had taken advantage of every pension or every supplementary allowance that was due to them. We found in many cases that people simply hadn't applied for those allowances and pensions. Staff has been working with folks to make sure that they have that money available and we'll continue to do that.

What we're doing now is working with people when they are first admitted to long-term care facilities. It won't provide any real — what would you call it — comfort to people who find themselves short of money, but we're still significantly lower here in the territory than almost any other province in the country. We're keeping our rates low. This was the first time in 20 years that they were adjusted.

Mr. Silver: I'd like to thank the officials from the department for their time here today. It is very much appreciated.

I'd like to start the issue of medical travel and the medical travel subsidy. I'll give a little bit of background. The program covers in-territory travel for the following: assessment and treatment for hearing services in Whitehorse; assessment and treatment by Mental Health Services in Whitehorse; assessment and treatment by the child development services in Whitehorse; and assessment and treatment by the therapy services unit at the Thomson Centre in Whitehorse.

The program also provides a subsidy if a patient is not admitted to a facility but requires outpatient services. Patients may be eligible to receive \$75 per day reimbursement after the second day of receiving outpatient services to a maximum of 90 days. All subsidies claimed in excess of 90 days must be reviewed and approved by the director of insured services.

Subsidies can be provided for up to 364 days with the director's advance approval.

A number of rural residents raised two aspects of the program in 2013: one is the necessity of the trips themselves, and the other one would be the rate of the subsidy. Residents feel that many of the issues that could be addressed by telehealth instead of expensive trips to Whitehorse — and we spoke about this in the Legislative Assembly previously. The subsidy has not been increased since 2006.

In 2011, the Government of Yukon reviewed the subsidy and, in a letter to me this summer from the minister, said that another review is underway. Could the minister tell Yukoners what the purpose of this latest review is?

Hon. Mr. Graham: The purpose of the latest review is the same as the ones that have been done in the past: look at the program, look at whether or not we should be making changes to the program and whether or not we should be increasing or decreasing rates under the program. It's basically taking a look at the program and taking a look at what other jurisdictions — mostly northern Canada — do in similar circumstances and to do an overall program evaluation.

There is a huge amount of money put out each year for medical travel — not only medical travel, but medevacs — and it's an expense that we would like to see reduced. So we are evaluating that. We'll have some results, I hope, in the next little while. The member opposite mentioned telehealth, and we're looking at telehealth as a potential avenue for reducing medical travel within the territory.

We're looking at it as another collaborative care tool so that, through the use of telehealth, we'll be able to involve other medical professionals. Unfortunately, telehealth isn't as robust yet as we would like, and it takes money and time to improve. As we do that, hopefully we'll have some more results and we'll cut down on the amount of medical travel.

Mr. Silver: I thank the minister for his response. I'm looking forward to the results of that review.

I'm going to turn to smoking rates. According to Canada.com, Yukon is bucking a positive trend in Canada in regards to smoking. Quoting the website, I quote: "But Yukon doesn't seem to be getting the message. It's the only region in Canada where smoking rates actually went up over the past ten years. Yukon sat at a comfortable 27.6 per cent smoking rate in 2003, but by 2011 had risen slightly to 29.3 per cent." It's probably not a stretch to say that the minister is probably the healthiest member in this Assembly, so I know this is something that he has commented in the past as well and it's something that he puts near and dear to his heart.

Currently, how is the government trying to address this issue?

Hon. Mr. Graham: It's one of the biggest priorities that we have in our health promotions campaign. I agree with the member opposite that obviously we're not having the success we would like to have, and what's even more frightening is that not only are we not having success reducing the number of smokers, but in the Yukon, unlike many other jurisdictions, people are actually starting to smoke younger,

and the shift is also from young males doing most of the smoking to young females doing the smoking.

So both of those are very alarming trends and it's something that the health promotions unit is working on. We've just talked recently about putting a focus on youth and smoking and aids that will assist people to quit smoking, especially younger people. To me, smoking, especially in younger people, causes so many disadvantages that if I had my choice, I would ban it altogether. Going back to the old City Hall days when the city council in Whitehorse was the first one to ban smoking in public buildings — you know where I stand on smoking. Yes, it's unfortunate that it is not decreasing and it's something that the health promotions unit will continue working very hard on.

Mr. Silver: I'm going to move to the prescription-tracking system. The head of the Yukon Medical Association has been in the news saying that doctors are tired of waiting for the government's prescription-tracking system. Dr. Tadeballi said that a computerized system would help doctors and pharmacists crack down on prescription-pill abuse and he has been asking for a computerized drug-tracking system for quite a while now. I have a couple of his quotes here. "We've been patient, but it's also taking a long time. The onus is for someone to take responsibility and show us the action."

He went on to say that physicians and those who dispense the drugs also realize there is a problem with prescription-pill abuse, especially with certain particular types of medication — codeine and codeine prescriptions, such as in Tylenol 3s. He did mention that patients would say, if you're not going to give it to me, we can get them on the streets, pretty readily available.

Without an actual tracking system, there is really no way of gauging how big the problem is or any way to track down people who are actually selling these pills. Dr. Tadeballi also said that he was looking for some help from the RCMP, and I quote, "And if that information is available at law enforcement agencies, we would like to hear that, and I'm sure the emergency room would like to know that, too."

I guess I'm just looking to see if the minister can update the House on any work that his department is moving forward with on a prescription-tracking system.

Hon. Mr. Graham: A prescription-tracking process is part of the whole e-health system that we've talked about. We recently went through the legislation — the HIPMA legislation — that will control the exchange of information, once the e-health system is established.

Some components are in place at the present time. We know many physicians have electronic medical records systems. We know that pharmacists have a great deal of information about prescriptions that they dispense. There are other health care providers with clinical information stored electronically, as well.

The difficulty is that none of these systems are connected. I think, especially in the City of Whitehorse, the pharmacists themselves have proven to be very resilient, very imaginative, and I know they have a telephone network, where they feel if they see a patient for some reason who they suspect of

scamming the system as far as drugs go, they'll actually telephone each other to make sure that they don't have people abusing the system.

As we've said before, we would love to see an e-health system up and running tomorrow, but we have, I think, \$8 million in this budget that we're working on right now to establish the platform to get Panorama up and running with the B.C. government, but also to establish a platform upon which we can feed this information in. We have not only the Hospital Corporation, but the doctors, physiotherapists and the pharmacists — everybody has to get their information in on this e-health system. That's what's proving to be a challenge to us, not only a challenge in getting qualified people working for us, but also just a challenge in terms of the size of the project.

We did a quick and dirty estimate of the O&M requirement for running an e-health system in the Yukon, and I think we came up with a \$6 million to \$8 million a year number just to run an e-health network in the territory. This is not to say how much it's going to cost doctors to sign on to the system to do all the training for their staff. It'll cost pharmacists — everybody who is connected with the system, their prices will go up as well.

It's something that we have to look at very seriously, because that's a huge increase to a budget that already forms 30 percent of the total territorial government's budget. We're working at it. I'm not sure how long it's going to take us to implement it, but we know if we don't do something fairly quickly, we're going to lose our Infoway money, so we're making sure that we get something going right away.

Mr. Silver: I do appreciate the response from the minister. I'm going to turn to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cc'd me on a correspondence with the minister, requesting an additional family support worker. I was wondering what the status was of that request.

Hon. Mr. Graham: The member's right. Not only Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, but a number of other First Nations have expressed interest in funding for family support services or capacity. We're working together with a number of First Nations to determine who will get the allocation, because it's again very limited resources. It will be based on community needs, numbers of families who are involved with Family and Children's Services, availability of other community resources and readiness of the community and the First Nation itself. We're working on that, and one of the things that we do have in the department is a very good working relationship with the CYFN First Nations health authority, so we will work with them and we will work with the individual First Nations but, at this time, no decision has been made about next year's allocation of family support capacity.

Mr. Silver: One last question: moving on to audiology services — hearing services — in Dawson. I wrote to the minister responsible about problems with this program this year. Folks who were coming to the facility, which was in Robert Service School, were told that they weren't providing this service because this service was going to be provided through the new hospital.

Many months went by where this service was not available to folks in Dawson. I was just wondering if the minister can explain how the services will be provided, now that we have our hospital open.

Hon. Mr. Graham: One of the real difficulties that we've had in the department is hiring an audiologist. We finally hired a full-time audiologist, who will be in the territory working here to fill a position that had been vacant for some years. We filled that position but we're still looking for other services.

We're working together with the hospital. I will make sure, before the end of this session, that I table the needs assessment done in Watson Lake and in Dawson City so you can see what is being proposed and what has been recommended.

We are working with the Hospital Corporation to provide a number of services. Audiology is only one, but also palliative care being offered out of the hospital or in collaboration with the hospital — so that services that are required in the community will be available through a combination of the Hospital Corporation and the Department of Health and Social Services. I know that while we were in Dawson City, we were just talking about nurses hired in the community who would be available to do other work that Health and Social Services currently has the responsibility for. If nurses in the hospital aren't being fully utilized in providing for patient care there, they would be available to do other work in the community and we thought that's a tremendous way of looking at it. I know the same thing is being done in Watson Lake as well — that cooperation between the department and the Hospital Corporation to try and provide those services.

Mr. Silver: It just kind of reminded me of a question. There are a lot of services vying for positions and office space in the new hospital.

Is there a breakdown available to the general public yet as far as who is going to be occupying all of the offices available in the new hospital space?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I don't have it right here. I know that a couple of employees of the local doctor's office were talking about moving today into the new facility, and I know Health Services from Health and Social Services will be moving fairly quickly as well. When we went through the hospital — I toured the hospital on Saturday — I know they explained what each room was for, but I don't have that available right now. We'll get back with a list of who will be moving in there at the very least.

Ms. Hanson: I just have a few questions. Earlier in his speaking points the minister mentioned the Options for Independence, and I was wondering if he could give us a breakdown of the projected O&M costs for this new 14-unit building.

Hon. Mr. Graham: This is something that hasn't been established yet. We're still working with OFI. As you know, there were some delays in occupation of the building so we haven't gotten the number yet. We're still negotiating. As

soon as that's available we'll probably bring it forward in another supplementary this year — hopefully.

Ms. Hanson: I guess that's the subsequent question. When is the projected opening of this? If we're now at the third quarter of the fiscal year, are we anticipating it being in the beginning of the new year — a calendar year?

Hon. Mr. Graham: We believe it's in January that they will be opening but we're not 100 percent certain. We'll get an update as quickly as we can. OFI is, as we all know, an independent organization. They're working, I know, very hard. I had heard that they had run into some difficulties but they are working very hard to get it open because they have a waiting list of clients who are interested in that space.

Ms. Hanson: We look forward with interest to hearing about the opening as well as the costs of running this new building.

I'd like to ask the minister about an issue that I've raised ever since I've been elected in this Assembly — tomorrow is the third anniversary — and it is an issue that has been on the Yukon Party's platform for a number of years and certainly has been an issue that this side of the House has taken great interest in. It has to do with palliative care.

It has been a commitment made by Yukon Party since at least 2006.

I'm wondering if the minister can perhaps enlighten us as to whether or not the proposed renovations, or the money identified for renovations at the Thomson Centre, is intended to be used for palliative care? If not, when will we see a concrete plan for palliative care in terms of the option for people who are unable to die in their own home because they don't have the support or resources for that.

I've had the occasion to attend the annual general meeting of the Yukon Hospital Corporation over the last three or four years, and a question I ask each year of the chair of the Hospital Corporation is with respect to the number of beds occupied by people who would be better placed in palliative care — designed for the process of dying.

Acute care hospitals are designed, as we all know, to cure you, but at some point in your life you are going to die. Palliative care is a whole different design concept. I know the minister is very familiar with it. I'm wondering if this money is the beginning of that process or, if not, when will we see a move on the commitment made by this government over the last quite-a-few years to the citizens of this territory, both in campaigns and in this Legislative Assembly?

Hon. Mr. Graham: There is a palliative care unit in place. There is absolutely no doubt about it. The palliative care unit currently employs a resource nurse, a resource social worker.

An education person also coordinates volunteers, and we have a contract with a physician to be our physician advisor. So the service is already there; it's being funded. It was funded originally through THSSI money. We are currently working on it. We're working also to develop a palliative care framework. We hope to have that in place by March of next year and that will guide future developments in the palliative care area.

We're also looking at options of providing this service through the new continuing care facility. We looked originally at an expansion to the Thomson Centre of another 10 beds. We decided at this time that the price simply isn't worth it. It would cost us too much to do the renovations for the period of time that we're going to be in that facility, because we intend the new continuing care facility to be large enough to allow us to leave Thomson Centre completely. But at one time we were looking at moving palliative care or at least running palliative care — a full group out of the Thomson Centre.

I guess you could say that even though the service has been established and it has been funded, we intend to carry it on after we lose THSSI money.

There's no doubt that we've seen that there is a need for palliative care throughout the territory, but we haven't made those decisions with respect to where we're going to place it and how large a staff it should have. We feel that the biggest single thing we can do for it is provide the education and training for other people around the territory.

Ms. Hanson: I will look forward to perhaps having a more in-depth conversation with the minister about the palliative care as these ideas develop. Yes, I do appreciate and agree that it has been great to have the support from the federal government to develop ideas and concepts around palliative care, but every evidence-based study shows us that it's less expensive and more appropriate to have people not in acute care facilities when we're talking about end-of-life care. I don't know how many studies we've done, I don't know how much time it takes — for goodness' sake, I did my practicum in social work in 1975 in London, England, and visited St. Margaret's Hospice, one of the pioneers. It's not that this is a new idea. It's an idea that we need to get on with, sooner than later.

Similarly, I guess it's the issue of how we plan for these things and then play catch-up. My next question has to do with the MRI machine at the hospital now. We all saw, to great fanfare, that the Yukon Hospital Foundation was able to raise, through a number of fundraising initiatives, the \$2 million and I think it was a surprise to many people that was actually then to be matched by the Yukon government, so the total cost of the machine is \$4 million and counting — then to find out, and confirmed again at the annual general meeting of the Yukon Hospital Corporation in October, that in order to use this MRI, we have to now build a space for it.

It's sort of like the chicken and the egg — one would think that, if we were planning and going ahead with the acquisition of an item — a diagnostic machine — that will no doubt be of great benefit to the Yukon, that we would also have done the work in terms of where are you going to put it and how much is it going to cost to put it there?

I've heard at various times from representatives of the Yukon Medical Association and from the Hospital Corporation that we're talking about a \$60-million to \$65-million expansion to the hospital. I see here a supplementary estimate of \$1,414,000 with respect to expansion for the MRI/emergency department expansions. I'm presuming — and I'd like to see if the minister could confirm — is this the

sole total of what we anticipate the costs are going to be for housing the MRI? Corollary to that is, when do we anticipate citizens of this territory, who have been thinking, I'd say, for the last couple years that this was going to be accessible pretty soon — now — when will it be open? Is the total cost this additional \$1.4 million, or are there additional costs to be tallied?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I'll make some comments with respect to palliative care, first of all. The member opposite speaks about palliative care as if we haven't done anything yet. There has been a lot of work done in this area. As I said, we have a support team in place. We work with Hospice Yukon. The palliative care team works with the home care division within our own department. We're doing a number of things with palliative care, but we don't see this palliative care team that has been established by the Yukon government as a team that is going to run around to each home as somebody is in the process. We see them as a support group that will provide training, expertise and resources to other programs, such as home care, and training for people who anticipate that their relatives or friends will be requiring the services during some time.

We're also working with the Hospital Corporation in terms of how many people are currently occupying acute care beds. We know at some point in the last couple of years, there have been as many as seven to 12 beds occupied in an acute care facility that could be better served in a long-term care facility, and we simply didn't have the rooms. So we know that. It's one of the reasons that we're pushing very hard to go ahead with a new continuing care facility.

I keep going back to the palliative care. We're working with all these groups: hospice, home care. We work with the Hospital Corporation, even with communities, because we know that palliative care is something that is very important.

This one is fairly close to me as well, because we've gone through a few things in our own family lately, and it's something that I see being used more and more by people around the territory.

As far as the Hospital Corporation goes, the \$1.414 million that's in the budget is strictly for planning and design. The \$2 million was the government's contribution to the MRI machine. The reason it's in a supplementary is because, as I understand, the Hospital Corporation raised the \$2 million for the MRI much more quickly than they had anticipated. In fact, I think they did a full year before they had anticipated. That's why the \$2-million contribution from YTG is in a supplementary, because it was unanticipated.

The planning and design stages will provide us with a refined costing and we'll analyze that once it's received. As I said earlier in the House in Question Period, there has been an advisory committee established that will have the deputy ministers of Health and Social Services and Highways and Public Works, as well as the CEO from the Hospital Corporation, and that team will be providing advice and expertise to the building construction group, as the Hospital Corporation project goes ahead.

At this point, we have an order-of-magnitude price for what is anticipated the hospital renovations to cost, but we really don't have a complete costing, nor should we, because it's very premature until such time as the entire design and package is completed.

I know Yukon Hospital Corporation in the past has completed a number of studies. They did one study where they could potentially rebuild the whole hospital at a cost in the \$250-million to \$350-million range. It's part of their responsibility as a board for the Hospital Corporation to do those kinds of advance planning exercises.

We didn't feel at the time — when this government talked with the corporation board — that we were in any position to do that kind of renovation, but we felt that the renovation being proposed to accommodate the MRI, to do the emergency department and potentially add a few more rooms for whatever reason, was well within our capability, and that's the project that we've gone ahead with.

Chair: Is there any further general debate on Health and Social Services?

We are going to move into line-by-line debate.

Ms. Stick: Madam Chair, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 15, Department of Health and Social Services, cleared or carried, as required.

Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 15, Department of Health and Social Services, cleared or carried

Chair: Ms. Stick has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 15, Department of Health and Social Services, cleared or carried, as required. Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Disagreed.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: There is not unanimous consent.

We are going to go line-by-line through Vote 15.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Corporate Services

Corporate Services in the amount of \$776,000 agreed to

On Family and Children's Services

Family and Children's Services in the amount of \$912,000 agreed to

On Adult Services

Adult Services in the amount of \$1,932,000 agreed to

On Continuing Care

Continuing Care in the amount of \$1,034,000 agreed to

On Health Services

Health Services in the amount of \$3,146,000 agreed to

On Community and Program Support

Community and Program Support in the amount of \$340,000 agreed to

On Total of Other Operation and Maintenance

Total of other Operation and Maintenance in the amount of nil cleared

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$8,140,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Corporate Services

On Office Furniture and Equipment

Office Furniture and Equipment in the amount of \$6,000 agreed to

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

Information Technology Equipment and Systems — Workstations and Hardware/Network Equipment in the amount of \$96,000 agreed to

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

Information Technology Equipment and Systems — Systems Development — Canada Health Infoway: Panorama (Public Health Information) in the amount of \$75,000 agreed to

On Information Technology Equipment and Systems — Systems Development — Canada Health Infoway: HIS-EMR Connect (Hospital Information System and Electronic Medical Recording Connect)

Information Technology Equipment and Systems — Systems Development — Canada Health Infoway: HIS-EMR Connect (Hospital Information System and Electronic Medical Recording Connect) in the amount of \$651,000 agreed to

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

Information Technology Equipment and Systems — Systems Development — Various Systems Development Projects in the amount of \$349,000 agreed to

On Family and Children's Services

On Young Offender Facilities — Renovations

Young Offender Facilities — Renovations in the amount of \$10,000 agreed to

On Adult Services

On Income Support — Operational Equipment

Income Support — Operational Equipment underexpenditure in the amount of \$20,000 cleared

On Alcohol and Drug Services — Renovations

Alcohol and Drug Services — Renovations in the amount of \$49,000 agreed to

On Alcohol and Drug Services — Operational Equipment

Alcohol and Drug Services — Operational Equipment in the amount of \$38,000 agreed to

On Sarah Steele Building Replacement — Planning

Sarah Steele Building Replacement — Planning in the amount of \$3,000 agreed to

On Continuing Care

On Home Care — Renovations

Home Care — Renovations in the amount of \$15,000 agreed to

On Copper Ridge Place — Renovations

Copper Ridge Place — Renovations in the amount of \$460,000 agreed to

On Copper Ridge Place — Operational Equipment

Copper Ridge Place — Operational Equipment in the amount of \$113,000 agreed to

On Macaulay Lodge — Renovations

Macaulay Lodge — Renovations in the amount of \$66,000 agreed to

On Macaulay Lodge — Operational Equipment

Macaulay Lodge — Operational Equipment in the amount of \$3,000 agreed to

On McDonald Lodge — Replacement

McDonald Lodge — Replacement in the amount of \$559,000 agreed to

On Thomson Centre — Renovations

Thomson Centre — Renovations in the amount of \$130,000 agreed to

On Thomson Centre — Operational Equipment

Thomson Centre — Operational Equipment in the amount of \$30,000 agreed to

On New Whitehorse Continuing Care Facility — Planning

New Whitehorse Continuing Care Facility — Planning in the amount of \$168,000 agreed to

On Health Services

On Community Nursing — Renovations

Community Nursing — Renovations underexpenditure in the amount of \$383,000 cleared

On Community Nursing — Operational Equipment

Community Nursing — Operational Equipment in the amount of \$12,000 agreed to

On Community Nursing — Northern Strategy — Telehealth

Community Nursing — Northern Strategy — Telehealth in the amount of \$68,000 agreed to

On Community and Program Support

On Regional Services — Renovations

Regional Services — Renovations in the amount of \$29,000 agreed to

On Yukon Hospital Services

On Yukon Hospital Corporation — Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Machine

Yukon Hospital Corporation — Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Machine in the amount of \$2,000,000 agreed to

On Yukon Hospital Corporation — Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)/Emergency Department Expansion

Yukon Hospital Corporation — Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)/Emergency Department Expansion in the amount of \$1,414,000 agreed to

On Total of Other Capital

Total of Other Capital in the amount of nil cleared

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$5,941,000 agreed to

Total Expenditures in the amount of \$14,081,000 agreed to

Department of Health and Social Services agreed to

Chair: We are going to proceed with Community Services, Vote 51. Committee of the Whole will recess for 10 minutes.

Recess

Chair: I will now call Committee of the Whole to order. We will continue with general debate in Vote 51, Department of Community Services.

Department of Community Services — *continued*

Chair: Mr. Cathers, you have the floor from November 14, with about 13.5 minutes remaining.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I believe I had answered the questions during my last time in discussion, so I look forward to hearing more questions from the members opposite.

Mr. Barr: We would just like to move into line-by-line debate.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I would just like to elaborate further on some of the good work that the department does. I'd like to refer to a few of the initiatives underway that may be of interest to members. To begin with, I would like to talk about Sports and Recreation, which has really been a focus for the Yukon government through the Department of Community Services in contributing to a better of quality to Yukoners through investment in sport, recreation and active living programs.

I'd like to commend my predecessor, as minister, for her good work in this area. Along with her in her role as the new Minister of Education, I had the opportunity recently to attend the official plaque-laying and designation of Yukon's physical literacy and sports school and see the efforts of students who are enrolled in there who were being coached by, among others, Jeane Lassen, who is a Yukon Olympian weightlifter.

That really is a good example of the good work being done every day within the department and within Yukon's many areas of the sports community in fostering the opportunity for Yukon athletes to prosper and to develop to their full potential. I had the opportunity as well — I believe it would be last week along with the Premier — to attend the Sport Yukon awards where Yukoners from a variety of sports right across the spectrum were recognized and given awards for their achievements in their individual fields and former Yukon Olympian, Alain Masson, was inducted into the Yukon Sports Hall of Fame.

One thing I would just like to note is that with the passing, unfortunately, of Father Mouchet, he was given the credit, both by Mr. Masson and others, for his role through the TEST program in really helping Yukon athletes and Yukon cross-country skiing go down the road of the success they've had and the many achievements they've had, including a number of Yukoners who have participated in the Olympics in cross-country skiing. Really, I think it's quite remarkable for a territory of as small a population as we have — the success that Yukon athletes have had in national events and in world events, including the Olympics. The number of athletes that

we've able to send to these events really is quite remarkable for a territory of our size.

A few of the investments I'd like to refer to specifically. Community Services has invested \$250,000 in 2013-14 for implementation of the renewed Yukon active living strategy and will continue to invest this annually. Investments are being made for active living opportunities for all Yukoners, children and youth, adults, seniors and elders.

We are helping communities build capacity so they can design and lead their own programs and projects. The government's continued investments in sport and recreation provides Yukoners with a wide range of opportunity to be active and engaged in healthy living. From active living and recreational pursuits to funding that helps in the development of athletes, coaches and officials in their pursuit of sport excellence, the Department of Community Services is invested in improving the quality of life for Yukoners and supporting Yukoners and Yukon athletes in these areas.

The government is also investing in after-school programs to help create opportunities for children and youth that will enhance their sports skills and their health and encourage them to take part in healthy activities every day. We are supporting seniors and elders and encouraging them to take part in healthy, active living opportunities, such as competitive sports that encourage them to stay involved and continue to hone their skills and training that will help them lead healthier and happier lives regardless of age.

The government is providing action grants so that non-government organizations, communities and schools can expand active living programs for Yukon's children and youth. We are also enhancing leadership training and programs for community leaders who offer after-school programming. We are providing equipment to deliver active living programming in schools and are continuing our commitment to programs including moving to inclusion, active start and Yukon developmental games, which are offered through Special Olympics Yukon.

Community Services also provides funding for the rural healthy and active living program in rural communities across the territory and supports ElderActive, which keeps senior and elders active, healthy and connected with their communities through ongoing programming and ongoing activities.

We are also continuing annual support for the 55+ Games, which occur every second year, with the next ones being in Sherwood Park, Alberta, between August 27 to 30, 2014. As you'll recall, Madam Chair, the Yukon — back several years — also had the opportunity to host the Senior Games and we continue to have a number of Yukoners who are very active in participating in this area.

We believe in the importance of active and healthy living for all Yukoners. I want to also acknowledge at this time the importance of community volunteers, leaders and mentors who provide opportunities for kids, youth, adults and seniors to participate.

Madam Chair, in September, Community Services partnered with the Recreation and Parks Association of Yukon to host the Yukon Recreation Leadership Retreat with

participants from recreation organizations, boards and societies from across the territory. The retreat was a great opportunity to work together on priorities for territorial and national initiatives. By coming together, Yukoners in the recreation community, staff and volunteers were able to strengthen relationships, establish new connections and explore ways to enhance recreation in the communities.

In the fall, we continued to connect with territorial sports organizations to map out priorities in sport for the next five to 10 years, in conjunction with the new Canadian sport policy. This work will culminate with a new Yukon sport action plan, which will guide our direction, funding and focus for years to come in sport across the Yukon.

Community leadership shown by Yukon sport and recreation groups brings tremendous benefits to athletes, coaches, officials, recreation enthusiasts and all Yukoners. We are partnering in a pilot project with the departments of Education and Economic Development, F.H. Collins and Sport Yukon to bring the first-ever Yukon sports school program and physical literacy project to life for the benefit of children and youth communities.

I hear the Leader of the NDP saying she doesn't appear to support this program, but we believe that this is an excellent program. I hope that the NDP and all members of the opposition will vote for this, instead of against it, during the upcoming vote during this sitting.

As I mentioned, along with the Deputy Premier and Minister of Education, I had the opportunity to attend the sports school program at F.H. Collins and see the excellent work that is being done in teaching youth the techniques to lift weights and exercise properly. It was explained to us that it begins with first teaching the technique and then increasing weight, rather than making the mistake that is often made by athletes in starting out by trying to do too much too soon with improper technique. Their focus is on developing physical literacy and the appropriate techniques to do things and then progressing into a higher level of activity — or more strenuous activity would be a better characterization of that — whether it be lifting heavier weights or running faster. They begin by starting with the proper technique.

This project will give students in grades 10 to 12 opportunities to train and enhance physical performance to better perform in their sport of choice. It's based on a program from the Province of British Columbia that has had a successful record. We are optimistic that this pilot project will give Yukon students a new way to improve sport and school performance during school day.

Sport Yukon will be assisting with the sports school and will also be rolling out a program in the area of physical literacy, which also includes travel to Yukon communities and mentorship that has occurred already during the early stages of the program. Most Yukon communities, I believe, have actually already received a visit and work is underway to ensure that students in Yukon schools in Yukon communities have access to this information and programming.

As members may know, we're providing support to the Friends of Sima, who have made excellent efforts to ensure

that Mount Sima has reopened this season and they are still targeting an opening date of December 20. As members may know, we provided them with assistance in the amount of \$198,000 to address some of the challenges left by the Great Northern Ski Society's amounts owing to Yukon businesses, and as well purchased the Zaugg groomer and gave that to the City of Whitehorse for use at Mount Sima.

We have also provided matching funding for donations in the amount of \$70,000 for this year, \$50,000 for next year and \$30,000 for the following year, as time-limited funding aimed at encouraging the donation of volunteers.

I'm pleased that, as of the last information we've had provided to us, they have sold over 700 passes to Yukoners for this season, which is truly a good mark of the support the ski hill has from Yukon citizens.

In 2013-14 we continue to provide funding in our sport and recreation community. A total of \$2.9 million of the \$3.4 million O&M budget for sport and recreation is identified as direct funding to Yukon sport and recreation programs, including a contribution to umbrella sport and recreation delivery partners, including Volunteer Yukon, Special Olympics Yukon, Sport Yukon, Recreation and Parks Association of Yukon, 28 Yukon sport-governing bodies and seven Yukon special recreation organizations.

In the year ahead, Community Services is funding sport and recreation through a number of initiatives. As we've done in previous years, the Sport and Recreation branch will continue to assist communities interested in benefitting from sport and recreation community capacity-building workshops, which can play an important role in skills development among sport and recreation organizations, municipal, local and First Nation recreation staff and volunteers, and encourage the exchange of ideas among them to build a more resilient sport and recreation system across the territory.

Seeing the time, I move that we report progress.

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

Motion agreed to

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

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

Chair's report

Ms. McLeod: 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 from the Chair of the 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 5:28 p.m.