



# Yukon Legislative Assembly

---

Number 137

1st Session

33rd Legislature

---

## HANSARD

Monday, April 7, 2014 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable David Laxton

# YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

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

## CABINET MINISTERS

### NAME CONSTITUENCY PORTFOLIO

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

## GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS

### Yukon Party

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

## OPPOSITION MEMBERS

### New Democratic Party

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

### Liberal Party

<b>Sandy Silver</b>	Leader of the Third Party Klondike
---------------------	---------------------------------------

## LEGISLATIVE STAFF

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

**Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Monday, April 7, 2014 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

## DAILY ROUTINE

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

Tributes.

## TRIBUTES

### In recognition of the Yukon Bridge Building Contest

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 21<sup>st</sup> annual bridge building competition that was held on Saturday, April 5 at the Porter Creek Secondary School gym. This annual competition is open to students in grades 4 to 12 and there is also an open class for families and the general public. This event is the direct result of a partnership between Science Adventures at the Yukon Research Centre and the Association of Professional Engineers of Yukon, all working together to help our students understand how engineering is vital and important to all of our lives.

For those who were able to attend this past weekend, they would have seen first-hand the sophistication, craftsmanship and attention to detail that went into these varied bridges. Over 135 individuals worked on bridges for the competition, including the participation of some 10 teachers and classes from schools from Carcross, Dawson and Whitehorse and one of our home-school classes as well. All participants did an outstanding job and should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I want to take a moment to congratulate the winners in each of the categories and they are: in the grade 4 to 5 category, Sheldon Beattie and Olivia Richard of the Ghùch Tlâ community school in Carcross; in grade 6 to 7, Nicky Charlie and Sage Smarch, also of the community school in Carcross; in the grade 8 to 12 category, Aidan Stoker of Vanier; and in the open competition, there was Kalina LaRochelle and Bernard LaRochelle of Jack Hulland Elementary School.

I encourage everyone in the House to visit the competition website to learn more about the fantastic bridges built this year and the other special awards given to teams and participants who built the best-looking or lightest bridges or offered the best narratives to accompany their creations.

I want to thank all the competitors, the organizers, the volunteers and the teachers — including some teachers who actually drove in from Dawson City, Haines Junction and Carcross — for their hard work and their commitment as well. We look forward to seeing more bridges in next year's competition.

I also want to point out that joining us today in the gallery, are Brian Crist, president of the Association of Professional Engineers of Yukon, and executive director Laura Markle. I would like to thank these two individuals for their work, not just this past weekend, but throughout each day of the year, and for their ongoing commitment to nurturing the minds of young Yukoners. Thank you.

*Applause*

**Mr. Tredger:** It gives me pleasure to rise on behalf of the NDP Official Opposition and the Third Party to pay tribute to the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Yukon Bridge Building Contest.

It is at events like these — the Member from Klondike and I were talking — where we realize how much we miss education and being around the kids. Saturday was a very well-run and very educational event. I was thoroughly impressed, and indeed it was a celebration of learning. The excitement, enthusiasm, knowledge and shared learning were examples of how community involvement can give wings to learning. It is an example of education that works. It was sponsored by the Association of Professional Engineers of Yukon and by Science Adventures from Yukon College.

While an event like this looks straightforward, it takes a lot of planning and organization to make it run smoothly. I would like to take my hat off to those who gave their time to organize this successful event: the engineers and scientists for their inspiration, knowledge, enthusiasm and time. I was quite impressed with how they took time with each bridge builder and each student to discuss the merits of their project, to discuss ways that it can be improved and to discuss the successes of it. I would also like to give a shout out to our staff and teachers of our schools who recognize the value of events like these, promote and encourage, and provide time and resources to make it possible.

I also must recognize the parents and the families of the students, and in some cases, the grandparents who spent long hours with the students developing and promoting the project.

It was neat to see a grandparent who had participated in the past, working on this special project with his grandchildren. There was another grandparent filming for their grandchild who couldn't be there that day.

The Yukon Bridge Building Contest is community coming together for our children. This year there were 58 entries from diverse grades at schools like Christ the King, Ghùch Tlâ, Jack Hulland, Porter Creek Secondary, Vanier Secondary, Robert Service, and several home schoolers. I was especially pleased to see the support and the reach out to community schools, and I look forward to more involvement in the future.

We have many challenges facing our society — climate change; how do we accomplish more with less? — and we need young, enthusiastic citizens trained in scientific methods with a can-do attitude. Many in attendance remarked how impressed they were and how the professionalism on display Saturday gives us hope for the future.

Thank you to the Association of Professional Engineers of Yukon. In their introduction to the contest on their

webpage, they said, “You will be introduced to basic engineering principles in a fun format and gain a better understanding of the impact that engineering has on your life. Thousands of wooden stir sticks are just waiting to be glued, tied and destroyed!”

The keys to learning are engagement, the presentations of real challenges, the research, sharing and collecting of information, putting forth hypotheses, building and testing those hypotheses, and bringing information learned to the next project. I was impressed with the number of repeat entrants, and I talked to several teachers and principals who talked about the sharing and the work going together and how the students were sharing their ideas, refining them and planning next year’s project, and what changes they would make.

I saw real-life, hands-on solutions. This is a wonderful opportunity for community and businesses to engage our students in real challenges, building a way of thinking, learning how to meet challenges and, perhaps, inspiring future scientists or setting students on career paths that engage them in the real world.

Thank you to Yukon College, the Association of Professional Engineers of Yukon, and all those who supported this annual event for being fabulous role models, for modelling and engaging our children for the future.

### **In recognition of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rwandan genocide**

**Ms. Hanson:** I rise today on behalf of the Official Opposition to mark today, April 7, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rwandan genocide. April 7, 1994 marked the beginning of a 100-day reign of terror in a small African country, a genocide that claimed nearly a million lives.

The Rwandan genocide did not just happen. On January 11, 1994, Canadian Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire sent his now infamous genocide fax to the UN headquarters in New York.

At the time, Dallaire was Force Commander of the UN peacekeeping mission in Rwanda.

Three months before the beginning of those 100 days of horror in Rwanda, Dallaire discovered that ethnic Hutu extremists were distributing stockpiled arms to militias. Highly organized activity was ongoing to identify and register all Tutsi in preparation, I quote, “for their extermination.”

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, was a dangerous place in 1994. A civil war had led to a formal peace agreement, which Dallaire as head of the UN force was supposed to police. Romeo Dallaire requested permission to go beyond the UN peacekeeping mandate of “observe and report”. He believed that coordinated raids on the arms’ caches could prevent a potential mass slaughter. He told the UN headquarters it could be risky, but that it was necessary to act.

We all now know that a response to the United Nations was shockingly dismissive. He was ordered to strictly adhere to his mandate. When the genocide began, the weapons the UN force was forbidden from seizing were among those used against innocent civilians as execution lists were activated.

In a speech marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his January 11 fax, Dallaire said regarding Rwanda, “...humanity turned itself inside out.” Humanity abandoned Rwanda. It was a deliberate action the world saw coming. Every country in the world refused to act, he said. He said that we have absolutely no right to forget.

That, Mr. Speaker, is why we mark this day. There are lessons to be learned. Irwin Cotler, an eminent human rights lawyer and emeritus professor of law at McGill said, “The first and enduring lesson of the Rwanda genocide — not unlike the holocaust — is that they occurred not only because of the machinery of death, but because of state-sanctioned incitement to hate and genocide. It is this teaching of contempt, this demonizing of others — this is where it all begins.” He said this in a recent article. Then he went on to say that “As the Supreme Court of Canada recognized, and was echoed by the international criminal tribunals for Rwanda, the holocaust did not begin in the gas chambers — it began with words.”

In our media-saturated world, the danger of indifference and the consequences of inaction continue to this day, despite the fact that Canada, along with other nations, took a lead in getting unanimous UN acceptance of a collective responsibility to protect those threatened by genocide or other mass atrocities.

Dellaire and others point to Syria, the Central African Republic and South Sudan, where nations continue to refuse to act based — as Roméo Dallaire has said in his book, the powerful *Shake Hands with the Devil* — based on a yardstick of national self-interest to measure which portions of the planet we will be concerned about. Rwanda was a warning to us all of what lies in store if we continue to ignore human rights, human security and abject poverty.

In closing, I would like to share the words of Alice Musabende, who moved to Canada from Rwanda about eight years ago. She describes how, on this anniversary, she reflects on what it feels like to recall the 100 days that took her family, her friends and her childhood away. But mostly, she says, she is asking the world to remember with her, with the thousands of other survivors and with Rwanda.

She said that to many people, 20 years may seem like tragedy fatigue and that it’s time to move on. For her, however, it is more than just another story. She asks us to remember with her so that what happened to her family and her friends never happens again. She said that, yes, the Rwanda genocide was carried out by our neighbours and people we knew, but please know that this is not just another African horror story. It had happened before in Europe and it could happen anywhere again.

The duty to remember is the price to pay to prevent this type of tragedy.

**Speaker:** Introduction of visitors.

Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motions?

## NOTICES OF MOTIONS

**Ms. Stick:** I rise to give notice of the following motion:  
THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to:

- (1) amend the *Vital Statistics Act* to enable same-sex parents to apply for a birth certificate with both parents' names, without having to go through an adoption process; and
- (2) in a timely manner, review and amend all legislation that does not treat equitably the rights of same-sex couples.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to invite officials from the Yukon Hospital Corporation to appear as witnesses in this Legislature this spring.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to explain how cutting museum funding by \$265,000 in the 2014-15 budget helps to achieve the Tourism department's mandate to research, develop, manage and protect material culture and natural history within Yukon museums.

**Speaker:** Are there any further notices of motions?  
This then brings us to Question Period.

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: Canada Pension Plan

**Ms. Hanson:** Most provincial premiers agree that the Canada Pension Plan must be expanded or millions of Canadians will face impoverished retirement. The plan is among the largest and most successful public pension systems in the world. Strengthening it through modest and gradual increases in contributions would ensure a better minimum pension for all Canadians.

As Yukon's Finance minister, the Premier didn't bother to attend the December 16 meeting of Finance ministers in Ottawa, but support for a strengthened Canada Pension Plan is strong across the country. The Harper government refuses to take action.

Will the Premier finally stand up for Yukoners and tell Ottawa that Yukoners support an expanded Canada Pension Plan?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** A lot of work has certainly been done in this area by Finance ministers across the country. One thing that everybody agrees upon is that there are a lot of levers and components to ensuring adequate pensions for Canadians, moving forward. One of those opportunities exists with pooled pensions, and there are a number of provinces at this time that still have not taken the opportunity to enact the people to be able to enter into a pooled pension, whether they have an employer contributing or not.

We were one of the first jurisdictions, of course, that enabled this to allow Yukoners to be able to capitalize on retirement through pooled pensions, and I encourage all other jurisdictions to look at this as one of those options to help

Canadians ensure that they have adequate retirement savings for the time when they reach retirement.

**Ms. Hanson:** Unfortunately, the Premier's response indicates how far out of touch he is with the reality of most middle-income Canadians and Yukoners. The Canada Pension Plan is the only pension option for many middle-income Canadians, which is why it's so urgent that the plan be strengthened. The group most at risk are middle-income Canadians, the income level targeted by the modest proposals to expand the Canada Pension Plan. Two-thirds of working Canadians don't have access to a workplace pension. Only one in three have RRSPs. Provinces and territories have joined together to pressure the Harper Conservatives to agree to a modest and much-needed expansion of the Canada Pension Plan.

Why is the Premier refusing to join premiers from across the country to ask the federal government to stop blocking access to an expanded, secure and affordable Canada Pension Plan for Yukoners?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** Certainly the actuarial review that was just done late last year did in fact say that the Canada Pension Plan is in very healthy shape and fully capable to be able to meet the needs as identified — as we have many Canadians moving into their senior years. Even from a health perspective, we know that in 2009 only about 14 percent of Canadians were 65 or older, and certainly by 2036 we will see that approximately 25 percent of Canadians will be 65 or older.

Even with that occurring, the actuarial did show that certainly the Canada Pension Plan is fully funded and will continue to be able to meet the needs that will occur for those Canadians when they reach that age.

**Ms. Hanson:** That's exactly why — the success of the Canada Pension Plan as a publicly managed plan is exactly why we need to expand it so that it can provide a reasonable rate of return for those citizens as they age. An expanded Canada Pension Plan would benefit many Yukoners as well as their families and communities. The federal Finance department's own research found that expanding the Canada Pension Plan would mean more savings and higher income for seniors in the future. A strong and secure Canada Pension Plan needs better purchasing power for seniors, which in turn benefits the whole economy. It's not complicated, Mr. Speaker, once you put your ideology aside.

When will the Premier stop siding with the Harper Conservatives by refusing to call for an expanded Canada Pension Plan? When will he finally stand up for middle class Yukoners hoping for a secure retirement?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** Mr. Speaker, I know that the NDP and certainly both opposition parties do support increasing taxes, and that's something that we see this as — as an increase in taxes — taking more money out of businesses' pockets and taking more money out of workers' pockets at this time, at a time when we still continue to see in Canada an economy that has not yet got back into gear.

All of the Finance ministers have agreed that we need to look at ways to produce a modest increase while minimizing

the impact on what those higher contributions would be to the economy. That work is continuing to be done. But be clear on this: asking people and businesses to take more money out of their pockets and put it toward this would have a significant impact on the economy.

We will continue to work toward it. You have seen here in the Yukon some of the things that we have done, such as increasing the pioneer utility grant, doubling the seniors income supplement, and increasing affordable housing for seniors and elders. This government continues to deliver for Yukon seniors.

**Question re: Takhini Haven group home**

**Ms. White:** Takhini Haven is a group home that is run out of a building on the grounds of the old Whitehorse Correctional Centre. It provides life-skills training and is home for a number of adults with mental disabilities. Takhini Haven is trying to create a good atmosphere to help people overcome their challenges and develop important life skills.

The views from the windows on two sides of the building look out on the old Correctional Centre fences. Because it is on the grounds of the old Correctional Centre, the fencing that is there was designed to keep the inmates in the facility, and it still remains around the Takhini Haven home.

Does the Yukon Party government think that fencing that kept inmates in a Correctional Centre still belongs around a group home?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** The Takhini Haven home was established for Yukon Review Board clients some time ago. We made the announcement in this Legislature. It has allowed us to keep these people in the Yukon rather than send them outside of the territory.

The question asked by the member opposite is not something that has come up in the recent past. I know we have had discussions and I am sure the Justice minister and I will continue to have those discussions with respect to what can be done to make the Takhini Haven facility more welcoming to those clients.

**Ms. White:** I would think that the first thing to making it more welcoming would be removing the barbed wire fences.

The fencing on the east side of the Takhini Haven group home was removed; however, there is still fencing on both the south and west sides of the home. The fence surrounding the home provides no function. It is a remnant of the old Correctional Centre. The perimeter fencing surrounding Takhini Haven is 10 feet high and is ringed with barbed wire. This fencing was designed to keep prisoners in the old Correctional Centre. The people who call Takhini Haven home are not prisoners and should not be treated as such.

Will this government commit to removing the perimeter fencing on the two sides of Takhini Haven?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for her question. As the member may be aware, there is ongoing work being done at the correctional facility site, especially with respect to the old correctional facility. That has gone out to RFP and we're working with the Minister of Highways and Public Works to demolish that building. So there is ongoing

work that's happening on that site and some of that will be around the building that's being used for Review Board clients, taking into consideration their needs but, at the same time, taking into consideration the safety requirements of that site.

**Question re: MRI machine, temporary structure for**

**Mr. Silver:** I have a question for the minister responsible for the Yukon Hospital Corporation.

A few days before this sitting began the minister announced that \$2.8 million would be spent to build a temporary home for Whitehorse General Hospital's new MRI machine. While the project has been on the radar for some time, this is the first time the public words "temporary facility" were being used.

When did the government change course from putting the MRI in the existing hospital to, instead, building an expensive temporary structure, and why?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Mr. Speaker, it's a temporary structure only in that the MRI will be located in this structure until such time as the larger facility — the renovations and addition — has been completed. The reason that the MRI will be located in this facility is because we would like to see the MRI available to Yukoners for their use as quickly as possible. Given the parameters of the addition and the changes made to the rebuild that will be occurring at the Whitehorse General Hospital, it would not have been available for as much as four or five years — until the whole addition was completed. The Hospital Corporation recommended, and we felt that it was best, that this solution be employed so that the MRI is available to Yukoners as quickly as possible.

**Mr. Silver:** The Auditor General of Canada wrote an extensive report last year on this government's mismanagement of the Watson Lake and Dawson hospitals. Both of these facilities were completed behind schedule and millions of dollars overbudget. Now taxpayers are also left on the hook to pay for years to come for the interest on the \$50 million borrowed to build these facilities.

The government planned to purchase a new MRI machine, but had no plan as to where to put it. Now, after the money has already been raised, the government is scrambling and has been forced to spend almost \$3 million to build a temporary home for this piece of equipment. Can the minister explain how spending \$3 million is good value for our taxpayers?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I sometimes have difficulty answering questions from the member opposite because he doesn't listen.

I said that the facility where the MRI will be located is a new construction. The MRI machine will be located in that construction for a short duration, but at the end of that period of time, the facility that will be constructed for the MRI machine will be repurposed by the Hospital Corporation in order to be used for another purpose at the hospital. The member opposite seems to have difficulty comprehending the fact that what we're doing here is constructing a facility that

will be used for a different purpose in the future once the MRI machine is moved into the permanent construction.

**Mr. Silver:** Listen to what? We still don't know what this new home is going to be for this temporary facility. I don't know what I'm supposed to be listening to when we don't even know what it's going to be used for.

It has been a good idea to have a plan in place before deciding to purchase an MRI. The plan could have been a spot in the existing hospital or a spot in the expansion. The government has known about this since 2010. They have racked up \$50 million in debt. They were bailed out this time last year, and still managed to come in overbudget and behind schedule on some major projects. Now the MRI machine itself will cost \$4 million and the government is going to spend almost three-fourths of that purchasing price on a temporary home for it.

Why was proper planning not done to ensure that a space is ready for permanent housing for this new piece of technology?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** What we're hearing is more Liberal math. We heard some NDP math last week and now we're hearing some Liberal math. I want to applaud the generosity of Yukon businesses and Yukon citizens who committed to this project to raise money for an MRI.

I want to acknowledge the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who played a fundamental role — may I add — during the fundraising efforts. They committed to a three-year project and, in fact, delivered the money in two years. I have to again applaud the generosity and hard work of all individuals who were able to do that.

Putting this MRI in place will make a difference in people's lives as soon as we get it there. There will then not be a need for people to travel Outside to have this diagnostic test done, sometimes having to take a parent or guardian with them. There will be less time missing work, because they will be able to just quickly go in and have the test done.

We've heard Yukoners say that this is a priority; we continue to deliver excellent health care for Yukoners that surpasses expectations and reality, in terms of looking at some of the other jurisdictions. People come back and tell us what an incredible health care system we have.

What an envious position we are in — net financial resources, the largest capital budget in history and money left over in a surplus — something a Liberal government could not do.

#### **Question re: Continuing care facilities**

**Ms. Stick:** Yukoners and the Official Opposition know that there is a need for more continuing complex care beds. No one is disputing that. Yukoners also know that the Yukon Party has a pattern of ignoring community needs and making political health decisions without sharing evidence to support their choices.

The government has based \$6.9 million in spending this year on a report that they have not made publicly available. This government doesn't want to hear from Yukoners and they won't share the evidence that a 300-bed facility is the

only or best way to meet the territory's continuing care needs. This Yukon Party approach has wasted taxpayers' money before on its health care decisions.

Will the government make public all the evidence that supports their 300-bed-facility approach?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Mr. Speaker, I'm so happy this question was asked today. We completed a needs assessment within the department to determine the need for continuing care in the territory. As I said last time, I understand what the Opposition attitude is with respect to continuing care.

We have decided that we require 300 beds based on a number of criteria, such as: couples in care; the increasing incidences of dementia in the territory; the difference in, or possibly the lack of expertise, in smaller settings; the palliative care needs; and staffing realities in small communities. We have decided that the best course of action is a 300-bed facility.

Now I know the members opposite had a quick look at part of a needs assessment that was inadvertently placed on a website. One of the reasons that was not released is because now — the Leader of the Official Opposition is busy over there — we will be held to an order of magnitude number that somebody caught a glimpse of in that document. That's exactly what we would like to try to avoid, Mr. Speaker.

**Ms. Stick:** If the government was so sure of its decisions, it would make that evidence available. I have not just taken a glimpse at it; I've read the report. Mr. Speaker, this government needs to consult Yukoners.

How can a government that says it has a plan to provide the best and most appropriate care if they won't even compare their choice with other options? For the member opposite, it is called a cost-benefit analysis. This government has wasted money — millions of transfer dollars — by not costing out the different approaches to meet Yukoners' needs.

Will this government commit to conducting and making public a proper cost-benefit analysis that compares the proposed 300-bed facility with other options so that all stakeholders can be sure of the best quality and most cost-effective option to meet the needs of all Yukoners?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** That is exactly what has happened to date. We have taken a look at the various options — the members opposite looked at the options that were presented. There were a number of costings done on those options and because of a number of issues — which I have already mentioned, such as the needs of couples in care, the medical needs of people in continuing care, staffing realities — staffing realities is a very important thing. I realize that they don't have to think about those kinds of things, but we do. We have to consider those options. That is why we selected the 300-bed option — 150 immediately, with 150 to follow in the future — as the best possible option. We will be consulting with seniors' organizations and the Yukon general public as we put together a functional plan.

It is obvious that members opposite have never been involved in any capital planning because they don't understand the system. The needs assessment has now been completed. A functional plan which includes an evaluation of

that needs assessment is now underway and will be completed in the very near future.

All we have to do is take a look at where we are in terms of requirements in the very near future, as well in the longer term, and people will understand why we have chosen this —

**Ms. Stick:** The minister should release the report and should consult with Yukoners before going further.

The Premier and the minister have referred to all the providers that they have talked about for the continuing care of this facility, except they didn't talk about the public sector. They spoke of — and I quote: “non-government, profit, non-profit and private organizations,” but they provided no evidence that this will deliver better quality for less money.

Research from across the country shows that the public sector is an effective, efficient provider of long term care services, when compared to private providers. Why is this government reluctant to look at the evidence?

Another point: Section 2 of the *Hospital Act* says the objects of the Yukon Hospital Corporation are to supply — and I quote: “supervised, residential and continuing care.” Is this government considering handing this over to the Yukon Hospital Corporation?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I realize they are afflicted by the same disease that seems to afflict the Liberal member here and that is, they don't listen. I have said we are looking at options. I never said that this new facility would be private or non-government. I said we were looking at options across the spectrum.

This 300-bed facility is going to be a public facility. We have never hidden that, but we are also looking at other options that would be made available to Yukon people, such as the non-government — NGO — options, such as options with private care.

Those things should be options that are available to Yukon seniors. This 300-bed facility, when completed, will be publicly run by the Government of Yukon; it will satisfy most of the needs, but it won't satisfy all the needs, which is why we've increased home care to the extent that it is now considered a model for the rest of Canada. We also realize that Macaulay Lodge is reaching its end of time; we realize the Thomson Centre is also inefficient and expensive to run. That's why we're planning the new facility.

#### **Question re: Salvation Army shelter and transitional housing**

**Ms. White:** The government is working on a multi-year plan with the Salvation Army to meet many housing needs for their clientele, such as adequate long-term shelter and transitional housing. It will be another few years before this facility opens and that means another few long winters.

Staff at the Salvation Army provide a very specialized service and not many people could do the work they do. They rightfully and absolutely must have a safe place to work in. They are not set up to deal with certain behaviours of some of the folk who come to them for shelter and, following a set of guidelines, they may refuse to shelter those individuals. That means that some folks get turned away.

Will the minister responsible explain to us what the plan is to house these individuals who need shelter but don't fit the criteria to access the Salvation Army?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** We're currently working with a number of NGOs in the city to provide sheltered housing for a number of people with various issues. We will continue to work with those NGOs and explore a number of different options while we're working with the Salvation Army. This is an issue we realize is very important and we will deal with it as quickly as we possibly can.

**Ms. White:** I look forward to hearing more about these ideas.

We have spoken about a Housing First approach before and it is very hard to understand the government's resistance to a proven, evidence-based model that will deliver better results for those in need. The Housing First approach works well to reduce chronic homelessness and, at the same time, it relieves pressure on other shelter, health and judicial services. That is good for the whole community. First you house people and then the stability of a roof over a person's head immediately provides security. This in turn sets people up to be able to access the other supports that they need to become as self-sufficient as possible and fully participate in society.

Is the government ready to adopt a Housing First approach and finally meet the needs of all Yukon's homeless?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** One thing the members of the Opposition don't seem to comprehend is that at the present time, social housing in this territory is 10 times — 10 times — what it is in any other province in this country. We're meeting as much as possible that demand for social housing. As I said, we are currently working with a couple of NGOs to implement a housing project that will be a supportive housing project. We anticipate that we'll have something to share with the public and with this Legislature within the next few months. We can't guarantee that, though.

We also have to realize that not all of these folks want to be in sheltered housing as well. What we're attempting to do is provide a range of options, but we've also recently created the Referred Care Clinic so that we're dealing with many of the issues that these folks have in another setting other than the emergency department at the hospital. We're constantly working on new things to handle this issue.

**Ms. White:** It's important to note that social housing is not supported housing. Even the Yukon Party's friends in Ottawa, the current Conservative government, have finally stated it supports a Housing First model to reduce homelessness. Last fall, the federal Minister of State (Social Development) said — and I quote: “Through the renewed Homelessness Partnering Strategy, Canada's new Housing First approach will help stabilize the lives of chronically homeless individuals by directly moving them into permanent housing.”

Mr. Speaker, the federal government recognized that not only is the Housing First approach more compassionate and more effective, but it is also more cost-effective. A government that truly cares about sound financial



management would see that the Housing First option is the way to go.

When will the government adopt a Housing First approach and treat all homeless people with compassion, while at the same time saving taxpayers' money?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I appreciate the member's interest in this area.

What I would point out to the member is that, in fact, in addition to the significant investments that we've already made within social housing and within emergency shelters — including supporting the work of women's shelters like Kaushee's Place with transitional and second-stage housing such as the Betty's Haven project recently completed — we are continuing through the housing action plan work that is currently underway to engage the stakeholders that affect all areas of the continuum of housing options to work together on identifying solutions and next steps that will improve Yukon's housing supports right across the spectrum, beginning with emergency shelters, transitional housing, supportive housing, social housing, private market rentals and home ownership, which have been identified as the main areas within the housing spectrum. In fact, through engaging these stakeholders, we're working together on identifying the next steps to identify where further investment should be made by government, but also where opportunities exist for First Nation governments, for non-governmental organizations and for the private sector.

**Question re: Acutely intoxicated persons at risk**

**Mr. Barr:** For years, the RCMP holding cells served as a community drunk tank. Then a series of tragic deaths of people in police custody led to a review of policing in the territory and to the *Sharing Common Ground* report. At the same time, Dr. Bruce Beaton and Chief James Allen recommended in a report for the Health and Social Services minister that the response to at-risk intoxicated individuals be more than detention with Justice services. They wrote that we must actively work together outside the silos that divide Justice from Health and Social Services. People at risk are best served with health care and with compassion, respect and dignity.

Can the minister responsible tell this House where the acutely intoxicated are held today if they are picked up by the RCMP?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** As a result of the *Sharing Common Ground* report, working with community members and the RCMP within the Department of Justice, as well as the Department of Health and Social Services, there was an allocation made that when the new correctional facility was to be built, the arrest processing unit was to be added on to the Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

That work is nearly complete. I believe they were just waiting for the secure door, which will be used to attach what they're using right now in admissions as the current arrest processing unit. That door will be used to go into the new arrest processing unit. They have done some fantastic work up

there, which includes the health services that are provided within that facility to individuals who require it.

**Mr. Barr:** The question was about today. Dr. Beaton and Chief Allen's report recommended that shelter for at-risk, acutely intoxicated people be co-located with, or very close to, a sobering centre or detox facility and that these be downtown. They advised the harm-reduction and medical approach. But this government has not listened to local experts and prefers a justice approach for the acutely intoxicated.

When the acutely intoxicated people are brought to the arrest processing unit, what standards of care apply for their treatment and how are detoxification services linked with other needed care?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I am starting to understand where the Minister of Health and Social Services is coming from when he says that the members opposite aren't listening.

The arrest processing unit is in near completion. They have been over the last year or so using the admissions area within the correctional facility as the arrest processing unit but are getting ready to move into the new location. Health Services and nursing at the correctional facility have increased over the last number of years to a standard that is acceptable within our community and within the correctional facility for people who are in need of health services today.

**Mr. Barr:** I was also looking for the links.

The Beaton and Allen report was commissioned to address one of the important facets of intoxicant use in the territory, and that is how to manage the acutely intoxicated individual.

The acutely intoxicated are at risk throughout the Yukon, not just in Whitehorse. As Yukoners know, the government conducted a health care needs assessment only after they built overbudget acute care hospitals in Dawson City and Watson Lake. The 2013 needs assessment found that — and I quote: "Detoxification should be undertaken at both of the new facilities, with care provided by well-trained nursing staff..."

Is the government planning to listen to expert advice and community needs by providing detoxification services at the new facilities in Watson Lake and Dawson City?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** This is part of the expanded scope nursing staff that we have in the communities, but it's also part of the collaboration of care in both Watson Lake and Dawson City health facilities because we're locating mental health, community nursing, as well as the medical staff who are necessary, in an acute care hospital. So all of these medical professionals will be gathered together in these facilities and they'll be ready to deal with any of the issues described by the member opposite.

The member opposite also talked about a sobering centre. One of the key concerns regarding implementation of a sobering centre based on the specific model in the Beaton and Allen report was that some of these people who were acutely intoxicated would have to be involuntarily detained at the detoxification centre, and we don't believe that's a good system. After looking at it once again we still don't believe

that involuntary detainment at a detoxification centre is a good thing and we will not be proceeding on that specific issue.

**Speaker:** The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

### **Speaker's ruling on question of privilege raised April 3, 2014**

Prior to proceeding to Orders of the Day, the Chair will rule on the question of privilege raised on Thursday, April 3, 2014 by the Official Opposition House Leader.

Before ruling on the question of privilege, the Chair will address some procedural matters.

Standing Order 7(4) says that the Speaker must rule on (a) where there appears on the face of it, to be a case of breach of privilege, and (b) whether the matter has been raised at the earliest opportunity.

In order to rule on the question of privilege, we must consider the nature of parliamentary privilege. The classic definition of parliamentary privilege is found in *Erskine May's Treatise on the Law, Privileges, Proceedings and Usage of Parliament*. It says — on page 75 of the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition, for those of you who have a copy — “Parliamentary privilege is the sum of the peculiar rights enjoyed by each House collectively ... and by members of each House individually, without which they could not discharge their functions, and which exceed those possessed by other bodies or individuals. Thus privilege, though part of the law of the land, is to a certain extent an exemption from the general law.”

These “peculiar rights” exist so that the House and its members can perform their constitutionally mandated duties without obstruction or interference from other persons or groups.

In raising the question of privilege, the Official Opposition House Leader referred to a comment made by the Minister of Community Services during Question Period on April 2. The Chair will not repeat the words that led to the question of privilege which the Official Opposition House Leader characterized as “disrespectful and inappropriate for this House.” The Official Opposition House Leader requested that the minister apologize for what he said.

Procedurally, the Official Opposition House Leader cited Standing Order 19(i). Standing Order 19(i) says, “A member shall be called to order by the Speaker if that member ... uses abusive or insulting language, including sexist or violent language, in a context likely to create disorder ...”

In responding to the question of privilege, the Minister of Community Services said, “This would appear to be something raised appropriately through a point of order ...”.

The Chair has reviewed the Blues of April 2 and has considered the interventions of the Official Opposition House Leader and the Minister of Community Services. Having done so, the Chair believes there is no prima facie question of privilege in this case.

The issue raised by the Official Opposition House Leader is whether the words spoken by the Minister of Community Services were, or were not, unparliamentary. Matters of unparliamentary language are properly dealt with as points of

order, not questions of privilege. Points of order regarding unparliamentary language or other matters must be raised at the time the alleged offence occurs.

In ruling that there is no prima facie question of privilege, the Chair takes no position as to whether the words spoken by the minister were, or were not, parliamentary, nor does the Chair take a position on whether an apology is owed. The Chair's only ruling is that the issue raised by the Official Opposition House Leader does not qualify as a matter of privilege.

The Chair will, however, take this opportunity to remind members of two things. First, Standing Order 6(6) says, “When a member is speaking, no member shall interrupt, except to raise a point of order or a question of privilege.” Second, proceedings will be more orderly if members refrain from personalizing their comments during Question Period and debate.

The Chair thanks all members for their attention to this ruling.

We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker leaves the Chair*

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Chair (Ms. McLeod):** Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

The matter before the Committee is Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, in Bill No. 14, *First Appropriation Act, 2014-15*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

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

### **Bill No. 14: *First Appropriation Act, 2014-15* — continued**

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee is Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, in Bill No. 14, *First Appropriation Act, 2014-15*.

#### **Yukon Housing Corporation**

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** It's a pleasure to rise today in the Legislative Assembly to present the 2014-15 main estimates

for the Yukon Housing Corporation. At this time, I'd like to introduce the officials who will assist me: Pamela Hine, president of Yukon Housing Corporation, and Mark Davey, director of Finance, Systems and Administration with Yukon Housing Corporation.

This coming fiscal year will be an exciting one at Yukon Housing Corporation. This budget makes significant investments in a number of areas within housing and does so in a fiscally appropriate and effective way through mechanisms, including partnerships, investments in existing facilities and through construction of new facilities that will serve Yukoners for many years to come.

Thousands of Yukoners have benefited in one way or another from the programs offered by Yukon Housing over the past more than quarter of a century that it has been in operation, which have included loans to improve homes, a full mortgage or through the assistance in entering into affordable housing. We have taken some innovative steps recently in increasing options for Yukon citizens, including through the creation of a down payment assistance program, which has been successful in helping — I believe the current number is 28 Yukoners who have achieved the assistance in purchasing their own first home.

Yukon government has repeatedly demonstrated our support for the mandate of Yukon Housing through long-term investments. During our time in office, we've spent more capital and more operation and maintenance dollars on Yukon Housing initiatives than any other government. In recent years we have invested over \$50 million in construction and upgrade of seniors and social housing as well as investing in specialized housing through investments such as the Betty's Haven second-stage housing for Kaushee's Place and the Options for Independence facility that was opened recently.

These investments in housing have addressed identified needs. But, of course, there always continue to be additional needs within the housing spectrum, and that is why we've taken additional steps, including engaging stakeholders in the development of a housing action plan, which will identify next steps in building on the investments made to date in various areas of the housing spectrum and is also, as we've indicated, aimed at not being just an action plan for Yukon government but a plan that identifies mechanisms where various stakeholders — including other levels of government such as First Nations, municipalities, and the federal government as well as NGOs and the private sector — can take actions — that being through working together to identify possible opportunities and needs, and come up with innovative ways to determine how those needs can best be met.

Another of the specific areas of innovative programs include that, this past fall, the Yukon Housing Corporation issued a request for qualifications to ascertain the potential interest from the private sector and NGOs in the construction and operation of formal market rental housing. Through this process, government will be leveraging \$13 million in housing trust dollars and at least \$26 million in construction and housing investment.

We have talked a great deal about this process already and look forward to the results of this competitive process this spring. Again, this is another demonstration of a responsible fiscal approach to using our dollars effectively and investing in Yukoners and Yukoners' futures.

Yukon government is working to show — through these types of partnerships — that we, as a community, can work together to create jobs and opportunities while also providing a guarantee of a full decade of affordable housing through any of the projects that are built through this RFQ process in a manner that government could not accomplish on its own. Again, through this approach, we focused on leveraging the housing trust funding into at least twice the investment the government alone would have been able to do through direct expenditures from this pool of money.

The housing action plan is not about telling anyone what government is going to do on its own or giving specific direction to anyone. It is about bringing together stakeholders, other governments, NGOs, realtors, construction professionals and businesses to determine what role each of us can play in addressing Yukon's housing needs and to identify both needs and opportunities.

The three pillars address the themes and strategic priorities that were raised at the symposium and are as follows: housing accommodation with additional services — this pillar will address the side of the housing continuum that encompasses finding shelter and/or supportive housing services; rental housing — this pillar will address the middle of the housing continuum, which encompasses both market and non-rental, social/rented income; and thirdly, home ownership — this pillar will address the side of the housing continuum that encompasses several key areas, including land, design and development, lending and availability of real estate.

On behalf of the Yukon government, I would like to extend my appreciation and our appreciation to everyone who has been involved in the development of a housing action plan for Yukon, and I'd like to particularly thank those who are serving on the community advisory committee for the work that they're doing as well as those who participated in working groups.

A lot has been accomplished in the past year and there remains significant work to be done. During the upcoming months a draft housing action plan will be developed followed by a second symposium to review the draft.

In addition to the initiatives I mentioned, Yukon government continues to make concrete investments in Yukon's housing options and within the housing continuum. This includes the significant investments that have been made to date in housing for Yukon seniors, and this budget includes a new \$12-million investment for the construction of a 48-unit seniors building in Whitehorse. This new building will address the needs of our seniors seeking affordable housing for decades to come.

Yukon Housing Corporation, with the assistance of Department of Highways and Public Works, will undertake the necessary due diligence so that we may proceed to the

public tender of a design build project in Whitehorse. We will focus on accommodation, affordability and accessibility needs of Yukon seniors. This project builds on the already significant investments in seniors housing during our time in government. Since 2009, we have constructed new seniors buildings in Watson Lake, Teslin, Whitehorse and Faro.

The Yukon Housing Corporation also has two other seniors facilities underway and those are a 34-unit building here in Whitehorse and a six-unit building in Mayo. The four storey, 34-unit Alexander Street residence in Whitehorse will be the first new seniors housing project constructed with design input from the Yukon Housing Corporation's Accessibility Advisory Committee.

This committee was formed to provide direction on how to build accommodations that better support seniors and people with mobility challenges. The building design incorporates a number of new innovations in common areas of the residence. These include a storage area and recharging station for wheelchairs and scooters, which will also act as a heated waiting area for transportation pick-up and drop-off, and a large common room complete with kitchen to be used as a multi-purpose space for celebrations, meetings, personal services for clinics, exercise classes or similar uses. The construction of the building is well underway with anticipated completion late this summer.

In Mayo, significant work has already been achieved through community consultations with the village council and with the community as a whole. Yukon Housing Corporation staff introduced conceptual designs for the six-unit seniors housing building in Mayo, and changes were incorporated into the design based on community input.

The site under consideration requires remediation because of past use, and that is something that the village council for Mayo is well aware of, as is the Yukon government. We have worked together collaboratively in discussing these options and the challenges associated with them and are proceeding in a manner the village indicated to us back in December they would prefer we do with regard to moving forward with that specific site.

Yukon Housing Corporation is in the process of contracting a company to assess the extent of the contamination of the site and, following this, a contract for the required remediation will be issued. Yukon Housing Corporation has already awarded a tender for the design of the building and it is anticipated that construction of this building will be completed in the summer of 2015.

As I noted earlier, responsible management and investment in housing also requires that Yukon Housing Corporation undertake upgrades to existing facilities. To that end, the corporation will undertake a number of building upgrades aimed at improving the health, safety and quality of life for our existing tenants.

To begin with, the operation and maintenance budget for social and staff housing is up to \$700,000 per year for each. This annual investment reflects an increase of \$200,000 a year and will help maintain Yukon Housing Corporation's existing stock well into the future. This investment, of course, has the

spinoff benefits of jobs and opportunities across Yukon communities.

In the Town of Faro, a complete retrofit of staff housing sixplex will improve energy efficiency and comfort for Yukon employees living and working in that community. Yukon Housing Corporation is also replacing all of the furnace systems in its Old Crow housing. New projects for water and well filtration upgrades in Teslin; boiler upgrades in Ross River and oil tank replacements units across several communities, as well as upgrades to social units in Dawson, Watson Lake, Carcross, Faro and Carmacks — these projects represent substantive ongoing commitments to improving the lives of Yukoners who live in our communities and who rely on Yukon Housing stock. Based on that investment, this government is investing in existing facilities across Yukon Housing's portfolio.

Greenwood Place is a 36-unit seniors building in Whitehorse and the budget includes new funding in the amount of \$250,000 to install an automated sprinkler system at this facility. This new feature will improve the safety of our tenants and help protect the building. Recent events have shown the importance of ensuring our seniors buildings are properly equipped with sprinklers that meet current code, not just code at the time of construction. Greenwood is the only large seniors building that is currently without a fully automated sprinkler system. While there is a sprinkler system in the furnace room, we believe a full system is clearly a worthwhile investment in the safety of our tenants.

Yukon government is investing up to \$250,000 to upgrade the heating and ventilation system in Closeleigh Manor, a 32-unit seniors building in Whitehorse. Yukon Housing is doing the proper due diligence by engaging an environmental engineer to assess the existing system and the money will also be used to implement the recommendations that came out of that report.

I'm pleased to announce another new initiative for seniors, which is new funding of \$250,000 to address the overall accessibility of our seniors apartments and buildings. We're acting in a proactive manner to support aging in place of Yukon seniors and to assess accessibility issues in individual apartments, as well as in the buildings.

Once again, Yukon Housing Corporation will be making use of the Accessibility Advisory Committee and working with them to help identify and ensure appropriate improvements. The goal, of course, is to help keep Yukon seniors in their communities longer and to do so we need to build facilities that accommodate the changing needs of residents as they age. That, of course, is an attempt to keep people living independently, rather than having to go into a continuing care facility — which, again, is not only a fiscally responsible approach, but is one that — we have heard time and time again from Yukon seniors that they would prefer to live in their homes and be assisted through the expansions we have made to the home care program, rather than at an earlier stage of their life having to move into a continuing care facility.

In rural Yukon, we have housing issues that need to be addressed and we have taken some steps to reconfigure existing buildings, so additional units will be created. This budget contains new funding in the amount of \$450,000 for that initiative. These specific changes include changes to reconfiguring the layout of units to increase the availability of affordable housing here in the Yukon and better tailor accommodations to tenant needs and the existing housing needs within our community.

One of these investments is new funding in the amount of \$225,000 to revitalize three previously decommissioned housing units in Ross River. Ross River is a community that needs this type of investment to ensure there is adequate housing for residents that depend on government for housing solutions.

A few of the highlights within the main estimates include total operation and maintenance expenditures of \$19.8 million, which compares to the 2013-14 budget of \$18.3 million. For 2014-15, an additional \$43 million has been allocated for capital outlays to assist Yukoners in meeting housing needs. Total operation and maintenance recoveries this year are estimated to be \$12.4 million, including recoveries from third parties. Total capital recoveries are estimated to be \$1.4 million, including recoveries from third parties and the federal government, while recoveries from loan programs are estimated to be \$9.8 million. I would note that, although recoveries from loan programs are recognized in the current fiscal year, the cash flow is only recovered over the life of the loan term, or earlier, if that loan is discharged or wrapped up earlier.

Funding for the new seniors buildings, as well as affordable housing initiatives, were previously recorded as recoveries in the budgeting process. For 2014-15, the net grant available from the Yukon territorial government is estimated to be \$39 million. This compares to last year's main investment of \$10.5 million, and the differences between the years include \$12 million for a new Whitehorse seniors building, \$9 million from the northern housing trust, \$2.5 million for the new Mayo seniors building, \$2.1 million for completion of Alexander Street seniors building, \$925,000 for unit revitalization and expansion, a \$750,000-increase for upgrades to seniors facilities, and a \$1.2-million increase in net O&M.

In expenditures under operation and maintenance for 2014-15, \$881,000 has been allocated for the Executive branch and \$6.3 million has been allocated for Corporate Services Branch, which includes functions such as Finance, Systems and Administration, Policy and Communications, and Human Resources services. This also includes \$2.4 million for long-term debt payments.

For 2014-15, \$11.2 million has been allocated for Housing Operations, which provides tenant relation services and maintenance of housing units.

The budget reflects internal reorganization that has occurred with a new branch entitled Community Partnering and Lending. This branch replaces the former Community and Industry Partnering and Program Delivery branches. Also,

\$1.4 million has been allocated to the Community Partnering and Lending branch, which is responsible for the housing action plan, affordable housing and lending programs.

The combined increases in the budget total \$1.5 million and have been allocated accordingly: \$225,000 for the housing action plan; \$120,000 for security patrol of Yukon Housing Corporation residential properties in Whitehorse; \$262,000 for personnel costs, collective bargaining and management; \$213,000 for early payout of high interest rate loans; \$181,000 for operating costs of the new Whitehorse seniors building; \$90,000 for the oil-fired appliance consumer advertising campaign; \$150,000 for increased costs of utilities; and \$70,000 decrease in CMHC recovery.

In capital under the repair and upgrade program, \$2.5 million has been allocated for home repair loans to assist homeowners to address health and safety issues as well as structural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing repairs; \$50,000 has been allocated for home repair and enhancement loans, which are available to homeowners when required repairs are more than the \$35,000 available through the home repair program. Also, \$25,000 has been allocated for energy management loans, which are available to assist homeowners to improve home energy efficiency.

Madam Chair, I believe you're signalling me that my time is running out in this current opportunity to speak, so with that, I look forward to questions from members opposite.

**Ms. White:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and I thank the officials for appearing here today in the House. There is the distinct possibility that I will be asking questions about what has already been said, but that was very concentrated. I'm going to be trying to pull them apart in smaller packages.

So my first question has to do with indoor air quality in Yukon Housing buildings. There are many tenants within Yukon Housing Corporation who have concerns over indoor air quality. I want to know how those concerns are addressed.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I think I did address most of that in my remarks. I refer the member to come back to me later when she has reviewed the Blues. If there is a specific question I haven't addressed — one example of this that I mentioned earlier, just to recap and directly respond to the member's question, is the \$250,000 we have allocated for the Closeleigh Manor air ventilation upgrades, which will begin with an assessment of the system. Following this, we will be taking the steps that are necessary to address whatever air issues may exist there.

Again, I think that perhaps the member could — if she would like additional detail, I would be happy to provide it but I think I've answered her question.

**Ms. White:** I disagree. If a tenant is living within any Yukon Housing Corporation building and has concerns over indoor air quality, what are the steps that tenant would take to have the air quality in their apartment tested?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** In regard to the member's specific question, my understanding is that that the director of Housing Operations would be the appropriate contact person for tenants who are not satisfied or who have concerns with air quality issues in their facility. I'll see what else I have for

information regarding the member's complaint. Yukon Housing Corporation does strive to maintain safe and healthy environments in all social and staff housing properties and takes tenant concerns seriously. Regular inspections and servicing of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems are performed on Yukon Housing Corporation multi-residential buildings, which include regular servicing of the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems. Some of the issues that can be caused in multi-residential buildings are created by issues including tenants smoking where they shouldn't be and cooking that produces unwelcome odours to other tenants. Rarely does Yukon Housing Corporation receive calls about air quality in single tenant buildings, but on these occasions, as with multi-residential areas, Yukon Housing Corporation operations branch is the area to contact.

I hope that has addressed the member's specific question by identifying who to contact and again, as I've noted, through the investment this year, Closeleigh Manor is a specific example of where we're taking action to address tenant concerns about air quality.

**Ms. White:** On the Yukon Housing Corporation website, there is a link to [seriouslysimple.ca](http://seriouslysimple.ca). It's all about carbon monoxide and how it's odorless and you can't see it. It has things like: why is it serious; prevention is simple; and find a technician. In some of the cases, it talks about warning signs. Some of those signs show up in different populations based on the amount of fresh air they're getting, either by a population that's able to leave their apartments or get out and about.

So if someone has concerns about some of the symptoms that are being shown, when they follow the [seriouslysimple.ca](http://seriouslysimple.ca) website, it talks about things like headache, nausea and dizziness; it talks about disorientation; and it says things like, it only occurs when you're at home, it gets better when you leave home, and it comes back when you return.

So if tenants within Yukon Housing Corporation have concerns about this, how are they addressed?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** What I can tell the member is that again, the director of Housing Operations would be the appropriate place to contact with specific concerns. All Yukon Housing Corporation social and staff housing units are equipped with smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. In multi-unit buildings, fire extinguishers are also in prominent locations and are fully charged and ready for use. Fire alarm systems are functional and evacuation plans are clearly posted. Regular inspections and maintenance of Yukon Housing Corporation's housing assets are conducted with the intention of maintaining a safe living environment for all of our tenants.

In addition to the investments that I mentioned for this specific calendar year, in the just-concluded fiscal year, Yukon Housing invested over \$500,000 to replace aging heating systems in existing housing inventory. The Yukon became the first jurisdiction in the country to pass legislation requiring carbon monoxide detectors in dwelling units and we have — again in Yukon Housing Corporation units — ensured that all are equipped with CO<sub>2</sub> detectors.

The member, in the fall sitting, had asked me some questions. I hoped the information provided in a letter to the member addressed those questions. I understand the member had concerns and was suggesting a specific type of carbon monoxide units that used newer technology and monitor a lower level of carbon monoxide. As I indicated to the member in the response, at this time, these newer detectors were only available in the United States and have not yet been CSA or UL approved and so are not yet permitted to be installed in Canadian buildings per the Canadian electrical code, but the manufacturers anticipate that this newer technology will be approved for use in Canada sometime in the near future.

That is something that staff will certainly pay attention to if it appears that there is newer technology or newer detectors that would be more effective in reducing risk to citizens and buildings — then they will certainly take the steps that are necessary to purchase that technology.

**Ms. White:** I look forward to when that technology is approved in Canada and getting it into some of our seniors residences. I think that would be fantastic.

Could the minister please outline the work that will be done at Closeleigh Manor? During the briefing we were told that tenants would have a rundown of what will happen and the things that were found and that were going to be dealt with. Can I please get an overview of what is going to be happening at Closeleigh Manor?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I understand that an assessment has occurred. The findings of the Yukon Housing Corporation and mechanical engineering consultants will be shared with tenants of Closeleigh Manor on April 11. That information will very shortly be shared directly with tenants and residents at Closeleigh Manor via staff and by the engineering consultant. I hope that the information and recommendations and work plan that are shared with them by the engineering consultants and the staff of Yukon Housing will address the concerns that residents have previously raised around air-quality issues.

**Ms. White:** So without going too much into it, just because the tenants haven't been told yet, when would that work expect to be completed by?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I don't have the exact timelines at my fingertips here. I believe that staff will have more details to share with residents at that time, but I'm not going to invent a date for the member. My understanding is that this is likely to occur — early summer is the best information that we have here today. That is not a precise timeline. That's just a best-guess answer for the member. I think there will be more detail to provide to tenants at the meeting on April 11.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that.

The new landlord tenant regulations — I have quite a few questions about the regulations and when we might see them. Maybe I'll just start with that for a question.

The consultation went out for the regulations. I'm wondering when we'll see a draft of those.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** That's actually a Community Services issue. I won't tell the member to ask the Minister of Community Services that, but I can indicate to the member

that I believe the consultation concluded on March 11 on that. There was quite a bit of feedback, and the latest update I had from staff of Community Services is that they were assessing that feedback and analyzing it and would be coming back to me with recommendations on that. As the next step, I would, of course, discuss that with my Cabinet and caucus colleagues. Without having seen the detail in there, including whether there are any recommendations of adjustments that would require additional work, I am not in a position to give the member an exact timeline, beyond that we do expect this would occur later this year. It is something that is being proceeded with as a priority by staff, but it's also one where we want to give full consideration to the comments provided to us by Yukoners, including by the member herself, during the consultation, and also ensure we're not rushing to get it done quickly rather than taking slightly longer and getting it right in the process.

I would have to beg the member's indulgence. I should be in a position by later in the sitting to give the member more precise timelines but, at this point, with staff in Community Services doing that analysis of the feedback and not yet in a position to provide me with preliminary results or recommendations on it, I don't have the precise detail to be able to give the member dates on that process.

There are just a few other areas I'd like to touch on — I ran out of time in my initial remarks — and that I'd like to draw the members' attention to, including this budget.

\$6 million is allocated for mortgage financing loans that are available to assist eligible Yukon residents becoming homeowners, and \$1 million of this budget has been designated for the down payment assistance program, which allows eligible mortgage clients to access bank financing complemented by down payment assistance from the Yukon Housing Corporation. As I think I may have mentioned earlier in this sitting, this program is one that, anecdotally, we believe has been successful so far as do staff and the board of Yukon Housing, but at this point, because we've only had one full year of it being in operation, it's fairly early in the life of this program to do a full assessment of how well it's working and whether any adjustments should be made. We have continued the program and we look forward to having another year of investment in this program to help identify how well it's working. I know I have personally heard from constituents who have been assisted by this program and we've heard anecdotally from other Yukoners who have been assisted through this. They tell us that it has made a big difference to them, so we consider that very positive feedback and have continued to fund this program in this fiscal year.

Additionally, \$50,000 has been allocated in this budget for home completion loans, which are available to assist eligible homeowners and rural Yukoners with financing to complete construction of their home. \$1.1 million is allocated for owner-build loans, which are available to eligible Yukon residents to build or manage construction of their own home, and also Yukon Housing provides technical and educational guidance for owner-builders.

In the community industry partnering programs area, \$100,000 has been allocated for rental rehabilitation loans, which are available to assist landlords and private sector owners of rental accommodations to upgrade rental units. \$150,000 has been allocated for rental suite loans, which are available to assist homeowners to build rental suites or upgrade existing rental suites.

A new budget line item allocates \$1.2 million in funding, which remains available from the 2011 extension of the affordable housing initiative agreement between Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation — better known as CMHC — and the Yukon Housing Corporation.

This amount will be assigned to assist the Salvation Army with the affordable housing component of the proposed multi-purpose project, which is being supported by both Yukon Housing Corporation and the Department of Health and Social Services.

For 2014-15, a second new budget line item allocates \$9 million from the northern housing trust, which was previously recorded as income by Government of Yukon. These funds will be allocated through the ongoing RFQ/RFP process that is intended to maximize private sector contribution to affordable housing projects.

With that, I will turn it back to the member opposite for further questions.

**Ms. White:** I apologize — although the minister has different hats, I just focus on housing, and that kind of falls within that same spectrum of thought. Thank you for endeavouring to answer the question as best you could, especially since it's in the wrong department.

When I was at the Legion recently, there was talk of the Vimy Ridge plan they're trying to forge. They were looking to people to put down a \$100 deposit to show interest, and they had been talking about working together with other organizations, including the Golden Age Society. There was also talk about approaching government.

Has Yukon Housing Corporation been approached by this group for their Vimy Ridge residence?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** First of all, I would like to begin by thanking the member for the question and I really want to acknowledge what members of the Legion and other groups have put into the Vimy housing project. It is one that is certainly an interesting project and we appreciate the work they have done in getting a number of groups in support of this.

The Vimy Heritage Housing Society had applied under the affordable housing approach through the northern housing trust money. They were not successful in that, but they may be available to receive funding through other streams. So, while they did not meet the specific criteria of that process — to reach the final stages of that process, there is the opportunity for them to continue to engage with Yukon Housing. They have been in discussion as well with other departments, including Health and Social Services and Energy, Mines and Resources. While additional work still needs to be done — and it would be premature for me to say exactly where that will lead — there is good work being done. We appreciate the

efforts that are currently underway from the Vimy Heritage Housing Society. Again, through additional work, there is additional opportunity for them to continue to work with government and potentially receive funding for that project.

I hope the member will appreciate my somewhat indirect answer. It wouldn't, in my view, be appropriate for me to jump to the conclusion of where it might lead, beyond saying it's certainly a project that merits consideration and, as additional work occurs, it may lead to a successful model that will be beneficial to the society and for Yukon citizens.

I'd like to also briefly cap on a few other of my notes that I wasn't able to address in my initial comments. In the area of social housing, \$700,000 has been allocated for renovation and rehabilitation of existing social housing units. This is a \$100,000 increase from the 2013-14 main estimates to ensure current housing units are maintained. Also, \$4.7 million has been allocated to complete construction of 34 units in the Alexander Street seniors project in Whitehorse and \$2.9 million has been allocated to the construction of a six-unit seniors building in Mayo. The Mayo project is partly funded this fiscal year with \$271,000 from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's 2011 extension of the affordable housing initiative funds.

With respect to new initiatives, \$12 million has been budgeted for construction of a new 48-unit seniors building in Whitehorse; \$250,000 has been budgeted for installation of sprinklers at Greenwood Place; \$250,000 has been allocated for upgrade of the air ventilation system at Closeleigh Manor, as I have mentioned and discussed earlier with the member; \$250,000 for accessibility upgrades at other seniors buildings; \$250,000 has been allocated for upgrades of the Yukon Housing Corporation's sixplex that was previously utilized by Options for Independence prior to the construction of the new building; \$450,000 has been allocated to reconfigure social housing buildings in rural Yukon so that additional affordable housing units are available in communities; and \$225,000 has been allocated to revitalize three previously decommissioned housing units in Ross River so that they can increase the availability of affordable housing in Ross River.

As well, in the area of staff housing, \$700,000 has been allocated for renovation and rehabilitation of existing staff housing units, which is a \$100,000 increase from the amount in the 2013-14 mains invested in the current housing units to ensure they are maintained at acceptable standards.

**Ms. White:** When we talk about the line item for the \$250,000 for accessibility upgrades, there was an explanation during the briefing about how there would be a committee struck and then it would go from there.

Can the minister explain to me how a senior who is living in a unit with an inaccessible bathroom will be able to make sure that their requirements are known to the Yukon Housing Corporation?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** The tenant in the situation such as the member referenced could contact Housing Operations and make them aware of their concerns. That concern could be considered as part of the process. I think they could also speak directly to members on the Accessibility Advisory Committee

with specific concerns. But we encourage them, first and foremost, to contact the director of Housing Operations or that office.

A few other areas I would just like to again touch on from the budget include \$4,000 allocated for computer equipment and systems development and \$75,000 allocated for building renovations of the Yukon Housing Corporation office building on Jarvis Street. In the area of third-party recoveries, \$5.4 million is the anticipated recovery from tenants in social and staff housing units and \$62,000 is the anticipated recovery from third parties, including \$20,000 from the City of Whitehorse — based on a cost-share agreement on downtown row houses — and \$42,000 from the Women's Directorate for funding support of the program coordinator at the Whitehorse affordable family housing complex in Riverdale.

In 2014-15, \$1.1 million is the anticipated recovery from Yukon Liquor Corporation for corporate services provided by Finance, Systems and Administration, Policy and Communications, and Human Resources branches under a cost-sharing agreement. For those listening who are not familiar with the structure, because of the fact that housing and liquor are grouped together for functional purposes and under the same president, Yukon Liquor Corporation provides Yukon Housing Corporation with \$1.1 million to pay for services that are provided to it by Yukon Housing Corporation staff and through Yukon Housing Corporation resources.

In 2014-15, \$1.5 million is the anticipated recovery from clients of the lending programs, where interest is charged on outstanding balances pursuant to the various program and policy guidelines. In the areas of operation and maintenance, \$4.3 million is the anticipated recovery from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation — or CMHC — under a block funding agreement to cost-share rental operating losses.

In concluding what had been written as my opening remarks, I would like to extend my appreciation to all of the members of the Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors for their work and commitment in addressing the housing needs of Yukoners. I'd like to thank the past chair, Claire Derome, for her work and Lucy Skuba, previous board member, for her service, as well as welcoming Janet Moodie, who is the current chair of Yukon Housing and former deputy minister from the Executive Council Office, and Mel Stehelin, who is a new member to the board. Of course, as always, I'd like to extend appreciation to Pam Hine, the President of Yukon Housing and her staff for the excellent work they do and the service they provide to Yukoners and to their clients each and every day.

**Ms. White:** I echo the minister's thanks to that list of people for the fantastic work they do.

On March 20, 2014, there was a government press release about the investments and upgrades to seniors facilities and social housing. I just Googled the Yukon Housing website for the Accessibility Advisory Committee and there is no contact for them, so how would a senior contact the Accessibility Advisory Committee to make sure that their situation was known to the Yukon Housing Corporation?



**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** In fact, the best way for someone to bring forward their concern would be to the director of Housing Operations. That is normally the mechanism for this. I was not aware that there was no contact information for the committee itself but I will ask staff to look into that. As the member will recall from previous discussions, I don't spend a lot of time checking out every page of the website and I appreciate the member bringing her concerns to my attention so I can pass them on.

**Ms. White:** I also appreciate that, when I raise concerns about the website, they get addressed. So thank you very much. That would be a great point of contact for seniors.

Once a senior contacts the department to let them know that their bathroom is inaccessible, how will repairs be decided upon? What will the rating system be for the most severe cases or the timelines? How will it be decided which seniors will get the renovations required to their units?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** In answer to the Member for Takhini-Kopper King, the assessment will be done by the corporation and by the Accessibility Advisory Committee. My understanding is that it does depend on various factors, including individual needs as well as if there are several issues in the same building that need to be addressed. That project may proceed more quickly than an area where there might be less urgent needs and one or two tenants instead of a half dozen, hypothetically, who need support in a certain area. Again, the Accessibility Advisory Committee is a key part of assessing that.

Yukon Housing Corporation facilities are some of the most accessible facilities in the Yukon. But again, what this process is aimed at doing is recognizing the fact that there are areas where we believe we can and should look for additional ways to make it more accessible. We have certainly heard from certain clients and tenants — as I know the member for Takhini-Kopper King has — who have raised concerns that they have with their existing accommodation. We appreciate their perspective, we appreciate those concerns and those challenges, and so what this is aimed at doing is identifying the issues, engaging the Accessibility Advisory Committee and then determining what items should be addressed first and how — and again, because some of this is about information gathering, it's a little hard to speculate on exactly how it's going to proceed after that information is gathered and considered. I would note that, as a starting point, the director of Housing Operations and staff are aware of concerns that have been raised by tenants, but if there are other issues that have not been raised previously, then tenants certainly would have the opportunity to do so now so that staff can better understand what the tenant concerns are and what tenant perspectives, desires, interests and challenges are.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee is really aimed at addressing access issues, including improving accessibility and providing advice on accessibility for features of new housing projects as well as improvements that can be made to existing facilities, and the committee includes representatives from seniors groups, Challenge, Health and Social Services, Yukon Council on Aging, tenants and Yukon Housing

Corporation staff. As I mentioned previously to the member, the new Alexander Street residence at 207 is the first new residential project to incorporate design recommendations from the Accessibility Advisory Committee and is being purpose-built for Yukoners with features that allow ease of mobility.

Note that this committee was established in 2013, partly as a result of concerns that had been raised by tenants with relatively new construction that had occurred in the waterfront seniors building. I hope that has answered the member's question.

The bottom line is that people who have these concerns — if they have not previously raised them with the Housing Corporation, we would encourage them to do so, so they could be considered by both housing staff and the Accessibility Advisory Committee in assessing those needs and determining a list of projects that need to be done and when they should be done.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that answer. How has the Yukon Housing Corporation reached out to senior tenants within Yukon Housing Corporation buildings to let them know that they are doing a gathering of information and concerns?

How have we reached out to the legions of seniors within our buildings?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** My understanding is that the information is shared with tenants by tenant relations officers. As well, there will be tenant meetings that will occur to talk to tenants about this. Some of this has not yet occurred because this money, of course, was provided for in the budget that is before this House and my understanding is that this was not part of the interim supply bill, so it is money that needs the approval of the budget before the project can actually occur, which means that actual spending would need to happen after May 15.

My understanding from staff is that there will be outreach efforts, including meetings with tenants, to solicit additional input beyond what has already been received in terms of the concerns that have been brought forward to date by tenants with existing accessibility concerns.

**Ms. White:** Based on my experience with some of the seniors complexes, having a meeting is a fantastic way to reach some tenants, but how will we make sure that all tenants are contacted? There are many people, as they age, who kind of withdraw a bit from that kind of situation and I'm hoping that we also address their concerns. Will there be a flyer or a notice that will go out to each and every senior within the Yukon Housing Corporation?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** My understanding is that there will be flyers that will be given out to tenants and that this will probably include flyers going under everyone's door, or notices of this. My understanding is that staff will endeavour to ensure that it is broadly circulated.

I would also encourage the member, if she's talking to constituents who are concerned about this, to encourage them to be aware of this coming and, if they have concerns with accessibility issues and have not already shared that, rather

than attend a meeting, they can also contact Housing Operations with a phone call or a letter and bring forward those concerns directly.

Again, if the member is talking to any constituents who are expressing these concerns to her, she could make them aware of the meetings but also advise and encourage them, any time now, to pick up the phone to contact Housing Operations or send them a note if they haven't already brought their concerns to the knowledge of staff of Housing Operations.

**Ms. White:** I thank the corporation for that endeavour. I know it will be a big process, but it will be a very worthy process. I can assure the minister that I have already spoken to the tenants who have identified their bathtubs as problematic. We've had this discussion for two years, and they are excited to see this as a line item.

The Yukon Housing Corporation offers, on a case-by-case basis, the ability for people to rent private market rentals. Can the minister outline how that process works please?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** My understanding is that that can be considered in some situations. That is something that, again, Housing Operations would be the place to contact if somebody is interested in exploring it. I don't have the specific details for the member that I can provide here today about exactly how that is done, but for somebody who is seriously interested in exploring this, we encourage them to call, e-mail or send a letter to the Housing Operations branch and ask about it. I'm sure that information will be provided.

**Ms. White:** The reason I ask is that we have been trying to help certain tenants who are looking at alternatives to the Yukon Housing buildings and they have gone through the process. I am just going to flag this concern and wait for a response at a different time, if that's the case.

But the Yukon Housing Corporation application form requires that a tenant's prospective landlord have a permitted legal suite — that is the language, "a permitted legal suite", which makes sense to me. But the City of Whitehorse only requires landlords to permit suites if they have more than three units to rent. So, if we are looking at a basement suite, it doesn't fall within the criteria that has been marked out, and that has become a challenge for the tenants for whom we are trying to help find alternative accommodation. I appreciate that the minister might not have an answer right now, but I would appreciate a response at some point and I am just flagging this for the corporation as well.

I'll just move on to my next question. When we got the briefing, there was talk about duplex conversions. So, in some communities there were large duplexes that could then be converted into fourplexes. Can the minister please tell me what communities have been identified for the duplex conversions and what staff will they be housing?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** First of all, with regard to the member's concern she raised about the ability of people who are interested in pursuing private market rentals with subsidization through Yukon Housing Corporation's social housing program, I was unaware of the specific concern that the member raised with regard to the city's requirement that

only people who have three units or more be permitted, as she just indicated was the case. At this point, we'll look into that concern and undertake to get back to the member regarding her question in that area. I don't have additional information to provide for that question at this point in time.

With regard to her question about which duplexes will be turned into fourplexes in which communities, beyond the ones that we've specifically identified and that I indicated in my remarks earlier, my understanding is that staff are currently looking at that. We'll have to get back to the member with information on that at a later date. I'll ask staff to provide me with that information so I can share it with her once we do have an answer to that question.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that answer and the reassurance that I will get the information later.

How many units in Ross River will be refurbished? How many people in Ross River are currently on the Yukon Housing Corporation wait-list?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** In answer to the members' question, I believe I indicated earlier in my remarks that the \$225,000 in the budget will revitalize three previously decommissioned social housing units in Ross River. My understanding is that, as of March 31, there was not a wait-list in Ross River, but staff have indicated — and our understanding is — that there is demand but people were aware that there weren't units to apply for, thus explaining the lack of a wait-list. Once these units are commissioned, our expectation is that they will be used by people in Ross River.

**Ms. White:** It is great to know that right now there is no one on the wait-list in Ross River and it is good to know that we will have units there, so that is fantastic.

We have talked about the conversion of the sixplex in Whitehorse. The old Options for Independence building is going to be converted. I was wondering what sort of units they will have — whether they will be one-bedroom bachelors or if we are looking at multi-family — and when do we expect that conversion or upgrade to be completed?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** With regard to the specific question the member asked about the sixplex that had been used by Options for Independence prior to the construction of the new facility, my understanding is that the units in that facility are fairly small — one-bedroom and two-bedroom — so they're not really suitable for more than an individual or couple or a small family and that the work being done is simply to just do a bit of a refresh on those units after they were previously used and to once again make them available. They are all social housing units — that is my understanding — and so they will go out to clientele who would be best suited by one — and two-bedroom facilities.

**Ms. White:** I was wondering if there was a timeline for completion of that work.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** My understanding is that a tender would be issued once the budget is approved. It would be shortly after that when the work is expected to be done this year but I don't have an exact timeline on that, except it would likely be — summer is the rough timeline but I don't have the specific dates in front of me right now.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for the answer. In the budget briefing there was the line item of the new seniors facility to be constructed with 48 units for \$12 million.

Where in Whitehorse will this seniors facility be located and when will construction start?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Part of the structure for the new 48 units will be that it will go through a tender that will require proponents to supply the land and for a design/build project and the reason for this approach is in part because we are aware that there is land available that is not developed at this point in time, or could perhaps be re-developed, so we're going out to see what we get. But part of the structure will be to rate the locations where proponents propose supplying it with an obvious preference being downtown or closer to downtown, and that will be part of what proponents are expected to come forward with — design/build and land where it could be built. So the bottom-line answer to the member's question is we don't know exactly where it will be located, but that's one of the factors that will be assessed through this tendering process.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister. So after the budget is approved and goes forward in the year, when do we expect the tendering process for the new seniors facility to go out?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** My understanding is that the tender should go out fairly expeditiously after the budget is approved by the Legislative Assembly. The intention is to move forward as quickly as reasonably possible with development of this facility. But, as I noted in my previous response, one of the things that will be assessed in this is the land options provided by proponents. Proponents are expected to come forward with a design/build proposal that will be assessed on factors, including where the land is located, with an obvious preference for land that is either downtown or closer to downtown because of its accessibility to shopping opportunities, the hospital and so on.

**Ms. White:** With the construction of this new 48-unit complex and the 34 we're seeing right now at Alexander Street, is there the expectation of closing down an existing seniors facility and moving seniors from an existing complex to the new complexes?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** The possibility of seniors moving to the new facility is something that will be discussed with residents. There is some possibility that it could provide opportunity for relocating seniors from existing units to newer units, but that is something that Yukon Housing Corporation staff will be discussing with residents to ascertain their interest. We have heard in the past that residents would prefer to be closer to downtown — at least some residents — but before we're in a position to say what the end result will be, staff will talk to residents about whether they are interested in moving to a new facility or would prefer not to.

Tenant perspective is going to be something that is given very serious consideration, because while we do see some benefit in relocating some seniors closer to the downtown area, we want that to be done only if it coincides with their desires and their interests. We don't want to be making an announcement about what will occur, so at this point it is a

possibility, but we want to hear that perspective from residents of existing facilities before a final decision is made in that area because we recognize that when people are considering moving from their existing homes to an area — even if that area is intended to be a better-designed facility that is more accessible to downtown — what seems to us to be a good idea at a corporate level with the Yukon government may or may not be seen the same way with residents, yet we will begin by talking to them before any decision is made on whether seniors are being relocated from existing housing facilities or whether some seniors are moving to the existing facility and new seniors are moving into those new units.

**Ms. White:** I appreciate the answer on an individual basis, but is there any thought of closing down any existing seniors housing when those new facilities open?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** To elaborate for the member, I thought I had answered that part, but I can see where she may not have felt there was a full answer given on that part. We're not foreseeing decommissioning any of our housing units. There is some question about whether some could be used for other tenants but, again, these are all possibilities that are going to be discussed. We certainly do not want tenants of any existing facilities to feel that they only have one choice being given to them and, if residents are not interested in relocating to a new facility and moving closer to the downtown, then we certainly don't want them to feel that they're being pushed into doing so.

It'll be presented as an opportunity. There will be discussion about it and, until we've had the discussion between corporation staff and tenants about that, we're not in a position to say exactly what the end outcome will be. The bottom line is we're not decommissioning any housing units, but there will be consideration of whether some could be repurposed for other tenants. That will be after — and only after — we've had the opportunity for staff to talk to tenants, understand their perspective on this and then come back to us with recommendations on next steps.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that clarity.

During the briefing, we talked about the northern housing trust money and the RFP process that's expected to wrap up at the end of April. We were told that there were 11 projects in five communities. Is the minister able to elaborate on those projects?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** One of the things we have done through the process — we recognize that, with an innovative process like this, which is a bit of a new type of funding model for Yukon Housing Corporation, that by its nature new processes have the potential for unsuccessful proponents to have concerns about how the process evolved. To try to mitigate that, one of the things that was done at the outset by the Housing Corporation was engaging Yukon's former Ombudsman and Information and Privacy Commissioner, Hank Moorlag, and contracting him as a fairness monitor to provide advice to staff on how to conduct the process in a fair, transparent manner that, hopefully, unsuccessful proponents — as well as the successful ones — would feel was fair in the

end result, even if it didn't go the way they had hoped it would.

That included a two-stage process. The member is correct that there are 11 that have gone to that next stage in five communities. I think at this point it wouldn't be appropriate for us to get into specifics of it. In fact, I don't have all of the specifics of what has occurred, because we have allowed the process to unfold. While I am aware at a high level of what has gone forward, I have very deliberately not gotten involved in the details or the process and left it instead to Housing Corporation staff and the stakeholders we have engaged to provide advice, which include the City of Whitehorse and Health and Social Services, as well as Mr. Moorlag as a fairness monitor.

They are all doing their level best to ensure that the process is robust and fair and is, of course, arm's length from the minister's office.

With that in mind, I am not aware of the details of the projects. I really can't comment on what's likely to emerge from it, nor do I know. I will wait until the end of that process and, at that point in time, staff will be in a position to explain what occurred. We'll be announcing who was successful as the result of that process. At this point in time, unfortunately, I really don't have any more information that I can provide the member opposite quite yet.

**Ms. White:** I appreciate that answer and look forward to the announcement, and knowing how many families or individuals will be housed with that \$9 million.

Can I please get a number of how many cases are on the wait-list currently in Whitehorse?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** First of all, I would just correct the member. The money going out in this northern housing fund is actually \$13 million. I understand it may have confused the member when I was referencing the amount of \$9 million. That was to deal with changing how funding was booked in the budget, but the total amount that's going out through this RFQ/RFP process with the northern housing trust investment is \$13 million. The structure of the process requires that there be at least matching dollars from companies or NGOs that submit as part of the process. So it will result in at least \$26 million of spending once the money is allocated.

The member asked about the total wait-list for social housing units within Whitehorse, and my understanding is that, as of the end of March, the total wait-list for both seniors and social housing units combined has a total of 96 people on the wait-list in Whitehorse, and that illustrates why we are making these additional investments in housing stock.

We are purpose-building a 48-unit facility. The intention of this \$12 million is to ensure that that building is purpose-built for seniors and meets the accessibility needs of seniors.

We have also responded to what we have heard from seniors in the past about wanting to be closer to downtown by moving forward to something that is intended to create an option that is closer to the downtown area — emphasizing, as I indicated earlier to the member, that we foresee offering seniors an option rather than advising them of a decision that

has been made at this point. They are an important part of this whole process.

The other thing I would note, in addition to the investments made, is that the work going on through the housing action plan process is really about engaging various stakeholders, including other levels of government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector — through both the realtors and private market rental, as well as through the construction industry — in talking about what we can do together. The end action plan is intended to not simply be a plan for government or a wish list for government, but a guide to how the various stakeholders can take tangible steps to pursue opportunities and meet needs within all areas of the housing spectrum.

We very much appreciate the involvement of all who have participated.

As I've indicated in the past in this House, we stand very proudly on our record of unprecedented investment in social housing and in seniors housing, but we do also recognize that more needs to be done. One of the things also being recognized for the housing action plan is that, for certain housing needs, it's not necessarily the Yukon government that would best be the provider of those.

This includes that for affordable market rentals and for affordable housing options for first-time home purchasers, working together and coming up with ways to reduce the barriers to people entering those housing types are things that are best discussed collaboratively with the various partners and stakeholders. It is also important to note that, as a result of the settling of land claims and 11 First Nations having final land claim and self-government agreements, they have options that are available and can be used for their citizens or for other Yukoners, and this could include rental of their lands.

They also have the ability to, in some cases if they choose to do so, convert it into title. There are a number of options that are available for First Nations in these areas. They are an important player in this and have a role greater than they did prior to the settling of the land claims. To date, while there has been action by First Nations in pursuing those opportunities, there are also significant opportunities that they may wish to consider in meeting the housing needs of their citizens as well as achieving the economic benefit of using their land for housing options for other Yukon citizens.

**Ms. White:** Just to get the breakdown, the minister has just said that there are 96 open cases right now on the social housing and seniors housing for Whitehorse.

Can I please have the breakdown of how many are seniors and how many are just for social housing?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Fifty are seniors and 46 are non-seniors.

Also, something I should mention to the member that she may or may not be aware of — there isn't a distinction in the programs really between seniors housing and social housing. They're both part of the social housing spectrum. We have in the past and are continuing in this year to make investments in housing designed specifically for senior citizens under the social housing program.

That is just an important point of clarity — essentially forcing your citizens under the social housing program — but it's just an important point of clarification that the member may or may not be aware of, and it's also an example of why there is some potential if we determine after talking to various tenants and potential tenants — if we determine that certain stock should be reclassified as far as what type of housing is provided, there isn't the same barrier between that as there would be between social housing units and the staff housing program, which is a separate program.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that. I also recognize that seniors often have different requirements than a young family.

How many people are on wait-lists right now in the communities, both for social housing and people who would qualify as seniors?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Madam Chair, the answer to that is 10. That breaks down, as of March 31, as follows: the total on the wait-list in Beaver Creek, not applicable; the total on the wait-list in Carcross is zero; in Carmacks, one; in Dawson City, six; in Faro, one; in Haines Junction, zero; in Mayo, zero; in Ross River, zero; in Teslin, zero; in Watson Lake, two. That is 10 in total from non-Whitehorse communities.

**Ms. White:** It's fantastic news that there are only 10 people in communities who are waiting. I hope they're adequately housed until they get that opportunity.

When we talk about the seniors centre in Mayo, what consultation happened with the residents of Mayo and their seniors around the new complex?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Yukon Housing Corporation staff have met with the Village of Mayo council and the Na Cho Nyäk Dun and the community to provide an overview of the proposed project and for local project input into the design. The project was a commitment we made in our 2011 election platform — that was to build a seniors housing facility in Mayo. We've had ongoing contact with the Village of Mayo council, including when I was up there in the fall. I walked out to the site with members of the Village of Mayo council and with administrative staff.

In December, we also sought feedback from the village on how we should be proceeding with the development of the project because of the issues around remediation of the site, which I believe is the former Mayo Motors site.

After sharing that information with the Village of Mayo council and receiving their input, we went with the approach that we have, which is beginning with designing a facility while the remediation work has still to be done. The expectation with that is, first of all, based on local input, we don't expect that the issues on that site should be too complex to resolve and, if they are, there are alternate locations that were considered, discussed and shared with the mayor and council. They have provided us with their input and the preference is to proceed with that site and, because that site is relatively small, they felt, and we felt, that if there were unanticipated environmental issues found through this assessment and remediation, the alternative sites that have

been considered and shared with the council would be more than large enough to accommodate the building.

In the interest of time and based on that input from the village council of their preference, we proceeded in the manner that we have. We are focused on moving quickly with development of this facility, because it is something that we told Yukoners — in particular, the people of the town of Mayo — in the last election that we would do in this mandate, and we are committed to getting that done.

**Ms. White:** Understanding everything the minister has just laid out, when does he expect construction to begin?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** We anticipate construction of this project to occur in summer 2015. Pardon me, Madam Chair, we expect completion of the project in summer 2015.

**Ms. White:** On a completely different vein of thought here — I have had the opportunity to assist a couple of different seniors in the application process for Yukon Housing. We have often talked that seniors have different requirements than people who are often decades younger than they are. I know that in our experience, when we helped, it took almost an entire day of running around trying to get the documentation and making sure that the application was complete. I think it took six hours and, even at that point, there was stuff that I was picking up and making sure was dropped off at the office before the appointment.

We have talked before about having a senior-specific person within Yukon Housing Corporation to help seniors with that process. Is that happening?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** As I'm sure the member understands, I'm not too directly involved in that because it relates to personnel issues. My understanding is that the corporation is considering potentially different models for staff engagement that would include tenant outreach.

Those concerns have been heard and I understand they are currently being considered, in terms of how that process can potentially be made more user-friendly for seniors. Unfortunately, I don't have a lot of additional detail to provide the member right now, but I appreciate that perspective and appreciate her letting us know that the process has been challenging for seniors who have approached her as their MLA. I will ask staff to take those concerns to heart and see what we can do to make the process more user-friendly for seniors who are finding it challenging.

**Mr. Silver:** Thank you to the department officials today for their time and thank you to the Member for Takhini-Kopper King for her questions. I have just a few more questions.

I'd like to start with the affordable housing RFQ and the nine applicants, with a total of 11 projects in four communities, for the request for proposals. The minister did mention a fairness monitor — the former Ombudsman, Hank Moorlag, was engaged to ensure consistent methods and values were applied to evaluate the proposals. The fairness monitor ensures that the consideration process is objective and is fair and equitable.

I was wondering if the minister can expand a little bit more on the necessity for bringing forth a fairness monitor into this process.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** In answer to the Member for Klondike, this is something that — through discussions between minister, the board and corporation staff, there was a decision to do this largely because — as I indicated earlier in reply to the Member for Takhini-Kopper King — we recognized that with taking a distinctly new approach for Yukon Housing Corporation and a different funding model than in the past — because of what we saw as an opportunity to leverage this \$13 million into at least \$26 million in investment in affordable market rentals, we recognized that, with new processes — regardless of how well-thought-out or clear the processes are, there's always the potential with new processes for people to not fully understand them or to feel they should operate in a different manner.

We recognize that, for unsuccessful proponents, this has the potential to lead to a genuine view that their project was not given the fair consideration it deserved. So in an attempt to alleviate that and to ensure we're bringing in someone who is independent from government and recognized and respected in the community for their fairness, the former ombudsman, Hank Moorlag, was involved as a fairness monitor to ensure that consistent methods and values were applied to evaluate the submissions. That is in the interest of mitigating those potential concerns I referred to, which can occur with any new process, once government — or the Yukon Housing Corporation, in this case — initiates it.

**Mr. Silver:** Thank you to the minister for his answer. Just a little background on the money for the next question — we started with the northern housing trust — \$300 million — established by the Government of Canada in 2006 to respond to needs for affordable housing in the territory. Yukon received \$50 million from Canada over a three-year period. The Government of Yukon and First Nation governments negotiated that \$50 million and sharing within that and \$32.5 million was to address priorities within the First Nations.

So, my question — the minister did comment earlier on non-government organizations and social agencies being encouraged to work together and share expertise and skills throughout this initiative. I was wondering if any First Nations have been involved in this particular process, knowing full well that the original \$50 million was divided up among the two different levels of government.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** The potential involvement for First Nations in this is that First Nation development corporations could apply, as could other companies. That is also part of why we haven't engaged First Nation governments directly in the evaluation process — because, although development corporations are typically separate entities from the governments, there is certainly the perception for conflict of interest if someone wholly owns a business entity that is bidding on a project.

So, in this process, again, if First Nations had the ability to choose how the \$32.5 million that was flowed to them — the northern housing trust fund — could be used in this case,

the \$13 million that is being used through this RFQ/RFP process is something that First Nation development corporations could — like any other company — submit a project to this process and it would be evaluated on the same criteria as for a corporate entity that was not owned by a First Nation that submitted to this process.

**Mr. Silver:** Did any First Nation development corporations apply for this RFQ?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I don't actually have the details of who has applied, so I'm not able to answer that question at this point. As I mentioned to the Member for Takhini-Kopper King before, with this situation, because of it being a new and innovative approach, that naturally leads to the potential that people participating in a new process could have concerns about it. We've deliberately managed this through an approach that has involved the Department of Health and Social Services and the City of Whitehorse to provide housing staff advice in terms of evaluating this. They have all formed part of the committee that has evaluated this. We engaged former Ombudsman, Hank Moorlag, as a fairness monitor to provide advice to all of the people participating on that committee. I have deliberately stayed at arm's length from the process to avoid any perception of involvement in this process, so I don't have the answer to the member's question about which companies applied, including that I'm not in a position to answer how many First Nation development corporations submitted proposals to this process.

**Mr. Silver:** I hope that the minister would endeavour to get that information to us when it becomes available to him. With a fairness monitor in place, I would assume that there would have been a process where these First Nation development corporations were communicated with — at least with the department — as to this money being available — if the minister could comment on that.

I will also ask a final question on the affordable housing RFQ. Who has the final say on which projects will advance to the development stage? Is it the Housing Corporation board or Cabinet?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** My understanding is that, after staff completes their work, the recommendation will be presented to the board of Yukon Housing Corporation for their review. They will then make a recommendation to me and, ultimately, for the spending authority of the program, it will require Management Board approval.

I look forward to receiving the recommendation of staff and of the board of Yukon Housing Corporation.

**Mr. Silver:** So the minister has the final say on what goes forward, I guess is the answer to that question.

I am going to switch to Korbo Apartments. On July 21, 2011, a previous minister responsible for housing was quoted in a news release, and I am quoting here, "We are taking steps to remediate the Korbo property as effectively and cost efficiently as possible.... The removal of the Korbo building will significantly reduce the cost of remediation and set the stage for our plan to call for expressions of interest from private industry for a development that will offer much needed rental accommodations in the community."

The last time it was discussed here in the Legislature, the government was awaiting the results of soil remediation. I was wondering if the minister could comment on what the status is of the soil remediation report for the Korbo Apartments lot in Dawson, and when might we see the promises made by the former minister responsible for housing fulfilled?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** In September 2010, a fuel leak occurred at the former Korbo Apartments in Dawson City. This occurred as result of a broken buried fuel line. When discovered, Environment Yukon was advised of the spill in accordance with Yukon's spill-reporting regulations.

Investigations revealed soil contamination from leaked oil near the broken line and, in accordance with the regulations, cleanup of the affected area was begun. Monitoring and the removal of liquid fuel was conducted over the winter and spring of 2011-12. Yukon Housing Corporation worked with environmental and municipal authorities during the site remediation process and demolition of the former Korbo Apartments building. Environmental reports and lab results were submitted to the Environmental Programs branch of the Department of Environment for their review, as requested.

Environment Yukon determined that further testing and remediation work was required. Yukon Housing Corporation is currently moving forward to continue the remediation work and test monitoring to ensure compliance and Environment Yukon's regulatory objectives are being met.

The fuel spill, in size, included 22,700 litres of fuel that was recovered, which is approximately 6,000 gallons. Currently my understanding is that a contractor is conducting tests to determine what additional steps are required to remediate the site and the Housing Corporation expects the final portion of the assessment work to begin this spring.

Just to clarify and correct the member in terms of the timelines on this, work had been done in the past, but the reason additional work has occurred is as a result of Environment Yukon as the regulator instructing and advising Yukon Housing that they felt further testing and remediation was required and that the work that had previously been done was not adequate to remediate the site to being fully decontaminated.

**Mr. Silver:** Thanks for the update.

Yukon housing action plan — a housing symposium was convened on November 26, 2013 for the purpose of gathering together social service providers, realtors, industry, banking representatives, architects, First Nations and municipal governments, housing project proponents, faith-based organizations as well as the Salvation Army, FASSY, Options for Independence and the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the development of a housing action plan. A report was issued shortly afterward summarizing comments and feedback.

My question for the minister is: What's the status of the housing action plan and when can a final report be expected?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I assume the member wants a more detailed response than that it's underway. The housing action plan work continues to take place.

Working group committees have been formed. The community advisory committee has been established to

review and contribute to the recommendations made by the working group committees. The northern housing conference in March 2013 began the work toward this. The housing symposium held last fall on November 26 defined and created the main objectives of the housing action plan, which is intended to identify next steps in the various steps of the housing continuum, both in short-, medium- and long-term action items. Participants include NGOs, social agencies, First Nations, municipal governments, realtors, financiers, construction industry, resource sector representation, clergy and similar community-based interests.

The timeline is included — as the member I'm sure can understand — with the housing symposium wrapping up at the end of November and the next month being the lead-up to Christmas. The involvement of the formation of committees and getting committees together to begin work largely began in January of this year, and their work is expected to take from January to roughly June.

Again, subject to what we hear from those processes, the tentative date for completion of this is June 2014 to develop a draft housing action plan. We will leave some flexibility for the committee to do work and so that timeline might be subject to adjustment.

In the summer of 2014, we expect to see a second symposium regarding the draft housing action plan. We expect the finalized plan to be submitted for approval sometime in the fall of 2014 — so by later in this calendar year is our current expectation for conclusion of the work on the housing action plan.

One thing I'd like to just emphasize to the member and to all members on this is that the approach that we are taking and have encouraged is one that focuses on identifying needs, identifying opportunities for various partners to take action, is focused on short-, medium-, and long-term actions, and is also deliberately intended to be something that is built on as additional activity occurs in the Yukon and is subject to evaluation rather than being a static document for 10 years. It is something that, as situations change in the Yukon — whether that be, for example, economic growth in a specific area through changes in population demand there and through new activities or industry, whether that be the development of a new mine such as, hypothetically, Brewery Creek in the member's riding or development of projects in the Mayo area, or whether it be through an increase in other sectors of the economy such as tourism, agriculture, forestry, arts and culture and so on — changing demographics within the Yukon create changing needs.

Our expectation is that this will lay out the vision for short-, medium-, and long-term steps to build on the significant investments and the good work that has been done to date. It will also be something that we foresee leading to continued engagement of stakeholders to identify what other steps can be taken as time goes on.

**Mr. Silver:** I am going to move on to the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition. YAPC released a study on homelessness with recommendations for solutions that involved YTG in December 2013. Has the government followed up on any of

these recommendations from the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition's report on homelessness?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** The Anti-Poverty Coalition is one of the partners that have been engaged in the housing action plan so they are at the table and providing their input and advice to us on short-, medium-, and long-term steps to address various issues within Yukon's housing continuum and all those areas.

I know the term "housing continuum" is a fairly esoteric way to refer to that, but it is the term that has been used to date so I am not going to invent a new one. The housing spectrum, or streams, or whichever way members wish to characterize it, includes the basic areas of everything from emergency shelters and transitional housing to supportive housing, social housing, private market rental and home ownership.

There are different nuances and elements to all of those, but those are seen as the main areas in the housing area that require options to be available — whether those options are provided by government, by NGOs or by the private sector. This includes: emergency shelters, which are places for people to sleep on a temporary basis; transitional housing, which is aimed at assisting people, including women fleeing violent situations, and is aimed at helping people move toward more stable, independent living; supportive housing is aimed at assisting people with more complex needs to live independently or to live more independently; affordable social and senior housing is an area familiar to members that is based on rent geared to income; and market rental is another key part of the spectrum.

Home ownership needs no further explanation — it's one that, for most Yukoners, it's probably fair to say, is their ultimate goal — but for some people with certain complex needs, it may not be a possibility. For others, the reason that all these areas need to be in place is that the dream of home ownership is something that is not always immediately available to some people and, for some people with certain complex conditions, it may be something that is hard for them to achieve at any point.

We're committed to working with all the partners to determine what the best solutions are for each of these areas, to determine potential action items for government and for others in these areas, because providing housing options for Yukoners is not just about government. It is about Yukon citizens, Yukon NGOs, Yukon companies and Yukon communities working together to come up with options and actions and investments that best meet the needs of Yukon citizens.

**Chair:** Would members like to take a recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole will come to order. We're continuing general debate — Mr. Silver.

**Mr. Silver:** I'm going to assume, based on the response from the minister, that there hasn't been a formal response to the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition's recommendations. I would urge his office to make a response and a recommendation. I know that the Anti-Poverty Coalition has reached out to all three parties, asking if they wanted an opportunity to review the recommendations and to answer any specific questions. I know that we have responded in the affirmative and I know that the Official Opposition has as well, and I urge the government to take that time as well.

I just have a few more questions, Madam Chair. The down payment assistance program — have there been any problems or defaults with any of the loans issued under this program? What are the average sizes of mortgages for homes purchased under this program?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** The down payment assistance program is intended to assist households that are eligible for bank financing but have not accumulated a sufficient down payment on a home. Assistance is provided in the form of a deferred loan and registered on title as a separate mortgage.

The loan may cover up to five percent toward a down payment, which is a maximum of \$18,000, which is roughly five percent of a \$365,000 home. Homeowners who qualify will have to put at least 2.5 percent toward a down payment. The Housing Corporation loan will be amortized over 15 years with an initial five-year term.

The program is deliberately structured to avoid creating issues such as occurred in the sub-prime housing situation in the United States through measures including ensuring payments be made on the down payment assistance funds from day one — ensuring that any funds borrowed under the down payment assistance program count against the borrowing limit of applicants, which reduces the size of the mortgage that a homeowner could access beyond that, to avoid them getting overextended in terms of their payment. The program is not intended to help people buy investment properties. It's intended to help families get into homes of their own and the home being purchased must be a principal residence.

The down payment assistance program has assisted 26 clients with approximately \$372,000 in loans, as of February 28. The average down payment assistance of the successful applicants is \$14,300, which the member can use to extrapolate roughly what the price of the house would be, but I don't actually have either a list of the total size of the loan that was accessed or the average total mortgages that were accessed through that.

Again, since \$18,000 is the maximum available under the program, and that is five percent of a \$365,000 home, the member can extrapolate what the size range was. I don't actually have the average mortgage price numbers in front of me, nor a list of the range or what the median mortgage issued under that program would be.

As I mentioned earlier in my remarks, at this point in time, this program is still very early in its operations. There have not been any defaults to date on any of the loans. As I noted, the Housing Corporation board and I, as well as senior



staff of the corporation, are of the view that it is too early in the program's operation to really do a robust assessment of how it works over the long term.

We expect that, with another year of operation, there will be additional data to determine its successes, as well as if there are any areas that require adjustment. As with any program of this type, jumping to conclusions early in its lifespan about how successful it is, is getting a little too optimistic when we are operating a program that is very new in its existence and does require some time to be able to evaluate its successes and where any risks or weaknesses might be.

I note that this was done as a result of my predecessor as minister responsible for housing, and the board and staff taking a look at programs that had been successful in other places in Canada and attempting to come up with a model that would not have flaws that we would need to correct in it. As with any program, the best intentions by all led to the development of it under its current structure. We will have to assess how well it works after a few more years before we can really determine precisely whether there are any areas where it should be adjusted in some way, shape or form.

**Mr. Silver:** Thank you to the minister for his answer. As explained in a letter to one of my constituents from the Yukon Housing Corporation, it is a Yukon Housing Corporation policy that only under exceptional circumstances is social housing given to YG staff. It wasn't explained what those exceptional circumstances were.

I was wondering if the minister could explain to us what these exceptional circumstances are.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** First of all, one point I should just note in response to the member's previous question, as far as the down payment assistance program — one thing I should emphasize is it would be fair to say that, for the 26 families who have a home as a result of this program, I think they would agree that the program is sure looking pretty good so far. We do think it's a good program and that it will stand the test of time. I just wanted to note for the member opposite that we all recognize this program is new in its inception and, so far, it's looking like it's working very well. We do need to give it a little more time before we can determine if there is something that was missed in the structure or should be added to it.

As far as the member's question about what defines "exceptional circumstances," my understanding is I don't think there's a precise policy on it, but there is some ability for staff discretion in exceptional situations to allow staff to use the social housing unit.

Those decisions are ones that, of course, are made at an operational level, recognizing the needs and concerns of people who bring them forward. I will ask staff to advise me if there is any additional information I am not aware of and, if that is the case, I will get back to the member with additional information once it becomes available. My understanding is that there is not a precisely defined criterion for what exceptional circumstances are. It is done when staff believe

that the balance of factors in the situation require that exceptional step be taken.

**Ms. White:** I have just a couple of questions to recap. So when we're talking about the Closeleigh Manor air ventilation upgrades, can you please tell me who did the assessment of what needs to be done?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** The testing was done by Northern Climate Engineering Ltd. and they provided recommendations to Yukon Housing which, as I noted to the member, will be discussed with tenants of the facility very shortly — but the answer is Northern Climate Engineering.

**Ms. White:** In the \$250,000 that has been budgeted for that, is that just for the repairs or was that also to pay for the assessment and, if so, how much was that assessment?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** The assessment done by Northern Climate Engineering would have been done in the 2013-14 fiscal year. I don't have the exact cost of that available, but it is not coming out of the \$250,000 that is included in this year's budget to do work based on what the consultant advised.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that answer.

Staff housing in rural communities is often critical for employees, like nurses. In communities where, for example, nursing staff has been in one unit for a long period of time and then been moved to a separate unit to allow space for a family — that did not end up staying in the community — how would the nursing staff go about addressing their concerns with the Yukon Housing Corporation about moving back into their previous housing unit?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Staff in that situation could put in an application that could be assessed by staff of Operations branch. One of the challenges for staff where there are those types of requests in communities — sometimes it is very simple to respond to and sometimes it's not, depending on the various needs that are being considered at that point in time.

The various needs of the different clients in that situation can include, in some cases, that staff may be a while in housing that is larger than they need for themselves or the size of their family. That can be a complication if they are relocated to another unit at some point in time — to fulfill someone who has a greater need in that area. Those can be challenging circumstances and are not easy decisions for staff to make. One of the challenges associated with running a staff housing program, as with the social housing program, is that staff, I am confident, do their very best to give fair consideration to everyone's needs and preferences. But, in considering competing needs and challenges, they do have to make decisions sometimes and, unfortunately in some cases, those decisions can result in someone who has applied for something feeling that the decision should have been a different outcome. We do recognize how important housing is to people.

I hope that has provided some explanation to the member opposite about this.

One of the areas where this connects to the housing action plan work that's ongoing is that although staff housing is a specific program — coming up with ways to encourage the

development of private sector rental options in communities and encouraging the market for private homes is easier said than done — but where those opportunities can be identified for the private sector or for First Nations to move into areas, we hope that one of the outcomes may be in areas that are underserved by housing options, that potential investors — whether they be from the private sector or First Nation development corporations or First Nations themselves with their settlement land — and there may be opportunities where someone can step in and provide housing options for people who are underserved in either the private sector, market rental or within the home purchasing market.

**Ms. White:** Just as my last point, it's not a question at all but it's a comment. Often, in our positions, we don't actually get to thank the department directly for the work or for the changes they make in people's lives, but the Yukon Housing Corporation, in the last number of months, has made some amazing things happen for families and people whom I've met, based on all that hard work. I'm sure anyone listening within the corporation will have an idea of who some of those people are and what those cases are, but there have been some phenomenal things done by the corporation. On behalf of people I work with often, I thank them for all that effort and look forward to ongoing celebrations when you come to the House. Thank you so much for the work that you have done.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I thank the Member for Takhini-Kopper King for those comments. I am sure that staff appreciate them very much. I recognize that in the area of staff housing and social housing, as well as within seniors housing, there remain — despite the significant investments that we are very proud of as government — additional challenges where additional investments need to be made to address those needs.

That is why we have invested significantly within this year's capital budget to provide for new facilities for seniors, both in Whitehorse and within rural Yukon and Mayo. That is why we are investing \$1.6 million in upgrading our existing facilities, including repairs we have talked about in Closeleigh Manor — and we look forward to continuing to work with tenants and with stakeholders in coming up with innovative ways to take additional steps and improve the whole range of housing options that are available to Yukon citizens.

I recognize how important housing is and, ultimately, one of my objectives, which I know is shared by my colleagues, is providing opportunities and the chance for Yukoners to move into better housing options, including those who would like to own a home and don't — to giving them the ability through programs including the down payment assistance program to get into a home earlier, and through programs such as the home repair programs — helping people to improve the quality of their housing and invest in their own home, whether it's through repairs to improve accessibility for a disabled family member or for a senior citizen who is getting to a stage in life where their mobility is not what it used to be.

That's why we're continuing to support these programs. I would also like to thank the staff of Yukon Housing

Corporation as well as the board members for their dedication to this area and for their commitment to working together with us to improve housing options for Yukoners across the whole range of the housing spectrum.

**Chair:** Is there any further general debate? We're going to move into line-by-line. We're going to start with page 20-7, O&M expenditures. Is there any debate?

***On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures***

***On Executive***

**Ms. White:** Can I please get a breakdown of how many people are within the Executive?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** That area includes only three personnel in the Executive branch. The funding in this area also includes the vice-president's office, in addition to the office of the president, and includes additional funding for the support services required by those offices.

***Executive in the amount of \$881,000 agreed to***

***On Corporate Services***

**Ms. White:** Can I please know how many full-time equivalents are within that and how many people work within communications for the Yukon Housing Corporation.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** In this area, \$6.3 million is for the Corporate Services branch, which includes functions such as Finance, Systems and Administration, Policy and Communications, and Human Resources. It also includes \$2.4 million, which is for long-term debt payments. My understanding is there are 26 FTEs in that area and one of those is a dedicated communications person.

***Corporate Services in the amount of \$6,269,000 agreed to***

***On Housing Operations***

**Ms. White:** Can I please get the number of FTEs and communication within that branch?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I don't have, actually, the count on the number of FTEs in this area at this point in time. I apologize to the member for that, but staff have advised me they don't have that figure at their fingertips right now. The Housing Operations area is \$11.2 million, which includes maintenance of housing units, technical maintenance and housing operations. It also includes tenant relations services. I should also note to the member, in reference to her question about communications, that while their jobs are not called communications, part of what tenant relations officers do is indeed communicating with tenants. It is partially a communications role, but not officially titled as such. It is called tenant relations, but internal communications is part of their job.

***Housing Operations in the amount of \$11,189,000 agreed to***

***On Community Partnering and Lending***

***Community Partnering and Lending in the amount of \$1,429,000 agreed to***

***Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$19,768,000 agreed to***

**Ms. White:** Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all

remaining lines in Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, cleared or carried, as required.

**Unanimous consent re deeming all remaining lines in Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, 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 remaining lines in Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, cleared or carried, as required. Is there unanimous consent?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** Unanimous consent has been granted.

**On Capital Expenditures**

**Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$42,963,000 agreed to**

**Total Expenditures in the amount of \$62,731,000 agreed to**

**Yukon Housing Corporation agreed to**

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole will recess for 10 minutes while we await officials.

*Recess*

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

We're going to continue with general debate on Vote 8, Department of Justice.

**Department of Justice — continued**

**Chair:** Ms. Moorcroft, you have 19 minutes and seven seconds remaining.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I won't require 19 minutes to finish my question to the minister. When we were in debate in Justice Tuesday of last week, I had a question on the record for the minister related to pre-release planning for inmates and getting supports in place, such as housing and social assistance, which are key to preventing recidivism.

I'd like the minister to give me an update on what is in place for inmates from the rural communities so that, when they are released, they may have transportation to get back to their home communities and not be left homeless in Whitehorse at that time.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Corrections has adopted evidence-based rehabilitation programming and services to reduce recidivism, which means that the interventions for inmates have been subject to rigorous evaluations and have been proven to reduce recidivism.

Sentenced offenders are referred to programming based on their specific needs following a risk needs assessment. However, as the average sentence length at Whitehorse Correctional Centre is about 90 days, not all offenders have sufficient time in their sentences to go through that type of programming.

If there's a probation order to follow their sentence, an integrated case management plan targets programming for

their community supervision. Remand inmates who have been in custody while awaiting trial or sentencing can volunteer for programming but cannot be compelled to take that programming. If space is limited in a program, sentenced inmates will be placed in the program before a remand inmate.

From September 1, 2013, to date, approximately 49 percent of sentenced inmates at WCC received one or more programs addressing their criminal behaviour. Only two percent of those individuals did not complete their courses. Whitehorse Correctional Centre offers several evidence-based programs, as I mentioned, one being the changing offender behaviour program — the respectful relationships program — which is a 10-session program that teaches offenders self-management to reduce their potential for violence in a relationship. In the community, respectful relationships is paired with the relationship violence prevention program for medium- and high-risk offenders. There is also the violence prevention program — emotions management for women — which is also a 10-session program that develops self-awareness and deals with anger management and other difficult emotions. There is relationship skills for women, which is a 13-session program that addresses relationships, family violence, abuse and intimacy issues. There is also substance abuse management, which is a 12-session program delivered by the correctional staff. It actually employs practical strategies that reduce negative consequences of substance abuse, ranging from safer use to managed use to abstinence. That program is delivered separately to male and female offenders.

As you will be well aware, Justice has entered into a contract with the Council of Yukon First Nations to provide a reintegration worker to carry out the duties associated with that type of work. The reintegration coordinator was hired in late July 2013. The reintegration pilot project will be evaluated after two years to assess its effectiveness. That worker will work closely with WCC case management on release planning for First Nation individuals who are going back into their communities.

Case management staff do considerable liaising with the First Nations in their day-to-day work. The reintegration worker will also identify and make application for funds available to address barriers to successful reintegration. For example, the funding could be used for additional training or purchasing equipment or clothing needed for work, or to facilitate access to treatment programs or perhaps restorative processes.

The reintegration worker will also assist Whitehorse Correctional Centre with research and coordination of First Nation programming.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I would like to thank the departmental officials for the work that they do preparing briefing notes and information for the minister, and I would like to thank the minister for the information. I take that as a partial answer — that the reintegration coordinator, a new pilot project, works with case management staff on release planning — so the minister did provide a partial answer.

If the position has been in place since July 2013 and we are now at April 2014, I wonder if the minister can answer the question about the release of inmates who come from the rural communities. In the past, the practice was that the people were released to Whitehorse. If they were from Pelly Crossing or Teslin or Old Crow, they would have to find their own transportation to those rural communities. Has this changed? Are there supports available for inmates who are being released and who may want to go back to their home community?

When the minister is answering that question, I would also like to have him tell us, when he refers to applying for funds to address barriers, what funding mechanisms are available for that?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Madam Chair, there are release plans that are made through case management and other correctional staff for each of the inmates. I guess to answer the member opposite's question about individuals who are being released in Whitehorse or back into the community, I would safely say that efforts are made to assist that individual with a release plan and options are looked at as far as getting individuals back into the communities, but at the end of the day, for most of the communities, there are no busing opportunities for inmates to leave Whitehorse to go back into that community.

However, once they are released, there are some programs that help them with that release and with their reintegration back into the community. Some of those job-readiness or life skill programs would include things like first aid, industry safety, WHMIS, resumé writing, educational upgrading, FoodSafe programs, financial management, AA — both for male and for female inmates — Changing Paths, which is life skills for female offenders, positive parenting, nutrition, budgeting, social anxiety and loneliness programming.

There is also academic programming, Madam Chair. In recognition that success upon release is linked to employability and education, inmates at Whitehorse Correctional Centre can access a number of academic courses as well — for example, general studies, general education, development preparation and testing, resumé workshops, vocational programming, including first aid, transportation of dangerous goods, FoodSafe and WHMIS, as I mentioned.

Prior to going over some of the programming, the Whitehorse Correctional Centre case management plan for reintegration and the release plans, the department does work with families and First Nations, where possible, to get them back home.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I wonder if the minister has the information with him related to the reintegration coordinator's work in the pilot project.

Does that person work only with aboriginal citizens or with non-aboriginal citizens as well? Does he have a breakdown of the number of men and women that the reintegration coordinator has worked with?

To repeat, when the minister referred to helping apply for funds to address barriers that someone leaving the

Correctional Centre may have — can the minister provide some details on that?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The First Nation reintegration worker is just that — it is for individuals who are in the Correctional Centre who are of First Nation ancestry. This pilot project will be evaluated after two years to assess its effectiveness. This worker will work closely with the Whitehorse Correctional Centre case management on release planning for First Nation clients getting back to their communities.

Case management staff does considerable work with First Nations in their day-to-day work. The worker will also identify and make application for funds that are available to address the barriers to successful reintegration. As I mentioned earlier, the funding could be used for training, equipment purchases, clothing that might be needed for work, or to facilitate access to treatment programs or to restorative justice.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I have asked the minister to indicate that, when staff is helping inmates to apply for funds to address barriers, what funds he is referring to. I would still like an answer to that question if the minister has it.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** There is \$20,000 allocated in the budget to provide tangible assistance for inmates for reintegration this fiscal year. There are also funds available through the Department of Health and Social Services under the social service network.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** In his responses, the member referred to recidivism. I would like to ask the minister if he can provide some details to the House about recidivism rates at Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Madam Chair, recidivism is a somewhat dated term that is defined as a return to previous behaviours — specifically, criminal behaviour. The criminal justice system has moved away from this term because it has never been clearly defined. There is no standard definition or methodology for measuring recidivism available in our country.

It has been referred to as a “fruit salad concept” within the criminal justice system. In recent work undertaken in cooperation with justice partners and experts in the area, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics determined that indicators of re-contact, rather than recidivism — with police, with courts and the correctional system — were more appropriate, given the nature of administrative data available for measurement.

A contact is defined as an official intervention by police, courts or corrections. A re-contact is defined as a subsequent contact with the police, courts or corrections, signifying a new official intervention. For example, policing — a subsequent incident for which the accused was cleared of the charge or cleared otherwise within four years of the initial incident within the courts, the initiating of a new person case within four years from either the initiation of the first person case or the completion of the first person case. In corrections, the occurrence of a new legal hold status within four years from

either the conclusion of a period of involvement or the commencement of a period of community supervision.

This work will clearly define re-contact and establish comparable baseline data, including answering questions of prevalence, what proportion of people came into contact with police, courts or corrections had the subsequent contact within a four-year period, and frequency. So, of those who did have a re-contact, how many subsequent contacts did they have within a four-year period? Also, time to re-contact — so how much time elapsed between the first and second contact. Finally, the nature of re-contact — so compared to the first contact, did the second contact involve a similar, more serious or less serious offence?

The reason that I'm explaining all this is because without a standard definition — without clear, consistent and comparable methodologies for calculating re-contact or recidivism — the information is really meaningless.

At this time, Yukon does not have the IT capacity to produce this type of information.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The minister in his last sentence saw what my next question would be. The minister has just indicated that the Department of Justice does not have the information technology capacity to keep the records in accordance with the definitions of "new contact". I know that there is a lot of information gathered on a regular basis by the correctional system and throughout the department.

Can the minister tell the House how many men who are in corrections are repeat offenders and how many women are repeat offenders at Whitehorse Correctional Centre?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I guess the simple answer to the member's question is that without the complex system where we can collect this type of data — which we do not have right now — it is difficult to get this type of information. Then we need to look at information such as what type of offence — is it a similar offence or a different offence, does that constitute re-offending and going back into the system. At this point we don't have those specific numbers at hand but, moving forward with the JEIN system within the Department of Justice, we do hope that one day we have that data in our hands.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** There is certainly some information that the department already keeps and there is some information that is found in the budget book related to the Whitehorse Correctional Centre institution. There is an average number of offenders on the register of 73, and there is a total day stay of 26,500 forecast for the current year.

Let me ask in relation to the 2013-14 year — because that information is something that the department will already have. Of the 30,376 total days' stay at Whitehorse Correctional Centre, how many inmates is that? How many people are held at the Correctional Centre throughout the year, whether they are on the register as sentenced inmates or as remand inmates who are awaiting trial?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** To very quickly answer the member's question, in an average month at the Correctional Centre, we see anywhere from 70 to 75 inmates. Usually the

bulk of them are male inmates. Quite often the female inmate count can range from four to eight.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Again, that wasn't the question that I had asked. That is an average. I know that's the average. Those numbers are found in the budget book. The question that I would like to have an answer to is: Over the course of a year, how many people are admitted to Whitehorse Correctional Centre? That's what I was looking for an answer for, and perhaps the officials can find that information for the minister.

Moving on, this year \$500,000 has been allocated for phase 2 of augmenting the Yukon *Victims of Crime Strategy* project funding agreement with Justice Canada, so these are 100-percent recoverable funds. \$425,000 of those funds were allocated from the operation and maintenance budget and \$75,000 from the capital budget. Given this is phase 2 of the project, I'd like to know whether phase 1 has been evaluated to determine its effectiveness in addressing needs and, secondly, whether any findings from implementing phase 1 would be used to inform phase 2 of the project.

The *Victims of Crime Strategy* framework focuses on five interrelated areas and it affirms that an annual workplan will be developed for each year of the strategy in these five areas. So I want to put on the record some questions related to these five focus areas.

Under "Strengthening the Focus on the Needs of Victims of Crime" — which recognizes that, for many victims of crime, their victimization can be compounded by personal and systemic issues that are complex — can the minister provide information about progress on understanding these factors and indicate whether any of the funded programs for 2014-15 address those compounding issues faced by victims?

Regarding violence against women — we know that there is a very high rate of violence against women in the Yukon, particularly against aboriginal women, and that women and girls are at a higher risk for victimization for domestic violence and sexual assault. In that area of focus for the *Victims of Crime Strategy*, I'm looking for information on what the department has done to work with other agencies to develop clear processes for linking to other agencies and referring to other agencies. Has there been an evaluation of the effectiveness of those efforts?

I'm aware the department has collaborated with women's groups and shelters, First Nations and non-government organizations on violence prevention public education campaigns in the past. The strategy includes a commitment by the government to develop innovative approaches to violence prevention public education campaigns and materials.

Can the minister tell us what, if any, programs are being funded as part of phase 2 of the *Victims of Crime Strategy* project focusing on public education? In particular, could the minister point to any specific examples of innovative approaches being proposed?

Earlier this afternoon, I was asking the minister about what supports were put in place for people who are being released out of the correctional system who are coming from rural communities. One of the elements of the *Victims of*

*Crime Strategy* is mentorship and capacity building in communities, and the strategy affirms the need to support capacity development in rural Yukon communities with high crime and victimization rates. So, I'm looking to the minister to highlight progress in the area of capacity development in rural Yukon communities. I know the minister, in his budget remarks, referred to the fact that there are now more staff in the Victim Services offices throughout Yukon, but have there been other mechanisms besides hiring additional staff for the rural victim services?

Element five is integrating the responses for victims, offenders, families and communities, and it speaks to exploring the feasibility of piloting a victim offender reconciliation program that would be carried out in partnership with interested Yukon First Nations and other agencies. I would like the minister to tell us where that is at. Is this something that the new First Nation reintegration coordinator is involved with or is this something that is done through the Victim Services unit and other branches of the Department of Justice?

The preamble of the *Yukon Victims of Crime Act* states that victims should be encouraged to participate in the processes of justice in ways that preserve their dignity and do not increase their suffering. Over the past several years, studies and evaluations of victims of crime legislation, programs and services have shown that results can vary significantly and that the interests of victims are complex. Sometimes victims of crime are also involved themselves in the correctional system. This is often a significant factor for women. I'd like the minister to outline what is being done to address this complex issue.

The *Victims of Crime Act* also affirms that Yukoners recognize and value their diversity and acknowledge the special roles that a victim's family, clan, community, First Nation or other group can play in supporting and caring for the victim. Can the minister highlight efforts that ensure the *Victims of Crime Strategy* project addresses and values the culture of victims?

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

**Chair:** It has been moved by Ms. Moorcroft 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. 14, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2014-15*, and directed me to report progress.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** I declare the report carried.

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

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

*The House adjourned at 5:28 p.m.*

### Written notice was given of the following motion on April 7, 2014:

Motion No. 624

Re: Rural Equity Action Plan (McLeod)