



Yukon Legislative Assembly

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HANSARD

Thursday, April 17, 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

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Hon. Elaine Taylor	Whitehorse West	Deputy Premier Minister responsible for Education; Women's Directorate; French Language Services Directorate
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**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Thursday, April 17, 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 with the Order Paper.
Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of Law Day and the 32nd Anniversary of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Today I rise to recognize Law Day, which celebrates the 32nd anniversary of the signing of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. In honour of this milestone, the Canadian Bar Association introduced Law Day in 1983 as a means to commemorate the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which built upon the foundation of the *Canadian Bill of Rights* brought forward by Prime Minister Diefenbaker in 1960.

Prime Minister Diefenbaker stated that a bill of rights was needed to take a forthright stand against discrimination, based on colour, creed or racial origin. The *Canadian Bill of Rights* protects numerous rights, including: the right to life, liberty and security of the person; the right to freedom of speech; the right to freedom of religion; equality rights; the right to fundamental justice; and the right to counsel.

These rights are reflected in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which we are celebrating today. The bill of rights also includes the right to enjoyment of property, which is not enshrined in the charter. I mention the Diefenbaker bill of rights because of his government's important contribution to Canadian rights.

On April 17, 1982 Queen Elizabeth II and our Prime Minister signed the charter; thereby guaranteeing fundamental rights and freedoms for all Canadians, including the freedom of religion, expression, association and peaceful assembly; as well as the rights to liberty and equality under the law.

Law Day empowers the public at large through a variety of activities that bring awareness to the importance of our evolving law and the administration of justice. It is an opportunity to remind us of the vital role that lawyers, the judiciary and government play in guaranteeing an open, independent and unbiased justice system.

Therefore, in tribute of Law Day, I would like to recognize Yukon's judiciary for their role in ensuring that the rights and freedoms outlined in the charter are upheld, and for their role in resolving disputes of social and moral importance in the territory.

I would also like to recognize the Yukon Legal Services Society, Yukon's legal aid provider. The society ensures that low-income or disadvantaged Yukoners have access to justice by providing quality legal services for matters mandated under

the charter and by providing advice and representation in areas such as employment insurance, social assistance benefits and landlord and tenant issues through its Neighbourhood Law Centre. The Yukon government is committed to protecting and supporting those engaged in the justice system and will continue to work with the society to address funding needs for their important programs and services.

The Department of Justice has a critical role in making sure that Yukon's justice system and laws are fair, accessible and administered well. Upholding the principles of equitable access to justice is a priority of the department and we continue to enhance and improve programs and services for individuals involved in the justice system. For example, a recent consolidation of Yukon statutes makes understanding and applying Yukon legislation easier for all. Individuals can now quickly access the original texts of law with any amendments made since its enactment in one up-to-date version on-line.

Accessing Yukon court proceedings and creating high-quality transcripts is easier and more economical because of a new digital audio recording system that has transformed how court records are captured, stored and shared.

I would like to take the opportunity to share that the department's Legal and Regulatory Services branch will soon celebrate its 35th year of service. Many thanks to the branch's lawyers and support staff for providing valuable legal advice and services to the Yukon government and its corporations.

Law Day is made possible through the efforts of lawyers across Canada who volunteer their time to host events in their communities and this is especially true in Yukon. On May 2, 2014, the Yukon branch of the Canadian Bar Association will host its annual Law Day Charity Fun Run and Walk here in Whitehorse. The run and walk will start at noon from the Whitehorse Visitor Information Centre and will follow the Millennium Trail along the Yukon River. Mr. Speaker, I understand you are starting this year's race — congratulations.

All proceeds from this year's event will benefit Blood Ties Four Directions centre. The Blood Ties mission is to eliminate barriers and create opportunities for vulnerable people to have equal access to health and wellness and to live in the community with dignity. These funds will help Blood Ties host a monthly series of law clinics at the centre. Each month, a lawyer or person with expertise in various aspects of the law will present information relevant to Blood Ties' clients and staff members. In addition, time will be set aside after the presentation to have a lawyer remain available for one-on-one consultations with clients.

I invite Yukoners to run or walk in support of this very worthy cause and in celebration of Law Day.

In recognition of Caring Canadian Award recipient Michael Dougherty

Ms. Hanson: I'm honoured to pay tribute today on behalf of all Members of this Legislative Assembly to Michael Dougherty. Michael was awarded a Caring Canadian Award by Governor General Johnston in March of this year. Anyone who knows Michael knows he exudes caring and

compassion. Michael has epitomized a phrase I gleaned many years ago from a book called *The Desert is Fertile* by Dom Helder Camara: “Beware the death of ideals.” Michael Dougherty lives a life based on the ideals of social justice and compassion.

Perhaps like many here, I did not know much about the background of the honour bestowed upon Michael and I believe 16 other Yukoners, including my colleague, the MLA for Riverdale South, since the award was established in 1995 by the then Governor General of Canada Roméo LeBlanc. The Governor General was determined to thank the many caring people who give so much to their fellow citizens — the unsung heroes who volunteer their time, their efforts and a great deal of their lives to helping others and who ask for nothing in return.

The award recognizes individuals who volunteer their time to help others and build a smarter and more caring nation. The award also highlights the example set by these volunteers, whose compassion and engagement are so much a part of our Canadian character.

The award’s emblem represents Canadians who selflessly give their time and energy to others. The maple leaf symbolizes the people of Canada and their spirit. The heart depicts the open-heartedness of volunteers, and the outstretched hand portrays boundless generosity. The blue and gold colours which appear on the vice-regal flag indicate the awards connection to the Governor General.

Many people talk about social justice but few of us actually live our lives based on the principles of social justice. Why? Simply because it is hard. It forces one to make conscious choices all the time, choices that Michael Dougherty has made and continues to make to this day. He and his family base their lifestyle on the premise that we cannot separate questions of international justice from the way we live our lives. He sees and saw the direct relationship between the disparity of the Third World and the overconsumption and waste that characterizes the lifestyle of the average North American. His life has been one of intentional frugality. Instead of amassing stuff, he and his family try to preserve and recycle the stuff that is already floating around, all with the intention of leaving a gentler footprint on their small corner of the planet Earth.

Michael has a long history of social and political engagement. I think I first got to know him when he was involved with the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. As president of that organization, he led the call in the late 1970s for stronger sanctions against South Africa during the apartheid there in meetings with federal ministers. His involvement with Development and Peace continues today. For almost 20 years, he has organized an annual speaker series, called “Solidarity”, which brings speakers from the Third World to talk about social justice issues.

He is a familiar face at the annual Global Village Craft Fair, which he was instrumental in establishing. Other people know Michael through his columns in the *Yukon News*. He authored over 900 weekly articles between 1976 and 2013.

What many may not know is that Michael is also fluent in Spanish and has used that fluency to respond to the needs of Latin American refugee applicants in the Yukon, as well as serving as a human rights observer in a Mayan village at the edge of the rainforest in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas.

His commitment to human rights led him to establish one of the northernmost stops on the over-ground railway, offering a safe refuge for people fleeing the brutal repression of the wars in Central America in the 1980s. That was with the Prince Albert sanctuary committee in Saskatchewan.

He also co-chaired the Canadian-Chilean working group of Manitoba, assisting the resettlement of Chilean families forced from their land during the Pinochet dictatorship in 1975.

Volunteer work was based on his deep belief in the need for all of us to protect and defend fundamental human rights across our planet. By his actions, he continues to demonstrate that hunger, homelessness, and hopelessness here in Yukon similarly demand our collective action as well because, as he says, these are also basic human rights questions. From the collaborators group in the early 1990s here in the Yukon, which developed the first *Surviving in Yukon* guide, to the ecumenical social justice circle, to the present Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, Michael believes that engagement in building a just society demands attention to the basic needs of all citizens respecting their most fundamental rights.

As his daughter told me, whether it is by physically putting himself on the line as a human rights observer, or challenging his students, or she and her brother to think about their role in the world, Michael has always gone beyond simply supporting his community. He actively works to and inspires those around him to tackle head-on the hard, complex root causes that don’t have easy answers or solutions. He is not just charitable; he is a true change-maker.

I believe we would all agree that Michael Dougherty is clearly deserving of being recognized as a Caring Canadian. I just wanted to end with one final glimpse into the eclectic nature of Michael Dougherty.

If I may, I would like to read for you from his business card. It will tell you that I have shared only a small part of who Michael is. The card reads, “Michael Dougherty: Adjunct Professor, Yukon College; Columnist, *Yukon News*; Adjudicator, Yukon Human Rights Commission; Judge, Ta’an Kwäch’än First Nation; Educational Assistant, F.H. Collins High School” — and the one that got me and reveals an aspect of Michael that one cannot capture well in a tribute is a sense of humour. Last on his business card is a title that many little kids in Whitehorse will know him best for, mostly for the unforgettable laugh that accompanies that title, and that title — the last on his card — is “Santa”.

I would like the members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in welcoming to this House, Michael Dougherty. With him today are a couple of the staff from the multi-needs room at F.H. Collins — Heather Tipton and Celia McBride — and students, Elizabeth Sugden and Selena Aisaican-Mountain.

Applause

In recognition of Law Day and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*

Ms. Moorcroft: I rise on behalf of the Official Opposition and the Third Party to pay tribute to the supreme law of Canada, the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

On April 17, 1982 — 32 years ago — Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau signed the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, thereby guaranteeing fundamental rights and freedoms for all Canadians. The charter, like the rest of the Constitution, is the supreme law of Canada.

In honour of this milestone, the Canadian Bar Association introduced Law Day in 1983 as a means to commemorate the signing of the charter and educate the public about the legal system.

Law Day is made possible through the efforts of hundreds of lawyers who donate thousands of hours of volunteer time to the event. Law Day projects and activities take place across the country. They offer the public an opportunity to learn about the law, the legal professions and some of the legal institutions that form a cornerstone of our Canadian democracy.

The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* guarantees fundamental human rights: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience and religion, freedom of peaceful assembly, and freedom of association. The adoption of the charter has expanded the scope of judicial review in Canada. The charter takes on life through the courts, which interpret and enforce charter rights. The charter serves as a check on the power of the state, as all laws — whether federal, provincial or territorial — must be consistent with the rights guaranteed in the charter or risk being struck down.

Equality rights for women, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer community and the disabilities community are among others found in the charter. The charter provides linguistic rights for francophones outside of Quebec. The charter strengthens aboriginal rights, which are enshrined in section 35 of the Constitution.

In 2010, when Canada signed on to the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada website posted this statement: “Canada believes that the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* has the potential to contribute positively to the promotion and respect of the rights of indigenous around the world.”

On today’s 32nd anniversary of the charter, I reflect on the principle of respect for human dignity, which is the fundamental standard underlying all human rights charters, conventions and customs.

Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission has a mandate to learn the truth about what happened in the Indian residential schools and to inform all Canadians about this tragic colonial history. The commission is looking into the matter of student deaths at these institutions and their burial in unmarked graves without the notification or consent of their parents. The final dignity for families of these missing

children is to identify and find the graves of the missing aboriginal children who disappeared after they were taken from their homes to the Indian residential school institutions.

As a meaningful tribute to the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, I look to government to restore dignity to Yukon families of missing aboriginal children by providing them, without delay, records needed for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to complete its important work.

Recognizing the value of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, we must all act to guarantee fundamental rights and freedoms for all Canadians.

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. McLeod: I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to continue to support the operations of the Yukon Research Centre.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to develop actions for reducing black carbon and methane that affect the Arctic by participating in the Arctic Council’s Task for Action on Black Carbon and Methane.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to move forward with plans to host an alternate event in Whitehorse featuring the Arctic Winter Games sports that have been left out of the 2016 Arctic Winter Games, including seeking firm commitments from other partner jurisdictions to participate in the 2016 alternate event.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to investigate the creation of a tax credit for producers who donate excess food production to food banks or other NGOs.

I also give notice of the following motion:

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

Speaker: Is there a statement by a minister?

This then brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD**Question re: Nisutlin River bridge**

Ms. Hanson: Plans for upgrading the Nisutlin River bridge have been in the works for many years. During that time, the Teslin Tlingit Council and the Village of Teslin have been consistent in their support for the bridge-renewal project. The council had requested that the project be assessed through the YESAA process.

The Yukon government assured the Teslin Tlingit Council that its input would be meaningfully considered and addressed. It was only when the government posted the project tender on its website that the Teslin Tlingit Council learned that the project would not go through the YESAA assessment.

Why did the government refuse to submit the Nisutlin bridge renewal project for a YESAA assessment?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: First of all, let me put on the record that the bridge is safe. It underwent structural upgrades and maintenance in 2009 and this tender was focused on bridge enhancements — deck replacement for a smoother, quieter bridge; lighted bicycle/footpath and a viewing platform. We'll reassess the project scope and timing with a view to taking advantage of future funding, once the community concerns have been resolved.

However, one of the concerns was whether the project should undergo a YESAA assessment. Our position is that this project, as are a number of other similar projects — for example, the crosswalks going into Riverdale on the bridge — are exempt from YESAA, as told to us by the YESAB.

Ms. Hanson: The renewal of the 50-year old Nisutlin River bridge will be a \$14-million undertaking. The Teslin Tlingit Council has been consistent in asserting that a project of such magnitude should be assessed by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board. By refusing to go through the YESAA assessment process, the government forced the council to call for a judicial review. Then suddenly the government pulled the tender for the bridge project. Now it appears the Department of Highways and Public Works plans to modify the scope of the project to avoid going through YESAA.

Why is the government trying to avoid the YESAA assessment process that all proponents of major Yukon projects are required to go through?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I do thank the member opposite for her question. Some of the assumptions that she has there are wrong. The tender for the work on the Nisutlin Bay bridge was issued in early April and was cancelled on Friday, April 11. Like I said, concerns had been expressed by the community and, despite our best efforts, we have not been able to resolve them. A decision was made to cancel the tender to allow for more time to resolve those concerns. Our efforts to resolve concerns included six meetings with the community over several years. I have a lot of timelines of meetings and different stuff here. At an open house on February 26, a number of proposals were made to address this. We're just looking forward to moving forward with this

project, but we're going to meet with the community and work with the First Nations on this. I believe that they're happy that we're going to sit down and work with them. We've done a lot of work in the past and there's more to be done.

Ms. Hanson: We'll look forward to the minister tabling those timelines. Meetings are not meetings unless you actually actively listen.

The independent assessment process carried out by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board is not only a key component of the First Nation final agreements, it is also the law of the land. The government is creating conflicts with Yukon First Nations at every turn. Now, a major bridge project has been added to that growing list. The Teslin Tlingit Council and the Village of Teslin have been working hard to develop economic opportunities for the community and their efforts are bearing fruit. The council is looking to the Yukon government to be a partner in these efforts, but once again the government's confrontational approach is blocking progress.

When will the Premier understand that his government's confrontational attitude to Yukon First Nations is just not working?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: The reality is the fact that here in the Yukon a number of bridges have been worked on, modified and reconstructed over the last number of years. None of those bridge reconstructions have required a YESAA assessment. This isn't a new project; this isn't moving the bridge; this is re-strengthening or re-supporting existing infrastructure.

All of these bridges that we have gone forward with haven't required a YESAA assessment. It is defined within the regulations, and none of those bridges have, and that is the reason why this bridge — as well as the Nisutlin Bridge — didn't require a YESAA process.

Question re: Missing children research project

Ms. Moorcroft: Two weeks ago, this House unanimously passed a motion to urge the government to do everything it could to ensure that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission can access the cause of death records for Yukon First Nation residential school victims. However, this government cannot release all the information that has been requested because of some dispositions in the *Vital Statistics Act*.

Does the minister acknowledge that the current law prevents the Yukon government from releasing all information requested by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Yes, that is in fact correct. The act prevents us from releasing specific detailed information. However, in consultation with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, my department has been able to present all of the applicable information that enables them to draw certain conclusions.

Under the law, we have given all of the information we possibly could. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has

in fact provided us in writing a document that states exactly that. We've gone out of our way to make sure that everything that we could possibly present has been given to them.

Ms. Moorcroft: The minister has just told the House that they're going to release all the applicable information that they "possibly could." Mr. Speaker, this government has the power and, more importantly the responsibility, to change the law when it is in the public interest. The motion passed unanimously in this House two weeks ago mandated the government to, and I quote: "take all necessary measures to expedite the release of data".

In this case, what is necessary to get the full information required by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is an amendment to the act. Mr. Speaker, will the government follow through on the unanimous mandate received from this House and expedite the necessary amendments to the *Vital Statistics Act*?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, as I said, we have gone out of our way to make sure that we could provide all information possible to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. They are also satisfied with our efforts to date. We realize that changes to the *Vital Statistics Act* would enable us to give that specific tiny bit of information that under law, we cannot give them.

However, when we talk about changes to the *Vital Statistics Act*, we're well aware of the time and the effort that must be put in, in order to change that act. It's an act that has an impact on several other pieces of legislation throughout the government and changes to the act cannot be undertaken quickly we found or with reckless abandon. We feel that in order to make the changes necessary, it will take us some time to ensure that everything is done appropriately.

Ms. Moorcroft: I'm not certain when the minister says there are specific tiny bits of information that that means that there could very well be information that it would be in the public interest to disclose.

Shortly after our unanimous motion was passed to support the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Yukon's Information and Privacy Commissioner suggested that the government could amend the *Vital Statistics Act* to include override provisions that would allow the minister to release the information that is clearly in the public's interest. Amending the *Vital Statistics Act* would allow the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to get all the information they need. The Official Opposition is already committed to collaborating with the government to make this happen.

I don't believe that amending the *Vital Statistics Act* requires "reckless abandon" as the minister has just said. Will this government heed the Information and Privacy Commissioner's advice and amend the *Vital Statistics Act*?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I guess the short answer is no, we will not proceed with changes in this session. What we have undertaken was to provide all the information possible. We did that. The information that we have received from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is that they appreciate our efforts and they understand that we have provided all of the information necessary. They will be able to extrapolate

from that information many of the small pieces of data that we were unable to provide.

The member opposite seems to believe that any opinion — legal opinion or other opinion — that is given to this government should be taken at face value and acted upon immediately.

We have to undertake due diligence to ensure that any changes we make to any legislation are done properly, with appropriate consultation — because if we didn't do the consultation, we would be criticized by the members opposite for not undertaking the consultation. So we must make sure it's done properly. As I've said many times, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is pleased with the efforts we have put forward and pleased with the results we have provided to date.

Question re: Nisutlin River bridge

Mr. Silver: I also have a question for the minister responsible for Highways and Public Works. Last Friday, the minister managed to cancel a \$14.5-million tender in the community of Teslin. This money was obviously set aside for the community's main bridge. This is no small feat for this government. The budget hasn't even been passed by this House and already one of the largest capital projects has been cancelled and thrown into Nisutlin Bay.

Can the minister explain to us: How did we get to this point?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I listened to the member opposite obviously not understanding how contracting goes. The government has an undisputed strong history of good financial management. This year we do have one of the largest budgets in history and, as you can see, we did cancel a tender because we'd like to work with the community and the local First Nations on some of their concerns.

Second, you just have to look at our capital project management process. We work to meet a vast range of needs across the territory while also managing our budget. This isn't elementary school math. Capital projects have large budgets. They are complex to plan and often need to be adjusted in various ways through the planning process. Budgets can and should shift to meet the identified needs or concerns of a community. Despite this, we do a good job.

Mr. Silver: One of the implications of the cancellation of this \$14.5 million is the fate of the \$6.75 million in Building Canada money that was also a part of this. According to the minister's own department, this funding is time-limited and must be spent now before it disappears.

The government is now scrambling to find other projects that meet the criteria for using this money. The government likes to talk about how fiscally responsible they are, yet here is another example of this myth being exposed.

Can the minister explain how cancelling a \$14.5-million contract at the last minute — and then scrambling to find a way to spend the money on something else — is an example of good fiscal management?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: What this is a good example of is yet another flip-flop by the Leader of the Liberal Party. Either

the Liberal leader will demand that we go forward with a project, or then he would criticize us if the community is not happy.

This is very simple. There were still concerns that arose from the First Nation and from the community. We are not going to go forward with a project of this size unless we have support of the community. We have already discussed the YESAA, and I have already articulated that, in fact, in almost all bridge modifications — when we are rebuilding these bridges — there has been no requirement for YESAA.

Mr. Speaker, what a wonderful thing that this government is in. We have the largest capital budget in the history of this territory, and we won't be scrambling to find projects because of the due diligence and great work that is being done in departments like the Department of Highways and Public Works and the Department of Community Services. In fact, across the territory there are projects that are available.

We will look at what is out there. We do have an agreement. We understand what is going on with Building Canada and we will ensure — as we have committed and spent approximately \$250 million of Building Canada money over the last seven years, ensuring good, clean drinking water for Yukoners, ensuring disposition of waste waters —

Speaker: The member's time has elapsed.

Mr. Silver: The Premier can turn it around and talk about the Liberals, but this is an example of mismanagement on a capital level. This Legislature hasn't even passed the budget yet, and already one of the largest capital projects has been shelved. This is another example of poor planning. It's another example of poor fiscal management by this Yukon Party government, and they're getting very well-known for it.

Once again, contractors in the private sector have spent thousands of dollars preparing bids for major jobs just to see the government pull the rug out from underneath them. This government can bring in all the procurement experts they want and they can buy contractors breakfasts for every day of the week, but they need to stop doing what they're doing. They need to operate in a different fashion. Contractors are fed up with this government's inability to properly address public concerns.

When is this government going to start doing a better job of managing contracts?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: The member opposite — the Leader of the Liberal Party — has and will oppose every capital project that we have put forward and find an excuse.

I challenge the member opposite to name a project that he has supported on the record, because the answer is zero. He voted against the hospital in his community, and I know that he will vote against the expansion and the rebuilding of the McDonald Lodge. As well, he has voted against such projects as Betty's Haven. I challenge the leader opposite to name a project that he has supported on the record.

Question re: Palliative care program

Ms. Stick: The Yukon has no actual designated palliative care unit. In 2009, the then Minister of Health and Social Services had studied the issue and announced a

palliative care unit with four beds would be located in the Thomson Centre, but that promise did not survive the election and this Yukon Party government decided not to include the beds and unit with the expansion. As a result, palliative care is still happening, but in the acute care hospital. We're back to square one.

In the summer of 2012, less than a year after the election, the head of the Yukon Medical Association was once again in the media speaking about the urgent need for palliative beds and pleading for the government to honour its repeated promises.

Mr. Speaker, why has this government failed to deliver actual palliative care beds in a palliative care unit?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, the member opposite seems to believe that palliative care takes place only in a palliative care unit, and that's simply not accurate. Quality palliative care takes place in any number of settings. It can take place in clients' homes, as we heard last night, in care facilities, as it happens here many times throughout the year, and it occurs every once in a while in hospitals. It's important that, whenever possible, there's a choice to the client of care setting — both to the client and to their families — to support their wishes and goals for end-of-life.

So there are a number of methods of palliative care being administered throughout the territory at the present time. Our consultation team works closely with communities and with First Nations throughout the territory to provide support and training with providers, and we will continue to do so.

Ms. Stick: I understand palliative care and that it is a spectrum of services and yes, people do wish to die in their homes, but many cannot and are forced to spend their final days in an acute care facility, which is not set up for people who are dying. The palliative care unit received funding from the territorial health system sustainability initiative. It was meant to make our health system more responsive to northern needs and improve community level access to services. That money is running out. We will no longer have that. Community level access to palliative beds — I'm not talking about home care or in-home dying, I'm talking about palliative care beds — has not improved and those monies are drying up. How many more years will Yukoners be spending their final days in hospital beds, which are supposed to serve acute care, not end of life?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Once again, the member opposite seems to be of the understanding that everyone in the territory is currently dying in the hospital. Nothing could be further from the truth. She's also incorrect in her — using the THSSI money as something that should be used to construct palliative care beds. THSSI money was used strictly for operating and maintenance and that's one of the things that we've done. We've used that money over the last few years to provide training sessions to approximately 1,200 health care providers and people throughout the territory. Training is being provided in 12 Yukon communities. There have been four advanced palliative care training opportunities for physicians, pharmacists, and nurses. There have been 89 medical

professionals trained, 36 of whom were physicians. That's what the THSSI money was all about.

We realize that a palliative care unit would be a good thing. Consequently, as part of the planning for the new 300-bed unit, we are planning a small unit that would be used as a palliative care unit itself, but that in itself is not something that all people want. That's why we will continue with the palliative care team to provide training to individuals, medical professionals and others throughout the territory.

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

Ms. Stick: That training for professionals and volunteers and doctors is good and wonderful. I'm talking about Yukon families. I realize that not every single person dies in the hospital — I'm aware of that. I know friends who have died at home, have had the ability to do that and that is a wonderful thing. But there are people without families living in the Yukon who do not have supports and there are people who do require more care than can be provided in the home. We're talking about designated beds in an appropriate place, not a 300-bed facility. We already know that the hospital is not the appropriate space. A 300-bed facility is also not a place to tuck in a palliative care unit.

When can Yukoners expect this government to meet the needs of Yukon families' dying members for a designated palliative care unit and beds — not in acute care and not in a 300-bed institution?

Hon. Mr. Graham: It's extremely unfortunate that the member opposite seems to believe that we have to have this unit separate from everything else in the territory as a stand-alone unit. That simply isn't necessary. We should be making it as part of the continuum, shall we say, of life.

That is why the appropriate place is to put it in the 300-bed facility. It is also an option to place it within the current Thomson Centre when we move those beds out of there.

Mr. Speaker, it is really difficult to maintain a train of thought listening to the comments from the opposite side. I will say that we are continuing with the palliative care team efforts, we will continue to listen to what Yukoners have to say — not only what the Opposition has to say — and we will continue to ensure that palliative care is available to all Yukoners throughout the territory.

Question re: Off-road vehicle use

Ms. White: Last November, this House passed amendments to the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act*. At that time, the minister said the amendments were introduced to mitigate environmental damage on the Yukon landscape. The changes to the act give the minister the authority to restrict or prohibit the use of off-road vehicles in sensitive or at-risk areas for up to 90 days.

Has the minister identified any areas for interim protection in time for the upcoming ORV season?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Pursuant to the recommendations provided to the Legislature by the Select Committee on the Safe Operation and Use of Off-road Vehicles, the Yukon government had advanced forward a number of changes to the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* to give us the tools to meet the

requirements outlined in the 14th recommendation of that select committee.

We put forward those amendments last year, we passed them, and now we are in the process of developing the regulations to enact those important tools for Yukon government to have to respond to the need to protect our environment from damage caused by ORVs in various parts of the territory.

As I previously articulated, I think that a process we can look to for some guidance in this matter is the one used for changing the wildlife regulations or the fishing regulations. That is something that we continue to wish to advance. I look forward to developing, in conjunction with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, those regulations and bringing them forward for Yukoners' review in the very near future.

Ms. White: Last fall, the minister said that he believed it should be a complaint-driven process. Well, members of the Trails Only Yukon Association have met with the intergovernmental committee tasked to work on the ORV management issue. They have identified six or seven different areas within the subzones that they consider vulnerable and at risk. Their current area of concern is the Trout Lake area, between Whitehorse and Kusawa Lake.

Can the minister please tell this House if there are plans to protect that area that surrounds Trout Lake?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: What is important to recognize is that there is a wide variety of views when it comes to these issues in Yukon. We can't simply rely on one single group to provide information for Yukoners as to where is appropriate for ORVs and where is not.

The other thing we need to consider is the fact that limiting ORV use, especially when it comes to hunting, is an impact on an aboriginal right and would, of course, require First Nation consultation. So to undertake any sort of restrictions on hunting or ORV use in any particular area of the Yukon would require proper consultation with First Nations.

I won't be rushing ahead with anything that will impact First Nation rights without first consulting with First Nations. Contrary to the input from the member and from the TOYA group, we will be looking for a process that accommodates the interests of many Yukoners and that finds a way for us to identify specific areas to protect from ORV damage and a process that allows for input from a wide variety of groups throughout the Yukon.

Ms. White: I'm sure that this one group will be interested in the minister's response.

Maybe we can agree on this. One area that everyone can agree on is the need for education for users and operators of off-road vehicles. The Minister of Environment has previously highlighted the good work of both his department and the Department of Highways and Public Works, and we agree that that's a fantastic start. But it's believed that there is a missed opportunity to reach owners/operators sooner, and that would be at the time of purchase. Point-of-sale education has proven very effective in other jurisdictions.

Will the minister consider developing a booklet for retailers to hand out that highlights both safety and environmental concerns related to off-road vehicle use in Yukon to new ORV owners?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we will and we have. We have provided pamphlets of information developed by the Department of Environment as well as the Department of Highways and Public Works, which outline safety and environmental considerations that ATV users should consider when purchasing and when operating these vehicles. They look just like this — I can't use props.

There are, of course, two sides to this piece of paper — one side with safety and one with environmental considerations — and they've just been handed out to each and every distributor of ATVs in the territory.

We also had the opportunity to get out to classrooms and provide information to schools, and we will continue to do this. If there are additional areas or places we've missed, we're happy to fill in the blanks, but we've undertaken a lot of this work already. I'm proud of the work that both my department and the Department of Highways and Public Works have done on this front and we'll continue to promote the safe and responsible use of ORVs throughout the Yukon Territory.

Question re: Family caregiver financial support

Ms. Stick: The government supports families to look after their adult children with disabilities. On a purely financial level, supporting in-home care costs much less than caring for people in institutions. Providing funds for respite care so that permanent caregivers can have a break is one way the government enables families to continue that in-home care.

Family members know best what their adults with disabilities need. Many families choose to hire a family member to provide that respite care because it is in the best interest of their loved ones, but now, families are being told they cannot pay their members of their own family to provide this respite care.

Why can permanent caregivers of adults with disabilities not pay members of their own family to provide this respite care?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I'm not aware that anything has changed within the department. If so, I will check and get back to the member.

Under this government, supports to families with children with disabilities have increased dramatically. Because of the fact that fewer and fewer children are actually going into care of the director, we're also diverting some of the funding that used to be in that area to provide additional supports to children with disabilities and we're trying to ensure that funding follows them once they are past the age of 19 and are no longer considered children.

Ms. Stick: I am bringing it to the minister's attention. Families caring for their adult children with disabilities have been told that respite money will not be available to them if they are looking to paying a family member to care for their

family member. The rule is not in the best interest of adults with disabilities, and primary caregivers know what's best.

As long as an adult with a disability is being cared for at home, the real experts are the family members and they need to be the partners with the government and with the decision-makers.

It's not really a partnership if rules are changing and the other half of the partnership doesn't know about it. I would appreciate hearing from the minister if he will look into this and to those families affected by this rule of not paying for other family members.

Hon. Mr. Graham: I already said that I'm not aware of any changes in the program payment and that I would look into it. I don't know what else I can add. I will look into it. I will receive an answer in the very near future.

Ms. Stick: When it comes to adults with disabilities, the government does the intake, the assessment, the case management and the funding, and too often, the true experts — the permanent caregivers — are left out. Respite care money is just one example of excluding the real stakeholders from decision-making. It's not client-centred when top-down decision-making happens behind closed doors.

Can the minister tell this House when individuals and the family that cares for them will be back in the centre and actually have a say and power in making those decisions and planning care for their family members?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I really have to take exception to the question. The member opposite seems to believe that the department — Family and Children's Services — is operating in a complete vacuum. They're not. Mr. Speaker, I just recently met with a number of family members, all of whom have children with disabilities.

We discussed a few issues that they had experienced. We provided them with a great deal of information and are proceeding to correct any small deficiencies within the department. The idea that the department is so closed and unavailable for consultation with these families is absolutely untrue. It's a good department. We will always have difficulties with some families because we don't supply everything everyone wants. But to characterize the department in the manner that the member opposite did does a disservice to everyone in that department.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Speaker: We are now prepared to receive the Administrator of Yukon to grant assent to the bills that have passed this House.

Administrator Isaac enters the Chamber, announced by the Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms

ASSENT TO BILLS

Administrator: Please be seated.

Speaker: Mr. Administrator, the Assembly has, at its present session, passed certain bills to which, in the name and on behalf of the Assembly, I respectfully request your assent.

Deputy Clerk: *Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act; Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act.*

Administrator: I hereby assent to the bills as enumerated by the Deputy Clerk.

Administrator leaves the Chamber

Speaker: I will now call the House to order. Please be seated.

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chair (Ms. McLeod): Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Vote 7, Department of Economic Development, in Bill No. 14, entitled *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 7, Department of Economic Development, in Bill No. 14, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2014-15*.

Department of Economic Development

Hon. Mr. Dixon: It's a pleasure to rise to speak to this year's budget for the Department of Economic Development. I'm joined by our deputy minister, Murray Arsenault, as well as Steve Rose, who is the assistant deputy minister in the department.

I would like to begin my remarks today by revisiting the context in which the department operates and how its work contributes to the continued development of a prosperous economy for the benefit of all Yukoners.

It is through the Department of Economic Development that the Yukon government implements the vision outlined in *Pathways to Prosperity: an Economic Growth Perspective, 2005-2025*.

This vision is further articulated by the department's strategic plan and guides its day-to-day activities. To carry out these activities in 2014-15, we are introducing an operation and maintenance budget of just over \$15 million and capital budget of under \$2 million. Our role in economic development is to create and foster responsible development opportunities that contribute to a sustainable and diversified economy. By responsible development, I mean growing the economy in ways that incorporate Yukoners' social and environmental priorities.

We are also here to increase the benefits that Yukoners, businesses, First Nations and communities receive from economic projects and activities. The department does this by working with partners in a wide range of Yukon organizations, including the private sector, First Nation governments, development corporations, industry associations, non-governmental organizations, other government departments and other levels of government.

Our activities also expand beyond our borders to represent Yukon's interest in multi-jurisdictional concerns, such as pan-northern infrastructure, and national and international issues, such as trade. A current multi-jurisdictional concern is the state of broadband connectivity in the north. The Technology and Telecommunications Development Directorate was established last year to carry out the Yukon government's commitment to ensuring available, reliable and affordable telecommunications infrastructure and services for Yukoners.

Telecommunication is an important enabling factor in the economy, and this directorate's work includes exploring options for making improvements. Information and communication technology services are essential for Yukon residents and businesses, and the sector has incredible potential as an important contributor to a diversified economy. Further, we believe that the information and communication technology sector and telecommunications infrastructure in the north should be comparable with other areas of Canada in terms of access, service, quality and price.

Some of the directorate's undertakings in this area have been as a part of the Northern Communications and Information Systems Working Group. This group was formed in 2010 with the mandate to create more robust communications capabilities in the north. It includes representatives from the three territories and several federal agencies. It confers with members of the telecommunications industry on behalf of a better connected north.

After much work, this group released its northern connectivity report in January that included suggested standards for northern communications and scenarios for implementing those standards. The report's findings support our government's position that the north needs modern, reliable communications infrastructure and that diverse partners and resources will be required to make that a reality. I'm proud to say that Yukon's Technology and Telecommunications Development Directorate was the lead on developing this report and that it subsequently hosted very successful meetings in Whitehorse to move forward on its

findings. I had the pleasure of attending that meeting a few months ago, and it was a pleasure to meet and discuss these issues with a range of individuals from across the north.

Further, through this directorate, the Department of Economic Development is also partnered with a number of groups throughout the territory to advance a number of projects. For instance, we are investigating options with our partners in Alaska for an electrical generation, transmission and telecommunications corridor and we'll be studying the viability of such a corridor. This initiative results from the Yukon to southeast Alaska economic corridor development project for electrical generation, transmission and telecommunications.

The memorandum of understanding was signed on October 11, 2013, in Skagway, Alaska, by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and me, along with Commissioner Susan Bell from Alaska.

The department has also invited submissions from industry for options to expand 4G cellular service so that smartphones — like iPhones and other smartphone devices — can be used in all Yukon communities. Currently, only Carmacks, Dawson City, Haines Junction, Marsh Lake, Mayo, Teslin, Watson Lake and Whitehorse have 4G or 4G-equivalent service.

Mobile services are increasingly important to Canadians, both economically and socially. The Government of Yukon wants to ensure that Yukoners in all communities have access to those same economic and social benefits. In March, we requested expressions of interest for delivering this service, either through an organization's own infrastructure or through an agreement to share other existing infrastructure. Those submissions are now being reviewed with respect to our four key objectives, which are: to enable access to current generation mobile applications and services in all Yukon communities; to promote local participation and economic opportunities by closing the gap in service levels; to avoid the requirement for old generation handsets; and to implement the service as quickly as possible.

We expect the Yukon government will be a significant contributor to extending 4G-equivalent service into all Yukon communities, and we've allocated \$380,000 in 2014-15 and another \$380,000 in 2015 for business development.

As you can see, the branch is very busy since its inception less than a year ago.

It is also through the Technology and Telecommunications Development Directorate that the department supports Yukon's research, innovation and commercialization sector as an area of prime strategic importance to our economy. Development of the research, innovation and commercialization sector has strategic, long-term benefits for Yukon, including enabling the growth of the private sector; supporting the development of wealth-generating industries and secondary industries, and supporting the development of the knowledge-based economy in Yukon.

An excellent example of the Government of Yukon's support for research, innovation and commercialization is the YuKconstruct makerspace. This would be a community-driven,

publicly accessible workshop where creative minds can intersect, where tools are available, and where ideas can materialize into the creation of new products, businesses and other generally useful things.

The Government of Yukon has been involved in facilitating the creation of a community group to build YuKconstruct. In January, the Technology and Telecommunications Directorate hosted a public gathering, at which there was enthusiastic interest in the idea. Since then, a non-profit society has been formed to carry the concept forward.

As a side note, Madam Chair, I should note that I had the pleasure of attending that event and I was a little bit overwhelmed at the surprising level of interest. There were dozens and dozens — the way they measured the number of people there was by the number of pizzas consumed. My understanding was that it was a significant amount. It was an excellent event and I think it demonstrates the ability of the department to spark interest beyond simply government's mandate.

Also, further to that, the event led to the launching of a balloon, with a camera installed, to the edge of space. This was an initiative driven by a partnership between YuKconstruct and the Cold Climate Innovation and one that is symbolic of the creativity and potential in Yukon's tech centre. The directorate also supports Cold Climate Innovation, a partnership of applied researchers, industry and government dedicated to developing, commercializing and exporting sustainable cold climate technologies.

Housed at Yukon College, the centre's vision is to become an internationally recognized hub for cold climate technologies and related solutions for subarctic regions around the world. In turn, this will support the development, enhancement and success of Yukon's technology industries. This year's budget for Cold Climate Innovation is over \$500,000, and \$235,000 for technology innovation.

The Government of Yukon is also investing resources to support the development and diversification of the Yukon information technology sector. This includes committing \$50,000 per year for three years to provide a focal point for the industry in the Yukon Information Technology and Industry Society, better known as YITIS. That group will act as an advocate for the industry, provide a forum for industry members and promote the industry, both inside and outside the Yukon.

In addition, the Government of Yukon funds specific projects that will support the development, growth and diversification of the information and communications technology sector. The department also supports the diversification of Yukon's economy by identifying and exploring significant economic development opportunities in strategic industries, natural resources and tourism and culture sectors.

Through our Business and Industry Development branch, Economic Development helps identify and assist the development of those industries and strategic projects with the potential for broad-based economic benefits. This branch

supports the growth, development, expansion and creation of Yukon businesses and industry sectors through a range of programs and financial supports.

Personnel at the BID branch work closely with companies and industry organizations to undertake strategic projects that will enhance key industry sectors and contribute to Yukon's overall economic prosperity. Recognizing the impact that red tape can have on small business, the Department of Economic Development will work with our partners in business and government to analyze the situation in Yukon to ensure that Yukon businesses are benefiting from streamlined and effective business licensing and regulatory processes. They also support and stimulate the development and growth of Yukon's small- and medium-sized enterprises to further maximize benefits from large resource development projects and other larger scale economic activities.

Small- and medium-sized enterprises have access to business development support and advisory services through the branch's partnership with non-governmental organizations and industry associations as well as through direct assistance.

Business and Industry Development staff apply both their expertise and branch funding sources to provide these services. One of these financial resources is the strategic industries fund. This is available for projects that act as enablers or catalysts for the growth of Yukon's strategic industries and that will generate secondary benefits and business opportunities within the territory.

Specifically, we expect that projects made possible through the strategic industries fund will help deliver increased economic activities, successful business arrangements that provide positive community economic impacts, positive long-term impacts on employment and wealth creation, increased private sector employment, and a more diversified economy between and within all sectors.

The strategic industries fund provides funds to projects focused on natural resources, tourism and culture and research innovation and commercialization. The funding is intended to assist the private sector in addressing barriers to development and to improve the competitiveness of the business.

In 2014-15, the Department of Economic Development will continue to support the development of Yukon strategic industries through this fund, and we have provided \$800,000 in this budget to do so.

Business and industry development also administers the enterprise trade fund to support business development and market expansion. The enterprise trade fund was developed to stimulate and support the growth of Yukon business activities by focusing on the development or expansion of export markets, attracting investment capital for business and supporting business planning, marketing and business skill training. The fund has been accessed by businesses in a wide variety of sectors, including the manufacturing, service, cultural, mining and film and sound sectors.

In addition to being available to all Yukon businesses, the enterprise trade fund also accepts applications from for-profit and non-profit business related organizations and industry associations. In order to assist Yukon businesses to continue

to expand their export related operations we have allocated \$360,000 in the 2014-15 fiscal year for the ETF.

As I mentioned earlier, the department works to increase the benefits Yukoners, businesses, First Nation and communities receive from economic projects and activities that take place. This budget includes \$1.054 million for the business incentive program, which offers rebates to businesses who hire Yukoners, use Yukon manufactured goods and hire apprentices and Yukon youth to work on eligible Yukon government projects.

Since the establishment of the business incentive program in 1990, Yukon's economy has experienced significant changes. Consequently the department will conduct a review of the business incentive program within the context of Yukon's current economy.

We are also budgeting \$73,000 to continue the microloan program administered by Dana Naye Ventures. This program provides loans for the creation of small and home-based businesses and targets a segment of the market that has not been adequately served by banks because of higher transaction costs.

In the field of trade, Yukon's economy depends not only on what happens within our territory's borders but also beyond them. The Department of Economic Development participates in trade negotiations to ensure Yukoners enjoy the benefits of national and international trade while taking into account Yukon's position as a relatively small and still-developing economy. For example, Yukon participated as a sub-national within Canada at the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement negotiations. As a result, the agreement includes the tools we require to further develop our economy.

The Government of Canada is also currently negotiating in North America and Asia and this provides opportunities for Yukon government representatives to continue to work with officials from other regions and to enhance Yukon's profile and investment potential generally.

In the aspect of investment attraction, we note that investment attraction has significant implications for natural resources, technology and tourism and is particularly important for the mineral resources sector. The goal of investment attraction is to enable the develop of the private sector economy and the Department of Economic Development investment attraction activities focus on key markets around the globe. The most notable achievement of the Yukon government's investment attraction activities is in the Asian mining investment that has been realized during the past several years of almost \$800 million. The Government of Yukon continues to build strong relationships with Asian, European and North American markets through targeted events such as China Mining and the Premier's European mission.

More recently, I was greatly encouraged by the warm reception received at Cambridge House resource investment conference in Vancouver and the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada convention in Toronto.

By working with mineral and industry organizations and companies, we ensure that our outreach is targeted and effective at connecting Yukon's mineral sector with the investment partners who can fund continued exploration, development, employment and growth here in Yukon.

I would like to speak a little bit about the Film and Sound Commission, which falls under the Department of Economic Development. Just as we reach out to mineral industry investors, we also reach out to the film and sound industries to create opportunities for Yukoners to maximize the economic impact of media production here in Yukon.

In the 2014-15 budget, the Yukon Film and Sound Commission will build on its recent activities and successes in providing Yukoners with employment and training opportunities and encouraging investment from outside interests. From April 1, 2013, to February 1, 2014, the commission approved 22 projects for funding under the film incentive programs and assisted five Yukon film producers to attend marketing events to advance their projects through the enterprise trade fund.

The four projects approved under the Yukon film location incentive during that time have an anticipated direct spending to Yukon businesses and crews of over \$3.5 million. These included location incentive funding for *Gold Rush*, season four, which was filmed in the Dawson City area between April and October, 2013, and for two productions to train two Yukoners on the series *Yukon Gold*, which filmed in Dawson City from July to September, 2013.

In addition, the Film and Sound Commission administers the Yukon sound recording program, which supports artists as they record demo and full-length albums. These grants assist individual artists as they advance their careers and also expand Yukon's recording industry. This budget before us today includes \$710,000 to continue these film- and sound-incentive programs.

I recognize that my time is elapsing here so perhaps when I stand up again, I will conclude my remarks about the Regional Economic Development branch after we have some comments from the other side. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Ms. Hanson: I thank the minister for his overview of the activities and the budget which reflects plans for the Department of Economic Development. I want to acknowledge and thank the officials for their briefing on the Economic Development department that we were provided some time ago, actually, which was good.

It's not my intention to provide a speech, but I think we did that in the context of the response to the budget speech provided by the Minister of Finance. I want to highlight that there are a number of areas for which I would like to come back to the minister when he's finished giving his opening remarks. I would like to expand upon and actually get into a discussion with him on a number of areas that I think he outlined quite well in his opening remarks. They generate a number of questions for this side with respect to his direction and focus as Minister of Economic Development.

Certainly there's significant interest in all parts of this territory and certainly on this side of the House with respect to

the importance of developing and modernizing our infrastructure with respect to the 4G and all the communication networks that we do require and that do facilitate and underpin our real ability to diversify our economy.

I will want to ask him a few questions about that as we get into this. I'm very interested to see, as a key to the diversification of the whole territory, the whole aspect of research and innovation, as well as the opportunity for the commercialization of the results of the research and innovation work that is carried out in this territory.

I will be interested in an area that I've become increasingly interested in — and that I think is showing up and improving elsewhere in other economies — which is looking at the percentage of an economy's GDP that's spent on research and development. I'm looking for and interested in the minister's views on that and what work is being done to assess how we're performing as an economy in terms of investment in research and development.

It's not simply from the government side, but also from the private sector side. It takes both. There is a perception that only the private sector does R&D, but the reality is — and I read a fascinating book recently, called *The Entrepreneurial State*, and it has a whole case study on Apple. There's a sense that Steve Jobs was this sort of wild and crazy guy who said, just do it; you can do it. If you actually go and look where every single one of the innovative aspects of Apple — the original platform — came from, in that case it was Department of Defense research and development work. Every aspect of the Apple empire came from partnerships with state investments.

So I'm looking for what the innovative ways are that we are doing that and how are we planning to use the multiplier effect on the R&D work that is currently underway in this territory, because we see on this side of the House significant opportunities for that. We will be asking about this and are interested in more — the minister made several comments with respect to the aspects of diversification and focusing on the natural resource and tourism sectors. I am pleased to hear him talking about the focus on the tourism sector, which I am interested in, because he linked the natural resources piece to the investment attraction component. I'll come back to that in a moment.

Linked to the strategic investment industries fund, again, that links to how we position and how we determine what the level of investment is that is appropriate for an economy of a billion-and-some dollars. So, I am interested in hearing the rationale for that.

The minister also made comment — and I am pleased to hear that we actually talked about participating on a sub-regional or sub-national level in the negotiations of agreements like CETA and made reference to the various Asian agreements that are either under negotiation and some completed, like FIPPA, and I will be interested to hear from him more about the tools that he referenced — the tools to further develop the economy of the territory that have been provided by in particular CETA.

We certainly have raised in this Legislative Assembly concerns that have been raised by very diverse groups across this country — the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to name one — and the implications of how those trade agreements do or do not impact on the initiatives that we have in this territory. The minister mentioned a review going on from the business incentive program; a program, as he correctly says, that was established prior to the very different terms that we have under CETA and FIPPA and other agreements, than we had under NAFTA, when that was set up. The implications for local hire and local procurement are something that we'll be interested in seeing because of the implications for the economy of this territory.

I will be interested in concrete examples to deconstruct the two words "red tape." What exactly is meant by red tape in the context of what the outcome is we're looking for here? It's easy enough to throw the phrase out. I too have met with the CFIB; I want to know, what do you mean by red tape? What do you mean by reducing it? Really, what are we talking about? I think we need to actually go beyond the buzzwords and talk about what practically needs to be done.

We all know; we've all had experiences where there are multiple layers of government and, often, appearances of conflicting rules, guidelines, or whatever, but it would be interesting to know from a business and economic point of view, strategically, practically, what we are planning to do there. When will we know that we've succeeded? So that will be a question I have for the minister.

There are many, many questions that we will want to debate — not so much as debate, but discuss — as we go through the program areas in Economic Development. I certainly have a very strong interest in regional economic development.

When we asked the minister to outline better the tools for further developing an economy that he envisions coming from agreements like CETA — to have him outline the implications as they participate in those negotiations and what reflection they provided or they have considered for the implications for these new kinds of trade agreements for the negotiations with respect to First Nation final agreements — not the negotiations, but the impact on those and in particular, as they impact chapter 22 of the First Nation final agreements.

I will also be asking the minister to talk a little bit about the direct relationship between the activities of the Department of Economic Development and chapter 22 of the First Nation final agreements. Perhaps that comes in Regional Economic Development but it seems to have a broader, more overarching application.

I will also ask the minister, when he speaks a bit more as we move into the debate, to elaborate on what the minister sees as the key priorities for the \$700,000 for the investment attraction dollars.

How is that targeted? Will it be in partnership, as he said it would be, with the Chamber of Mines and the Yukon Gold Mining Alliance? I'm wondering if those are provided by matching funds or grants, just to have an understanding of what the mechanisms are and what the expectations are of the

partners when we provide funds through this investment attraction fund.

This is just to give a sense of the kinds of focus that we'd like to take as we move to have a good discussion of the Department of Economic Development. It's not a huge budget, but it's a strategic budget and, as the minister has outlined, it has the potential to both be in some cases, quite literally, an incubator for good ideas and in other cases it fosters the incubation of good ideas that can grow from those small investments. It also has the ability to work across the silos of government by being strategically placed to assist elements of the tourism sector, natural resource sector, IT and technology and knowledge economy.

It's an area that is a key to the success of this economy in the Yukon, and critically, to stimulate notions of how we diversify this economy. I go back to the comments I made during the budget debate when I talked about the work and the activities and — the minister referenced the workshop in January — the ideas that have come through Dr. Norman Fraser and the TEDx talks last November, followed up by one of his colleagues from Moldova, talking to the IT folks here about the huge potential for diversifying in the IT sector, and the opportunities that exist for this economy by changing the question and changing our world.

I think, the folks who work in Economic Development and the minister guiding that work have a very challenging and fun position to work from, because they are in the midst of it all, and they get to see and help foster that kind of creativity that leads to the new economy for this territory.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Thanks to the member opposite for her comments about a variety of topics. I will conclude my opening remarks about the department and then perhaps we can turn to some of the specific issues once I have concluded.

The Regional Economic Development branch supports a broad range of foundational activities for organizations with a mandate in the area of economic development. The Regional Economic Development branch works with First Nations, local governments, communities and community-based organizations to facilitate strong, economically self-reliant regions and communities.

The branch supports social and economic development projects and works with clients throughout their process — from project articulation to implementation. As well as providing advisory and coordination services, the branch financially supports worthwhile initiatives through the regional economic development and community development funds. The intended outcomes of the regional economic development fund include coordinated regional economic plans, positive long-term impacts on employment and wealth creation, and diversified local economies and an inclusive workforce.

Assistance under the regional economic development fund is available for activities related to regional economic development, including assistance in developing regional economic development plans, participation in regional economic development planning processes, opportunity identification and related research.

The fund also supports activities related to capacity development, including needs assessments, training plans and corporate organizational capacity training for corporate business enterprises and economic development organization.

Past funded projects have included board training, human resource planning, tourism research and mining awareness projects, as well as attendance at networking and educational events related to economic development. This budget includes \$405,000 to continue this work.

Regional Economic Development also administers the very popular community development fund. The CDF provides support to Yukon community, industry and professional associations, non-profit and charitable organizations, and municipal and First Nation governments for projects and events that do the following: support community well-being, create jobs, generate spending on Yukon goods and services, and have measurable social, cultural and economic benefits for Yukon residents and communities.

The primary goal of the fund is to enable projects and events that provide long-term benefits and value to Yukon communities. Some examples of projects made possible through the CDF include the Kwanlin Dun First Nation receiving \$75,000 toward upgrading the skating rink and softball field in the McIntyre subdivision and the Yukon Hospital Foundation received \$42,503 for their community connectivity initiative to create a public wireless Internet network at the Whitehorse General Hospital. I'm particularly excited about that project. I know it hasn't been implemented yet, because I recently spent a few nights at the hospital.

The Utilities Consumers' Group Society received just under \$7,000 for a placement transmitter that will improve the signal quality of the CJUC community radio station in Whitehorse. The Humane Society Dawson received \$15,500 to create a fenced-in, off-leash dog park. The park will include a perimeter walking trail and central area for dog socialization and agility training.

The Teslin Historical and Museum Society received over \$67,000 to add a large house-front facade, painted with a Keith Wolfe Smarch Inland Tlingit design, to the George Johnston Museum. After several years of improving the building's physical structure, the society turned its attention to increasing the museum's visibility and appeal to highway travellers.

Sport Yukon received \$9,900 to train youth to lead after-school programming in rural Yukon communities, which will focus on fundamental movement skills and healthy choices. The Centre for Human-Wildlife Conflict Solutions received just under \$20,000 to engage individuals, industry and communities in educational and participatory wildlife attractant management activities, with the goal of reducing the number of negative and destructive human-wildlife encounters in the Yukon. We look forward to supporting more worthwhile initiatives during the 2014-15 budget year and have included \$2.95 million in the budget to do so.

The Member for Whitehorse Centre raised a variety of issues, ranging from telecommunications infrastructure to the

ways in which we support research, innovation and commercialization. She made some comments about the GDP calculations of research and development, which I think speak to an issue that is generally being faced by jurisdictions across North America, and that relates to the notion of productivity and whether or not our economies in North America, in general — and I guess Yukon, more specifically — are productive enough and innovative enough.

She spoke about the red tape initiatives, which I would be happy to get into. So, rather than trying to answer all of these, I will just let her have the floor again and perhaps ask a targeted question.

Mr. Silver: I will start with thanking the officials from the department for being here today and I thank the minister for his opening comments.

I would like to start with the second fibre optic line. I just have a few questions here. Could the minister please state — at what stage of the process is Economic Development in its plans for that second fibre optic cable? I'm going to start with a general statement on that and I'll come back to it.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I won't get into too much of the history here because we have covered some of it previously. Through the course of my time as minister, we've conducted a number of studies with the department and with industry about the status of telecommunications infrastructure in the territory.

Through that work, a number of different studies demonstrated that the Yukon would benefit from additional telecommunications infrastructure. I've noted previously — perhaps not in the House, but publicly — that I certainly think that throughout the history of the Yukon government and throughout the history of many public governments, public investment has been made in key infrastructure projects that have facilitated economic activity. I would point to things like the railways, highways or airports, which are what I would call traditional economic infrastructure. What we are determining is that in today's world and with the nature of our economy today, fibre optic cables that link the digital economy to the rest of the world are just as important public infrastructure for facilitating economic activity. I think it's appropriate that the public government would invest in such infrastructure.

To that end, last year, we were approached by three First Nation development corporations under the aegis of Dempster Energy Services to assist them in conducting a feasibility study of a fibre optic link to the south. That proposal met the program fund requirements of the specific fund and, as such, was funded. My understanding is that that project is now complete. The member is asking where we are today, I assume. We've identified \$600,000 in this budget to take the next steps. What those next steps include are yet to be determined in this more specific sense, but my understanding is that First Nation development corporations are organizing themselves and having discussions about how they want to participate.

The Premier — in his budget speech, in his speech to the chamber and to others — and I have indicated that we think

this would be a great economic project for First Nation development corporations to invest in. I would be happy to have those discussions with First Nation development corporations when they are ready. At this point, we are working at developing the next steps for the construction of that project.

The key decisions that have yet to be made are: Who is going to actually construct this? What is the business model going to look like — who is going to be holding the pen, so to speak? A number of those decisions haven't been made yet, but we do have the money identified to take the next steps and we look forward to developing those next steps in the coming months.

Mr. Silver: Thank you for the update from the minister.

On the concept of Dempster Energy Services, I have a few questions to ask about this. The minister did answer — as far as other First Nation development corporations and their involvement and invitation to participate. We are also wondering about not just First Nation development corporations, but also the private sector members. When will they be invited to participate?

We have been in a lot of communication with folks who have a lot of questions about the standard protocol for procurement on this \$60,000 second fibre optic feasibility study. It does somewhat look like sole sourcing. Did the government sole source this project and, if so — we'll stay there. Was this a sole-source contract?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: As I said, we were approached by three First Nation development corporations to assist in conducting a study. We've done those kinds of studies — not necessarily related to fibre, but related to any sort of economic activity — a number of times throughout the territory on a number of issues. I guess, to answer the member's question, this was not a sole source. A proponent came to us with a project that met our program requirements and, as such, we funded it. My understanding is that the project is now complete, and what we do now with the development of a fibre link to the south has yet to be determined. But that particular project was a case of First Nation development corporations being proponents to a study that the department supported.

Mr. Silver: If this is an idea that was proposed to the minister's department from Dempster Energy Services and given that the government is spending \$600,000 of public money, I guess it begs the following question: Who will own the intellectual property once the feasibility study has been completed?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: The feasibility study has been completed. The question as to who will own the actual fibre in the ground has yet to be determined. I've indicated that I think it's appropriate for the public government to have ownership of certain economic infrastructure — for instance, public government owns roads, it owns electrical infrastructure, it owns airports, and in other jurisdictions it owns ports and such things. I think it would be appropriate for the public to have some ownership of this type of infrastructure, but that decision

hasn't been made yet. As we've seen to date, the private sector has owned 100 percent of this infrastructure.

The single line going into the Yukon — in the case of fibre — is owned by Northwestel and it's obviously through its ownership models. I suppose Bell has some role in there as well.

We haven't determined who is going to ultimately own the infrastructure that will go into the ground.

Mr. Silver: Not necessarily the physical infrastructure — I'm wondering who will own the intellectual property of this project?

Also, going back to — there was actually no competition for who got this money. Even though it was a project that was put forth by Dempster Energy Services, is the minister confirming that there was no competition for who actually got this money?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: No, there was no competition. There was a proponent who wished to do a study and, as such, they came to the department for funding. Since the proposal met all of the funding requirements of the specific fund, it was supported. The study itself is owned by the proponent, but because we've invested in it, we retain the right to use it for our purposes. Part of the reason for that is because some of the data in the report is somewhat proprietary, so we can't use the stuff that's proprietary publicly. For instance, if a company in Alaska provides specific quotes about certain things, that needs to remain private. But in this case, the study itself would be owned by the proponent and we retain the right to use it as we need to.

Mr. Silver: I'm still not quite sure on the ownership of the intellectual property here, but I'm going to move on and ask: Has Northwestel been consulted on the second fibre optic cable?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: We've had a number of discussions with Northwestel to date about the potential development of a new fibre link to the south. Ultimately, if our goal is redundancy — which I've indicated that it is — you need to have some sort of agreement with the owner of the current fibre line. Otherwise, having two lines to the south is irrelevant if you don't have some sort of agreement that if one goes down, you have the ability to switch to the other. Ultimately, however this project goes forward, discussions will naturally have to be taken with Northwestel because they are the owner of the other fibre line.

Mr. Silver: On redundancy, is there a plan to build fibre optic redundancy north of Watson Lake to Whitehorse? It's my understanding that the current plan here — if somebody does have a backhoe and cuts a line in Alberta, it's not necessarily going to help the communities outside of that link from Watson Lake up to Whitehorse. Can the minister confirm that?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: First of all, if a backhoe cuts a line in Alberta, it won't affect Yukon because we are redundant south of a certain point in B.C.; Northwestel's infrastructure is redundant to a certain point. I think it's Fort Nelson, but I stand to be corrected. It could be a little bit farther north than that.

No is the answer to the member's question. A second line from Skagway to Whitehorse will not provide redundancy north of Whitehorse. In order for there to be redundancy — fibre redundancy, I should say, because there would be redundancy for microwave — in order for there to be fibre redundancy, you need to have multiple lines and there is only a single line going north.

I understand that Northwestel is planning to extend their fibre to Dawson City in the next 12-18 months or so. I am not sure of the timelines; that's a question for Northwestel — a second fiber link, which goes from Whitehorse, and through Skagway to Juneau and ultimately to the south does not provide redundancy north of Whitehorse.

Mr. Silver: I appreciate the minister's answers to those questions on fibre optic cabling.

I am going to switch to mining investment. In the Premier's budget address highlight there was no new efforts in attracting mining investments to the Yukon. What department is leading in the mining investment promotion team?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: If I could just return to the previous issue, I just have some input from officials.

There would be redundancy provided north of Whitehorse if the cut was south of Whitehorse. If there was a cut in the line between Whitehorse and Dawson — should there be a line from Whitehorse to Dawson — then yes, there would be no redundancy. It does provide redundancy to Whitehorse. It does benefit people north of Whitehorse as well in terms of redundancy.

The second thing I wanted to mention was that the \$600,000 identified in the budget for the development of a business plan to construct the second fibre line is not committed to Dempster Energy. I am sorry if I implied that. The Dempster Energy project has been completed now and that is the extent of our commitment — if you can call it that — to Dempster Energy. The \$600,000 that we have identified for the creation of the business plan is just that.

It's for the government to develop a business plan. Who we work with and, ultimately, how we decide to move forward will suggest if there will be other interests involved there but, as I've said, I think this is a good opportunity for First Nation development corporations. I think it would be great if we could get them on board and have them invest in the project, but that's not 100-percent certain.

In my discussion and comments about that, I missed the member's question, so I would ask if he could repeat it again.

Mr. Silver: It gives me a great opportunity to thank the officials from the department for their briefing. That \$600,000 investment was very well-explained, as far as the ministry trying to attract more economic development departments from other First Nations, and we applaud the efforts and look forward to the fruits of that labour.

The question was, in the Premier's Budget Address highlights, there were no new efforts in attracting mining investment to the Yukon. What department is taking the lead in the mining investment promotion team?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: In the Premier's budget speech and in the budget before us, there is over \$700,000 allocated

to the Department of Economic Development for investment attraction endeavours. Those include a range of things. I know the Member for Whitehorse Centre indicated she had some questions about the specifics of that, so perhaps I'll wait for her question on that one.

The Department of Economic Development is the lead for investment attraction. We do work with other departments like Tourism and Energy, Mines and Resources to ensure that we have the technical backup — the technical information that we need. For instance, the geologists in Energy, Mines and Resources and those folks from the Yukon Geological Survey can provide a breadth of knowledge that we simply cannot provide. However, when it comes to the promotion of Yukon's mining industry and the promotion of investment attraction, it is led by the Department of Economic Development.

Mr. Silver: Well then it does beg the question, if the Department of Economic Development is the lead on the \$700,000 for the investment attraction strategy, when will it be completed? Also, how does this differ from what the department has previously been doing?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: The investment attraction strategy is in draft form at present. I will be reviewing it soon. I'm confident it will be available publicly — I want to be careful with the dates — very soon. I would say in the coming months for sure, before the summer. It's coming along. I missed the second part of the question, so I think I'll again have to defer.

Mr. Silver: The second part of the question was: How does this differ from what the department has been doing previously?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: How does it differ? The way we're doing investment attraction differs fairly significantly in the last year and this year from years past.

Previously, I would say, there wasn't as much coordination between the Energy, Mines and Resources and Economic Development departments, in particular, as there is now. We now have an interdepartmental committee, which has input from the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, and the committee's work is led by the Department of Economic Development. We now have a coordinated and clear vision for how we are going to market the Yukon in the coming year.

That vision will be articulated in the strategy, which we will release very soon. It is a product of a lot of discussion with a number of different groups — with individual companies, with industry organizations and with other branches of government. So we can communicate to the public, or to others and to industry, where we're going; when we're going there; and why we're going there; and more importantly, what we're saying.

It is important that we do that in a coordinated fashion. You never like to admit this but, in years past, that hasn't been the case. We have had various departments going to different places and being surprised to see another member of Yukon government there. That's not acceptable and we have remedied that. We are doing our investment attraction activities now in a very concerted, very cogent manner, and I

am proud of that. It has been a very positive step forward. Industry has certainly noticed that and appreciated it. Industry organizations were one of the ones to point out to us that sometimes we weren't as coordinated as we could be. They were very polite and diplomatic in their phrasing of that, but — now I think we are delivering a much more cogent message and a much more coordinated approach to investment attraction.

Mr. Silver: “Cogent” — that's a good one.

I am just going to go back one more time to the \$600,000 for the secondary fibre optic feasibility study, with the minister's statements that this hasn't been awarded yet. I was wondering if the \$600,000 will be awarded by competition, and can we get a commitment from the minister today on that?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: The \$600,000 identified is for the development of a business case. If we need some sort of contractor to help us with that, then I imagine we would take the normal course of action to procure that service. I'm not sure that we would necessarily need that. We haven't determined who we will work with yet, because the players haven't been properly identified yet. Whether or not the government determines that we need to procure services or not hasn't been determined.

Mr. Silver: I'm going to move on to the Yukon Business Centre. A tender was put out for the Yukon Business Centre earlier on this year. Now that money is allocated to the Yukon Chamber of Commerce in the 2014-15 budget.

Were there any bids on the project? Why has the money been reallocated to the chamber?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: My understanding is that we received one bid for that program, but that bid was either not complete or insufficient; I'm not sure of the detail. Previously, the chambers ran that program and we're working with — the Yukon chamber was the previous proponent.

CanNor was our partner. We're working on next steps. We haven't identified who is going to undertake that program.

Mr. Silver: When will the Yukon Business Centre be open?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I don't know.

Mr. Silver: Can we get an estimated time? Is it before summer? Is there at least an estimated time?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Considering that there were no sufficient bids, we are working with CanNor, which is our partner on that, to try to determine how to deliver this service. I'm confident that we'll be able to move forward with the program. It's one that has worked successfully in the past, so I'm sure we'll eventually be able to find a proponent, but I'm hesitant to commit to a timeline without having that certainty.

Mr. Silver: I do appreciate the answer from the minister. I'm going to move on to the red tape review. The government has committed to a red tape review to report on administrative burdens on businesses and to assess targets to reduce them.

I have the same questions as the Leader of the Official Opposition. Who is going to be leading? Who is the lead on the red tape review? What will the process be for this review? Who, other than government, will be involved in this review?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Within government, the department's policy branch is the point for this particular undertaking. We're working with the Yukon chamber primarily, but I understand the Whitehorse chamber is also involved, either through the Yukon chamber of directly — I'm not entirely sure.

As the Premier mentioned in his speech, the intent of this is to engage with industry to determine, first of all, whether or not there is a problem with red tape. I know it's very easy for folks — as the Member for Whitehorse Centre said — to say that there's a problem with red tape but, once you get into the details to determine what you actually mean by red tape and what you actually mean by a problem, do you have a better understanding of the issue?

What we want to ultimately do here is create a report that gives us the ability to measure the current burden of red tape. So when we speak about red tape, we're generally talking about the regulatory burden, the paperwork required to interact with government and to run a business in this territory. Often it's not even just one government that can play a role in red tape. It could involve other levels of government, including the city and municipal governments, federal governments and the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board. There are a number of aspects that need to be considered.

But, as I said, ultimately what we want is to be able to measure the burden of red tape on Yukon businesses, to track its increase or decrease, and to make reductions if and when it's necessary.

Basically, to date we've engaged with the chambers. They're keen. They want to participate in this as well. The Yukon chamber is perhaps the keenest and is leading the way from the chamber's point of view. Within the department, the policy branch of Economic Development is leading government's participation in this particular undertaking.

Mr. Silver: If the minister could elaborate a little bit more on the actual process for this review.

On that question of who other than government will be involved in the review — of course, the chambers will provide a substantial amount of information, but the chambers of commerce aren't necessarily the be-all end-all. We have developers. We have development organizations. We have construction companies and also the private sector. Can the minister also comment on how they, in their red tape review, have reached out to these other organizations and agencies and to the private sector.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Again, the scope of the work that we'll be doing has yet to be finalized. We wanted to engage with the chambers first to ensure that we tackle a project that is going to be meaningful, useful and worth doing. So, the actual definite scope of the study hasn't been completed yet, but we do anticipate this summer to be surveying businesses, working with the chambers and exploring opportunities to find ways to get input from Yukoners — and particularly Yukon businesses — about this issue.

Once we have provided some definition to what this is going to look like and have some agreement among the

chambers, particularly the Yukon chamber, then we'll be in a position to, as I said, survey businesses and seek the input we need to develop a report that's going to be useful for government, useful for businesses and useful for the chambers.

Mr. Silver: I'll come back to the red tape in a second. I'm sorry for bouncing around here a bit, but I wanted to speak about the regional planning statistics. I've heard from some of my constituents that the statistics made available to the public are not presented in necessarily a useful manner for the private sector. When writing business plans, the private sector requires the information from multiple departments. Can the minister commit to working with Energy, Mines and Resources and Tourism and Culture to create annual regional statistical packages?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I'm not sure what exactly the member means. I'm not being dismissive. I'm not sure I understand exactly what he's referring to. Perhaps we can look into it, but I'm not sure — can he explain what exactly he means by regional statistics?

Mr. Silver: When trying to develop in the rural communities, it's crucial that the development companies and corporations have regional planning statistics from the government, knowing how to move forward and what the need is out there, et cetera. That is what I have been hearing from some of the development corporations and from people in the construction industry. When they are actually in the process of writing their business plans, they are seeking information from multiple departments as they do their research.

It was an ask from this sector from our communities that was wondering if there were any plans to work with Energy, Mines and Resources through the Department of Economic Development and also Tourism and Culture to create regional statistical packages.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I am not sure what kind of statistics we are talking about. I am not sure what regional development statistics are. Which specific metrics is he hoping for statistics on? I am not sure I understand.

Mr. Silver: I am going to take it as there isn't coordination there. What we can do is sit down — the minister and I — and discuss this. I will give him the official letter that I received and we will go from there.

I will sum up here. I know that in 2009, the previous Premier committed to conducting a red tape review in his 2003 throne speech. He later formed a committee to oversee this process. If any work was actually done, it was never reported to the Legislature. Could the minister comment — has anything been done before, and is there anything that they are using in their red tape review from that process 10 years ago?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: When the previous Premier made that commitment, I was well ensconced in grade 11. I wasn't aware of what was going on, so I'm afraid I do not know what happened in 2003 with regard to a previous study that was conducted that many years ago. I'm sure that, in the course of our work, if there are any folks in our department who have

been here long enough, they may recall exactly what happened and perhaps we can review what was done over a decade ago.

Mr. Silver: I know that the minister is young, but I also know that his department — there are probably people in there who have that information. It seems like we are in a very preliminary stage in this red tape review, so I'll stop asking questions about it and wait for some more time to pass on that.

I want a breakdown of funds, but I'll give the minister the opportunity to either do it in line-by-line debate or now, if he endeavours to do so. That would be the breakdown of the regional economic development fund, the enterprise trade fund and the strategic industries development fund. We can either do it in line-by-line debate or — if the minister wants to be so indulged, he can do it now. Otherwise, that's the end of my questions.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: In my materials here I do not have a full list of all the proponents and all the allocations that have gone out for individual funds — for the enterprise trade fund, for instance. Those are allocations that usually range from a couple hundred dollars to a couple thousand dollars. The full list of projects that are done in the year — for instance, in the previous year — I don't have that with me. I think what we did last year was provide a list afterward by letter — which I can commit to — but I don't have the individual breakdowns for individual proponents.

What I do know for the enterprise trade fund, for instance, is that as of February 28 of this year, 80 projects were approved and the total amount was over \$362,000. I don't have a list of the 80 individual projects here and I don't think it would be that beneficial to list them out. What I did last year was provide a letter, which I can commit to now.

Chair: Is there any further general debate?

We are going to move into line-by-line debate, starting on page 7-6.

On Corporate Services

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Deputy Minister's Office

Ms. Hanson: I just would ask that the minister provide confirmation of the FTE complement for this department — I'm assuming Corporate Services keeps that data — as well as confirmation of the number of communications staff employed within that FTE.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I believe this information was provided in a budget briefing, but my understanding is that we have two communications folks — one is a communications analyst and one is a communications manager. I think that the total FTE count is around 50. I think it could be 51.5.

Deputy Minister's Office in the amount of \$396,000 agreed to

On Corporate Administration

Corporate Administration in the amount of \$1,040,000 agreed to

Corporate Services Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$1,436,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Office Furniture and Equipment

Office Furniture and Equipment in the amount of \$90,000 agreed to

On Information Technology Equipment and Systems

Information Technology Equipment and Systems in the amount of \$14,000 agreed to

On Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space

Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space in the amount of \$100,000 agreed to

Corporate Services Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$204,000 agreed to

Corporate Services Total Expenditures in the amount of \$1,640,000 agreed to

Chair: We'll move over to page 7-7, Corporate Planning and Economic Policy.

On Corporate Planning and Economic Policy

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Directorate

Ms. Hanson: With respect to Corporate Planning and Economic Policy, I believe this is where — and the minister can correct me, if I'm wrong, because I haven't been tracking the language here. One question I would have to start with is with respect to the work on statistical analyses, economic impact and other forecasts. Is this where the department would be looking at doing any assessments of, say, the ratio of research and development in the territory to GDP; the cumulative amounts? What other statistical analyses are carried out in this area? What's the link between the work that's done by Economic Development with respect to statistical analyses, economic surveys, impacts and forecasts and the Yukon stats bureau?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: To the first question, the answer is yes. This is the branch that would conduct the types of analyses that provide information and advice to government around economic trends and issues and measuring those sorts of things. With regard to the relationship with the Bureau of Statistics — obviously the Bureau of Statistics is under the ECO. Economic Development takes that data and applies an economic lens to it where necessary. We conduct, from time to time, economic outlooks. We've moved to doing those twice a year. Rather than being done by statisticians, they're done by econometric analysts who do that work. I think the question was: What is the difference between the Bureau of Statistics and economic research?

Ms. Hanson: I thank the minister for his response. I'm also looking to see when we just have the objectives — this being one of them — working closely with other governments — I'm wondering if this is where the trade element works in terms of participation in the discussions at the sub-regional national level with respect to negotiations. If that is correct, then the question I was asking earlier — where I had asked the minister if he could elaborate or outline — what tools to further develop the economy does he anticipate as a result of Canada's entering into CETA, in particular?

Particularly this is with the implications of that trade agreement for the other piece that's under review by this department — the business incentive program — for local hire and local procurement. We're talking about economic policy

here and I'm not speaking necessarily specifically only to the implications for the Yukon government's ability with respect to local procurement, but as we know, there are CETA implications for municipal governments as well, particularly when we look at some of the initiatives that the City of Whitehorse, as the largest municipality — it has some pretty ambitious plans for capital construction. Some of those under the published — well, not published, because nothing is officially published. Some of the information that has been shared through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities — certainly some of those thresholds would capture some of the capital projects contemplated by the City of Whitehorse, and all of us have an interest in ensuring that, to the extent we can, we maximize the local procurement opportunities and local jobs that grow from that.

While we're there, he used the phrase “tools to further develop the economy” as flowing from that. I would ask the question with respect to the Department of Economic Development as being the representative — the face for Yukon at these discussions — what aspects and what implications can he identify or have been identified? One comes to mind most readily, but I'm sure there are others and there certainly were others identified by First Nations when it came to FIPPA. I will leave that one aside today but with respect primarily to the chapter 22 implications if any.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I try my best to keep up with the questions, so if I miss one, I apologize and I would ask the member to simply ask again.

The answer to the first question is yes, this is the branch where trade policy is conducted under the Policy branch.

The second question, that I wrote down at least, was: Which were the specific programs that we need to take into consideration in discussions about free trade agreements like CETA? What we wanted to maintain was our ability to conduct the current CETA programs that we do right now. We have a business incentive program to encourage local hires — local labor usage — as well as a business incentive program focused on goods that are manufactured in the Yukon. What we wanted to ensure was that measures like that and specifically those measures would still be allowed, should Canada sign on to these agreements. That is what we have done. We are confident that we were successful, and that under the text that we have, our programs like BIP, the business incentive program, would still be allowed.

The next question I think was generally on what position we take at these sorts of things. I guess in a general sense, when we represent Yukon in these discussions and negotiations, we want to maintain our ability to undertake measures like BIP and like other measures that can be taken by government to ensure that we are able to, first of all, recognize that we are a small developing economy and that there are some extenuating circumstances when we need to take specific actions to develop our economy. Things like the business incentive program are exactly what I mean when I'm speaking about that.

What we want — when we're at the table with Canada and other provinces — is for those other provinces to

recognize that we are still a developing economy; that we are, in some cases, a frontier economy and that we have different needs and different tools that we can employ to grow our economy. While we understand the various positions that provinces articulate — and they often are very heated at times with regard to trade — we just try to maintain our ability to grow our economy and recognize the uniqueness of the territory's economy.

I think it's a good thing that we do that. I think it's good that the Yukon government has the capacity now to participate in these sorts of discussions. That hasn't always been the case. The Yukon government hasn't always been invited to the trade table for reasons that include — I'm sure in years past — that we were viewed as an inferior subnational unit in Canada. That's not the case anymore. I think Yukon is viewed as a professional, modern government and a territory that represents itself very well.

I know for a fact, actually — and I've heard from other ministers that our staff are well-regarded at the FPT table — that they're able to contribute in a meaningful way and that they represent Yukon very well.

To summarize our general position when it comes to these sorts of trade issues that, to be perfectly honest, don't have a lot of impact on Yukon — things like CETA — there is tremendous benefit available to other provinces but really, when it comes to the benefits of something like CETA, the benefits and risks are very small for Yukon. So we maintain what we characterize as a defensive posture. We try to maintain our ability to undertake our existing programs and we've been successful in that so far.

When it comes to potential future negotiations that may have a more direct impact on Yukon, that may cause us to change our tack and may cause us to perhaps explore more offensive interests but, to date, we haven't done that and we've participated in a fairly fulsome way.

The final part was about First Nations, I believe. That is another aspect that I did miss in my words here just a few moments ago. One of our positions is that we have to acknowledge and make sure that others recognize that we have a unique scenario in Yukon, that we have settled land claims and that we have self-governing First Nations and, pursuant to those final agreements and those self-governing First Nations, we have a whole series of rights and obligations that need to be recognized — ensuring there is an understanding and a recognition of our unique scenario with land claims and with our final-agreements — that those aspects are recognized. Typically we ask that they are carved out of the agreements so that our specific ability to engage with First Nations through the various considerations that are outlined in the final agreements are considered.

Development corporations, for instance, First Nation-owned enterprises — those are something that the Yukon tends to lead the way in representing at the negotiating tables. Other jurisdictions have similar considerations and often will echo Yukon's sentiments, so we do have some support at the national level and at the provincial level for these sorts of considerations, but that is another thing that we need to

continue to advocate on behalf of and make sure that our federal counterparts — who are lead negotiators in these negotiations — understand and recognize, and are aware of, when they move to sign these types of free trade agreements.

Ms. Hanson: Well, I wish the minister luck. These are multi-year negotiations and I have yet to hear any of the trade agreements that have acknowledged and respected the fact there are First Nation agreements — or any carve-out provisions being suggested. If that is happening, we will be pleased to be astounded.

The question I would ask the minister is that, during the course of these multi-year discussions — whether it is CETA, or the upcoming trans-pacific, or the one that was concluded but not yet ratified with China — the FIPPA — does Yukon brief Yukon First Nations and the municipalities — the Association of Yukon Communities — at all with some regularity — never — in terms of what the content of these agreements are and the implications for those levels of government in the territory?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: With regard to the three agreements that the member opposite referenced — there was CETA, the Trans-Pacific Partnership and then she also mentioned FIPPA. It's important to note that FIPPA isn't a free-trade agreement; it's much less comprehensive than a free trade agreement.

I would note that, when it comes to liaising with municipalities, we do in fact do that. We've briefed AYC and the City of Whitehorse on two occasions with regard to the CETA negotiations. First Nations — by virtue of Canada's position — are carved out of these final agreements. We haven't discussed them with either the Council of Yukon First Nations or individual First Nations because they are carved out. The relationship there is — perhaps we could assist Canada in explaining that to the First Nations better and perhaps that's something we can explore, but we haven't had any direct briefings with First Nations that I'm aware of.

Ms. Hanson: I would just point out that in fact First Nations have taken a very active interest in the *Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement* — FIPPA — with China. In fact, one of the reasons why FIPPA ratification has been delayed is that there is litigation that has been launched by a British Columbia First Nation because of its implications for aboriginal rights. I can tell you that Yukon First Nations — the Council of Yukon First Nations and individual First Nations — have all actively engaged in the analyses of the implications for FIPPA, in particular with respect to the scope of that agreement as it applies to the jurisdictions of First Nations with respect to their ability to legislate on matters — future legislation. The way it works is: the way the terms of the deals today and the legislative framework that has led what the Yukon Legislature has in place, or that a First Nation has in place — that agreement will inhibit our abilities to change our legislation, if there is impact on existing state investors in this country. The minister can shake his head, but that is the accuracy.

Madam Chair, I know that we have lots of matters to go through, but I would ask the minister, as we go forward and as

more of these agreements come forward, that we provide opportunities for other levels of governments and perhaps occasionally update citizens of the territory. If the minister believes or has a different view in terms of what the academic and other business analyses of some of these agreements are — and sometimes it would be helpful if government would just simply share what its views are, then we wouldn't have various layers of conversation going on.

With that, I'm quite prepared to carry on with the lines.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I needed just to clarify, Madam Chair — and I agree that we should probably move on. We've had this debate a number of times before. I do need to just set the record straight. As far as Yukon government is concerned, the foreign investment promotion and protection agreement between Canada and China does not in any way inhibit Yukon government's ability to legislate for the safety of our workers, our environment or Yukon citizens, and that is a position we maintain. I've said that publicly a number of times. I think we've gone over this in Question Period as well. I most certainly am not shy about articulating my views on that and have done so many times before. I did want to reiterate that again today.

*Directorate in the amount of \$356,000 agreed to
On Communications*

*Communications in the amount of \$235,000 agreed to
On Policy and Planning*

*Policy and Planning in the amount of \$814,000 agreed to
On Business and Economic Research*

*Business and Economic Research in the amount of
\$740,000 agreed to*

***Corporate Planning and Economic Policy Operation
and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$2,145,000
agreed to***

***Corporate Planning and Economic Policy Total
Expenditures in the amount of \$2,145,000 agreed to***

On Business and Industry Development

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Directorate

Ms. Hanson: I would like to come back to the question that I had raised earlier with respect to the \$700,000 for the investment attractions strategy and ask the minister to elaborate on what he saw as the key priorities and how it would be targeted. I believe the Leader of the Third Party had a couple of aspects of this, but I was looking to finding out whether or not this was matching funds, grants or what the mechanism of funding for this will be. I don't believe that has been addressed.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: A few lines down from the page we are on right now is the Investment Attraction and Marketing line item. There is an allocation of \$710,000. That is the number that had been quoted previously. We typically say over \$700,000, but it is actually \$710,000. That line item is for support costs that include consulting for trade initiatives and conferences, advertising, discovery tours, communications, training, travel program materials, facility costs, website maintenance, et cetera, in support of investment attraction and marketing.

Examples of in-Yukon initiatives are the Meet the North Conference, economic summits, gold shows, et cetera. Examples of investment attraction initiatives outside of the Yukon are participation at the China Mining Congress, at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, and at the Roundup events in British Columbia.

The \$710,000 breaks down as \$217,000 for personnel and \$493,000 for support costs. Those personnel costs are for the staff who undertake this work. As I said before, they work closely with other departments to ensure that we are doing this kind of work in a coordinated manner. That work includes participation with the Department Energy, Mines and Resources, Department of Tourism, at times the Executive Council Office, and a number of others when it comes to the promotion of Yukon's economy and promotion of Yukon as destination for investment attraction.

The details of what we are going to be doing, where we are going and why we are going there will come out with the release of the investment attraction strategy, which, as I indicated earlier, would be coming out very soon.

The details aside, this is money for these staff to go to conferences. They often will bring materials with them. Depending on the nature of the conference, their specific activities will change, but in a general sense, they are going out and connecting with other jurisdictions, investment communities and new markets to essentially put Yukon on the map. In some of these jurisdictions and some of these markets, Yukon isn't well-known. I would say that it is more well-known now as a result of these activities.

I would say that it is more well-known now as a result of these activities, but it's important that we continue to promote ourselves as a good place to invest. It is increasingly obvious that in order for economic projects to go forward in the territory, we need to attract investment dollars from outside of our territory. As evidence of that, we need look no further than the mineral industry, which relies on outside investment for the development and exploration of our mineral resources here in the territory.

In the fairly challenging market that we've experienced over the last couple of years, it's important for jurisdictions to do this kind of work. What makes Yukon unique is our ability to be fairly nimble and to work closely with industry to promote the territory. We are able to travel — sometimes with industry or on our own — and because of our ability to communicate with industry and other groups, we are able to share materials sometimes and share messaging around how we promote the Yukon. I think we've done some good work to date, but there is always room for improvement. As I indicated to the Member for Klondike, I think there is some opportunity for us to improve our messaging, to improve our coordination and to improve our collaboration, not only with other departments, but with other governments and other industry associations as well.

Specific supports for marketing consortiums like the Yukon Mining Alliance, for instance, are done through other program funds. The Yukon Mining Alliance, for instance, was

funded through the strategic industries development program and the enterprise trade fund as well.

Where we see some increased opportunity, of course, is in that technology sector that we've discussed a number of times previously. Now that we have a Technology and Telecommunications Development Directorate focusing on this work, and a few examples of really interesting successes in that sector, I think it's going to be possible for us to begin to explore opportunities to attract investment in that sector. One of the ways that we could do this would be taking the model we've established for the mineral sector and applying it to the technology sector. Perhaps we could liaise with an industry organization like either YITIS or if some other more specific group comes along and is interested in attracting investment, we could engage with them.

One of the target areas that has been noted, at least informally I suppose, could be the California — the west coast of the States area that has so much of that kind of activity going on and that kind of capital available. The Member for Whitehorse Centre mentioned some of the work that we've done in terms of bringing up individuals like Norman Fraser and — the guy's name escapes me — the Moldovan politician, who shared his experiences of what his country did. We've established that it was Norm Fraser — the first guy. The Moldovan politician — we've forgotten his name, unfortunately.

Nonetheless, I think there's opportunity for investment attraction activities in that sector as well that could include us taking some of the technology companies from Yukon and bringing them to markets where they could attract investment as well.

I think I have covered the questions that the member asked, but if I missed any I apologize and I would be happy to answer more.

Ms. Hanson: I was really asking the minister for the mechanism of funding. He said in his response to the Budget Address — and I actually do listen — that it was to be in partnership, as he said, with the Chamber of Mines and Yukon Mining Alliance. These were a couple that stick in my brain. What I wanted to know when I asked the question with respect to this fund was: Is it intended that it is matching with those interested partners? Is it grants? Is it matching funds or is it contributions?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: This allocation will be for the Yukon government to conduct the work, so there is no mechanism here for us to give money to other industry organizations. In the development of an investment attraction strategy, we will consult organizations like the ones she mentioned.

This particular line item — the \$710,000 — is for the personnel in the department to do this work. We fund other organizations through a number of other ways, but the development of an investment attraction strategy will be done internally by these employees and they will consult with the organizations, some of which were mentioned by the member opposite.

Ms. Hanson: With respect to the \$800,000 strategic industries fund — just by percentage, I don't want the listing — I would like to know the percentage. He mentioned three primary focuses that he has — the natural resource sector, the tourism sector, research and innovation and commercialization sector. By percentage of the \$800,000, how does it break up into each of the three sectors that he mentioned? I would like to know how you break it up.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I don't think I have the detail that the member is looking for here, but because these funds are proponent driven and they come to us with applications and we make decisions about how to fund them, we don't earmark certain percentages of the amount for certain sectors. In any given year, the breakdown could go in any number of ways. There could be 95 percent toward tourism and 5 percent toward research, or 50/50, or any number of ways that it could break down. The fund isn't developed that way, so there is no breakdown.

If you wanted us to look back at previous years to determine what the breakdown is on a year-by-year basis, it is something I would have to commit to doing. I don't have that here. The Member for Klondike indicated that I would provide a list of projects that we have funded over the past years. I know that in the strategic industries fund, over the past year, we have funded 16 projects and that represented just over \$700,000 in funding.

So how that breaks down isn't done by sector. I could list the individual projects, but I don't think that's what she is after. I would have to commit to looking back and categorizing each project into a sector and then calculating what the breakdown of the sectors is of each sector, which would take some time.

Ms. Hanson: I appreciate the minister making that undertaking because I think it is important and useful to be able to see — particularly when we are talking about emerging and diversified aspects of our economy — where the trends are. If we're stuck in a rut — going back to the Norman Fraser allusion that he made several times over there — if we're stuck in the rut and asking the same question and sourcing the same industries, then we are stuck.

What I'm interested in seeing is what is the evolution of what we call strategic investments. I very much look forward to getting that breakdown for the last three years.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I appreciate the member's comments but I should note that the strategic industries fund is just one of many available funds for these types of industries. For instance, if you are looking at research innovation and commercialization, the strategic industries fund obviously would be available for that.

One also must consider the cold climate innovation and technology innovation funding that's available. I know that a significant amount of funding has been funnelled to those sectors through that funding. For instance, Cold Climate Innovation completed 30 projects for a total of cash and in-kind of about \$2.3 million last year. That included \$490,000 from Economic Development. It's important to recognize that that money gets leveraged against other funding bodies or

other companies and individual money coming from the private sector.

While I think there perhaps is some value in seeing a breakdown of the strategic industries fund, I think it shouldn't be viewed in isolation. It should be viewed in our support of various sectors throughout the government, not just this particular fund.

Directorate in the amount of \$568,000 agreed to

Chair: Before we move on, would members like to take a short recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

Chair: Order please. We're going to continue with line-by-line debate in Business and Industry Development, Department of Economic Development.

On Industry Development

Industry Development in the amount of \$3,769,000 agreed to

On Investment Attraction and Marketing

Investment Attraction and Marketing in the amount of \$710,000 agreed to

On Business Development

Business Development in the amount of \$1,246,000 agreed to

On Film and Sound Commission

Film and Sound Commission in the amount of \$1,343,000 agreed to

Business and Industry Development Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$7,636,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Business Incentive Program

Business Incentive Program in the amount of \$1,054,000 agreed to

On Dana Naye Ventures Business Development Program

Dana Naye Ventures Business Development Program in the amount of \$28,000 agreed to

On Prior Years' Projects

Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared

Business and Industry Development Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$1,082,000 agreed to

Business and Industry Development Total Expenditures in the amount of \$8,718,000 agreed to

On Regional Economic Development

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Directorate

Directorate in the amount of \$289,000 agreed to

On First Nations and Regional Economic Development

Ms. White: Can I get the minister to give us an overview of what that money is used for?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Support costs include communications, contract and service, consultant services to facilitate workshops, roundtable meetings and marketing

development, training, travel to the individual communities, supplies, program materials, et cetera. All of this is in support of First Nations in regional economic development. The breakdown of this line item is as follows: personnel costs are \$575,000, support costs are \$150,000, and transfer payment costs are \$405,000. The branch consists of four FTEs, the four regional economic development advisors. They are distributed throughout the territory on a regional basis and try to get out to the individual communities that they are responsible for as often as they can. Their work often involves working closely with municipalities or communities as well as the individual First Nation governments themselves.

Ms. White: The four FTEs who are in different places — where are they based?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: They are based out of Whitehorse but, as I said, they are tasked with getting out to the communities that they are responsible for as often as possible and as often as needed. The four different regions are generally inclusive of the north, central, east and west parts of the territory. While their offices are here in Whitehorse, they get out to the communities as often as they can and as often as is needed.

Ms. Moorcroft: The minister referred to four transfer payments that were in this line item. Can he provide information on those please?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I indicated that the transfer payment costs were \$405,000, not that there were four transfer payments. The transfer payment costs include various funding to promote organizational capacity development and facilitate regional economic development. The money will be distributed to individual groups, not necessarily four of them. The total amount of the transfer payment is \$405,000 and it's for the reasons I just said.

On First Nations and Regional Economic Development in the amount of \$1,130,000 agreed to

On Community Development Fund

Ms. White: I would ask the minister to do the same as he did for the previous line item.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: The breakdown of the CDF fund line is: personnel costs are \$355,000, other administrative costs are \$53,000, and the bulk of this funding is the \$2.9 million that is available for the CDF fund. This is broken down into three tiers: up to \$25,000; \$25,001 to 75,000; and \$75,000 plus. The tiers in the program assist community groups undertake projects that will help develop Yukon's social and economic capacity by utilizing community groups to build, renovate or revitalize through community projects, attracts new money to the territory through community events, fosters cooperation, partnerships and collaboration among groups, and emphasizes the importance of recreation and training for Yukon people.

Community Development Fund in the amount of \$3,358,000 agreed to

Regional Economic Development Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$4,777,000 agreed to

Regional Economic Development Total Expenditures in the amount of \$4,777,000 agreed to

Chair: We are going to move to page 7-11.

On Revenues

Revenues cleared

On Government Transfers

Government Transfers cleared

On Changes in Tangible Capital Assets and Amortization

Changes in Tangible Capital Assets and Amortization cleared

Department of Economic Development agreed to

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Madam Chair, I move that you report progress.

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

Motion agreed to

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

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

Chair's report

Ms. McLeod: Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 14, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2014-15*, and directed me to report progress.

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Motion No. 636

Deputy Clerk: Motion No. 636, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Cathers.

Speaker: It is moved by the Government House Leader:

THAT, pursuant to section 18 of the *Conflict of Interest (Members and Ministers) Act*, the Legislative Assembly reappoint David Phillip Jones, Q.C. as a member of the Conflict of Interest Commission for a three-year period.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: This motion follows a decision by Members' Services Board on November 29, 2013, to recommend the appointment of David Phillip Jones as Yukon's Conflict of Interest Commissioner. That decision by Members' Services Board was a unanimous decision, and thus this motion, because it requires the approval of the Legislative Assembly, is coming forward following that decision by Members' Services Board.

Speaker: Before putting the question, the Chair must draw members' attention to section 18(4) of the *Conflict of Interest (Members and Ministers) Act*. That section requires that a motion of appointing a Conflict of Interest Commissioner must be supported by at least two-thirds of the members of the Legislative Assembly present for the vote.

In order to ensure that the requirements of section 18 of the *Conflict of Interest (Members and Ministers) Act* are met, the Chair will now call for recorded Division.

Division

Speaker: Madam Deputy Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Graham: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Kent: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Agree.

Ms. McLeod: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Agree.

Mr. Hassard: Agree.

Mr. Elias: Agree.

Ms. Hanson: Agree.

Ms. Stick: Agree.

Ms. Moorcroft: Agree.

Ms. White: Agree.

Mr. Barr: Agree.

Mr. Silver: Agree.

Deputy Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 17 yeas, nil nays.

Speaker: The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried by the required support of two-thirds of the members of the Legislative Assembly present for the vote, and David Phillip Jones has been now reappointed as Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

Motion No. 636 agreed to

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): Order please.

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

Chair: Committee of the Whole is resuming debate on Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture in Bill No. 14, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2014-15*.

Department of Tourism and Culture — continued

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Madam Chair, it's an honour to rise again to debate Tourism and Culture's 2014-15 main estimates. I would like to begin with a few words about the news release issued today by Casino mining. The Casino mining corporation has reported a significant archaeological discovery on its proposed Casino mine property north of Carmacks. The site is located on the traditional territories of the Selkirk and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nations.

The site includes stone tools from three different soil layers, the oldest of which dates to about 13,000 years before present. This represents some of the oldest archeological remains in the Yukon. This discovery is a consequence of heritage inventory work done for the Casino project. We're extremely excited about the discovery and applaud the heritage assessment work that Casino has done in preparing its project's proposal.

The site was found near the confluence of Britannia Creek and the Yukon River by Altamira Consulting Ltd. of Edmonton while doing heritage inventory work for Western Copper.

Western Copper was diligent in notifying Selkirk First Nation about the discovery, along with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation and White River First Nation. The site in question has been determined to be significant for its age and for its uniqueness. Western Copper has been working with the affected First Nations and Tourism and Culture's Heritage resources unit to ensure that the site and any other significant sites on the Casino property are properly catalogued and protected.

Western Copper has an excellent track record of dealing responsibly with heritage sites. Altamira Consulting will deliver a presentation about the site at the Canadian Archaeological Association meetings in May. We are also expecting briefings on the details of the discovery to be provided by the mining company to interested communities. The site and artifacts will be the subject of future study and research by the Heritage resources unit of the Department of Tourism and Culture. This is great news and it speaks to the excellent partnerships all around.

I would now like to continue with some comments about the tourism side of the department. We continue to make notable and significant progress in raising awareness of Yukon as a travel destination despite the competitive market that we face.

We have some key indicators that we use to track this progress. One of these is the Yukon visitor tracking program. A few highlights captured in the reports tell us that visitation to Yukon is up 26 percent since 2004. Visitor expenditures are up 31 percent and average spending per party is up 95 percent.

Canadian visitation increased 127 percent and the overseas market increased by 79 percent. Another sign of tourism growth was recently announced through the Yukon Bureau of Statistics 2003 Yukon business survey. The survey showed that private sector revenue attributable to tourism was an estimated \$250 million, up from \$197 million reported in

2009. Similarly, tourism's contribution to the GDP was \$113.8 million in 2002, up from \$92.5 million in 2009. In total, four percent of Yukon's GDP is attributable to tourism. This represents a strong upward trend in visitors and tourism-generated revenue for Yukon businesses and is excellent news for the tourism industry, the economy and Yukon as a whole.

I also understand and appreciate that there is more to be done. We need to continue to be strategic and work together with tourism industry operators, tourism stakeholders and NGOs with regard to marketing and investment decisions. By doing so, I am confident that our tourism numbers will continue to grow and the demand for Yukon as a destination will increase.

We are already seeing many people in businesses and the private sector continue to take advantage of different opportunities in the tourism sector, from aurora viewing to mountain biking, heli-skiing and, yes, tours on the *SS Klondike* and Dredge No. 4.

The experiences and services being offered by tourism businesses and organizations continue to be second to none and position the territory as a premier travel destination. The investments that Tourism Yukon and the industry place on overseas markets are paying off with a 33-percent increase in overseas tourism visitation these past four years. This also reflects the investment we received from the federal government through the CanNor funding.

In order to continue to realize Yukon's potential as a tourism destination in overseas markets, the department has committed \$590,000 to the overseas marketing budget to replace the CanNor funding, which was to expire on March 31 of this year. Next month, in May, I will be at Rendez-vous Canada in Vancouver. As part of the busy agenda, I will be hosting a breakfast meeting with the owners and executives of our senior tourism operators from Germany.

After Rendez-vous, the department will be hosting a fam tour and a mini-marketplace for senior product managers from key German tour operators to connect with industry here in Yukon to learn more about the products that our suppliers have to offer. Both of these initiatives are products of the Premier's mission to German-speaking Europe and the United Kingdom in August and September last year.

With respect to German-speaking Europe, there have been some questions in the House about this market in particular. I can provide some additional information that the members opposite may find useful. Germany, Switzerland and Austria are collectively described as German-speaking Europe, or GSE. They form the Yukon's third largest market overall, representing about 9,200 visitors in 2012 or approximately 2.9 percent of total visitation to Yukon from June to September.

The German-speaking Europe market contributes to approximately \$9.9 million annually and to Yukon's economy through direct, out-of-pocket expenditures. There is a strong awareness of Yukon as a travel destination at the consumer level. Each year, the Fulda Yukon challenge generates between \$4 million and \$10 million in unpaid media awareness for Yukon. Each year, Fulda also injects

approximately \$1.5 million into the Yukon's economy in equipment rentals, transportation, food and beverage, accommodations and other services.

Yukon enjoys excellent air access from GSE, including direct, non-stop weekly flights in summer and one-stop flights with connectors from Vancouver or Calgary. The agreement between Condor and Air North, which was negotiated during the Premier's mission to Europe, will make it easier for more GSE visitors to travel to Yukon in the future.

The importance of this GSE market for Yukon is clear, and it is reflected by the fact that we are the smallest jurisdiction in North America to receive direct air access from Europe, that Yukon benefits from a well-established RV rental industry, and that there are numerous tour suppliers, hotels and retail businesses that benefit from a strong GSE market to Yukon.

There are significant tourism marketing opportunities in German-speaking Europe for Yukon. Germany is the largest national economy in Europe and has the fourth-largest GDP in the world. It has the largest population of any EU country. The Yukon enjoys direct air access that is the envy of many Canadian jurisdictions.

The Fulda Yukon challenge presents ongoing and additional opportunities for exposure within the market and Yukon Bay at the Hanover Zoo, provides excellent opportunities for public relations activities, trade events, brochure launches, media events and Yukon education.

To conclude, on the GSE, this market is Yukon's third-largest overall, behind the U.S. and Canada. In 2012, the Yukon visitor tracking program reported almost 7,300 Germans visited Yukon from June through to September. This is up 8.6 percent from the same period in 2004, as reported in the visitor exit survey. From 2004 to 2012, Statistics Canada reported that German visitation to Canada grew by only 1.3 percent. According to the Yukon visitor tracking program, visitors from Germany make up 2.3 percent of our total summer visitation and 6.1 percent of total summer visitor expenditures.

Of course, the GSE is not the only overseas market. We are continuing to build on relationships we established on the Premier's mission to Europe, the Yukon-Japan marketplace held in Vancouver and attendance at Canada Corroborée in Australia.

I want to briefly mention my participation in meetings with my federal/provincial/territorial counterparts, as we work together to strengthen the tourism industry in all Canadian jurisdictions. Last year, I co-chaired the Canadian Council of Tourism Ministers meetings with the Hon. Maxime Bernier, the federal Minister of State, small business and tourism, here in Whitehorse.

Those in attendance discussed ways to help the Canadian tourism industry better position itself to seize new opportunities in key tourism markets for Canada, including Yukon. We need to be ready to tackle intense global competition by providing the best experiences and best marketing approaches to attract potential visitors to the territory.

If Canada and Yukon are going to continue to successfully compete with other world jurisdictions, we also need to continue a collaborative approach — a partnership with industry that achieves benefits for all. By continuing to work together to market Yukon's unique brand, we can build on the success of the past and position ourselves to capitalize on opportunities in the future.

It is only fitting that I recognize and thank the work done by the industry, as well as the department. Through our combined efforts, we work to ensure we are marketing to the right people in the right places and in the right way. I look forward to continuing the good work and building on last season's success.

Something else that the government is quite proud of is the new Canadians event fund, which was released just about a month ago. We had an info session last evening at the visitor information centre. It was very well-attended and I was able to share with the people who attended that evening the events that I, as minister, have attended throughout the territory over the last number of years, and how they impressed upon me that there was perhaps somewhat of a gap that needed to be filled. I do believe that this new Canadian event fund will purposefully fill a gap. It provides opportunities for unique cultures to celebrate where they come from to the territory's already diverse background. It will also encourage Yukoners to learn about different traditions and beliefs of our new neighbours, co-workers and friends. It will also assist new Canadians as they settle into new jobs and communities and as they make new friends.

From this fund, we strongly believe that all Yukoners benefit from the sharing of many rich and dynamic cultures from the contributions that new Canadians make to our economy and our communities. People of all backgrounds participate in multicultural events. I think we have all been witnesses to that. The events are extremely popular. In fact, when we attended the Chinese New Year, we learned that it had been sold out at the new Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre.

As I mentioned earlier, the Yukon government saw that there was a gap in funding for these events. The Department of Tourism and Culture expanded the suite of funding programs to create this new \$50,000 event fund.

Madam Chair, I see that my time is just about up, so I'll pass the floor to the members opposite.

Mr. Barr: First off, I would like to thank the officials for their hard work and all the staff at Tourism and Culture for your presence here today.

I have a few questions. I would like to confirm with the minister, at this point, that the Carcross visitor reception centre will be opened May 2, along with the other facilities that are attached to that. That will be my first question.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: We are working with the Department of Highways and Public Works on a couple of situations in Carcross. One is the visitor information centre and the other one, the member had questions about — or there was a letter that came from the community — was the washroom facility in Carcross.

As we know, the official opening date for all visitor information centres in Yukon is May 8, with operating hours from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. seven days a week. However, due to the early arrival of cruise ships into Skagway this year, the department will be opening the visitor information centre in Carcross a little earlier to accommodate the important and growing cruise market for the community businesses. We will coordinate those with the ships coming in.

As for the washrooms, I understand that the Department of Tourism and Culture — I believe Community Services as well — and the Department of Highways and Public Works are going to strategically open the washrooms when those cruise ships are coming in.

Mr. Barr: I guess that would be on May 2 — just to clarify? I would also like to thank the department and the minister for acknowledging that this is a real issue, especially for those businesses that are ready to go. I do thank the minister and the department once again for their efforts in resolving this matter.

I am wondering also, as we look ahead to following years — my general understanding is that this particular centre opens when the first ships come in — if this will be an ongoing decision for realizing that, in southern Yukon and the Southern Lakes, generally it starts a little sooner than other parts of the territory.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I thank the member opposite for his question and recognize that Carcross is really becoming one of Yukon's favourite destinations, especially for people coming in on the cruise ships.

As the member opposite will remember, last fall there was an extension. The cruise ships were coming in a little later than the visitor information centre was open and I committed to work with the department, as well as the departments of Community Services and Highways and Public Works, to ensure that there were services available for the tourists when they came into Carcross.

There is a set date for all visitor information centres of when the open switch is turned on, but we can always take into consideration some of the unique needs of a number of different communities, especially Carcross, that rely on those services being available for people coming in on the cruise ships.

Mr. Barr: I thank the minister for that answer. I'm sure that the businesses and the community itself will be happy to hear this news.

As he says, with the development of the Carcross Commons, it does extend, and even later into the evenings. I've been there to see people coming off the mountains as late as 9:00 at night, whereas you didn't see people on the streets in former years, so it is really becoming quite a destination place, not only for visitors and tourists, but local folks are making it a drive.

Having that in mind — I'll just end with that. I have no further questions then — we could move to line-by-line debate.

Chair: Is there any further general debate?

We'll move into line-by-line debate, starting on page 17-6.

On Corporate Services

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Deputy Minister's Office

Mr. Barr: I would like to know how many are in communications and how many staff there are in the department.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: We're on the deputy minister's office here. This office is responsible for translating Cabinet direction into strategic and operational plans in order to achieve goals and objectives established in the areas of tourism, cultural services and general corporate management, development and implementation of all communications strategies, procedures and workplans for the department to support achievement of corporate and departmental objectives.

As I have my deputy minister here, I want to extend my sincere thanks for all of his support and leadership within the department. The staff of the department are in very good and capable hands.

The estimate for the deputy minister's office, as members can see, is \$487,000. This consists of the following: \$420,000 for personnel, which includes 2.25 FTEs; \$67,000 in other expenditures, so in- and out-of-territory travel, contracts for special projects, program materials, communications, training, memberships and entertainment. This is an increase of \$32,000 from the 2013-14 estimate to the 2014-15 estimate. The increase is a result of personnel and benefit adjustments.

As far as communications go, there are three communications staff members within the department.

Mr. Barr: I'm sorry — I didn't hear the number of FTEs. I was a little distracted.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Does the member want the breakdown for communications — because we're not on communications. We're on the deputy minister's office. The total FTEs for the deputy minister's office is 2.25.

Deputy Minister's Office in the amount of \$487,000 agreed to

On Directorate

Directorate in the amount of \$196,000 agreed to

On Human Resources

Human Resources in the amount of \$309,000 agreed to

On Finance and Administration

Finance and Administration in the amount of \$426,000 agreed to

On Information Management

Information Management in the amount of \$277,000 agreed to

On Policy and Communications

Mr. Barr: Could I get a breakdown on this?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The Policy and Communications unit leads or participates in the development of management approaches to public issues related to tourism and culture. It also develops and maintains a strategic management framework for executive decision-making. It provides analytical support for policy and standard development and

the determination of the tourism and cultural benefits of environmental management. It leads and/or participates in organizational policy and program reviews. It also manages ministerial Cabinet support and intergovernmental relations.

The Policy and Communications unit budget is \$693,000 — \$668,000 is for personnel, with a total of six FTEs; and \$25,000 in other expenditures are for communications, advertising, travel, program materials, memberships, printing and training. The increase of \$25,000 from the 2013-14 estimates to the 2014-15 estimates is the result of the personnel and benefit changes as well as additional funding for communication costs.

Policy and Communications in the amount of \$693,000 agreed to

Corporate Services Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$2,388,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Office Furniture and Equipment

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

On Information Technology Equipment and Systems

Mr. Barr: May I have a breakdown of this please?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: \$83,000 in capital funding is requested for computer equipment and network infrastructure. The decrease of \$111,000 from the 2013-14 estimate to the 2014-15 estimate is based on replacement schedules for priority projects.

Information Technology Equipment and Systems in the amount of \$83,000 agreed to

On Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space

Mr. Barr: Can I get a breakdown of this amount?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: \$245,000 in capital funding is requested for HVAC system repairs at the Tourism Business Centre. This increase of \$226,000 from the 2013-14 to the 2014-15 estimate is project-driven.

Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space in the amount of \$245,000 agreed to

Corporate Services Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$358,000 dollars agreed to

Corporate Services Total Expenditures in the amount of \$2,746,000 agreed to

On Cultural Services

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Directorate

Directorate in the amount of \$449,000 agreed to

On Heritage Resources

Mr. Barr: Can I have a breakdown?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Heritage resources coordinates and manages all aspects of land-based heritage resources including archaeology, palaeontology, geographical names and licensing of scientific research. The Heritage resources budget is estimated at \$1,114,000 and the breakdown is as follows: \$836,000 for personnel and \$258,000 for other expenses. So what would fall under that would be travel in and out of territory, and contracts including: research contracts; communications costs; program materials related to purchase of film; recording tapes and film processing; reference and

technical books; heritage resource public awareness brochures; videos; and other print material.

Also under that category, there are funds for rentals, subscriptions, postage, training and miscellaneous supplies. There is also \$20,000 in government transfers from the Yukon Science Institute for support for a public lecture series toward increasing public awareness of historic resources and research and preservation. The decrease of \$208,000 from the 2013-14 estimate to the 2014-15 estimate is a result of \$45,000 for personnel and benefit adjustments that is added on and then a decrease of \$253,000 in CanNor funding for a potential archaeological site in the Klondike region.

Heritage Resources in the amount of \$1,114,000 agreed to

On Historic Sites

Mr. Barr: Madam Chair, sooner or later, I'll wait a little bit longer. Thanks for your patience. Can I get a breakdown of this please?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Historic Sites is responsible for documenting, researching, planning, conserving and managing Yukon's historic sites so they may be protected, developed, and interpreted for the appreciation and enjoyment of Yukoners and visitors in a manner that's consistent with recognized conservation principles and standards.

The Historic Sites estimate is \$1,225,000 and this consists of \$717,000 in personnel and \$348,000 in other expenditures. This would cover travel in and out of the territory, contract services for site restoration and interpretation, repair and maintenance of signage, program materials, rentals, subscriptions, communications, postage, training and miscellaneous supplies. There is also \$160,000 in government transfers for support for preservation and interpretation of historic places with First Nations, the property owners and non-governmental organizations. There is an increase of \$21,000 from the 2013-14 estimates to the 2014-15 estimates, and the breakdown for that increase is a \$9,000 increase for personnel and benefit adjustments, a \$25,000 decrease to transfer payments, a \$2,000 decrease in contracts for scenic drives program, a \$21,000 increase for travel-related expenditures, a \$7,000 decrease in repairs and maintenance expenses, and a \$25,000 increase in transfer payments for historic sites and maintenance agreements.

Historic Sites in the amount of \$1,225,000 agreed to

On Museums

Mr. Barr: I know we have talked about this in our opening remarks around museums. There was some discussion around increasing these amounts, knowing that some of the rural museums are struggling with some of their O&M costs, and there was some talk about expanding the amounts to the museums. So could I get a breakdown and some further comments on what is meant by that?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Madam Chair, the Museums unit coordinates the delivery of support services to Yukon museums as well as First Nation cultural and heritage centres and the Yukon Historical and Museums Association, or YHMA. The unit also administers the museums assistance program, which provides funding to eligible clients. Technical

and hands-on assistance is provided to the museums community by unit staff as well. The \$2,065,000 would consist of \$415,000 for personnel, \$109,000 for other expenditures — and those would include travel in and out of territory, contract services for application review committee, the passport program and technical support, and there are funds for program materials related to the Yukon Gold Explorer's Passport contest, and for purchase of reference and technical books and audio-visual presentations to assist in museum training and workshops. There are funds for miscellaneous supplies, advertising, printing, memberships and communications. There is also \$1,541,000 of government transfers — so \$657,000 in museum operating funds, \$514,000 in First Nation cultural centres, \$350,000 for museums assistance, and \$20,000 for conservation and security.

The Government of Yukon acknowledges the important role of museums and First Nation cultural centres and heritage centres in protecting and preserving and interpreting Yukon's heritage. The Department of Tourism and Culture provides over \$1.17 million annually in operation and maintenance funding to 19 museums, cultural centres and one umbrella organization.

Following a request made by the museums community at the Yukon museums round table last fall, the Museums unit is currently researching options for improving how existing operation and maintenance funding, project funding and infrastructure funding are allocated throughout the museums.

The number of Yukon museums and First Nation cultural centres receiving the annual funding from the Museums unit has increased from eight in 2001 to 19 in 2014. Annual operation and maintenance funding during this time period has increased from \$178,000 to over \$1.17 million.

In April 2007, Tourism and Culture announced \$150,000 in new funding for Yukon museums and the reallocation of \$90,000 in funding to assist Yukon museums in offsetting rising costs. This funding more than doubled the funding level for small museums from \$11,500 to \$30,000, and resulted in a 25-percent increase in annual funding to all other museums and First Nation cultural centres. Annual funding now ranges from \$30,000 to \$100,000 per institution.

An additional \$370,000 is available for a variety of special projects, making the total amount of funding for Yukon museums and First Nation cultural or heritage centres to be over \$1.5 million annually. The introduction of three-year funding agreements in 2008-09 assists all museum unit clients in securing one permanent full-time or permanent part-time employee by increasing job certainty. At the 2013 Yukon museums roundtable, the Museums unit committed to engage an independent contractor to develop an options paper for funding allocations.

I guess it's important just to make note of the museums assistance program because there are five objectives that fall into those categories: one is to assist Yukon museums in preserving Yukon's historical and natural history through the development and upgrading of facilities, programs, technical expertise and management, consistent with acceptable

museum standards; secondly, to assist Yukon museums to maintain and increase standards in conservation, security and public safety; also to assist Yukon museums to share stories with Yukoners and visitors alike through the use of exhibits, publications and intellectual property; also to encourage the development of joint and partnership building projects; and to encourage multi-source funding support for Yukon museums.

Museums in the amount of \$2,065,000 agreed to

On Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre

Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre in the amount of \$442,000 agreed to

On Arts

Mr. Barr: Can I get a breakdown of that?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The Arts section provides Yukoners with resources to develop, enjoy and celebrate the arts, also manages the public art collection for the enjoyment of Yukoners and visitors and for professional development of visual artists. The Arts section budget is \$3,906,000 and that is made up of \$418,000 for personnel, \$129,000 for other expenditures — so that's the in- and out-of-territory travel and so on — as well as advertising, printing, storage rental and so on.

There's \$3,359,000 of government transfers — so \$668,000 is for the arts operating fund, \$80,000 is for the Advanced Artist Award, \$100,000 is Artist in the School, \$100,000 is the touring artist fund, \$500,000 is the arts fund, and \$814,000 is the Yukon Arts Centre Corporation. There's \$400,000 for the Dawson City Arts Society, \$45,000 for the new Canadian event fund and an additional \$5,000 for advertising costs; there's \$150,000 for the Old Fire Hall programming; there's \$345,000 for Northern Cultural Expressions Society; and \$157,000 for Culture Quest.

Madam Chair, there's an increase of \$125,000 from the 2013-14 estimates to the 2014-15 estimates and that breakdown is as follows: \$17,000 increase for personnel and benefit adjustments; \$27,000 increase for memberships, communications, travel costs, fund adjudications and administration of the new Canadian fund; \$36,000 increase in transfer payments to the Yukon Arts Centre for personnel and benefit adjustments; and there's a \$45,000 increase in transfer payments for a new program designed to provide event funding to celebrate the cultures of new Canadians.

Arts in the amount of \$3,906,000 agreed to

On Archives

Mr. Barr: I would also like a breakdown. I see there are increases.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The Yukon Archives acquires, preserves and makes available documentary sources related to Yukon. The Archives reference room is open to the public and copy services are available. The Archives provides final disposition authority for all Yukon government and municipal records.

The budget for Archives is \$1,534,000 and it consists of \$1,402,000 for personnel. There is \$123,000 in other expenses — that is the travel in and out of the territory to national archivist meetings, contracting for records digitization and conservation, library, archival and storage program materials,

public programs and advertising, printing, rentals, postage, membership and supplies.

Madam Chair, there is \$9,000 in government transfers for the Friends of the Yukon Archives Society, so that is a total of \$1,534,000.

There is an increase of \$87,000 from the 2013-14 estimates to the 2014-15 estimates. Of that, there is \$51,000 for personnel and benefit adjustments, \$6,000 for other and increase for travel, and \$30,000 for contracts relating to records, digitization and conservation services.

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

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Nixon 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 from the Chair of Committee of the Whole. Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker: Have a nice, safe weekend and enjoy yourselves with friends and family.

This House now stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22.

The House adjourned at 5:25 p.m.