



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 159

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HANSARD

Thursday, May 15, 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. Darrell Pasloski	Mountainview	Premier Minister responsible for Finance; Executive Council Office
Hon. Elaine Taylor	Whitehorse West	Deputy Premier Minister responsible for Education; Women's Directorate; French Language Services Directorate
Hon. Brad Cathers	Lake Laberge	Minister responsible for Community Services; Yukon Housing Corporation; Yukon Liquor Corporation; Yukon Lottery Commission Government House Leader
Hon. Doug Graham	Porter Creek North	Minister responsible for Health and Social Services; Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board
Hon. Scott Kent	Riverdale North	Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources; Yukon Energy Corporation; Yukon Development Corporation
Hon. Currie Dixon	Copperbelt North	Minister responsible for Economic Development; Environment; Public Service Commission
Hon. Wade Istchenko	Kluane	Minister responsible for Highways and Public Works
Hon. Mike Nixon	Porter Creek South	Minister responsible for Justice; Tourism and Culture

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Lois Moorcroft	Copperbelt South
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Kate White	Takhini-Kopper King

Liberal Party

Sandy Silver	Leader of the Third Party Klondike
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**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Thursday, May 15, 2014 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

Prayers

Speaker: We all know that one of our Table Officers and their family are going through a difficult time. I ask all members to take a moment of silent reflection so that they will know that our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Moment of silence observed

DAILY ROUTINE

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

Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of Yukon Francophonie Day

Hon. Ms. Taylor: *[Member spoke in French. Text unavailable.]*

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Yukon francophones of all origins on this eighth annual Yukon Francophonie Day. Today is a great opportunity to mark the numerous accomplishments of our francophonie, its dynamism and its growing presence and contributions to our quality of life and our economic sector as we know it today.

Francophone Yukoners are part of our heritage, our identity and our future. For the past 200 years, French-speaking people have been exploring Yukon, settling in our territory and contributing to our development. Their roots are deeply anchored in our territory. Our francophone population has been steadily growing over the years and we can be proud of that; proud that Yukon now ranks third nationally for its level of bilingualism.

I'm learning French myself thanks to our great staff at French Language Services Directorate and my nine-year-old son, who is in French immersion. I can appreciate the effort made by all Yukoners who try to acquire knowledge of another language. Today students from four secondary schools are gathered at the Yukon Arts Centre for the annual Secondaire en Spectacle, which is celebrating Yukon francophone celebrations. Some participants are learning French. Others are native French speakers. Some are in French immersion and others are just learning French as we speak. All they share in is celebrating the vibrancy of bilingualism in this country.

Our government is very much committed to supporting the development of the francophone community and has really worked hard on a renewed relationship with the francophone community through l'Association franco-yukonnaise in a mutual effort to enhance the delivery of French language services within the Yukon government.

Earlier today, I was very pleased to join the president of AFY, Angélique Bernard, to launch the new Bonjour Yukon logo, a joint initiative between AFY and our French Language Services Directorate. The Bonjour Yukon logo will become the symbol of the active offer of French language services in the public and the private sectors alike. The launch marks an active offer awareness campaign, inviting people to use available French language services anywhere the logo is displayed. It's a great example of collaboration between the Yukon government and the francophone community.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly encourage all members of the Legislative Assembly to join with me to welcome a number of individuals who have joined us in the gallery here today in celebration of the eighth Yukon Francophonie Day. I'll name some of them, starting with our own president for l'Association franco-yukonnaise, Angélique Bernard, and our executive director for AFY, Isabelle Salesse. We also have with us Andrée North who has joined us and she is also joined by Yann Herry. Yann Herry, of course — I don't have to make too many introductions but he is with our own Department of Education in the francophone partnerships. Welcome to Yann.

We also have with us Sylvie Painchaud, Sylvie Léonard, Hélène Lapensée, Carmelle St. Vincent, Jeannette Fortin and Jean Chalifoux.

Those are just but some of the many members who have joined us here today. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you and to thank you for your ongoing contributions to our territory.

Applause

Ms. White: C'est un plaisir et un honneur de prendre la parole au nom de l'Opposition Officiel et du troisième partie à l'occasion de la journée de la Francophonie.

Le Yukon est un endroit particulier et la présence d'une communauté francophone active et inclusive en est un aspect important.

Les Yukonais sont habitués d'entendre du français dans les cafés, commerces, les camping et dans tous les lieux publics de notre territoire.

La communauté francophone est présente dans les festivals musicaux, culturels ou artistiques.

On peut sentir l'influence du fait français dans nos écoles, nos commerces et dans nos milieux de travail.

Ce n'est certainement pas une surprise que le Yukon est le troisième endroit le plus bilingue au Canada. Après avoir visionné la première du film « Yukon parle français », c'est facile de comprendre pourquoi.

Ce documentaire est d'une qualité exceptionnelle et je crois que francophones et non francophones seront comme moi, extrêmement fiers d'être Yukonnais à l'écoute de ce film. De voir notre territoire célébré par des francophones qui ont eu envie de faire du Yukon leur chez soi était vraiment inspirant.

Merci à tous les francophones qui choisissent le Yukon. Merci de choisir ce territoire que nous aimons tant pour y élever vos enfants, pour y travailler ou pour y passer une

retraite paisible. Merci de partager votre culture et de faire du Yukon un endroit encore meilleur grâce à votre contribution.

In recognition of Acting Table Officer

Hon. Mr. Graham: Before I begin my tribute — it was with a great deal of surprise that I noticed an old friend of mine. If I may mention that it was very interesting to see Patrick Michael at the table today.

Patrick and I first became acquaintances in 1978 here in this Legislature when we were both idealistic young fellows out to change the territory. All these years later, I'm not sure if any of those things apply, but welcome, Patrick. It is wonderful to see you here.

In recognition of National Nursing Week

Hon. Mr. Graham: Today it is my pleasure to pay tribute to National Nursing Week. I am very pleased to rise in the House today because every year I stand up to pay tribute to the men and women who serve many of the health needs of our communities. Every year I talk about how important nurses are at every stage of our lives, from birth to death, and through our various trials and tribulations during our time here in the territory.

Every year I try to find a different way of acknowledging their dedication, their professionalism and their compassion. This year, however, I want to do more than just acknowledge their service. I want to tell them that we are working very hard to improve the way health care is provided in this territory by providing a collaborative approach. I want them to know and understand that they are a very integral part of this shift.

Last month, the Health and Social Services department released the clinical services plan for Yukon. The plan is a road mark to the long-term evolution of health and social services in the Yukon. What it does is emphasize the importance of collaborative practices between health professionals and social services professionals. Even with this plan, though, we don't know exactly yet what shape health and social service care will take in the near-to-long-term future, but we do know that nurses will be a vital part of this collaborative approach.

We are working to hire more nurse practitioners for the territory and we are working with the Yukon Hospital Corporation to ensure that those nurse practitioners already working in the territory have hospital privileges as well. The ultimate goal of the clinical services plan is to allow all health care professionals and social work professionals to work in a collaborative way to the full scope of their profession.

It is a big step for the territory, but I know that nurses by their very nature are up to the challenge and they are looking forward to this new approach.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce a few of the folks who are here with us today: Sean Secord, the president of YRNA is here; Krystal Feres, YRNA board member is here. Joy Peacock, the executive director is here. I understand Joy has just recently accepted a new post in B.C. and will be leaving us. It is quite a loss to us here in the territory.

As well, Sheila Thompson and Karen Archbell, members of the YRNA executive, are here, as well as Sean Hopkins, nursing representative.

Welcome, and I wish all members to join me.

Applause

Ms. Stick: I too rise on behalf of the Official Opposition and the Third Party to pay tribute to National Nursing Week. We honour and recognize the dedicated professionals in the Yukon who are registered nurses, nurse practitioners, certified nursing aids and licensed practical nurses.

Nursing has changed immensely since Florence Nightingale's day and is continuing to change. The range of services that nurses provide and the various professions involved in the field continues to grow and evolve. Registered nurses in the Yukon work within teams to support patient-focused care and promote wellness. The Yukon Registered Nurses Association is celebrating 20 years in the Yukon, and I want to congratulate them for reaching that milestone and for doing the important work that they do.

I was reading their website today, and I would just like to read this one quote: "The YRNA exists to ensure public protection with regard to nursing practice. The YRNA is responsible for establishing and promoting standards for practice, for regulating nursing practice, and for advancing nursing excellence.

I was also given this quote and was asked to read it by one of my colleagues who attended the dinner on the weekend, and this is from Donna Rowland, who was honoured at the dinner and spoke — and I quote: "The other day, I was sorting through old newspapers and I was reminded of how we have kept pressing forward with the vision of creating an optimal health system with patients at the centre. I found a clipping of this quote from the 1993 health care forum" — so this is from 1993. "Years from now, people will look back in disbelief at the health care system of the 20th century, at our fixation on illness instead of health, at our cloister-like hospitals, our red tape, our long flirtation with change, our stubborn insistence on plugging holes in the boat instead of rebuilding it. Future communities will be safe and healthy, and everyone whose work relates to health will be a full partner in the gratifying process of keeping people well."

Mr. Speaker, what a great quote. There is still much to be done, but I feel that, with the YRNA, a lot will happen.

They are to be congratulated for keeping that focus and pushing for change, for patient-centred health care, for health, for collaborative care and for the high standards of nursing care in all our health care systems.

Nurses are there in so many momentous occasions in our lives. They celebrate with us the birth of a child. Nurses care for and provide support to us, to families and to communities when illness or death comes upon us or family members or communities. They promote good health and they remind us of our responsibilities to work toward that.

The Yukon Official Opposition takes this opportunity to thank all the people working in the nursing field for their committed support to the health of us and our communities.

In recognition of the Dawson City gold show

Ms. McLeod: I'm pleased to rise today on behalf of the Yukon government to recognize the Dawson City gold show, taking place May 17 and 18. This annual spring trade show organized by the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce celebrates our gold rush heritage and modern placer mining in the Klondike and throughout Yukon.

The Klondike Placer Miners Association also holds their spring meeting over this weekend. These events make the gold show an excellent opportunity to network and catch up with old friends before the summer mining season takes off.

Well over a century strong, the placer mining industry is a mainstay of Yukon's economy. Gold mining is part of our identity as Yukoners.

An amazing fact is that the production of placer gold is still ongoing and actually increased the last two years. Many other regions of the world have stopped producing placer gold, whereas Yukon is still thriving. In addition to the Klondike, other areas of Yukon, such as Mayo-McQuesten, Dawson Range, Livingstone Creek, Kluane and Whitehorse South, have historical and recent placer gold mining activity. Today, nearly all placer operations are small, family-owned and operated with just a few employees.

The industry provides an economic foundation for many of our communities. Many local businesses are directly or indirectly supported by placer mining activities. Total production of placer gold in 2013 was 59,462 crude ounces, which equates, in U.S. dollars, to \$63.2 million in production value. There are currently 142 active placer operations in the Yukon.

The Yukon government is a strong supporter of placer mining. Over the past four years, the Yukon Geological Survey has organized annual placer workshops to engage placer miners and better understand the needs of placer miners. On the regulatory front, we continue to work toward more efficient and effective authorizations for placer miners. Energy, Mines and Resources works to reduce or eliminate the adverse environmental effects of resource development and also enhance its many social and economic benefits. Our mining inspectors work diligently to ensure that all requirements under legislation and regulations are put in to practice through education, encouragement and enforcement in a timely and professional manner.

The Dawson City gold show provides government with an opportunity to thank past and present placer miners who have been a mainstay of Yukon's economy for well over a century. To all of you working in the creeks, the Yukon government thanks you for your continued contribution to Yukon's economy and to its rich culture and history.

Mr. Silver: I rise on behalf of the Liberal caucus and the Official Opposition to pay tribute to the 2014 Dawson City gold show. This week marks the 28th annual Dawson City

gold show hosted by the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce on May 16 and 17. The gold show is North America's largest industry and consumer trade show focused on the placer mining industry. The gold show encompasses the diverse and interconnected sectors of our regional economy with mining at its hub. Celebrating the gold show has become a springtime tradition. It is a great place to chat, to network and to share ideas with fellow miners and prospectors, and it is also a great opportunity for you to get your summer perennials from the Vogt farm. I have also had the privilege to attend the gold show many times, and it is a fantastic event.

This year there will be a number of Yukon mining industry leaders speaking: Ms. Thomas from Kaminak Gold, Mr. McConnell from Victoria Gold, Mr. Clarkson, Rich Thompson from Northern Vision and, of course, we have Anne Lewis, the chair of Yukon Women in Mining, and Dawsonite Isaac Fage from Ground Truth Exploration. I am sure that they will all have a great time in Dawson this weekend.

The gold show also offers up a trade show that provides a number of businesses the opportunity to showcase their products and their services, and for Dawson and Yukoners alike to meet and interact.

This year the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, the Dawson City Firefighters Association, AFD and the Dawson City General Store will be hosting Bill Bowie night on Friday the 17th at the Palace Grand Theatre. Bill Bowie was a founding member of the Dawson City international gold show, a long-standing member of the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce and a volunteer firefighter. Many members heading to the gold show, I hope, will join us at this event in celebrating the contributions to the Dawson City business community and to Bill's impact to Dawson as a whole.

Placer mining is an important historical and economic driver in Dawson, and the gold show is an excellent opportunity to showcase our industry. The Liberal Party believes that mining is an important component to our economy that can be balanced, that creates jobs and can protect the environment. With modern technology, sound regulations and public education, the placer mining sector can continue to thrive in the Yukon and continue contributing to the prosperous Dawson City community. The Liberal Party looks forward to a positive and healthy relationship with the mining industry for years to come.

On a final note, I will be most interested in Isaac Fage's presentation. I had the pleasure of visiting Ground Truth's compound last week with my good friends Tao Henderson and Chad Cote. Both are essential members of the Ground Truth team. I was absolutely astounded on Tao's new remote control drilling unit. I'm sure that Isaac will be speaking to this and to his company's Yukon-first accomplishments. When industry focuses in on local ingenuity, the results are remarkable. The product is not based on the bottom line. Companies like Dawson's Ground Truth are revolutionizing the industry with a keen focus on environmental protection and maximizing local investment and involvement. This is no

surprise to folks like Tao Henderson and Isaac Fage. It's just the way that things have to be done.

When you put the future of the industry into the hands of locals, their ingenious ideas have future generations of Yukoners in mind. They have kids in the area and they have mortgages in the area. Yukoners will believe that we can have a robust industry that will protect the environment and put Yukoners first.

I would like to thank all of the industry partners who make this important Dawson event possible every year and I look forward to many great gold shows in the years to come.

Dawson City is an international showcase created by locals, and it is an institution in the Klondike that I'm extremely proud of, and I look forward to seeing you all there this weekend.

In recognition of legislative staff

Speaker: I too have a tribute. On behalf of all members of this House, I would like to thank a number of people: starting with the Hansard staff, for the fine job they do recording our proceedings and correcting our small verbal stumbles; the pages, who have served the members with exceptional commitment — we hope to see you back in the fall, and enjoy your summer; our sergeants-at-arms, Rudy and Doris, who stay in shape by ringing the bells and carrying the mace; Acting Table Officer, Mr. Patrick Michael, for his assistance with the Table duties this past week — it has truly been a treat to have you back, sir; lastly, the clerks and staff of the Legislative Assembly Office, whose advice and guidance is eagerly sought by all members. On a personal note, I would like to add that I'm extremely proud of the work they all do.

Members, please join me in a round of applause for those wonderful people who assist us with our work here in this House.

Applause

Speaker: Introduction of visitors.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Kent: I'm pleased to introduce three members of the Yukon Minerals Advisory Board for the 2013 year. We're joined here by: Sue Craig of Tintina Consultants, who is the chair; Claire Derome, representing Yukon Chamber of Mines and also has her own consulting company, Derome and Associates; and Mark Ayrento from Victoria Gold Corporation.

Those three individuals have joined us here for the tabling of the 2013 annual report. I would just like to take time to mention the other members of the board who have not been able to join us here. Mr. Clynton Nauman of Alexco Resource Corporation; Ms. Eira Thomas of Kaminak Gold Corporation; Mr. Jerry Asp, representing the Yukon Mine Training Association; Mr. Mike McDougall from the Klondike Placer Miners Association; Mr. Paul West-Sells of Casino Mining Corp; Mr. Ron Light of Capstone Mining Corp; and Mr. Bill Sheriff of Americas Bullion Royalty Corp. I would also like to thank their communications contractor

who helped to put together the report — Ms. Amanda Leslie of Mosaic Communications.

I would ask all members to join me in welcoming the three individuals here and thanking all those who have participated in making the Yukon a better place.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Hon. Mr. Kent: I have for tabling the 2013 annual report of the Yukon Minerals Advisory Board.

Mr. Tredger: I have for tabling a letter dated May 15, 2014, addressed to the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I have for tabling the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues annual report 2013-14.

I also have for tabling the annual report for 2013 for Yukon Education.

I also have for tabling a couple of documents pertaining to Yukon College. One is their 2012-13 annual report, as well as the 2014 report to the community.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I have for tabling a cover letter and a report from the Yukon Utilities Board regarding their approval for the Yukon Energy Corporation's liquefied natural gas conversion project.

I, as Minister of Justice, refer to it as a regulated project under Part 3 of the *Public Utilities Act*.

I also have for tabling a letter to the MLA for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes regarding his conduct at a recent tourism open house.

Speaker: Are there any further 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 partner with Natural Resources Canada and the Yukon Energy Corporation to undertake a project to evaluate the impacts of climate change on how Yukon manages energy by evaluating future electrical demand and supply and subsequent implications for energy resource planning and to use this work to identify potential risks and opportunities for the Yukon energy sector and informed energy resource planning.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to continue to partner with Natural Resources Canada, Yukon College and the Yukon Geological Survey to conduct a permafrost risk assessment in Yukon and to use that information to develop guidelines and best practices for building management that are transferrable to other northern jurisdictions.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to introduce amendments to the *Spousal Compensation Act* to reflect equality for same-sex couples.

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

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Missing children research project

Ms. Hanson: As it works toward its goal of healing and reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission sought individual cause-of-death records of First Nation children who died in Yukon residential schools. This government told them that they could not provide individual cause of death records unless they were 100 years or older. Yesterday, during the debate on the *Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act (No. 2)*, Premier told this House that the vital statistics registrar could provide individual cause-of-death records to anyone who requested them if their reason for requesting it justifies them having a copy. The Premier then stated that, quote: "There is no reason to think that the registrar wouldn't accept the TRC's reason as justifying the TRC getting copies..." Can the Premier confirm that the registrar will give the Truth and Reconciliation Commission the individual cause-of-death records, including those records less than 100 years old if they request them from the registrar?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: As all members of this House have stated it many times, certainly we feel that the work of the TRC is of great significance and it is recording a painful chapter in the lives of First Nation people. Although it is tragic, this chapter is an enduring part of our shared Yukon history and it certainly must be remembered and we can and we will learn from this.

This government fully supports the work of the TRC and is committed to helping it with its work in any way that we are able to do so. As we also discussed yesterday, this House did pass a unanimous motion supporting the work of the TRC. As we articulated yesterday during second reading and Committee of the Whole, we have the legal opinion that in fact what is being requested by TRC can be accommodated by the registrar of vital statistics, regardless of years. There certainly is no restriction on information that is less than 100 years of age.

Ms. Hanson: I am taking that as a "yes". The question is not can it be, but will it be? I am hopeful that we are going to be seeing this government has in fact changed its mind, because 10 days ago the minister said in an e-mail that

individual cause-of-death records would not be provided and that only aggregate numbers would be given to the TRC. Based on this information, when the Yukon NDP saw that the government was not going to honour the commitment made by unanimous consent of this House on April 2 to take all necessary measures to get the information to the TRC, we tabled a bill to change the act and called it for debate. Only then did the government pull its lawyers together to find a way to say the TRC could get the information they need.

Why did the Premier wait until this Tuesday, after the Opposition tabled and called a bill on this matter, to confirm that the registrar could provide the TRC with access to individual death records?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I guess the other question would be: why would the Opposition wait until the last week of the House and give the government two days' notice to approve a bill?

We all know that the government has due diligence when it comes to legislation. We need to look at the legal aspects. We need to look at the policy aspects and, of course, we need to look at the consultative aspects. This government has always been committed to ensuring that there is the ability for full consultation with all people who are affected, regardless of what type of legislation that exists.

From the legal opinion that we have from the Department of Justice, we feel that all the information that is being requested by TRC can be accommodated, regardless of how many years it has been since the death of those individuals.

Ms. Hanson: It's clear that, despite the unanimous consent on April 2, this government made no effort to provide the TRC with anything more than a summary of causes of death until the Opposition shamed them into it. Three weeks ago, the Information and Privacy Commissioner suggested the creation of an override clause in the *Vital Statistics Act*. She was not aware that the registrar had the ability to provide this information.

As of yesterday, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was not aware that they could access the information that, for months, they had been asking for. Has the Premier shared their legal opinion with the registrar? Will the government inform the TRC that they will indeed be able to access all of the individual causes of death and burial records that they have been seeking for months?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: The short answer to the question is yes, we will ensure that the TRC is fully understanding of our interpretation of the *Vital Statistics Act* that we feel would enable them to access the information that they require to do the work that, as I have said, is so important and as this House has stated unanimously is so important.

Question re: Emergency 911 coverage

Mr. Barr: The need for 911 service in the territory has been discussed many times in this House. We understand that the government and Northwestel are waiting on CRTC approval before the interim service can be implemented. Unfortunately, while that process is taking place, fires are still

occurring. Just this week there was another fire in Dawson City, and the resident who spotted it did not know the emergency number, so an information relay occurred and a call ended up going to the fire chief's personal cellphone.

The need for visible information about emergency service numbers is especially pressing now, as seasonal workers and tourists pour into the territory. Not everyone is lucky enough to have the fire chief on speed dial.

Mr. Speaker, Yukoners need action now. When can Yukoners expect CRTC approval for the interim 911 service, and what is the government doing in the meantime to educate people about the emergency service numbers?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: As the member noted, we do in fact appreciate the importance of improving the ability for people who are not aware of local emergency numbers to actually reach those numbers. As I mentioned before to the member in previous discussions in this House, because of the timelines involved — based on what we had heard from Northwestel and from other partners who are involved in this and because of the specific concerns from some of the partner agencies and municipalities that need to be discussed, considered and addressed as part of moving forward with a broader project — I have asked staff of Community Services to work on this interim solution, which, as I have indicated before to the member, has been tested in Yukon communities and would have been fully operational prior to the end of March were it not for the fact that the CRTC advised Northwestel and the government that we could not use that without their approval. As I indicated previously to the member, I have a phone call set up with the CRTC commissioner to seek further clarity about the timelines as well as impressing upon him the importance and the sense of urgency that we attach to moving forward with this and seeking their permission to allow us to use it right now.

Mr. Barr: Interim solutions are needed because the government has dragged its feet for the last decade on 911 services. But an interim solution is not good enough. The government cannot rely on fire chief's personal networks to have emergency calls relayed. Yukoners need a real 911 service.

In fact, the company has said that a territory-wide 911 service could be up and running very quickly, should the government desire it. This government has been in power for 12 years. They have had opportunities to push forward with 911 but we still have yet to see even an interim solution implemented. Is the minister waiting for a tragedy to happen before he takes action? What is the hold up? Is the minister committed to working toward a proper 911 service across the territory, and when does he think this will be in place?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: It is unfortunate that the member has chosen to take that approach, although I would note that when we've actually had debate and the member is engaging in unscripted conversation, there is a much more constructive approach from the member than when he's reading off script.

I would again note that this is an area that, as technology is improved, some of the solutions that were previously more challenging have become things that we think can be

implemented. In fact, the interim solution is in place. We just don't have permission to use it. That is what we are seeking to get from the CRTC. After I took over as Minister of Community Services last summer, as part of my work, I toured Yukon communities, talked to people and heard their perspectives on this, including perspectives from municipalities that have some concerns that moving to a dispatch system based out of Whitehorse might actually result in some delays in service delivery.

All of those issues are ones we need to talk about with the partners involved and we need to come to solutions that all municipalities and all of the key partner agencies — including the RCMP, fire departments and EMS — are comfortable with and are confident in, and we are committed to working on that broader project.

The very reason we went with an option that allows people to dial 911 and press 1, 2 or 3 for police, fire or ambulance is because we wanted to get it done quickly and we are in the process of finding out what we have to do to get CRTC approval.

Speaker: The member's time has elapsed.

Question re: Affordable housing

Mr. Silver: In February of this year, the minister issued a news release about the Yukon Housing Corporation's affordable rental housing development competition. At that time, the minister commented — and I quote: "Announcements on the successful proponents and their projects are anticipated in April."

It is now the middle of May and we are well into this year's building season. My question is: When will these projects be announced so that people can get to work on them?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: As minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation, I note that the board of the Yukon Housing Corporation was tasked by the government to come up with an innovative approach to utilize the northern housing trust money. They came back with this approach and we appreciate their good work in doing so. Because of the process and the technical work involved, it has taken a little longer than staff had previously expected.

Also, as part of the process — and a very important part of that review — we have engaged Yukon's former Ombudsman, Hank Moorlag, as a fairness monitor on the review of these applications. Staff are taking their time to get that work done right, and I have left them to do that and I am not going to micromanage or step into their review of the projects.

Mr. Silver: I do appreciate the answer, but it is worth noting that this is the same housing money that the Yukon Party has been sitting on since 2008. This money could go a long way to addressing the shortfall of affordable housing that we do face in the Yukon.

One of the central questions involved in this process is who decides who gets the money. The government has made much about the fact that they have set up the fairness monitor to help evaluate these proposals. However, during debate on

this budget, the minister admitted that it would be he and other members of the Yukon Party government who will be making the final decision on this, moving forward.

Can the minister confirm for the public record today that it is he and the Yukon Party who will be making the final decisions?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: In fact, it will be the board of Yukon Housing Corporation making the final decisions. Management Board approval that was required has been given and the money for the first portion of this is contained in the budget that, unfortunately, I expect the Leader of the Liberal Party will be voting against, as he has voted against every single investment we've made in the many areas across the housing continuum, including new social housing and new seniors housing in Yukon communities.

Again, we appreciate the work that is done by the board of Yukon Housing Corporation, and it will be the board of Yukon Housing Corporation that does the final review of these projects and that makes a decision, based on the advice of staff, as to which contracts with successful proponents should be approved.

Mr. Silver: We'll see if the recommendations of the fairness monitor and the board are accepted or changed by the minister and his colleagues.

Earlier this year, the Yukon Housing Corporation said that nine projects had been selected to move to the next stage, which is the request for proposals. They include ones in Whitehorse, Dawson City, Carmacks and Carcross. Did the government put a mechanism in place to ensure that some of the funding goes outside of Whitehorse?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I have to point out to the member that he's either not understanding or choosing not to reflect in his comments the role of the board of Yukon Housing Corporation and the power that they have to deal with things that government has given them financial spending approval to proceed with. That includes giving them the ability to spend this money in the northern housing trust through this initiative that began with a two-stage process.

The request for qualifications — request for proposals — has included Yukon's former Ombudsman, Hank Moorlag, as a fairness monitor to assist staff who are assessing and reviewing new proposals. The proposals also contained additional weight in benefit to projects that were outside Whitehorse in recognition of the importance of developing rural housing. I am leaving it to the staff of Yukon Housing Corporation and the members of the review committee and to the board to make that decision.

As I indicated to the member — and he failed to acknowledge in his last question — it will be the board of Yukon Housing that will review the recommendations made by the internal committee. They will then make the final decision on approval of projects.

Question re: Minto mine waste rock

Mr. Tredger: When it comes to protecting salmon, my job is to ask important questions about the use of waste rock from a copper mine in a creek that is home to chinook

salmon fry. In response to our inquiry, the government has looked into the matter and stated that the Tatchun Creek roadwork and the material used meet the conditions of the licences and will continue to do so. We thank the minister, but we still have questions because chinook salmon are endangered and now is the time when precaution with their habitat is most needed. The minister says that tests have been done and that the results have been provided to the First Nation.

Were the tests done on a sample of the mine's waste rock or on the actual rocks used in Tatchun Creek, and will he make the results public?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I said this, I believe, just the other day — if it wasn't yesterday — in this House that Highways and Public Works is committed to ensuring that we meet the operational and the highest standards for environmental and socio-economic responsibility. Highways and Public Works always obtains all of the required assessments, permits and authorizations before any work is done. My department demonstrates due diligence on every single project that we complete.

This is operational stuff within the department. All of the work conducted on the site and all of the materials used during this project meet the conditions of our licences. We will continue to do so. We have given written certification to the local First Nations. I'm not sure what else I can say.

Mr. Tredger: Waste rock includes hotspots, and that is why the mine was asked to monitor it. Yukoners want to know that chinook salmon habitat is looked after and that's why the test results should be public. The whole process needs to be transparent.

When Minto mine was undergoing its licensing for its operations, the removal of waste rock from the site was never contemplated. The mine was given specific instructions for storage and monitoring of the waste rock, but it is not clear if any application was made or if changes were made to licences and permits to allow the shipping of waste rock off-site for other applications.

Since the removal of waste rock from the site was never contemplated in the applications to YESAB and to the Water Board, what authority and what permits allow the removal of waste rock from the mine site?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I guess I'm going to have to repeat myself, but first I just want to talk a little bit about the bridge project and the redevelopment of this important piece of Yukon transportation infrastructure. This is a big capital investment in one of the largest capital budgets in Yukon history of \$6.85 million. It's a 43-metre long bridge and there are Yukoners who are working on it.

I said this in the House before and I'll say it again: All the work conducted on the site and the materials used during the project meet the conditions of our licences, and we continue to do so. We work with locals and work with local First Nations on that for providing the information.

Mr. Tredger: The mine was supposed to monitor the waste rock. Now that it is being used off-site, who maintains responsibility for the ongoing monitoring of the same waste

rock? In the case of Tatchun Creek, Yukon's Department of Environment says the mandate for salmon rests with the federal government, and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans is already deflecting their responsibility to the federal Department of Environment. Most disappointing and disturbing of all is the silence of Yukon's Minister of Environment on this possible threat to chinook salmon.

Does the government agree that caution should be used with salmon-bearing waters and will any minister of the Yukon Party identify who is responsible for the long-term monitoring of Minto-mined waste rock in salmon-bearing water?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: The Department of Highways and Public Works has a water licence for this site. They obtained sampling results of the material for potential metal leaching prior to placing it in the water. The results of the testing did not indicate that there was any concern for water quality.

What we hear again and what we've heard from both Opposition parties is a lack of confidence in the ability of the staff of the public service to do their job.

This project went through YESAA, has a water licence, conditions were there, the professional public service are doing their job. What they are saying again is that they are not capable of doing their job. It is this ongoing low opinion of government employees — we've heard it — accusing almost every department across this entire government. It is obvious in my opinion they are creating fear. That is the goal. As I said, this government is very proud of the work of the professional public servants who are doing their job, ensuring that projects meet the obligations, meet the recommendations, meet all the criteria that are listed by YESAA — by the Yukon Water Board — and we'll stand behind our government employees every day.

Question re: Diesel to liquified natural gas generator conversion

Ms. White: The Whitehorse diesel to liquefied natural gas conversion project does not have the approval of many of Yukon energy's rate payers and shareholders whose valid questions to the project's proponent remain unanswered.

Two days ago, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, ultimately responsible for the direction of our public utility, said he was advised to purchase — and I quote: "LNG-fired plants to provide the backup and meet peak demand." A workshop in town this week featured a technology that in other jurisdictions successfully manages and reduces peak electrical demand without using more fossil fuels or creating more energy.

There are ways to meet and manage peak demand and at the same time reduce greenhouse gas admissions. In this age of climate crisis, how does the Yukon Party justify choosing an increased dependence on fossil fuels to manage peak demand?

Hon. Mr. Kent: As I mentioned earlier this week, there are two public processes that are underway to assess the viability of the Yukon energy project to convert the two 45-year-old diesel generators to use natural gas.

Yesterday, of course, I did send over a copy of the cover letter to the Leader of the Third Party as well as the Member for Mayo-Tatchun with respect to YUB's approval. The Minister of Justice tabled that report here in the House today.

When it comes to what the YUB has said, they are recommending that the project proceed. Of course, we have yet to hear from the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board with respect to their recommendations as far as this project proceeding. My understanding from the on-line registry of YESAB today is that they have completed their final round of consultation and they are preparing that recommendation.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to fossil fuels, obviously we want to minimize their use. There is demand-side management. There are other opportunities to use renewable energy to offset that. But again, when it's 40 below in the winter and the lights go out, we want to ensure that reliable backup is there so that those lights can stay on and our furnaces can continue to work.

Ms. White: Yukoners are disappointed in the way this Yukon Party has mismanaged energy. Yukoners want to reduce fossil fuel use and not diversify Yukon's dependence on them. Effective demand-side management, electrical thermal storage and utility-based conservation measures all reduce fossil fuel use and are all largely neglected by this government. These solutions get lip service from the Yukon Party but it is clear our utility is not being directed to pursue and invest in non-fossil-fuel solutions for peak demand. This lack of vision contrasts with the need to diversify renewable energy. The government even went as far as suppressing the Sumanik wind study because it didn't fit their agenda.

Does this government admit that its choice to sink \$40 million into diversifying climate-harming fossil fuels has come at the cost of effective utility-based energy conservation?

Hon. Mr. Kent: When it comes to the use of these fossil-fuel generators at the Whitehorse Rapids facility, we are replacing two 45-year-old diesels on the recommendation of the Yukon Energy Corporation Board as well as the Yukon Development Corporation Board. This aging infrastructure — like any aging infrastructure, such as bridges or highways or anything that the government operates — needs to be replaced from time to time. I think 45 years old is sufficient and we need to replace them.

Of course we are proud of the fact that 95 percent of our energy is generated from renewable sources. We are looking long term at a next generation hydro project. Of course, it won't be ready in a time frame of between 10 and 15 years, but in the short term and the medium term, the Energy Corporation and the Yukon government are looking at other options — other renewable options — to offset the use of fossil fuels.

I've said this before, and I need to say it again, that even those generators represent a very, very small portion of the energy mix that we have in the territory, it is a very important portion of the energy mix that we have in this territory. We need to keep the lights on, we need to keep the furnaces going

when that power goes out or when we need them. I for one — and I know many Yukoners who I have talked to are extremely happy that that backup power is there.

Ms. White: Yukoners understand the need to replace the aging generators, and Yukoners have pleaded with this government to replace them with new diesel generators and to not diversify to fossil fuels. The world is facing a climate crisis. The Yukon Party is investing most heavily in fossil fuels of the past. They have failed to prepare Yukon for the shift the future demands of us to diversify renewable energies and intelligent systems for energy demand. Yukoners envision an energy future with multiple levels of storage options like electric thermal storage units, an energy future where our grid is no longer one of peaks and valleys, but where available technologies allow us to master energy demands.

Instead of avoiding well-researched and considered questions from its ratepayers and shareholders, when will this government give Yukoners the independent, diverse and renewable energy grid that they are asking for?

Hon. Mr. Kent: The Yukon Utilities Board, which just conducted their review of this project, is an independent arm's-length board of government.

The YESA Board, which is looking at the environmental and socio-economic effects of this project, is an independent organization that does not take direction from government.

When it comes to what the Yukon Utilities Board has said about this project, they have expressed their opinion that the public benefit of the project is significant and that there is a public need for the project. They have also indicated that the risks of using the two oldest diesel engines to provide reliable backup capacity during a system emergency were too high.

We are replacing backup power and power that meets peak demand. The member opposite suggested diesel — of course, that also is a fossil fuel.

We have worked with the Yukon Utilities Board, listening to their recommendations — and I know the members opposite would have us interfere with an arm's-length and quasi-judicial board, but we are not prepared to do that.

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Speaker's statement

Speaker: Order please. This is getting to the point where it is bothering my ability to hear what is being said.

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Speaker: It is not good. I have had enough. Minister, carry on please.

Hon. Mr. Kent: Just to conclude, the independent Yukon Utilities Board spoke with respect to safety and environmental issues. They felt that the Yukon Energy Corporation had demonstrated enough evidence that it was minimizing risks from a health and safety standpoint and that no further conditions were required.

The YUB is of the opinion that the risk of decreasing the oil-to-gas price spread is also low. We entrusted the Yukon Utilities Board with this review.

They've done their job and they've done a good job, and I appreciate all their work and the public meeting that they held, where they listened to not only the Yukon Energy Corporation, but also to members of the public who were concerned about this project.

Question re: Chronic condition health care

Ms. Stick: The 2011 Auditor General's report into the Department of Health and Social Services revealed that the department was operating without complete information about the real health care needs of Yukoners, such as dialysis. Two years ago, the minister said there would be a "...key indicator report", which will indicate how many people in the territory suffer exactly from each chronic condition."

Chronic conditions need support and good management to prevent complications, but the new clinical services plan shows that Yukon lacks data about hypertension, chronic kidney disease, diabetes and more. These are the conditions that lead to the need for dialysis. Does the minister know the number of Yukon patients who need dialysis?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I was beginning to worry that I wouldn't get a question. I understand that they asked all the questions of my colleagues while I was away, and I think it's unfortunate that they wait until I'm away to ask those kinds of questions.

It's fair to say that the department continues to carry out the kind of analysis of requirements within the territory. It's one of the reasons that we did the clinical services study. It's one of the reasons we did a needs assessment in Dawson City and Watson Lake, and it's one of the reasons we continue to consult with all our NGOs across the territory.

What we are attempting to do is get a good read of exactly what the health needs are, but we also need to provide a base from which we can make intelligent decisions going forward. Once we have that base of information, we will prioritize the requests from various areas and we'll make decisions based on that information.

Ms. Stick: The clinical services plan shows a lot of data gaps, but the number of Yukoners with the end-stage renal disease almost doubled between 2002 and 2011. End-stage renal disease is when dialysis services are essential — the point at which, as one patient put it, you either leave the Yukon or you die.

Better information about the incidence of chronic conditions in all of the Yukon is essential to assess the needs for services and prevent complications. That's why the minister's numbers must include chronic conditions for both rural Yukoners and Yukon First Nations who access services through federal non-insured health benefits. Does the department consider information regarding all Yukoners, including those who access services through NIHB, when planning for Yukoners living with chronic conditions?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I always enjoy getting up and repeating myself. I said to the member opposite or to the Opposition some time ago that, during the development of the clinical services plan, we had absolutely wonderful cooperation from all of the First Nations in the territory, as

well as their permission to go and work with NIHB for statistical data. We provided that statistical data as part of the clinical services plan. The clinical services plan includes data on all Yukoners. We know there are gaps. That's why we did the plan. We realized that, as a result of this plan, we could be criticized for past failings. We thought it was in the best interests of all Yukoners to go ahead with the plan, to identify the difficulties that we currently have and prioritize the information, and to move ahead with resolving some of these issues.

I realize that the members opposite would like to live in the past, but we're trying to go forward. That's why this plan is intended to go forward from the next five to 10 to 15 years. We'll continue to work with it.

Ms. Stick: There have been plenty of plans. It's great to see a new one that talks about collaborative care and patient-centred, but this isn't the first plan that has come up. Health Canada already funded studies to address the unique challenges that aboriginal people face in accessing quality health care. In 2010, the Council of Yukon First Nations issued a report about improving access to health services for Yukon's First Nations. There is still a large disparity in health outcomes between Yukon First Nation and non-First Nation citizens.

We asked the minister about equitable access to health, and the minister stated that — and I quote: “the health table with First Nation, federal and territorial representatives there” was to address some of these issues. What about the other studies? Why would this government ignore the 2010 CYFN report about improving access to health services —

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

Hon. Mr. Graham: Once again, I go back to some of the answers I provided in the past. The health table that we are at with the CYFN and representatives of Health Canada is only one of the solutions. One of the other things we continue to do on almost a daily basis is work with health authorities from First Nations across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, we have mentioned this over and over and over again. We're working with First Nations; we're working with NGOs across the territory to identify priorities within the health care system. We will continue to identify those priorities and we will move ahead as we have already shown. We have moved ahead on a number of issues. That's why we're building a new Sarah Steele; that's why we've cooperated with a number of NGOs to provide services to various groups of people within the territory. We will continue that, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chair (Ms. McLeod): Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Vote 15, Department of Health and Social Services, in Bill No. 14, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2014-15*. Do members wish 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 15, Department of Health and Social Services in Bill No. 14, *First Appropriation Act 2014-15*.

Department of Health and Social Services — continued

On Continuing Care — continued

Chair: We are resuming line-by-line. Mr. Graham has the floor, speaking in general debate on the program Continuing Care. We are at page 13-22 of the budget binder. Mr. Graham, you have 19 minutes and 25 seconds remaining.

Hon. Mr. Graham: I think what we were talking about is the increase of 19 percent over the 2013-14 mains and it was due to a couple of items. One was an increase in \$59,000, which is in two parts. Part one was \$41,000 for GoldCare additional licensing fees, which is an electronic billing system and \$18,000 to support services for that electronic billing system.

The other is an increase of \$406,000, which consists of \$123,000 for a permanent director of clinical psychology; \$70,000 for a permanent administrative assistant position; \$151,000 due to the collective agreement and management category salary increases and \$68,000 due to reallocation of resources within the department which is slightly offset by a decrease of \$6,000 due to government-wide decreases for the cost of long-term disability premiums. The full name of the GoldCare system is GoldCare case management and trust accounting system, which we utilize within the continuing care program. I think that was the last question that was asked.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Program Management

Program Management in the amount of \$2,919,000 agreed to

*On Extended and Complex Care
Extended and Complex Care in the amount of
\$18,000,000 agreed to*

*On Intermediate and Community Care
Intermediate and Community Care in the amount of
\$17,300,000 agreed to*

*On Intermediate and Community Care
Intermediate and Community Care in the amount of
\$17,300,000 agreed to*

**Continuing Care Operation and Maintenance
Expenditures on the amount of \$38,219,000 agreed to
On Capital Expenditures**

*On Home Care — Operational Equipment
Home Care — Operational Equipment in the amount of
\$25,000 agreed to*

*On Home Care — Prior Years' Projects
Home Care — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil
cleared*

*On Copper Ridge Place — Operational Equipment
Copper Ridge Place — Operational Equipment in the
amount of \$133,000 agreed to*

*On Copper Ridge Place — Energy Projects
Copper Ridge Place — Energy Projects in the amount of
\$783,000 agreed to*

*On Copper Ridge Place — Prior Years' Projects
Copper Ridge Place — Prior Years' Projects in the
amount of nil cleared*

*On Macaulay Lodge — Renovations
Macaulay Lodge — Renovations in the amount of
\$25,000 agreed to*

*On Macaulay Lodge — Operational Equipment
Macaulay Lodge — Operational Equipment in the
amount of \$63,000 agreed to*

*On McDonald Lodge — Operational Equipment
McDonald Lodge — Operational Equipment in the
amount of \$180,000 agreed to*

*On McDonald Lodge — Replacement
McDonald Lodge — Replacement in the amount of
\$10,421,000 agreed to*

*On Thomson Centre — Operational Equipment
Thomson Centre — Operational Equipment in the amount
of \$6,000 agreed to*

*On Thomson Centre — Prior Years' Projects
Thomson Centre — Prior Years' Projects in the amount
of nil cleared*

On New Whitehorse Continuing Care Facility

Ms. Stick: Could I get a breakdown of this number please?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Madam Chair, I don't know how I can expand on it any further than saying that this is for planning and design. We have a number of contractors in the territory right now doing some preliminary work. Once that preliminary work is done and a site is selected, we will continue on with the planning and design of a new continuing care facility. The first thing that we have to do is select a location, which has not yet been done.

*New Whitehorse Continuing Care Facility in the amount
of \$6,900,000 agreed to*

**Continuing Care Capital Expenditures in the amount of
\$18,536,000 agreed to**

**Continuing Care Total Expenditures in the amount of
\$56,755,000 agreed to**

On Health Services

Chair: Is there any general debate?

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Program Management

*Program Management in the amount of \$496,000 agreed
to*

*On Insured Health, Hearing Services and Vital Statistics
Insured Health, Hearing Services and Vital Statistics in
the amount of \$82,250,000 agreed to*

On Community Health

Hon. Mr. Graham: I just thought I would stand up and make a few comments with respect to both this and the next one, in anticipation. I understand there was some conversation in the Legislature while I was away with respect to community health and community nursing facilities in Carmacks. I think it's really important that people understand that, any time the government or Health and Social Services contracts for space in a community, we go to tender for that space.

It appears to me, from the conversation that I read, that it's not understood completely how the process works. When we need a facility, especially in a small community where we know what an economic benefit it is if you are able to lease out a part of a building or a facility, it's really important that we go to tender. We did go to tender on a space in Carmacks some time ago. We received no tenders whatsoever. We received no bids. Consequently we will remain where we are on a temporary basis, but we have contacted at least two of the potential bidders in Carmacks to ensure that they were aware that we were going out to tender and would they please bid. Both of them indicated that they will.

There also seems to be some misunderstanding about what happened in Carmacks and why some of the community health staff were forced to relocate. That was because of an inspection done by the fire marshal and he found several deficiencies. The reason that no one has moved back into the building yet — even though on May 8 it was declared by the assistant fire chief to be habitable — we are waiting for May 16, which is when the final inspection will take place by the territorial fire marshal, and at that time we will return to the space.

During the time that we haven't occupied the space, we have made sure that our staff have been relocated and have been provided with the logistics necessary to enable them to continue working in the community.

Even though it has been difficult on staff and, I think, difficult on people in the community who deal with our regional services there, we have managed to overcome those difficulties in the main, I believe. After reading Hansard the other day, I thought that I would bring those clarifications to the floor.

Ms. Stick: Since the minister has opened this up, I am wondering if he could then explain where the social services workers have been located. It was my understanding that the phone was being forwarded to Mayo and that there was not a location for the social services workers to in fact have an office where they could work from.

Hon. Mr. Graham: Madam Chair, social workers very seldom work out of an office anyway. The vast majority of time, social workers are working in the field, in their client's home or in a space that is comfortable for the client to work with.

In this case, our social worker was working out of her home, being provided with telephone services from Mayo and, in some cases, from Whitehorse, which is not completely out of the question anyway because many times when you have a single worker in the field, the person needs an office phone or a stationary location where others can call. This is not completely out of the question to do.

It's not something we see as advantageous to the worker in that community, but circumstances forced that in this case. Hopefully, after today's inspection, they'll all be back in their regional services office.

Ms. Stick: It's not unusual for individuals to work out of their homes when they're on call, but during normal office hours, you're in an office. I understand that you also go out and meet clients in their homes, but often you do meet in the office, because that's where your computer equipment is located, that's where your file information is, and it's also a safety issue.

To suggest that people were working out of their home, but leaving it for that, and that's somewhat normal — it is for people on call. Of course you can be at home when you're on call. You don't sit in your office and wait to be on call.

I'm just concerned that, in fact, there was not a place where people could go, if they did not have phone access, to meet with the social workers, or know where to find them during an emergency. I find that suggesting people can just work out of their homes, when their file information, their computer information and their supports are in an office does not seem adequate to me.

Hon. Mr. Graham: You're making the best of a bad situation. It's not a wonderful situation that there were problems with their office space, but we wanted to ensure that the office space issues were corrected for staff safety. You don't put staff back in an office that isn't safe. It's just not the right thing to do.

So what we tried to do was make sure the social worker was able to work. We realize, as I said, it was not the optimum situation but, under the circumstances, it was probably the best we could do at the time. Thankfully the difficulties will be over, as of today, and things will go back to normal.

With any luck, we will have a couple of good tenders when we go out for space in the community and we will be able to move into a new or reconditioned office space on a more-or-less permanent position.

Community Health in the amount of \$11,485,000 agreed to

*On Community Nursing
Community Nursing in the amount of \$13,699,000 agreed to*

to
Health Services Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$107,930,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures
*On Insured Health Services — Renovations
Insured Health Services — Renovations in the amount of \$43,000 agreed to*

On Insured Health Services — Office Furniture and Equipment

Insured Health Services — Office Furniture and Equipment in the amount of \$15,000 agreed to

On Insured Health Services — Chronic Disease Benefits — Equipment

Insured Health Services — Chronic Disease Benefits — Equipment in the amount of \$50,000 agreed to

On Insured Health Services — Extended Health Benefits — Equipment

Insured Health Services — Extended Health Benefits — Equipment in the amount of \$60,000 agreed to

On Insured Health Services — Hearing Services — Equipment

Insured Health Services — Hearing Services — Equipment in the amount of \$5,000 agreed to

*On Insured Health Services — Prior Years' Projects
Insured Health Services — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

*On Community Health Programs — Renovations
Community Health Programs — Renovations in the amount of \$20,000 agreed to*

On Community Health Programs — Operational Equipment

Community Health Programs — Operational Equipment in the amount of \$83,000 agreed to

On Community Health Programs — Office Furniture and Equipment

Community Health Programs — Office Furniture and Equipment in the amount of \$35,000 agreed to

On Community Nursing — Renovations

Ms. Stick: Can I have a breakdown of this please?

Hon. Mr. Graham: The funds are provided to do renovations and repairs to Carmacks, Carcross, Mayo, Beaver Creek, Old Crow and Faro health centres. These are all recommended by Property Management. Here is a more accurate breakdown. The Mayo health centre will have: \$156,000 for asbestos removal; \$14,000 to replace exterior sealants; \$37,000 to inspect and replace boilers; \$133,000 to replace the domestic water distribution system; in the Beaver Creek health centre \$10,000 is for heating ventilation upgrades; in Carmacks, \$16,000 will replace humidifiers; in Carcross, \$21,000 will replace front steps; for the Faro health centre, \$160,000 will upgrade the ventilation system; and for Old Crow, \$62,000 is for the heating ventilation system as well.

Community Nursing — Renovations in the amount of \$609,000 agreed to

*On Community Nursing — Operational Equipment
Community Nursing — Operational Equipment in the
amount of \$188,000 agreed to*

*On Community Nursing — Prior Years' Projects
Community Nursing — Prior Years' Projects in the
amount of nil cleared*

Health Services Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$1,108,000 agreed to

Health Services Total Expenditures in the amount of \$109,038,000 agreed to

Chair: Moving to page 13-40, Community and Program Support.

On Community and Program Support

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Program Management

*Program Management in the amount of \$4,061,000
agreed to*

On Family and Children's Services

*Family and Children's Services in the amount of
\$1,131,000 agreed to*

On Income Support

Income Support in the amount of \$1,529,000 agreed to

On Seniors' Services and Adult Protection

*Seniors' Services and Adult Protection in the amount of
\$3,541,000 agreed to*

**Community and Program Support Operation and
Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$10,262,000
agreed to**

On Capital Expenditures

On Regional Services — Office Furniture and Equipment

*Regional Services — Office Furniture and Equipment in
the amount of \$13,000 agreed to*

On Regional Services — Prior Years' Projects

*Regional Services — Prior Years' Projects in the amount
of nil cleared*

**Community and Program Support Capital Expenditures
in the amount of \$13,000 agreed to**

**Community and Program Support Total Expenditures
in the amount of \$10,275,000 agreed to**

On Yukon Hospital Services

Chair: Is there any general debate?

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Yukon Hospital Corporation

*Yukon Hospital Corporation in the amount of
\$66,565,000 agreed to*

**Yukon Hospital Services Operation and Maintenance
Expenditures in the amount of \$66,565,000 agreed to**

On Capital Expenditures

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

Ms. Stick: Can I get a breakdown of this number please?

Hon. Mr. Graham: The amount of \$472,000 was re-profiled from last year, and \$2.775 million is new money for the MRI purchase. We do not yet have a solid price for the new construction for the building that will house the MRI, but we anticipate that it will come in at this price. We have added

some new money because I believe it was an increase in the price of the MRI machine itself and the fact that we are building a building for it now instead of placing it in a more temporary facility at the end of the hospital grounds. Some changes have occurred and we will go ahead with those right now.

Ms. Stick: I am wondering if I could get the number for the increased cost of the MRI, because the next line is prior years' projects and I believe that \$2 million was for the MRI, so wouldn't this number go in there?

Hon. Mr. Graham: This money is for the construction of the building in addition to the purchase price of the MRI itself. Remember that \$2 million was collected by the Yukon Hospital Corporation and we announced that we would match those funds. The further \$2.8 million — or in this case, \$3.2 million — covers the cost to build the MRI suite itself, the one that we will eventually move the machine out of and repurpose for another use. I guess I may have screwed up my first answer because this money is for the building itself.

*Yukon Hospital Corporation — Magnetic Resonance
Imaging (MRI)/Emergency Department Expansion in the
amount of \$3,247,000 agreed to*

On Yukon Hospital Corporation — Prior Years' Projects

*Yukon Hospital Corporation — Prior Years' Projects in
the amount of nil cleared*

**Yukon Hospital Services Capital Expenditures in the
amount of \$3,247,000 agreed to**

**Yukon Hospital Services Total Expenditures in the
amount of \$69,812,000 agreed to**

On Revenues

Ms. Stick: I was curious about the revenues for the continuing care facilities. I was wondering if I could get an explanation for that. It's at the top of page 13-43.

Hon. Mr. Graham: One of the reasons that they have gone up in such a fashion was because we increased the cost of long-term care for residents in 2012-13. It has taken an extended period of time to ensure that all residents are paying that amount of money and that, in fact, all residents are actually collecting all of the pensions and taking advantage of the funding that they're entitled to. It has taken awhile to get up to the full funding model, but we expect that Continuing Care will recover that amount of money this year as a result of the increase. Remember, there will be a slight increase, keeping up with inflation, from now on as well.

Ms. Stick: The other question I had was in regard to the same page — Continuing Care, for McDonald Lodge food services. There's quite a jump in revenue there and I'm just wondering if I can get an explanation for that please.

Hon. Mr. Graham: That figure is in anticipation of the fact that the McDonald Lodge will be supplying food services to the acute services hospital on a continuing basis, once everything is done there at the hospital. In fact, I believe it's beginning already that we're supplying all of the food necessary at the hospital. We anticipate more substantial recoveries from that.

Ms. Stick: On page 13-44, under Third Party Recoveries, under capital, Adult Services, Salvation Army

Redevelopment, \$1,175,000 — I'm wondering why this is a recovery.

Hon. Mr. Graham: That recovery is from the affordable housing initiative under Yukon Housing Corporation. In cooperation with the Salvation Army, we applied for that and have been granted that amount of money, based on the plan going forward.

Ms. Stick: Another item on this same page was Internationally Educated Health Professionals. Where the estimate last year had been zero, it's now at \$249,000. I'm just curious as to what's happening with this program.

Hon. Mr. Graham: That money did come from the federal government. The agreement with the federal government was signed later in the year. Consequently it didn't show last year. I think there was more to that question that I didn't catch. If there is additional information —

Ms. Stick: I just had another question, going back to the Salvation Army and the housing through Yukon Housing for that. Was this through the northern housing trust money program?

Hon. Mr. Graham: No. It was not. It was the affordable housing initiative, I think.

Revenues cleared

On Government Transfers

Ms. Stick: On the bottom of page 13-48, we see education bursaries for health education and nursing education. I was just wondering what the difference between the two would be. One is \$25,000 and one is \$24,000.

Hon. Mr. Graham: The health education bursaries are not intended for nurses. They are for physiotherapists and other medical professions that are looking for money. The nursing scholarships, or the nursing bursaries, are for nurses in nurse training.

Ms. Stick: One more question. The physician recruitment/retention initiatives in the amount of \$1.442 million — can the minister tell us how many doctors this would cover?

Hon. Mr. Graham: That is a really difficult question to answer because it would depend on the doctors themselves. They must work a certain number of hours each year in order to be eligible for funding under the program. It is every three years that they receive the bonus for staying here in the territory, so the absolute maximum, full-time benefit that a doctor could get on completion would be approximately \$36,000 a year as a full-time physician working in the territory for three complete years.

Ms. Stick: My other question is on the last page, 13-50, and it is a new item, pension fund, in the amount of \$4.495 million. This is a new item that has come up from zero. I would like the minister to explain that for me please.

Hon. Mr. Graham: This is to deal with the hospital employees' pension fund. The hospital employees' pension fund is currently in a deficit position, as one other member at the chair knows. We, in cooperation with the Hospital Corporation, feel that an injection of this amount of money is required at this time in order to bring them up to a point where

the letter of credit is still available to the Hospital Corporation pension fund to utilize.

Ms. Stick: Will we continue to see this in further budgets in the coming years as this government putting more money into this pension fund?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I could go on about this subject for hours. Not only did I negotiate the first pension fund agreement when I was with the hospital — with the then government, which I might add was an NDP government — I was chair of the hospital's pension committee for a number of years.

I would hope that this is a one-time payment that we never have to make again to either the Hospital Corporation or to the Yukon College pension fund. However, given the current rates of return and the difficulties experienced by pension funds across this country, I fear that it may not be the last time.

To the Hospital Corporation's credit, they are taking a look at alternatives. Both the Hospital Corporation and Yukon College have made changes to their pension documents. In the last few years, they have upped the contributions from members as well as the institutions themselves.

With all of these things combined, if we have a little bit better return on our investments, I think it should bode well for both of those plans.

Government Transfers cleared

On Changes in Tangible Capital Assets and Amortization

Changes in Tangible Capital Assets and Amortization cleared

On Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds cleared

Department of Health and Social Services agreed to

Chair: We are going to move on to Energy, Mines and Resources, which is Vote No. 53. Committee of the Whole will recess for 10 minutes while we await officials.

Recess

Chair: Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Vote 53, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources — continued

Chair: We are in general debate, and Mr. Kent has the floor, with 16 minutes remaining.

Hon. Mr. Kent: Before I start, I would like to welcome the officials here to the House this afternoon — director of Finance, Ross McLachlan, has joined us again, and I'm very pleased to welcome the acting Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Shirley Abercrombie, who has been acting since an announcement last week. I worked with Shirley not only during this current Legislative Assembly, but also in my time previous, when I was here about 12 years ago. I have always enjoyed working with Shirley and know that she'll do a great job in her acting role.

I would also like to take the time to thank Mr. Greg Komaromi for his service as Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. He has obviously taken over as deputy minister and president of the Yukon Development Corporation and will be heading one of the very important projects — not only to us as a government, but also to Yukoners — which is really providing that horsepower and leadership along with the YDC Board and others with respect to the next generation hydro project — a big welcome to Shirley and a thank you to Greg Komaromi for all his work.

I am just going to touch on a couple of things. I know it has been a little bit since Energy, Mines and Resources was up in the House and there have been a couple of issues that have emerged since that time. One that I have already touched on is the next generation hydro project. There has been a workplan authored by the Yukon Development Corporation and their consultants.

I should also thank Joanne Fairlie and members of the Development Corporation as well as their consultants, including Darielle Talarico, for their work in putting together the workplan. I believe it was last week that I tabled the summary workplan for this project and would like to point out that the full workplan is also available on the Yukon government's Department of Energy, Mines and Resources' website at <http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca> as well as the Yukon Development Corporation's website, which is <http://www.ydc.yk.ca>. This provides a very good summary of that document, but the full document is available for members and members of the public on those websites.

We are certainly excited that we have committed the \$2 million in this budget that we are debating to proceed with this planning.

The workplan sets out how the YDC will build on the work done by YEC and its large hydro study, as well as their 20-year resource plan, to narrow project choices such that a recommendation for a specific project or projects can be made in 12 to 18 months.

I don't think it's any secret that there is a demonstrated need for hydro development, primarily with the expected long-term population growth of the territory, which is estimated to rise over 10 percent from its current levels of 36,700 to over 40,000 by 2019.

Secondarily, hydroelectricity can be used to replace the use of fossil fuels for space heating and future electrical use by industrial customers. As I have mentioned a number of times, this is the longer-term solution. There are a number of short-term solutions that are being proposed, not only by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources through programs like the microgeneration program as well as the independent power producers program, which will be out for consultation with Yukoners later this year, but also projects that the Energy Corporation and the Development Corporation — and even the Energy Solutions Centre, for that matter — are undertaking with respect to demand-side management as well as identifying other renewables and the fossil fuel backup that was recently approved as well. I'll get to that in a little bit.

As mentioned with respect to this larger project, it is expected to take 10 to 15 years to build. The next gen-hydro project can be split into stages including conceptual design, prefeasibility, feasibility, planning, construction and operations.

The workplan that will take place over the next year is to get to a business-case scenario so that we can not only share that with Yukoners, but also identify potential financiers or partners in proceeding with that project. What we will — as I mentioned — continue to do is look to the Yukon Energy Corporation. They will continue to implement their 20-year resource plan, in the meantime, focused, as I mentioned, on demand-side management; look at opportunities for wind as well as biomass and the opportunities associated with natural gas.

The LNG project, as mentioned in Question Period, is to replace two diesel backup units that are well past their prime — over 45 years old — and instead of replacing them with new diesel generators, the Energy Corporation is seeking to replace them with natural gas generators as natural gas is far less expensive than diesel. It is a relatively small project for near-term needs and we will always need to be able to back up our renewable facilities because of our isolated grid and the fact that we do need our reliable backups for that power.

Perhaps I will touch briefly on the Yukon Utilities Board's recommendations for the LNG project. I know it did come up in Question Period today. Sometimes with Question Period you do not get a chance to give the full extent of the explanation and the position with respect to a specific answer. What I will do now is put on the record a little bit more information with the YUB recommendations, as well as next steps for this project.

As members know, yesterday, May 14, 2014, the Yukon Utilities Board recommended to the Minister of Justice that Yukon Energy Corporation's Whitehorse diesel to natural gas conversion project be approved and that no conditions be placed on that project.

As part of its recommendation, the YUB expressed its opinion that the public benefit of the project is significant and that there is a public need for this project. In addition, the YUB expressed its view that there are no viable renewable alternatives that could be developed within the time frame available and that none of the renewable alternatives would be adequate to fulfill the need to replace the aging diesel engines.

Madam Chair, this is something that I know that came up as well at PNWER, the Pacific North West Economic Region conference last year in Anchorage where an island — I believe Kodiak, Alaska — primarily relies on wind power for their generation. But being on an isolated grid, like us — although we're over a much larger area than the island — they also rely on fossil-fuel backup. I remember the presenter saying that of course they needed fossil fuel or non-renewable backup to supplement the wind power that they generate on their island.

The Yukon Utilities Board also indicated that the risks of using the two oldest diesel engines to provide reliable backup capacity during a system emergency were too high. With

respect to safety and environmental issues, the YUB felt that the Energy Corporation had demonstrated enough evidence that it was minimizing risks from a health and safety standpoint and that no further conditions were required.

They were also of the opinion that the risk of decreasing oil- versus gas-price spread was low enough that the project could proceed. Again, I know that yesterday I did provide the Member for Klondike as well as the Member for Mayo-Tatchun with a copy of the cover letter and the full report itself was tabled in this House earlier today by the Minister of Justice.

I know I haven't had the opportunity to fully read the document, but I invite members to take a look at it and then we'll go from there.

Of course, there is another process that is still not complete with respect to this project, and that's the YESAA process. I understand from the on-line registry of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board that the consultation period on the draft recommended plan has closed and they are now writing the final recommendation, which will be forwarded to government. As this project is in executive committee screening, the decision body on it lies within the Executive Council Office. Upon receiving the recommendations, they will be able to move forward with issuing a decision document.

Again, there's a prescribed amount of time that they have to do so. I believe they have up to 60 days to issue that decision document, with a possibility for up to a 30-day extension. Again, that timing will obviously depend on what is contained within the recommendation from YESAB.

I think those are two of the things that have emerged as issues since the last time Energy, Mines and Resources was up. What I'll do now is welcome questions from members opposite on those or other issues association with EMR.

Mr. Tredger: I too would like to welcome the officials — in the case of Mr. McLachlan, back, and in the case of Ms. Abercrombie, welcome to the Legislature.

I would like to begin with a series of questions on Keno City. I'll try to roll them all into one so the minister can just answer them as one.

I will begin with my admiration for the businessmen and residents of Keno for the work that they are doing, for their ingenuity and for their ability to build a tourism trade in Keno City. Just recently we've had the Sourdough Café open. I know the Keno City Hotel is about to open. Mike Mancini's Keno City Snack Bar is still open. The Silvermoon Bunkhouse is opening. This is pretty exciting for the community. I must say I'm impressed with their attention to detail and the work they've done. I wanted to thank, not only the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, but the other departments that are working with residents of Keno City to help them as they work through the process of living in a community that has an active mining site.

I must also thank the companies involved, in particular the parent company, Alexco, for the work that they're doing. I encourage everyone to work together for the benefit of all the

residents in the area. I will refer to the *Health Impact Assessment of Mining Activities near Keno City, Yukon*.

It was done a number of years ago and I'll quote a couple sections from it: "Although a number of stressors can be mitigated or minimized through collaboration among industry, the Yukon government and Keno residents, the lack of a governance structure or organized representation within the community poses significant challenges in terms of developing a strategy that responds to a unified community vision."

It goes on to cite another part — and I quote: "A community consultation and complaint resolution system should be developed whereby residents' concerns would be documented. Alexco and other industrial operators in the region should be required to follow up and resolve these concerns."

I believe a formal process for handling complaints and concerns was part of the YESAB recommendations. I will quote a recent letter I received from one of the residents who is going out of his way to work with the departments as well as with Alexco, because in the past, the relationships haven't always been good. But once again, the citizens of Keno are working hard to work with industry and government so that they can maintain their lifestyle. I will quote from him: There has been no formal process for residents and landowners to voice their concerns with Alexco and, more importantly, a mechanism in place that ensures that people can formally express their concerns and have them responded to accordingly, and that there is a record of this and that this record is referred to in any subsequent applications. Our understanding was that this formal process was to be put in place when their last submission was approved. Who ensures that this is adhered to and complied with? We believe that the process can only be effective if a third, impartial body ensures that it is done in a measureable way.

Whatever informal process that currently exists has been inconsistent, at best, and generally unsatisfactory in terms of coming up with mitigations and any follow-through on the part of the proponent. What we are asking for is accountability from our government and Alexco Resource Corp to protect our personal and financial interests in the Keno City region.

If the proponent is given permission to continue and increase its operations and production footprint, then effective mitigation and monitoring mechanisms need to be put in place to address and alleviate the legitimate concerns of community members. We want to be proactive. Noise, dust, air and water quality are all issues that can and should be mitigated to the best of everybody's abilities. The science is there and we should use it.

I believe that the proponent was required to establish a public process for dealing with concerns and releasing information to the local residents, such as on water testing, air quality, noise, dust, containment of tailings, as well as groundwater.

The second part of my question deals somewhat with the infrastructure. I'm talking about roads again. I've talked about them several times in the last little bit.

The road from Minto to Pelly is concerning. The road from Mayo to Keno is very concerning. I realize the minister is not responsible for highways in that area, but I believe there's an all-department organization working in the area and, as such, we have had a year when the heavy ore trucks have not been travelling over the roads and it was an opportunity to upgrade them in anticipation of increasing traffic. It is much more difficult once the silver ore trucks start running again to repair and upgrade the road.

I know the Duncan Creek Road, which residents often used so they could stay out of the way of the ore trucks, has not been upgraded and has deteriorated over the years. It was an option. My question is: Is that committee looking at rebuilding some of the infrastructure when some of the things have slowed down?

The other part to that is that Keno is trying to build a tourism industry. I was up to the signpost at the top of the hill there last summer. The road was washed out in many places. The residents were concerned about access to many of their tourist sites. These are wonderful places to visit. They are a real resource and they are unique in the world. It is a real tourist attraction, and yet people are having difficulty getting there.

I will stop there. I am most concerned about a formal mechanism for the community to work with the various departments and with Alexco Resource Corp and other industries in the area. Who is taking the lead in the interdepartmental committee that is looking at it? Which department is taking the lead — so that I can address my questions from the constituents to which minister? Is there a contact person for the community to get a hold of so that their concerns can be addressed?

Hon. Mr. Kent: I thank the member opposite for the questions on behalf of his constituents in Keno City. It has been awhile since I have been up to that community in the Yukon, but I'm looking forward this summer to visiting the community — perhaps not only doing a tour of the Alexco mine — which wasn't operational the last time I was up there and, unfortunately, is in temporary shutdown right now — but also visiting some of the other sites in that area, including Victoria Gold's Eagle project, which has its quartz mining licence and is awaiting a construction decision based on financing.

Madam Chair, I'm not disputing that this exists, but I'm not sure where the formal process for handling complaints — if that was a YESAB recommendation or not. I would have to look into it, or perhaps the member opposite could provide a little bit more background around where this process emerged. I would then be able to give him a better response, hopefully, or at least take it up with colleagues who may be handling that process — if he could outline that through a letter to me, or perhaps he has a little bit information that he can share the next time he's on his feet.

As I did mention, though, there is the temporary shutdown at the Bellekeno mine. They are currently in another YESAA process to permit another deposit that is close. In fact, I believe the portal to the deposit will be mere metres

away from where the mill currently is for the Alexco mine. It has been awhile since I've been on the YESAA on-line registry to look at that particular project, but I believe it is still in the designated office process and there would be opportunities throughout for the public to provide further comment with respect to that particular project that Alexco is undertaking.

When it comes to existing permits or activities that are underway, we in Energy, Mines and Resources have what was known as Client Service and Inspections and has been rebranded and renamed Compliance Monitoring and Inspections. That branch of Energy, Mines and Resources conducts inspections of a number of projects, including making sure that this particular project is following the conditions of their applicable permits.

Again, when it comes to this process, I would just request from the member opposite a little bit more information with respect to what he's referring to or where he's referring to it, so I can perhaps answer it on the floor today or at least commit to get back to him with a response as to where it's at.

I certainly agree with him. I think that engaging not only Yukon government officials but proponents is something that is extremely important when it comes to ongoing projects, and I will take it up with representatives of Alexco and as well, commit on behalf of Energy, Mines and Resources to talk further with my departmental officials about what kind of process could be put in place. Again, if the member is able to point specifically to where this formal process was housed, that would be helpful to me in ensuring that I can either answer the question or at least point him in the right direction.

When it comes to infrastructure, of course the Department of Highways and Public Works is the lead on a number of issues, whether it is our road infrastructure or ferry operations or airports or any number of infrastructure processes.

Just in speaking with officials, they are not quite sure about the interdepartmental committee that is looking at that. It is not to suggest that it does not exist, but perhaps with a little more information or a little bit of time, I will be able to determine who is involved in that committee. Again, I have to assume that if there is such a committee, Highways and Public Works would be the lead.

What I can speak to a little bit, though, is a committee that is chaired by the Minister of Highways and Public Works, that I — as Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources — as well as the Minister of Economic Development and Environment sit on that committee and look at strategic investments and infrastructure over and above what is deemed necessary by the experts in the department as far as what the priorities should be for safety reasons and other reasons.

Some of the recommendations that we have made is to do functional planning on three roads in the Yukon: the Nahanni Range Road, which services the Cantung mine. I believe there's an extension of that road along the Yukon-N.W.T. border that goes into the Selwyn property that is run by Chihong Mining. So the Nahanni Range Road is one of those that we're undertaking functional planning on, as well as the Freegold Road, which goes through the member's riding from

Carmacks up — not quite to the Casino mine, because a portion of that road is public, then a further portion of that road is private. Then finally, the last functional plan is being undertaken on the North Klondike Highway, between the Mayo Road turnoff and Carmacks, so we can identify strategic investments in anticipation of increased traffic on that road. Some of the things we're looking at are additional passing lanes and additional truck pullouts, so that the travelling public can safely get past some of the industrial traffic that we're anticipating being on that road, again competing with not only the local traffic, but visitor traffic as well, in the height of the summer.

That's some of the work that the ministerial committee has undertaken, but perhaps I would just invite members opposite to take that up with the Minister of Highways and Public Works as to further actions with respect to infrastructure improvement. I too drove to Dawson City last week for the AYC meeting, and will also be heading up early tomorrow morning for the gold show in Dawson. That road's a little tough.

I'm surprised that the Member for Klondike didn't address it during Question Period over the last 30 days, but that's okay. There is a lot of work that takes place outside of this Chamber, so I'm sure that as improvements are made — and I did actually talk last week to a resident of Dawson who is the president of the Yukon Outfitters Association. He said that, even to where it was last week, it had improved quite a bit. I know the folks in Highways and Public Works are very concerned about ensuring that, after the spring breakup, those roads are improved. Safety, of course, is of paramount concern to them — ensuring that the travelling public can rely on a very good road and, where it isn't, they can certainly flag any of the opportunities or ensure that travellers are alerted to the fact that they need to slow down.

I didn't really get to the crux of the questions, other than a commitment to look into it further. If the member has a few more details with respect to the formal process, I would welcome them but probably would have to get back to the member opposite by way of a letter at a later date between sittings.

Mr. Tredger: If and when the minister does visit Keno, I would highly recommend staying overnight at either the newly opened Keno City Hotel or at the Silvermoon Bunkhouse. Both are excellent. I highly recommend them. The Keno City snack bar also has some rooms in the back that are very comfortable. I would recommend that the minister and anyone else listening to take some time this summer and visit Keno City.

The recommendations were from the YESAA process. I do not have the exact document in front of me, but it was in the recommendations that there be a formal reporting and information-sharing process.

I believe it was to be a combination of Yukon government and the proponent, Alexco Resource Corporation. The committee came out of the health impact assessment, which was commissioned by Health and Social Services, but it was going to be an interdepartmental committee that would

try to bring all of the resources together to provide a less siloed opportunity for Keno City residents to be heard and interacted with.

The request for a formal process has been ongoing for the last four or five years, and it is significant. There are residents of Keno who live there year-round. There are business owners in Keno. There are many residents of Keno who are there only in the summertime or who own properties in Keno and are not long-term. It's important that some process be developed that allows them to have a unified voice, or certainly a way for the proponent and for government agencies to contact them all at the same time rather than on an individual basis.

I will move on. I had a couple questions about Mayo B. When was Mayo B declared operational and running at full capacity? Has there been any review of the operation of Mayo B? Can the minister provide any details of that review? Are all the turbines running as expected? Did it operate at full capacity this last winter?

The other aspect to my Mayo B question is that the previous minister repeatedly said that the flooding in Mayo had nothing to do with Mayo B and Yukon Energy. However, we know that we have been lacking some baseline studies on groundwater and groundwater stuff. We are getting more data and apparently this summer there will be an engineering study done of that.

In light of the fact that Yukon Energy controls the water from Mayo Lake through a series of weirs, dams and lakes all the way to Stewart River, can the minister still say that Yukon Energy is not the one responsible for the flooding? Are we not sure yet? Is it something we need to look at? I know that Community Services has been paying over the last while — up to \$800,000 a year — to alleviate the flooding and the consequences of the flooding. When can we expect the engineer's report and when can the citizens of Mayo expect some kind of mitigation efforts?

Hon. Mr. Kent: With respect to the questions the member asked regarding the Mayo B project itself and the timing and some of the other aspects — I didn't jot them down, but what I will commit to do is refer those questions to the Yukon Energy Corporation and provide a written answer to him sometime between sessions. I do plan on asking officials from the Energy Corporation and the Development Corporation to appear before the House this fall. I will get an answer to those questions with respect to the operations of the Mayo B project that the member raised in his question.

When it comes to the flooding in Mayo, the member is correct. The Department of Community Services has been taking the lead on the ongoing flooding issues in the Village of Mayo. My understanding is that it's not a new issue. There were flooding problems in Mayo well before Mayo B was brought into service, and information from the Energy Corporation is that they are providing assistance to the community and the Yukon government with regard to this issue, including providing technical expertise.

At the recent Yukon Agricultural Association AGM, I had the opportunity to meet one of the member's constituents, a farmer from that area. I committed to stopping by his home

this summer, just to get a sense of what he feels some of the changes have been. I know he had taken this up with my predecessor as well. I do look forward to stopping there and getting a sense, but again, my understanding is that these are historical flooding issues in Mayo.

I know that, I believe it was earlier on during the sitting, or possibly just before we came back into the House this spring, the Minister of Community Services and I participated in a call with the mayor of Mayo during the height of this situation that was going on there. We had a very good dialogue. I know the Minister of Community Services had a very good dialogue with the Mayor of Mayo and they stayed in constant contact. I know that one of his officials was taking the lead on a group that regularly had conference calls. I know there were officials from Energy, Mines and Resources and the Energy Corporation, I believe, participating in that with the community to monitor the flooding issues in the community of Mayo.

As I mentioned, it is the Department of Community Services that is the lead on this, but Energy, Mines and Resources as well as the Energy Corporation are participating in a backup and in an advisory role with respect to the flooding in Mayo.

Mr. Tredger: I thank the minister for his answer. I thank him for taking the time to go out to the farm on the road. I know it has been his yard — his garden has been flooded and his basement has been flooded. I got a call from him last week. There is two feet of frozen water — “ice” I guess it would be called — in the basement of his guesthouse. It is an ongoing concern.

As far as the flooding goes, in the past, there has been flooding. It was brought up before Mayo B was put in place and flagged by the Village of Mayo. In the past, the flooding would be in the springtime when the water was going out. Since the building of Mayo B — and perhaps more importantly, since the building of the transmission line from Mayo to Dawson which increased the amount of power necessary and therefore the amount of flow through the dam.

It's been a problem every winter since then. In the past, it was sporadic in the spring. Now it has been every winter since then that there is a problem. The flooding water is affecting the town's water supply and there are concerns that way as well as potential flooding for the community itself.

I thank the minister and just by way of also thanking the various departments that came together to work to alleviate the flooding over the past number of years. I know that the residents have nothing but good things to say about the way the government stepped in and worked on it. It's after the fact in dealing with the flooding, but they really appreciated the work that was being done by all departments and by Yukon Energy for their work on that as well. It's not a question of people not trying or not working, it's a question of figuring out what is happening and how to fix it. Anything the minister can do will certainly be encouraged.

Two more quick questions — the minister talked today about the LNG plant and I just wanted to reiterate that over the last 10 or 15 years we've lost a lot of opportunities to

pursue renewables. We're now backed into a corner where there are fewer options. There is considerable benefit to Yukon that can be captured by using forest-generated biomass. Heat for buildings using wood has been a mainstay of the forest industry for many, many years. Virtually all of the energy consumed in the Yukon came from the forest at one time.

The district heating system in Dawson has a lot of potential. I know when I was at Eliza Van Bibber School there was a wood-chip boiler; Elijah Smith Elementary School had a wood-chip boiler; Yukon College had a wood-chip boiler; Whitehorse Correctional Centre — I believe — is still running on wood chips. I hope it is.

It has been problematic in the Yukon to use wood chips and district heating systems, but it is used across Canada and across the world and is very effective. We have huge opportunity here and over a number of years, there has been stop and start and ad hoc stuff, but nothing done. The same applies to wind. In 1993-94, three wind turbines were put up. We were ahead of the curve at the time. The people in the industry here — the engineers — were being called from across Canada for information and to share their knowledge.

Here we are, running out of energy — 13 years later there are still three lonely windmills occasionally operating on the top of the hill. When I drive south, I see row upon row of windmills in the Dawson Creek area, in Alberta — yesterday, we heard about Prince Edward Island. We are falling behind the world where we were once a leader. Now the minister tells us we have no option but fossil fuels.

We are lacking creativity, ingenuity and leadership. We have forests that are beetle-killed and dry, we have wind in abundance, we are just starting out on a microgeneration policy and our conservation methods are rudimentary. Other jurisdictions have shown the way on how they can cut 10, 15, 20 or 25 percent of their power usage. We have not begun to address our largest carbon-fuel emitter, which is transportation, and we are being told that we have no options.

Will the minister consider, during this term, pilot projects or projects around wind, around wood energy and biomass and move us forward — a concerted effort — not a little project here, a little project there, but a concerted effort. Given the state of the world and what we are hearing about climate change and our dependence on fossil fuel, little bits and drabs are not enough. We need a concerted strategy — strategic effort — now.

Hon. Mr. Kent: There is quite a bit to say in response to the member's questions when it comes to energy. Of course, the LNG project, as I mentioned in my opening remarks today, at the Whitehorse Rapids facility is really designed to replace existing infrastructure and aging infrastructure. The diesels that are there are extremely old — 45 years or better — and they do need to be replaced. As I've mentioned a number of times during Question Period, and perhaps even the last time I was on my feet in EMR debate, it was a recommendation of the Energy Corporation board and the Development Corporation board that, when looking to

replace that aging infrastructure, the best alternative was to go with natural gas.

The Yukon Utilities Board, in their recommendations, did state that the public benefit of this project is significant and that there is a public need for the project. In addition — and this was the important part, I think — the Yukon Utilities Board expressed its view that there are no viable renewable alternatives that could be developed and that none of the renewable alternatives would be adequate to fulfill the need to replace the aging diesel engines. I think that's an extremely important thing that the Yukon Utilities Board has expressed.

This is backup power and it is necessary, not only when renewable power or other sources of power go down, but to meet peak periods in the winter. Ensuring that the lights are on and the furnace is going is extremely important from a human health and safety perspective. I can certainly tell you that if the power went out and we didn't have reliable backup, my phone would be lighting up, as well as the phones of every MLA, I'm sure — as well as everyone over at the Energy Corporation and Yukon Electrical. This project that the Yukon Utilities Board has recommended to proceed is really designed to ensure that we can provide that backup power.

We heard this morning I think in local media from Senator Neufeld from northern British Columbia — a gentleman that I had the privilege of serving with as Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources my first go-round about 12 years ago. Certainly, it was great to see him. I had the opportunity to speak to the Senate Committee yesterday and talk about some of the opportunities that are here in the territory with respect to our plans on the next-generation hydro, as well as some of the other things that we're doing and some of the policies that we have put in place to support new energy production, such as the microgeneration program. We're also looking this year — and I was hopeful that we would be ready before the House adjourned for the summer — to be out there with our independent power producers policy that is going to consultation with Yukoners, but we're not quite ready yet, unfortunately. We would anticipate that going out within the next month or so and seeking input from Yukoners on that document and finding a way to move forward.

That's based on the energy strategy that was consulted on in 2009. What that document did was reflect the government's vision to improve energy efficiency and conservation, produce more renewable energy, meet electricity needs, responsibly develop oil and gas and make good energy choices.

When it comes to oil and gas development, public attitudes have certainly changed since that time, with respect particularly to hydraulic fracturing. That's why we have the select committee that has been put together — an all-party committee of the Legislature that is looking at the risks and benefits of hydraulic fracturing, with equal representation from both sides of the House — three government members and three members of the Opposition on that committee. I know that during this sitting we did put in place an extension to their mandate so that the report on the risks and benefits of

hydraulic fracturing will be coming forward this fall. I'm sure all members of the House are looking forward to that report.

I should take some time to thank those individual members who are participating in that committee: the MLA for Watson Lake, the MLA for Vuntut Gwitchin and the MLA for Copperbelt North from our side of the House. I believe they're joined by the MLA for Klondike, the MLA for Mayo-Tatchun and the MLA for Copperbelt South. The work that that committee is doing is extremely important and I had the opportunity to see on local community television some of the expert witness testimony that was provided here at the end of January. I believe the one that I was able to catch was that by a Dr. Rick Chalaturnyk and I found it very informative, as I'm sure our members did.

The questions that members had, and individuals in the gallery, were thoughtful, I thought. I understand that that committee will be continuing their work — perhaps some more public proceedings as well as community visits this summer. I encourage all Yukoners to visit the website and see when the community meetings will be coming as well as when the public proceedings will be available. I think the televised proceedings are available on the website as well, perhaps. I have been given confirmation of that by a couple of members who are on the committee. So even if you missed the ones in late January or early February, you have an opportunity to view those and then some additional ones coming forward.

I have spoken about the long-term vision for the next generation hydro project, but some of the shorter term opportunities — I spoke briefly about the microgeneration and the upcoming consultation in IPP. Another important thing is that the department is currently developing a biomass strategy that we are looking forward to sharing with Yukoners.

A press release that I put out in August shortly after being named Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources spoke to the implementation of the 2009 energy strategy for Yukon. It was determined at that time that our target in that strategy was to increase Yukon's renewable energy supply by 20 percent by 2020. We are certainly on track to meet that. Ninety-five percent of the electricity demand in 2012 was met by renewable energy, and nearly 20 percent of heating energy was met by renewable wood-based heating. On a per capita basis, this was greater than any other jurisdiction in Canada.

The 95-percent renewable energy supply is something that I brought up with the former Minister of Natural Resources Canada when I was in Ottawa earlier this year. I know that we are ahead of the national average, obviously, on that as well.

I think it's something that Yukoners can be proud of. I know I've mentioned on the floor of this House before that this isn't something that one government, or even one party, can take credit for. It has been a sustained initiative, going back to the federal investments in projects like Whitehorse Rapids and Aishihik and the original Mayo dam, and then the additions of the third turbine at Aishihik and the Mayo B projects that have been enacted by this government.

The increase in the Yukon Energy Corporation's renewable energy generation has actually increased by 22

percent. So we've already exceeded our 2020 target and we look to continue those. We don't want to rest on that. We want to continue to look for other ways to ensure that renewables continue to play an important part of the energy mix here in the territory.

Another initiative that we've undertaken that has received some public attention is the MOU that we signed with the State of Alaska with respect to connecting the Yukon grid to southeast Alaska, and not only looking at one of the projects — the West Creek project — that they're looking to bring on-line as a possibility to feed clean power into the Yukon in the winter when we need it, but also looking at some of the other projects that are along the route.

I know that the highway camp at Fraser is currently supplied by a microhydro project and there could potentially be opportunities to increase the capacity of that facility. It is a privately owned facility where the power is sold to the government to provide power to our highway camp as well as to Canada Customs that is at Fraser. There is also a project at Moon Lake, I believe, that could possibly — I mean I am sure would make sense if the transmission was there.

Currently there are a number of companies that were successful bidders. Morrison Hershfield Ltd. is the lead on this project. The open tender was issued on February 21 of this year and it was awarded in April of this year to four consulting companies from Yukon, Alaska and southern Canada. We are expecting the final study to be complete by February 2015.

When it comes to wind energy, the member is correct. There are currently two wind turbines in operation on Haeckel Hill that feed electricity into the grid. There has been some criticism by members of the public when they weren't working. There are some issues with performing the necessary maintenance. Issues with personnel safety and the availability of replacement parts are but a couple.

The Energy Corporation — and again, I invite members to get into more detail with representatives of the corporations when they appear this fall — continues to study potential sites for commercial-scale wind generation — the Tehcho or formerly Ferry Hill site, which is close to Stewart Crossing, as well as Mount Sumanik, near Whitehorse.

We want to make sure, obviously, that, when it comes to the type of generating capacity that we add to the system, it adheres to four planning principles that were adopted by the Energy Corporation: reliability, affordability, flexibility and environmental responsibility. When we're adding additional capacity, we want to make sure that it meets those planning criteria. There are a number of initiatives that are underway when it comes to the energy mix that serves our communities, and a big part of the next generation hydro initiatives will be transmission aspects as well — the possibility of no longer having an isolated grid and being able to connect to the south, not only to sell power generated by our own hydro dams when it's not needed locally, but also perhaps import power if there's an opportunity to meet additional demands.

I think, as Yukoners, we should be proud of the fact that we're at 95 percent, but we also have to be cognizant of the

fact that we are an isolated grid and we do need that backup fossil fuel power, whether its natural gas or diesel, to meet those demands that exist at peak periods or when power goes down. It's infrastructure that we often take for granted, but we're sure happy it's there when something happens to our renewable sources of energy production.

I have a quick question. We've been talking a little bit in Question Period about the waste rock from Minto mine. I'm looking at the water licence and where it discusses how the waste rock shall be managed. I'll just read from it: Overburden and waste rock released from mining area 2 and area 118 ore bodies shall be managed as planned. In the waste rock, an overburden management plan was presented as exhibit 1.3.11 of application.

It says that, (a) waste rock and overburden shall be segregated and placed in designated sections of the southwest dump expansion area or placed as part of area 1 pit buttress and Mill Valley fill; and (d) waste rock shall be segregated into zero grade, low grade, medium grade and high grade waste rock based on copper content and other geochemical criteria as described in clause 43. Zero waste rock shall be used for construction of area 1 pit buttress and Mill Valley fill or placed in association with low-grade waste rock in a designated area of the southwest dump expansion.

I might add that I understand there is some — the Mill Valley fill has been somewhat problematic.

It says, (f) low-grade waste rock shall be used for construction of the area 1 pit buttress or placed in association with zero-grade waste rock in a designated area of the southwest dump expansion. Medium- and high-grade waste rock shall be used for construction of area 1 pit buttress that will lie below the planned closure water level area pit 1 or placed in a designated area of the southwest dump expansion.

My question for the minister is: Has the water licence been amended? How has permission been given to export the waste rock from the mine site to various spots for highway construction?

Hon. Mr. Kent: I know the member opposite raised this as a constituency issue earlier this week in Question Period. When it comes to the responsibilities that we have as ministers, there are many. There are obviously a number of contracts that are managed by each department. Of course, the Department of Highways and Public Works is the one that is managing this. I know we may not get to Highways and Public Works today, so I will provide a response from the Transportation Engineering branch that was put forth. It is obviously very similar to what the member heard in Question Period from the Minister of Highways and Public Works this week.

When it comes to the Tatchun Creek bridge, Highways and Public Works always obtains all the required assessments, permits and authorizations before any work is done. The Department of Highways and Public Works has demonstrated due diligence on every single project that they complete. On the Tatchun Creek bridge itself, the Department of Highways and Public Works received a YESAB assessment and a water licence from the Yukon Water Board. The Water Board sets

the licence conditions for the protection of water and its resources, and the Yukon government is fully compliant with that licence. All work conducted on the site and all material used during this project meet the conditions of the licences and will continue to do so.

As the minister mentioned earlier this week, the rip-rap supplier provided written certification that the material delivered for this project is suitable for use in the creek. There was also an independent testing, using an Outside facility, and they have also confirmed that the material is suitable for use and meets the conditions of the water licence.

Beyond that information that I've been able to provide, based on a briefing note from Highways and Public Works, if there's any additional information required, I would invite the member to send a letter or have a discussion with the Minister of Highways and Public Works.

Mr. Silver: I would like to thank the representatives from the department for their time today — their very valuable time — and thank you to the Member for Mayo-Tatchun for his questioning over a couple of different days for Energy, Mines and Resources. I'll apologize in advance that I'll be jumping around as I pick through my notes.

I'm going to start with something that I've wanted to talk about in Committee of the Whole with the minister for quite some time now — it's the Slinky mine. According to the clock, I don't think I'll get the same opportunity to do the same with the Minister for Highways and Public Works on the same topic — so here I go with him.

There have been a lot of questions and concerns and lots of letters that have been put forth to the municipality. I wanted to focus on one particular letter to start with here. I want to get the minister's opinion on it. We know that the government is saying they're going to go in and fix the municipality's road under the guise of safety, and that's great. I have a letter here from Grenon Enterprises Services & Rentals Limited.

This is from Gerry and Dina Grenon. It's folks like the Grenons who are very critical in our community. Gerry's knowledge about our town's infrastructure is second to none. His opinion on the road and the department's plans — well, I can't really think of anybody better suited to sum up very real concerns here. For those who don't know Gerry, basically his task — well, I'll just read the letter.

This is dated April 10, 2014 to the mayor and council and it's regarding the development permit 14-012 Dome Road and Mary McLeod realignment. I quote: "This letter is to appeal the contents of the development permit noted above as they have been approved by the Yukon government. Our appeal is somewhat different in what has been coming across your desk over the past few days. We are not opposed to improvements on the Dome Road or Mary McLeod Road. We are not opposed to someone legally mining claims that they have a right to. We are not opposed to governments working together to allow for expansion of residential building lots. What we are opposed to are two things in particular, only one of which the City of Dawson has any control over. The first concern we have is that the development of the roadways are actually improving the existing road infrastructure. Our company has

had many years of maintaining the Dome Road under contract with the City of Dawson and we are very familiar with the condition of each section of that road. Looking at the drawings submitted with the applications, we do not believe that a major deficiency in the Dome Road is being addressed. The section of road that is approximately 0.7 kilometres from the Dome/highway intersection going up the road is in need of stabilization. This area has had problems with drainage, sagging and slouching for a number of years. Drainage has been worked on but, at the end of the day, this section is still slouching and one only has to drive the road to notice the difference in road height in the area where it is occurring.

"In the application drawings, the improvements are shown to be above that area to start straightening out the corner above. We believe that it is only a matter of time before that section of road lets go and falls over the bank toward the road below. It could be weeks or it could be years, but why take the risk when improvements are going to be done starting close to that area? If the City of Dawson is to be tasked with the care and upkeep of the Dome Road, then it would only make sense that the city would assume responsibility of sound infrastructure.

"The second concern we have is we believe the Yukon government should not be paying for the whole cost of moving this road. We understand the concept that YTG is working with the local miner and municipality to free up land, and we agree with that. We believe, however, that YTG should only assume the costs of repair to the road that are needed, and the balance of the actual road moving should come from the miner's pocket. We do understand that this permit is not based on who is paying what and also understand that this is a concern that is out of the City of Dawson's hands, so I will be cc'ing this letter to our MLA for his perusal.

"Thank you for your time and consideration. Respectfully, Gerry and Dina Grenon."

A lot of miners are saying the same thing. In Slinky's original YESAA application, the proponent was taking the responsibility for all remediation, including the roadway.

We are hearing, for safety, the territorial government is fixing a municipal road, but they are not fixing the part of the road that, according to those responsible for the clearing and grading in the area, needs the safety upgrade.

Once again, I know this is dual between the minister's Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and Highways and Public Works, but I was wondering if the minister could comment on his department's involvement in this decision — as I might not be able to get the Minister of Highways and Public Works into Committee of the Whole today — as far as going from the original YESAA application and how his government has decided, in the order of safety, to fix and pay for only part of the road that is in dire need.

Hon. Mr. Kent: Hopefully I'm able to provide some current information for the member opposite with respect to the Dome Road issue, which I know is extremely important to a number of his constituents and, as he mentioned, there are probably more than two opinions on this. I'm sure there are three or four, or even five, when it comes to what should be

done and what the government is proposing with respect to the Dome Road.

I am not disputing the contents of the letter, but I would ask if the member wouldn't mind providing me a copy — it does not have to be right now — of the letter he received from the Grenons, that would also be helpful in getting some context around what their concerns are with respect to a different aspect of the road. Of course, I will pass that on to my colleague, the Minister of Highways and Public Works. I guess it's just a friendly request to the member opposite, if he doesn't mind — it does not have to be today, but sometime over the next little bit — to provide me and the Minister of Highways and Public Works with a copy of the letter he received from his constituent, addressing additional concerns with the Dome Road.

As I have mentioned a number of times in Question Period when this has come up, the Yukon government, the City of Dawson and the owners of the Slinky mine are finalizing a multi-party agreement, and it is my understanding that the agreement has been reached between the city, the Yukon government and the owners of the mine.

The Department of Highways and Public Works has completed the detailed engineering study for that portion of the road. Again, I think this is new information that I am bringing to the floor of the House here today.

There is also a public meeting that will be held in Dawson City on June 9 to discuss the project. Both representatives of Highways and Public Works and of Energy, Mines and Resources will be attending that meeting. Both the MLA and I will be here doing Public Accounts business that day, but if he would like to pass that on to his constituents — the date of that public meeting. I know there has been substantial interest in my discussions with the Mayor of Dawson City over that public meeting taking place.

If he can pass that information on through social media or the best way that it works in Dawson, that would be important.

We'll be able to get the time and the place will be posted. I'm sure that information obviously will be available through the city offices up there as well.

When it comes to this project, we believe it will enable us to add additional country residential lots to the portion in question and allow for a timely end to placer mining near the road as well as near the residences. Highways and Public Works' officials have instructed us that it will also improve the safety of the Dome Road. It doesn't speak to the additional area that the member opposite talked about. But if he provides us with that letter, I would be grateful and can pass it on to Highways and Public Works so they can address that for us.

The agreement is going to require the miners to surrender their right to mine any of the claims associated with the Slinky mine on the Dome Road within a strictly limited time period. As mentioned, the City of Dawson approved the municipal development permit required to relocate and improve the Dome Road at its council meeting on March 27, 2014. There was an appeal of the issuance of that development permit and the appeal was held in April of this year. The latest

information — and it may require an update — is that the city was working on the formal response to the appeal. The final decision was of course expected the week of April 28, so I'm assuming that formal response has already been completed.

Highways and Public Works and Energy, Mines and Resources are working together to ensure the realigned Dome Road is constructed in a manner that facilitates expansion of the rural residential subdivision. YG and the City of Dawson agreed that this approach is the best solution to the various issues in the area.

I believe, as I mentioned in Question Period the other day — and as I was informed by one of my colleagues who was on this file prior to the reassignment of Cabinet duties last year — it was something that was endorsed by the Dawson City council.

We certainly stand together to move forward with the City of Dawson and the in the best interests of Dawson City and its residents. No doubt this has been a difficult situation. As I mentioned, on the weekend, the Mayor of Dawson City was kind enough to take me for a drive around his community and show me a number of the emerging issues that were related to his community. We stopped at the Trans North base and had an opportunity to talk to the base manager and look at the berm there that the member brought up that had some erosion problems. I understand from officials they will be working on securing permits to fix that erosion problem there.

We also stopped at the member's neighbour, who will be closest and the one most affected by the work at the Slinky mine. We had an opportunity to stand in her front yard and take a look at how close it will be. No doubt this is going to be a difficult time for her and other residents in the area. I don't actually think I've ever been on the Mary McLeod Trail, which leads to the member's house and other houses in that area, but it's obviously a beautiful spot in Dawson.

The placer claims that are in question — there are 14 claims in total that comprise the Slinky mine. Work on that mine site started in 1989. After 1993, the City of Dawson municipal boundaries expanded to include the existing site.

We all know that no new placer claims are allowed to be staked within municipal boundaries. But what we were looking for was the best solution to deal with this from the point of view of the proponents, who has the right under the *Placer Mining Act* to work those claims and to bring a timely end to that placer mining so that it can be completed. One of the things that — unfortunately I only have one copy of them, but I will get one of the pages to take this over to the member — it has the placer claims that overlay the construction area. There is a bigger map that has the extent of placer claims that move upriver of the Klondike River and go up further into the valley. I am sure he is familiar with this, but I just wanted to provide this for reference to the member opposite. I will endeavour to get copies to the Official Opposition critic as well. It certainly gives you an idea of what the placer claims are in the area as well as the immediate area and then the broader area. I know we have had some conversations off-line about this project. Really, we are trying to find a solution here that will make sense and deal with the rights of the Slinky

mine operator, the concerns of the local residents and the City of Dawson. There have been a number of disputes over various aspects of this operation, and we are trying to come up with a solution that works. As I mentioned, the agreement has been signed off between the three parties, and we want to see a timely conclusion to this and have the community be able to move past this in a way that we feel will meet to the best extent possible the rights of all those who are involved and concerned.

Mr. Silver: I've always been a proponent to finding a solution to this situation up in my area here. I share the same view as my neighbour, obviously, and it is a view about an active mine site. I know that other miners in the area have in previous years come around with solutions to this problem including the reclamation work that would have to be done afterward. I've always said that if we could get a Stuart Schmidt or a Marty Knutson — who have excellent records in this area — to get involved, it would go a long way to get the social licence of the neighbours and the community.

When we talk about safety and we talk about the government coming in and helping out under the auspices of safety, it really is a hornet's nest in the community right now. A lot of people walk on that road. I think it's great that we're working together and governments are working together to remedy this situation. But if you are going to go in and say you are going in under safety, the walking right-of-way is something that the mayor has said, "Hey, we'd like to talk about that for sure" — and also those areas of the road that are in need of fixing that, according to the municipal government's website, are not part of the current plan.

These two things will go a long way. I'm sure that the minister's team will hear a lot about this as he goes up to Dawson in June. I see the Minister of Highways and Public Works nodding in agreement so that's good.

The minister has said in his response that this will be a timely end to placer mining near the road. Slinky mine has quite a few claims up in that area on that bench. Are we to assume that the minister means that all of these claims are going to be expropriated and sent back — to maybe the municipality. Once we finish this particular project, will Slinky still be now up on the Dome Road buttress on the other side of the road, or are we saying that this is going to be taken care of and all of the claims, including the new ones that he has purchased, will now be dealt with?

Hon. Mr. Kent: I thank the member for his question. I just had a brief conversation with the Minister of Highways and Public Works. HPW is looking at some solutions — perhaps a walking path or a trail that will go up there. I know that it is one of the things that his department is looking into, and hopefully we will have an answer for the residents of Dawson City by the June 9 meeting.

When it comes to the claims that are required to be worked and exhausted — I sent the map over so I don't have the benefit of having it in front of me any more, but it is the claims that are inside the new alignment. It's not claims that exist outside of that new alignment.

My understanding from the project proponent is that, in taking the pay dirt off those claims that exist on the inside of the alignment, in order to meet the timelines that are associated with it, he may have to stack pay dirt on his other claims and perhaps sluice that at another time. It's not something that has been confirmed but, again, with respect to the 14 claims that comprise the Slinky mine, it is only those that are, as you're going up the Dome Road, to the left-hand side of the alignment that are part of this agreement and need to be mined and eventually turned into perhaps country residential lots in that area.

Mr. Silver: I do appreciate the answer from the minister. According to the map, it does look like about 60 percent of the area around there — of course, this is a rough estimate, just looking at this diagram — is going to be taken care of currently, but it does leave quite a bit of concern for the residents up the Moose Mountain Road and those subdivisions as well. I guess we'll be discussing this at a later date when Slinky mine moves all their gear over to the other side of the street.

I'm going to move on to the Ross River mining decision here. Can the minister provide an update on the negotiations with the Ross River Dena Council regarding what areas will be open for staking?

The government has recently extended the staking ban to June 30, I believe, so if there are any updates I would like to hear them from the minister now.

Hon. Mr. Kent: This aspect of the Yukon Court of Appeal's decision — this particular declaration — as I have mentioned previously on the floor, is the responsibility of the Executive Council Office, but I do have the note from the Executive Council Office. I realize that we probably won't get to the Executive Council Office here before the end of this sitting in a little over 20 minutes or so, but I can just for the House provide an update.

The consultation process with the Ross River Dena Council regarding that particular declaration of the Yukon Court of Appeal with respect to consultation obligations related to staking in the Ross River area has been extended to June 30, as the member opposite correctly mentioned in his question.

Over the past number of months, the Yukon has been actively engaged in consultation on this declaration — in fact for over six months — and continues to work with the Ross River Dena Council. The extension of the staking ban for an additional two-month period was done to allow the Ross River Dena Council sufficient time to conduct community consultations and complete those consultations.

The Yukon government has provided \$100,000 in funding to support the Ross River Dena Council's participation in the consultation. The final \$50,000 was provided to allow RRDC to undertake those community consultations that I mentioned and provide the resulting maps and materials to Yukon within the two-month extension period. This has allowed the Government of Yukon to meet the court's first declaration. The second declaration regarding notification of class 1 exploration activities — and this part is

being led by Energy, Mines and Resources. I will answer it even though the question wasn't asked. Hopefully, it provides a little bit of context around the other declaration.

It deals with notification of class 1 exploration activities in the Ross River area. We made those amendments to the *Quartz Mining Act* and the *Placer Mining Act* with the capacity funding to support RRDC in responding to class 1 notifications — will be provided through the 2014 exploration season as well. There are a number of aspects that were taken into account. We are trying to bring a timely end to this so that we can bring certainty to the Ross River area for the First Nation and those engaged in the mining. I know the First Nation has said to us, and said to industry, that they welcome mining in their traditional territory. We certainly recognize the long history that it has in the Ross River area and how it has been an important part of the development of that area of the Yukon. When it comes to prospecting in particular, there has been a significant amount of money spent in exploration and development in their area, so we want to make sure that they feel that their rights are being recognized. That is why we have responded as we have through the two court declarations with respect to this case.

Mr. Silver: I appreciate the update from the minister. Expectations for exploration in 2014 — we just received a copy of YMAB's annual report. I'm wondering what the minister's estimates are for mining exploration in the Yukon in 2014. According to YMAB, they expect there to be very little change from last year, and I was wondering if the minister is going to concur or if he has any other figures and numbers he can share with us on the floor today.

Hon. Mr. Kent: I ask all members to keep in mind that these numbers are just estimates, so please don't come back in the fall and say, well, you committed to this amount and only spent this amount — just putting that on the record so I can go back to Hansard.

Mineral exploration spending was initially forecast to increase from \$45 million in 2013 to about \$75 million in 2014 but, given some of the recent company announcements, there has been a recalculation of that amount. To date, a total of \$84 million has been announced by companies for work on their Yukon projects, and it's expected there will be more announcements in the coming months on planned programs for the 2014 field season.

Of course, one of the largest contributors to exploration this year will be Selwyn Chihong Mining. They announced in December 2013 that they have committed \$56 million to further develop the Selwyn project this year with: the reconstruction of the Howard Pass access road for better year-round access; an expanded drilling program, which will employ 70 people; implementation of an interim measures agreement with First Nations; and a study into the power supply, product, transport and choosing the port that they anticipate shipping out of.

Kaminak Gold Corporation — which the member opposite will be familiar with, it being very close to his home community — has announced \$11.5 million to go toward financing further exploration of the Coffee project. Rockhaven

Resources will be running a \$3-million, 12,000-metre diamond drilling program at the Klaza project. ATAC Resources has announced a budget of \$6.8 million for further exploration at the Rackla gold project in 2014. We also expect Wellgreen Platinum in the beautiful riding of Kluane to be contributing to our economy this year with a planned exploration program budget for that project as well.

Madam Chair, others that I didn't mention: Alexco Resources Corporation is estimating \$5 million on their properties; Copper North Mining Corporation — formerly Carmacks Copper mine just outside of that community — is thinking about an \$800,000 project; and Manson Creek Resources, \$1 million. I've mentioned Rockhaven and Selwyn. We're also anticipating exploration projects from Wellgreen Platinum Ltd. as well as Banyan Gold Corp. Hopefully, this number is even higher than what I have been able to provide here on the floor today as far as activities go.

One of the important things that is contained in the budget that we are debating are the enhancements to the Yukon mining exploration program, which was formerly known as YMIP and has been rebranded as YMEP. Bringing those dollars up to the 2009 levels — which was the year after the stock market collapse — was something that was extremely important to the industry and they relayed that to me. With the support of my colleagues, we were able to enhance that program — I believe it is \$1.4 million for this year — and usually leverages between 3:1 and 4:1. It is an important project to help with grassroots exploration and early stage exploration.

Many of the projects that are successful today owe their beginnings to that program and I know that it is something that Yukoners are very proud of and it gets mentioned at many of the mining conferences. I believe it's the longest standing mining exploration assistance program in Canada. I could stand to be corrected, but that's my understanding. I know the member opposite likes to take credit for it, but not all great ideas are attributed to one party or another. I know the NDP brought this program in and I'm willing to give credit where credit is due.

It's been a great program that has addressed grassroots mining initiatives and has led to projects like Kaminak and others being very, very successful.

Last week, I was able to tribute Dr. Craig Finnigan from Kaminak, their chief geologist — I am not sure if it was him or not, but I was at the ANBC awards dinner this year, where representatives of Kaminak received the Spud Huestis Award for Excellence in Prospecting and Mineral Exploration and they referenced YMEP as the funding that started that project. I don't have the numbers now, but last week during my tribute, that small investment has led to a significant amount of exploration expenditures and proven resources of around four million ounces of gold. That is but one example of what this can do.

Again, I think it is an important initiative and it is important to support the industry in other initiatives — not just grassroots — because the industry requires a very large land base to operate. They start with a very large land base

and shrink to a very small footprint, but I know in my conversations with prospectors and those engaged in the industry, they love the thrill of the hunt and the buried treasure that is often out there for them that they are able to look for.

I think that it is important that we not only support grassroots initiatives, but support the industry throughout as they move into advanced exploration and production and continued support for our friends in the placer mining industry and their steady contribution to our economy.

Mr. Silver: I do appreciate the answer. I would be remiss to not mention at this time that, as the numbers for exploration stagnate from last year to this year, it is really important to take a look at some of the innovations that are going on, like the minister says, that are grassroots in the communities.

I did mention today in my tribute to the gold show the work that Ground Truth Exploration is doing.

I really implore the minister to connect the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining with Tao Henderson up in Dawson. These guys are revolutionizing drilling programming — 365-day drilling programs in the Yukon; Yukon-made; fly-in machinery — remote-controlled; very minimal environmental degradation. Once again, this is a made-in-Yukon solution to a very important industry in the Klondike.

I know the minister did mention that he will be driving up to Dawson tomorrow. The Brewery Creek mining company — Golden Predator, Americas Bullion — are having their open house, so I hope to see the minister there. We did talk a bit this week and last week about the concern of issuing placer claims over top of existing water licences for quartz. I was wondering if the minister can update us on any progress here, if there has been any progress in trying to remedy this situation for a mining company that has spent over \$30 million in the Klondike region.

Hon. Mr. Kent: As I mentioned earlier this week, as members know, with this particular situation — and I mentioned it during Question Period to the member opposite — unfortunately I was first advised of this through a letter from the company's lawyer, directed to me. When that happens — the matter is not in court right now, but it is a legal matter. It doesn't matter what project it is, whether it's this one or any other issue, when it becomes a legal issue, we are advised to not to comment, pending resolution of this issue with the proponent.

Generally, when it comes to the granting of placer rights that overlay quartz rights, and vice versa, it is something that is permitted and is common-place throughout the territory. It was a conversation that I had with the president of the Klondike Placer Miners Association last weekend when I was in Dawson City for Association of Yukon Communities. The rights associated with placer and quartz are considered separate. Placer mining is within alluvial deposits; whereas, quartz mining is hardrock. Neither has priority over the other, nor is there any priority determined by staking order. Co-existence of the placer and quartz systems in Yukon has enabled the development of a mining industry that supports other mining claims. Some recent examples include all of the

activity in the White Gold area. Those quartz properties have been enabled, in large part, by existing placer infrastructure including roads, camps and airstrips. The Dawson Gold Field infrastructure as well includes the roads and camps that have been built in support of placer operations. The building of this infrastructure in turn has later supported quartz exploration in that area.

Although I am not able at this time to comment any further on this specific issue until the legal aspects are resolved, those were just general comments on the long-time cooperation between these two industries and the operators in assisting one another. I know there are many quartz claims and quartz property holders that I know who are close to placer operations. One only has to go up to the Casino mine.

I believe there is a placer operation that is in close proximity to that project. As well, the Northern Freegold property also has active placer operations in that area. While I'm hopeful that we get a speedy conclusion to the dispute that is now ongoing with the owners of the Brewery Creek mine and some placer licences, I have been advised as in any situation that we are in, when it becomes a legal issue such as this one or if it goes beyond this to the court, of course I am not able to comment until a resolution is found.

Mr. Silver: For the record, there is no Standing Order in the Legislative Assembly that doesn't allow the minister to comment on this. I understand if his party doesn't feel that they should — fair enough — but just for the record, if it's before the courts then we can't talk about it in here, but there is no Standing Order that prohibits the minister from talking about this issue just because there has been some legal opinions.

I will say too, a lot of times what usually happens between placer and quartz is that these things work themselves out. In this particular case though, if this doesn't get worked out then what we have is a situation where a major quartz project is in threat of jeopardizing their water board licence and it's really hard to mitigate that when the activities that are going to get them into trouble is something they have no control over. I really do hope there is a speedy solution for this problem, as it has a huge effect on our community if we don't see the Brewery Creek project moving forward.

Once again it's worth noting that this company has done their due diligence. They have been involved in the community. People know them in Dawson. They have taken over, I think, about a dozen of our students to their Nevada project to train them. They have the social buy-in from the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. This is an important project for the City of Dawson.

Land use, West Dawson — a local area plan was prepared for West Dawson and Sunnydale in 2011, I believe. In the fall of 2012 and again in the spring of 2013, I exchanged letters regarding the plan with the previous minister. The plan has been signed off by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and local residents. It seems that the ball is still in the government's court. I was just wondering if this plan has been signed off.

Hon. Mr. Kent: Just stepping back to the Brewery Creek project, we too are hoping for a speedy resolution to

this issue. Lawyers are involved from the proponent's side as well as government legal counsel. We do hope that something gets done quickly.

With respect to the West Dawson and Sunnydale plan, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in approved the plan as recommended in March 2012. On August 20, 2013, YG approved the plan with the provision that the area not be withdrawn from future mineral staking. YG is now starting with the development of comprehensive zoning regulations for the West Dawson and Sunnydale planning area. That is the most recent update that I have with respect to that local area plan. If there are further updates, I will provide them to the member opposite by a letter. But again, this is the most recent update I have with respect to West Dawson and Sunnydale.

Mr. Silver: I appreciate the answer. I'll move to the Water Board and new regulations. Again, I'm apologizing to the officials for bouncing all over with issues here.

During a speech at the Geoscience Forum last year, the Premier promised — and I quote: “an overall package of improvements in the new year” regarding water licensing on mining projects. Recently it was announced by the Premier that changes are being made to the *Waters Act* regulations. My question is: Is this the overall package of improvements that the Premier was referring to, or are new or more changes coming down the pipe?

Hon. Mr. Kent: I know that we were just able to table the YMAB annual report today in the House but, as members have an opportunity to look through the recommendations that the Minerals Advisory Board has made to the government, they will find that regulatory improvement is a common theme through there. I should again take the time — I know I had the opportunity briefly when tabling the document, or introducing visitors, to thank those individuals who are listed on the back of the report for all their hard work and commitment to recommending improvements to our mining industry. I certainly appreciate working with them, particularly Sue Craig, who is the chair of the board.

She has been a great advisor and I rely on her, not only for aspects associated with items identified in the annual report, but also for other aspects when it comes to hard-rock mining and ensuring that the industry here can remain strong and competitive going forward.

As I mentioned, representatives of the industry have certainly expressed concerns to YG about the process for securing water licences for the production and development of new and existing mines. The initiative that the Premier announced earlier this year is but one of the things that we're looking to address. We want to make sure that we focus on improving timeliness, clarity, transparency and the effectiveness of the mine licensing process as per the *Waters Act* and the *Quartz Act*. I should also mention that the *Waters Act* and the Yukon Water Board are the responsibility of Executive Council Office, but I will provide as much information as I can in the time that we have left.

There are a number of activities that have been undertaken to address these issues such as the business

improvement initiative, licensing process improvement initiative and the development of information.

Chair: Order please.

Termination of sitting as per Standing Order 76(1)

Chair: The time has reached 5:00 p.m. on this, the 30th sitting day of the 2014 Spring Sitting.

Standing Order 76(1) states: “On the sitting day that the Assembly has reached the maximum number of sitting days allocated for that Sitting pursuant to Standing Order 75, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole, if the Assembly is in Committee of the Whole at the time, shall interrupt proceedings at 5:00 p.m. and, with respect to each Government Bill before Committee that the Government House Leader directs to be called, shall:

“(a) put the question on any amendment then before the Committee;

“(b) put the question, without debate or amendment, on a motion moved by a Minister that the bill, including all clauses, schedules, title and preamble, be deemed to be read and carried;

“(c) put the question on a motion moved by a Minister that the bill be reported to the Assembly; and

“(d) when all bills have been dealt with, recall the Speaker to the Chair to report on the proceedings of the Committee.”

It is the duty of the Chair to now conduct the business of Committee of the Whole in the manner directed by Standing Order 76(1). The Chair would now ask the Government House Leader to indicate whether Bill No. 12 and Bill No. 14, the only government bills now before Committee of the Whole, should be called.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Madam Chair, the government directs that Bill No. 12, entitled *Third Appropriation Act, 2013-14*, and Bill No. 14, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2014-15*, be called at this time.

Bill No. 12: *Third Appropriation Act, 2013-14* — continued

Chair: The Committee will now deal with Bill No. 12, entitled *Third Appropriation Act, 2013-14*. The Chair will now recognize Mr. Pasloski, as the sponsor of Bill No. 12, for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I move that all clauses, schedules and the title of Bill No. 12, entitled *Third Appropriation Act, 2013-14*, be deemed to be read and carried.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Pasloski that all clauses, schedules and the title of Bill No. 12, entitled *Third Appropriation Act, 2013-14*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$7,729,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures underexpenditure in the amount of \$61,402,000 agreed to

Total Expenditures underexpenditure in the amount of \$53,673,000 agreed to

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to

Schedules A, B and C agreed to

Title agreed to

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Madam Chair, I move that you report Bill No. 12, entitled *Third Appropriation Act, 2013-14*, without amendment.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Pasloski that Bill No. 12, entitled *Third Appropriation Act, 2013-14*, be reported without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

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

Chair: The Committee will now deal with Bill No. 14, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2014-15*. The Chair will now recognize Mr. Pasloski, as the sponsor of Bill No. 14, for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Madam Chair, I move that all clauses, schedules and the title of Bill No. 14, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2014-15*, be deemed to be read and carried.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Pasloski that all clauses, schedules and the title of Bill No. 14, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2014-15*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$1,024,990,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$293,410,000 agreed to

Total Expenditures in the amount of \$1,318,400,000 agreed to

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to

Schedules A and B agreed to

Title agreed to

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I move that you report Bill No. 14, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2014-15*, without amendment.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Pasloski that Bill No. 14, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2014-15*, be reported without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

Chair: As all government bills identified by the Government House Leader have now been decided upon, it is my duty to rise and report to the House.

Speaker resumes the Chair

Termination of sitting as per Standing Order 76(2)

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. 12, entitled *Third Appropriation Act, 2013-14*, and directed me to report it without amendment.

Committee of the Whole has also considered Bill No. 14, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2014-15*, and directed me to report it without amendment.

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.

Standing Order 76(2)(d) states, "On the sitting day that the Assembly has reached the maximum number of sitting days allocated for that Sitting pursuant to Standing Order 75, the Speaker of the Assembly, when recalled to the Chair after the House has been in Committee of the Whole, shall:

"(d) with respect to each Government Bill standing on the Order Paper for Third Reading and designated to be called by the Government House Leader,

"(i) receive a motion for Third Reading and passage of the bill; and

"(ii) put the question, without debate or amendment, on that motion."

I shall, therefore, ask the Government House Leader to indicate whether Bill No. 12 and Bill No. 14, the only government bills now standing at third reading, should be called.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, the government directs that Bill No. 12 and Bill No. 14 be called for third reading at this time.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

Bill No. 12: Third Appropriation Act, 2013-14 — Third Reading

Deputy Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 12, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Pasloski.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I move that Bill No. 12, entitled *Third Appropriation Act, 2013-14*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 12, entitled *Third Appropriation Act, 2013-14*, be now read a third time and do pass. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

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: Disagree.

Ms. Stick: Disagree.

Ms. Moorcroft: Disagree.

Ms. White: Disagree.

Mr. Tredger: Disagree.

Mr. Barr: Disagree.

Mr. Silver: Disagree.

Deputy Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 11 yea, 7 nay.

Motion for third reading of Bill No. 12 agreed to

Speaker: I declare the motion carried and that Bill No. 12 has passed this House.

Bill No. 14: First Appropriation Act, 2014-15 — Third Reading

Deputy Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 14, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Pasloski.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I move that Bill No. 14, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2014-15*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 14, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2014-15*, be now read a third time and do pass. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

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: Disagree.

Ms. Stick: Disagree.

Ms. Moorcroft: Disagree.

Ms. White: Disagree.

Mr. Tredger: Disagree.

Mr. Barr: Disagree.

Mr. Silver: Disagree.

Deputy Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 11 yea, 7 nay.

Motion for third reading of Bill No. 14 agreed to

Speaker: I declare the motion carried and that Bill No. 14 has passed this House.

We are now prepared to receive the Commissioner of Yukon, in his capacity as Lieutenant Governor, to grant assent to bills that have passed this House.

Commissioner Phillips enters the Chamber, announced by the Sergeant-at-Arms

ASSENT TO BILLS

Commissioner: Please be seated.

Speaker: Mr. Commissioner, 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.

Acting Table Officer: *Third Appropriation Act, 2013-14; First Appropriation Act, 2014-15.*

Commissioner: I hereby assent to the bills as enumerated by the clerk.

Before I leave you here today, I just want to say a couple of words. I remember my days as an MLA in this House and I know that this was a bit of a happy time, as you were getting a break. But I think what is really important to remind you that, as an MLA in the territory, your role is 24/7.

It does not really matter where you are or what you are doing, or what is happening, you do get approached by Yukoners from time to time. I urge you in the strongest terms to take the time and spend some of this summer with your families and your loved ones, because that is extremely important in the role you play. I know that many of you get absorbed into this role during the session times, but this is the time to spend some time with your family as well as take care of your constituency issues.

I wish you all good health for the summer and a nice, warm, sunny summer in the Yukon.

Commissioner leaves the Chamber

Speaker: I now will call the House to order.

Before we adjourn, I would like to wish all of you, my colleagues, a warm and enjoyable summer.

As the House has reached the maximum number of days permitted for the 2014 Spring Sitting, as established pursuant to Standing Order 75, and has completed consideration of the

designated legislation, it is the duty of the Chair to declare that this House now stands adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

The following Sessional Papers were tabled May 15, 2014:

33-1-121

Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues - YAWCI Annual Report - 2013/14 (Taylor)

33-1-122

Yukon Education Annual Report - 2013 (Taylor)

33-1-123

Yukon College 2012/2013 Annual Report (Taylor)

The following documents were filed May 15, 2014:

33-1-89

Yukon Minerals Advisory Board Annual Report - 2013 (Kent)

33-1-90

Response to letter from Darius Elias, Member for Vuntut Gwitchin (dated May 14, 2014) re Select Committee on the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing, letter re (dated May 15, 2014) from Jim Tredger, Member for Mayo-Tatchun, to Mr. Elias (Tredger)

33-1-91

Yukon College 2014 Report to the Community (Taylor)

33-1-92

Yukon Utilities Board report regarding Yukon Energy Corporation's Whitehorse diesel to liquefied natural gas conversion project (Nixon)

33-1-93

Tourism Open House, letter re (dated May 15, 2014) from Hon. Mike Nixon, Minister of Tourism and Culture, to Kevin Barr, Member for Mount Lorne (Nixon)