



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 166

1st Session

33rd Legislature

HANSARD

Tuesday, November 4, 2014 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable David Laxton

YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER — Patti McLeod, MLA, Watson Lake

CABINET MINISTERS

NAME CONSTITUENCY PORTFOLIO

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

GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS

Yukon Party

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

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New Democratic Party

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

Liberal Party

Sandy Silver	Leader of the Third Party Klondike
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**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Tuesday, November 4, 2014 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

Prayers

DAILY ROUTINE

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

Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of Woman Abuse Prevention Month

Mr. Elias: I rise today to pay tribute to Woman Abuse Prevention Month. November is Woman Abuse Prevention Month in the Yukon. Although we call it woman abuse, the phenomenon is not limited to adult women. Sexualized violence and brutality occur against the smallest female infants and to young girls as well. It is not limited to a territory or province, nor is it limited to any country or culture.

Through the powerful immediacy of social media and the ubiquity of television cameras, we are now almost unavoidably witness to sexualized acts of brutality. Hundreds of schoolgirls were abducted in late-night raids by the Islamist terror group Boko Haram. Over the weekend, this group sought to assure the world that all is well. The girls have been — and I quote: “...converted and have been married off.”

Abducting a human being, forcing them to convert to a new religion and subjecting them to sexual servitude and torture with the threat of death violates every sacrosanct human right imaginable.

Under the control of ISIL, Iraqi women doctors, women lawyers and women politicians have been tortured and publicly executed because of their perceived threat that educated and professional women — by reason of their existence — pose to men. The mere fact that a woman is educated or holds a degree of power over her own life is enough for ISIL to torture her, murder her and return her broken body to her family so that other young women might get the message. This is not a fog of war or propaganda or telling tales. The United Nations has corroborated and verified these reports.

Closer to home, we have seen again and again women and girls slain in acts of domestic violence. There is an epidemic of missing and murdered aboriginal women in this country. Recently there has been shocking and disturbing reports of sexualized brutality allegedly committed by public figures in the fields of professional sport and entertainment. To the credit of the National Football League, they have initiated the No More campaign to set the example in professional sport where they initiated a policy that deals with the economic abuse of women, the emotional abuse of women and the physical abuse of women.

Violence is everyone’s issue and the solution lies with everyone. Here in the Yukon, front-line workers, shelters, hospitals and first responders are to be commended for their ongoing efforts. Groups such as the Yukon Status of Women Council, the Victoria Faulkner Women’s Centre, Les EssentiElles, Yukon Aboriginal Women’s Council, the Whitehorse Aboriginal Women’s Circle, the Liard Aboriginal Women’s Society, the Elizabeth Fry Society, Kaushee’s Place, Help and Hope and the Dawson City Women’s Shelter are all doing excellent work and we should all be grateful to them.

It is also important to note that on the First Nation front, there are so many initiatives in our rural communities that address the empowerment of our women and girls. Mr. Speaker, November 12 to 15, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories will be hosting the inaugural Indigenous Circumpolar Women’s Gathering that will include workshops, panel discussions and cultural events. The gathering aims to highlight barriers and success stories facing women leaders across the north.

I also want to commend the male leaders everywhere who fearlessly speak up and take a stand against woman abuse. The work of groups such as the White Ribbon campaign is absolutely essential to this fight. To stop this violence, we need strong and unafraid men and boys to use their influence with others, especially in our Yukon communities.

Given that the perpetrators of violence against women are unlikely to be moved or persuaded by a gender for whom they have so little regard, it is vital that male allies use their influence. As men, we can do this by challenging a man who is abusing his partner; refusing to participate in sexualized shaming of women for fun, and acknowledging violence within one’s own community, whether this is a First Nation community, a public school, a workplace, a church or a mosque or even at home. Most importantly, men can help by challenging those who intimidate, bully and shame victims of violence who are brave enough to come forward. The simple act of calling out someone for shaming victims of abuse on Twitter or Facebook or even in person can have a profound effect on our culture.

Women have been fighting this fight against brutality for far too long and the time has come for our uncles, our brothers, fathers, colleagues and friends to step up their assistance in stopping this abuse. All people are entitled to live free of violence and abuse — all human beings, regardless of their gender.

I would ask that each and every day, not just the month of November, each and every one of us in this Chamber and those who are seeing and who are listening to this broadcast — that each and every one commit to taking a personal stand in their own sphere of influence and help put an end to violence and brutality against girls and women.

I will conclude with this sentiment: When our women and girls feel safe and secure, our children feel safe and secure and that translates to a healthy and happy community.

Ms. Moorcroft: I rise on behalf of the Official Opposition to acknowledge Woman Abuse Prevention Month.

Each year in this Assembly we draw attention to the disturbing facts on violence against women in contemporary society. We use many names for this: woman abuse, intimate partner violence, spousal abuse, spousal assault, sexual harassment, sexualized assault, stalking, cyber harassment, financial abuse, mental abuse, emotional abuse and rape. Take a moment to reflect on this reality. These terms are just a sample of the many used to describe the unacceptable and reprehensible abundance of men's violence against women in our society. While some of this violence is visible or at least increasingly understood, the real violence that must be addressed is ingrained in the social relations of our society in how we view and treat women and girls.

If anyone listening to this tribute today takes away just one lesson, let it be that woman abuse is the most vivid manifestation of gender inequality, with women representing 85 percent of sexual assault victims.

In Canada, men are responsible for 83 percent of police-reported violence against women, and 45 percent of those offenders are a woman's intimate partner. Intimate-partner violence is four times higher for Canadian women than men, and about half of female victims suffer injury. Approximately every six days in Canada, a woman is killed by her current or ex-partner.

Collecting the body of evidence of gender-based violence is essential to first recognizing and then addressing the problem of men's violence against women. Since the first profile measuring violence against women was published in 2002, the federal-provincial-territorial status of women forum has led the way in forging this body of evidence in collaboration with Statistics Canada.

Looking locally, the February 2013 Statistics Canada report *Measuring violence against women: Statistical trends* reveals some alarming figures. In the Yukon, the rate of spousal violence against women is four times the national average. This rate doubles for aboriginal women. Yukon women's shelters are used between three to 10 times more frequently than in the provinces on any given day.

The likelihood of calling the police is linked with the increasing severity of violence. Reporting is higher for women victims who sustain physical injury or fear for their lives. In the Yukon, 60 percent of women who were beaten, choked or had a weapon against them, and 53 percent of women sexually assaulted by their spouse, contacted the RCMP.

We know that many women choose not to report violence because often they are not believed. Canada, like other countries, has a low rate of charges being laid when women report violence and a low conviction rate when charges are laid. It is clear that we have not even begun to hear the stories of all women who experience violence in this territory. It is also clear that swift and accurate social and justice responses are needed to address the unacceptably high rates of violence against women in Yukon.

These statistics on intimate-partner violence highlight what many of us already know: that too many Yukon women suffer violence by the hands of their partners. But such statistics are not meant to exist in a vacuum or to showcase the

horrifying nature of violence against women. Male-perpetrated woman abuse must be considered within a broader understanding of violence against women and the deeply entrenched gender discrimination and victim blaming that permeates our society. Statistics on violence against women in all its many forms are a mirror placed before us, calling us to look deep within ourselves, at our roles in society, and in our relationships to both victims and abusers, and to ask: What can I do differently? What can I do to change society to end violence against women in the Yukon? It is our responsibility as Yukoners to look after one another.

If the task at hand seems too large to manage, if the magnitude seems too great, I invite all of us to look at the many groups in the territory who dedicate their days and nights to the elimination of violence against women. I am encouraged by more recent campaigns to bring men into the conversation and into the movement to end violence.

In the past week, a national discussion about the issue of consent to sexual activity has exploded in media reports, Facebook, coffee shops and kitchen tables. This is a necessary and long-overdue conversation. It is bringing in people aside from the volunteer groups who work so hard on a daily basis to combat violence against women. Ask these groups what is next on their roster and how we can help them. They are endless fountains of lessons and knowledge, compassion and support. I thank each of these groups for their tireless dedication and look forward to continuing to work with them toward our common goal of a safe and compassionate society for all women, and not just during Woman Abuse Prevention Month.

Mr. Silver: I rise today on behalf of the Liberal caucus to recognize and to tribute Woman Abuse Prevention Month. The month of November is a time for us to reflect on our societal responsibilities. We need to ensure that our boys grow up to be caring men who understand that there is absolutely no situation where abuse is okay. As men, we have the responsibility to help ensure that the women in our lives have a safe environment. As legislators, we need to ensure that the resources are there for those who need them.

In the last week there has been a high-profile case of violence in the Canadian media. If anything positive has come from this, it has at least shone a light on the prejudices that are too many — even in the media.

We need to do a better job of creating an environment and a society where women can speak out, a society where hashtags like “#BeenRapedNeverReported” do not exist.

There are a couple of notable events that will be taking place this month. The White Ribbon Yukon has scheduled their pre-campaign meet and greet for November 15, and the 12 Days to End Violence Against Women campaign will begin on November 25, culminating on December 6 with the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

I just want to do a shout out for the women's shelter up in Dawson City, which is also putting on the 12 Days to End

Violence Against Women campaign. They will also be doing a variety of public awareness events.

In recognition of National Skilled Trades and Technology Week

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I rise today in recognition of National Skilled Trades and Technology Week, organized by Skills/Compétences Canada. This week from November 3 to 9 is the time to honour the contributions of tradespeople in Canada and to showcase the range of career options available in these exciting fields. Tradespeople, technicians and technologists provide essential services to our society. They build our homes, they pave our roads, they prepare our food, they repair our cars, they improve our bandwidth infrastructure, they stop our taps from dripping, they cut our hair, they paint our nails at the salon, and so much more.

People working in trades benefit from rewarding, fulfilling career paths. Mr. Speaker, my father alone was a building contractor of close to 50 years in the Town of Watson Lake, and so too did my brother step into his shoes, as well, as a journey-level carpenter. It was very ironic that it was some 25 to 30 years into his occupation as a building contractor that he actually stepped up to receive his apprenticeship as a journey-level carpenter.

Like my father's occupation and that of many others, he was able to provide an excellent quality of life and a high standard of living for his family, and found measurable job satisfaction in being able to provide necessary services in all of our communities.

There is a shortage of skilled trades and technology workers in our country and in our territory, and our Department of Education strives to meet the current and future needs of our regional labour market by encouraging Yukoners to pursue a career in the trades. Advanced Education promotes industrial and apprenticeship training and interprovincial red seal programs, as well as working with employees, employers and certification bodies to support skills development in the Yukon.

This year, Yukon is celebrating the 50th anniversary of apprenticeships and the apprentice training ordinance of 1964. In 1964, this legislation recognized and regulated apprenticeships for aero engine mechanics, automotive partsmen, barbers, electricians, grader and heavy-duty equipment operators, hairdressers, millwrights, painters, plumbers, lawyers and so much more.

The world today looks very different from what it did back in 1964, but tradespeople remain at the heart of our communities and our economy. Last month, during the apprenticeship awards banquet, our department honoured the accomplishments of some 44 individuals who trained and earned trade certification over the past year. Of those graduates, 41 people received the interprovincial standards red seal in their trade. We were also able to present some 77 awards of excellence to 63 apprentices who scored 85 percent or higher on their particular exams.

Yukon's secondary schools also offer industrial arts programs to interested students as well as dual credit

programs in partnership with Yukon College. A great example of this partnership is the mobile trades trailer from the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining that was in Dawson City earlier this year, which provided a pre-employment welding trade course that could be used as a credit for apprenticeship requirements for high school.

In September, 105 students participated in Dawson City's second rural experiential model for a week of intensive experiential study. A number of senior rural students at REM had the chance to learn about woodworking, ancestral technology, quilting, food preparation, outdoor skills, First Nation fine arts, robotics and music.

The Department of Education has many amazing partners who dedicate their time and energy toward promoting trades and technology, from Yukon Women in Trades and Technology hosting the Young Women Exploring Trades conference to the Association of Professional Engineers of Yukon organizing the bridge building competition, more recently the robotics challenge, and many more organizations.

I would particularly like to recognize Skills Canada Yukon for providing Yukon youth and communities with experiential learning opportunities through motivating workshops and skills clubs related to the trades and technology sectors. This group hosts skills competitions to showcase the dynamic and diverse skills and trades that Yukon youth are involved with in our communities.

Likewise, the national skills competition allows these young tradespeople and apprentices to compete with one another and celebrate achievements every year. Its friendly competitions expose participants to current ideas, lessons learned and best practices in their fields. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Team Yukon. Part of this success, of course, is attributed to their support network, from families and staff, volunteers and coaches to the national technical committee members, the judges and board members as well.

I would also like to recognize our other key partners — Service Canada and Yukon College. Annual contributions from Government of Canada enable our Advanced Education branch to provide in-school training for Yukon apprentices. The Government of Canada provides funding for trades training and support for our apprentices while they're off the work site and in the classroom. This kind of support makes it possible for people like all of us to be able to pursue a career in the trades. Yukon College is also an important partner as it trains so many of our apprentices. Yukon College's excellent facilities and first-class instructors also offer apprentices a well-rounded high-caliber education in their fields.

I would also like to recognize members of the Apprentice Advisory Board and other tradespeople who participate in working groups and committees year-round. Their expertise is helping us guide our apprenticeship program to continuing success. We are very fortunate to be the home of many forward-thinking and caring employers who invest time and money to train employees and improve their skills in trades and technology. Let us take this week to thank all of our tradespeople for all that they do for us, building our homes,

our communities and our economy through their hard work and innovation.

Mr. Tredger: I rise on behalf of the NDP Official Opposition to pay tribute to National Skilled Trades and Technology Week. This is an annual, national public awareness campaign to promote the many career opportunities for people to get involved in skilled trades and technologies in Canada. I think we can all agree that there is a definite need for more people to be trained for careers in trades and technology. However, sometimes we encounter a disconnect. It is not always clear to young people how to go about seeking a career as a skilled tradesperson or how to follow a career in the technology field.

We, as adults and leaders, know it is a growing sector of the job market, and that is why it is so important to have a National Skilled Trades and Technology Week where we recognize and encourage young Yukoners to take advantage of the opportunities.

As a rural high school principal and teacher, I've seen the benefits that training and exposure to the skilled trades and technology provide to people living in communities. I sometimes lament the lack of introductory skills training that I remember so fondly as a child taking shop classes or home economics classes that are not always available to our early teens. Sometimes it was the only training in skills that young people got.

By celebrating nationally, we acknowledge the importance of helping Yukoners and Canadians get involved in the skilled trades and technology industry. I know the importance of skills training, life skills and the exposure to experiential activities. I've seen the confidence that comes to students from achieving success in the skill trade. A can-do attitude makes a difference. I've seen how skills training transfers to other courses and to life.

I would like to especially acknowledge all the work the Yukon College has done to help establish the trades in the communities, through their commitment to community colleges. I remember in Pelly Crossing, one of the most successful courses was when we had a small engine repair shop on the high school campus, and it was shared by the high school students and the college students — success all around.

I would also like to thank Yukon schools, the teachers therein, Advanced Education, Skills Canada Yukon and all those others who help to advocate, advance and provide opportunities for Yukoners to take up careers in the skilled trades and technology fields.

Mr. Silver: I rise on behalf of the Liberal caucus to pay tribute to National Skilled Trades and Technology Week. Skills Canada puts on this week every year, with the goal of promoting the great opportunities that careers in the skilled trades can bring. Skilled trades are important to the continued success of the Canadian economy and Skills Canada works to educate and to inform our youth about opportunities and careers that trades can provide.

Very few young Canadians realize just how diverse the trades field is. Skilled trades are not limited to carpentry and plumbing, but there are also red sealed chefs and other culinary pursuits, or estheticians, like hair stylists or other beauty treatment skills, just to name a few. The opportunities in the skilled trades are absolutely endless.

I would like to thank Skills Canada Yukon and also the Yukon College for working to promote skilled trades and for delivering the training necessary that our economy needs to grow and to be successful. The Yukon College has been working very hard to increase awareness for trades programs in the communities, as we saw with the mobile trades trailer program in Dawson, which the minister referred to in her tribute.

This will be incredibly beneficial to our economy in the long run as we can fill skilled jobs with local Yukoners. I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate the members of Team Yukon who brought home three medals in this year's national skills competition in June. Congratulations to: David Lister, silver medalist in the mechanical CADD for the second year in a row; Nicolas Filteau, who brought home bronze in electrical installation; and finally Spencer Tomlin, who brought home bronze in sheet metal. You make us very proud and you are a shining example of how Yukon can compete with the best in the country.

In recognition of Yukoners involved in citizen engagement

Ms. Hanson: I rise in behalf of the Official Opposition and the Third Party to pay tribute to the many Yukon citizens who respond to the challenges of citizen engagement. Over the past three years, we in Yukon have witnessed an awakening of citizens willing to actively engage in addressing issues that they believe are fundamental to the integrity of Yukon, now and into the future.

Most of us find it difficult to speak out on issues. Sometimes we worry that there are people who are more informed or that there will be an expert out there somewhere whose knowledge or understanding is greater than our own. It is truly remarkable when people who believe deeply in the values of democracy come to the profound realization that democracy is not just a ritual carried out every few years, but that the principles of a democratic society include responsibilities and obligations.

As Canadians, we explicitly recognize those rights in our Constitution in the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which reaffirms our fundamental freedoms: the freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media; freedom of peaceful assembly, and freedom of association.

It is one thing to know that our democratic rights are protected, but even knowing that, it takes an awful lot to move us to exercise those rights. Many of us assume that government, especially as it has evolved in our Canadian democratic tradition, is premised on respect for citizens, for the law, and for the social contract that is the basis for the trust placed by citizens in their government.

When there is a perception of a violation of that sacred trust, societies react in a variety of ways. In Yukon, citizens are often vocal, but increasingly over time, we see citizens joining together, both to show their respect as well as their dissent when it comes to how government does or does not carry out its obligation. There is a refrain I hear frequently. It goes, “You know, until now, I never got involved,” “politics is someone else’s job,” or “government will do the right thing.”

It’s difficult to pinpoint the exact tipping point, the moment when individual citizens realize, “It’s not just me,” but that others share their deep feeling that there comes a time when just being a passive citizen is not enough. Deep within each of us, there is a well of compassion, a sense of what is right and what is not. When citizens begin to engage in trying to understand where the balance is between rights and responsibilities, they begin to ask questions about the common good and who defines it. It takes courage to exercise your right to dissent, to say, “I disagree with an action or a decision or a policy,” and then to say, “Here is why I disagree.”

It takes even more courage to reach out to your friends, to your neighbours, to complete strangers, and to ask them if they have thought about the issues that drive you to rise from your silence; that drive you to take the risk to knock on a complete stranger’s door and offer to engage in conversation. It takes thoughtfulness and respect — thoughtfulness in preparing to explain to others the basic facts and the background to an issue and why you believe it is important how decisions taken today will impact what you hold sacred about the place, the people and their future that you value so much. There is respect in listening, actually hearing the opinions of others, encouraging them to begin the hard process of critical thinking, of not assuming that just because an expert says so, just because the media says so, just because political figures say so — there are many “just because” today.

So over the last number of years, we have seen ordinary Yukon citizens exercise extraordinary thoughtfulness and respect and demonstrate the real courage of their convictions. Rather than fearing, ridiculing or attempting to suppress those who question government policies and practices, responsible and representative governments find ways to engage, knowing all the while that democracy is active, it is at times boisterous and messy, but at its core, democracy is all about how we, as citizens, exhibit our stewardship that is our sense of being responsible for our community and all that community means — communities, our relationship to each other, our land, our water, our air.

Recognizing the value and human dignity of each person, citizens engaged in actively promoting ideas that challenge the status quo, who push us as legislators to think beyond today and beyond partisan positions and do us all — and in turn our community — a great service. Yukon’s democracy now and into the future is made stronger by those who dare to question, and we owe them all a debt of gratitude for having the courage, the willpower and the fortitude to stand up and speak out for what they believe in.

Applause

Speaker: Introduction of visitors.
Are there any returns or documents for tabling?
Are there any reports of committees?
Are there any petitions to be presented?

PETITIONS

Petition No. 7 — additional signatures presented

Ms. Hanson: It is my distinct honour to rise in this House today to present the following petition to the Yukon Legislative Assembly, signed by over 5,200 Yukoners, supplementing the 2,200 signatures previously submitted.

This petition of the undersigned shows:

THAT, as there are significant concerns about negative effects of hydraulic fracturing related to oil and gas exploration and extraction on environmental interests and related social and economic interests in the Yukon; and

THAT, as there are significant concerns about negative effects of coal-bed methane exploration and extraction on environmental interests and related social and economic interests in the Yukon;

THEREFORE, the undersigned ask the Yukon Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Yukon to introduce to the Legislative Assembly legislation to:

- (a) ban the use of hydraulic fracturing for the exploration or extraction of oil and gas resources;
- (b) ban the exploration or extraction of coal-bed methane; And to implement an immediate moratorium on:
 - (a) the use of hydraulic fracturing for the exploration or extraction of oil and gas resources; and
 - (b) the exploration or extraction of coal-bed methane.

Petition No. 18

Ms. Hanson: Mr. Speaker, I also have for presentation the following petition:

This petition of the undersigned shows:

THAT the citizens of Mayo and surrounding areas are opposed to fracking in the Yukon because: it harms our traditional ways of life including fishing, hunting and harvesting; fracking pollutes the water, land and air resources which threaten healthy eco-systems; no regulations of fracking has been not been proven effective in other jurisdictions; the economic benefits and jobs created through fracking are very few and short lived and it is the next seven generations to come who will be greatly negatively impacted;

THEREFORE, the undersigned ask the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Yukon to ban hydraulic fracturing in Yukon Territory.

Speaker: Are there any other petitions to be presented?
Are there any bills to be introduced?
Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to examine the compensation paid to coroners for death investigations, for standby pay, and for serving as the acting chief coroner, and to address the vicarious trauma and other workplace stresses coroners experience by enabling greater access to counselling services.

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

THAT this House shall stand adjourned from its rising on Thursday, November 6, 2014, until 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, and from its rising on Wednesday, November 19, 2014 until 1:00 p.m. on Monday, November 24, 2014.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to:

- (1) acknowledge that thousands of Yukoners do not support the practice of hydraulic fracturing taking place in Yukon;
- (2) acknowledge the opposition of many Yukon First Nation governments and their citizens to hydraulic fracturing; and
- (3) recognize that hydraulic fracturing does not have social licence in Yukon.

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

THAT this House congratulates the City of Whitehorse for its leadership on recycling and urges the Government of Yukon to provide certainty to Yukon citizens and municipal governments by:

- (1) contributing the appropriate capital dollars for improvements to the territory's recycling efforts;
- (2) establishing partnership agreements to ensure a Yukon-wide recycling solution for the long term; and
- (3) taking the lead to provide an interim solution until there is a new system in place.

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to protect Yukon's water resources and the environment by:

- (1) protecting source water, including surface and groundwater;
- (2) protecting wetlands and headwaters;
- (3) restricting deleterious land uses that may contaminate drinking water sources;
- (4) banning bulk water exports;
- (5) protecting drinking water; and
- (6) strengthening data collection, monitoring and training.

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

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: YESAA process

Ms. Hanson: This fall at the Denver Gold Forum, the Premier boasted in a tweet that Yukon is building a robust LNG industry. This was before he attended the Senate committee to offer his unconditional support for amendments to YESAA, amendments that were never discussed with Yukon citizens, and which fundamentally undermine the independence of YESAB. The Premier has consistently stated that he supports amendments that weaken Yukon's environmental assessment process because he apparently thinks weak environmental protection promotes investment.

In the real world, a politically stable environment and clear rules that are clearly communicated are what industry needs to attract investment. Land claims and YESAA provided that.

When will the Premier stop bowing to outside pressure and start listening to Yukoners who want to maintain the independence of the YESAA process?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: As I have risen in this House before and articulated, there were almost seven years of consultation that existed since the beginning of the reassessment of the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* — seven years of consultation. There were 76 recommendations; 73 of those 76 recommendations were approved and accepted by all parties who were involved. The amendments to this legislation will ensure consistency with other jurisdictions in this country. They allow us to be competitive with other jurisdictions. That allows the opportunity for more growth and responsible development here in this territory. This government is focused on the prosperity of Yukoners — creating more jobs, building our economy by adding more people to this economy — and we will continue to stay focused on that now and in the future.

Ms. Hanson: The Premier conveniently ignores the fact that the decision to give binding decision-making power to a federal minister was never discussed during that seven-year period.

On numerous occasions, this government has chosen to disregard the recommendations of the independent Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board when those recommendations don't dovetail with the Yukon Party political agenda. This disregard for the YESAA process when it doesn't align with their ideology or the needs of their friends undermines Yukon's entire environmental process. This approach also alienates Yukon citizens, First Nation governments and other Yukon governments. Yukoners want a government that takes environmental protection seriously all the time, not just when it suits them.

When will the Premier start respecting the independent environmental assessment process that is important to so many Yukon citizens, governments and businesses?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I would start by suggesting that the Leader of the Official Opposition actually read the legislation. This legislation increases the environmental protection that exists by allowing the assessors to assess potential effects of likely future projects to look at cumulative effects.

Policy ensures a common understanding between the government and the board, and that helps to reduce uncertainty and delays. Policy must be consistent with YESAA, the UFA, individual land claims and, of course, Yukon's other legislation as well. Policy direction is very common in other jurisdictions and, as I have already stated, this government has the ability to provide policy to the Water Board through the Yukon *Waters Act*.

I will again say that there were 76 recommendations through seven years of consultation — a total agreement on 73 of those recommendations. That is an outstanding achievement.

Ms. Hanson: The Premier can continue fishing for red herrings, but you know what? The Premier says he supports the YESAA assessment process — Yukoners know better. Last December, this government advanced \$18 million to the Yukon Development Corporation to begin purchasing the new diesel-to-liquefied natural gas conversion project a full six months before it received YESAB approval.

So you'll forgive the people of Yukon for not believing the Premier when he says that he takes YESAA seriously. EFLO Energy told the select committee in this very House that the vast majority of the natural gas remaining in the Kotaneelee could not be accessed through conventional means. They stated they would need to frack to get at the gas. EFLO has recently filed a YESAB application for the Kotaneelee.

Has this government given EFLO Energy any assurances that, regardless of the outcome of the select committee on fracking, EFLO can proceed with their business plan to frack in southeast Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: As we know, Bill S-6, the amendments to the YESAA act, did recently pass unanimously through the Senate, including all the Senate Liberals as well, with no recommended amendments. This government supports the oil and gas industry, an oil and gas industry that has existed in this territory since the late 1950s. As a result of this oil and gas industry, this territory has benefitted in approximately \$45 million in royalties. Of that, settled self-governing First Nations received approximately \$10.5 million from these royalties.

We will continue to focus on ensuring the prosperity of Yukoners by growing our economy and growing our population and increasing opportunities for jobs and businesses for Yukoners.

Question re: Renewable energy strategy

Ms. White: Energy experts warn us that our continuing use of fossil fuels means we have an unsustainable global energy system. In addition to the emissions from our use of fossil fuels, we are forced to deal with the significant fugitive emissions during production — emissions which are not usually included as part of the equation. With the anticipated two-degree rise in global temperatures, we must act now to reduce our reliance on oil and gas products. This means changing our habits and working together to build a sustainable, renewable and effective energy future.

When will the Yukon government turn words into action and implement a territory-wide renewable energy strategy?

Hon. Mr. Kent: It's my pleasure to respond to this question from the member opposite.

As members know, last fall in this Assembly, I tabled a motion with respect to a renewable energy future for the territory. Part of that motion evolved into a directive that we issued to the Yukon Development Corporation to explore next-generation hydro. In this current 2014-15 budget, there is \$2 million appropriated to that project. Of course, that is a long-term vision for renewable energy in the territory. We also need to focus on that short- and medium-term, including renewables. That's why we've implemented the microgeneration program. We're finalizing an independent power producers program. We're exploring wind, but, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to wind energy, of course that's an intermittent energy source and does require backup power generation in most southern jurisdictions that is supplied by natural gas.

We are looking into options — what the existing grid and existing backup power can absorb when it comes to wind generation. If we do expand that wind generation, there will need to be backup and, in this case, in all likelihood it will be fossil fuel backup.

Ms. White: Again we hear about the fossil fuel backup. As the Yukon government continues to promote fossil fuel development, the rest of the world is turning toward renewables. The Yukon led the north in the development of wind energy projects in the 1990s. Sadly, some of this wind energy equipment stands still on the horizon. It's a disappointing testament to this government's disregard for renewables that only one wind turbine is producing energy for the grid. Experts tell us that wind and solar are viable, and they are more affordable now than ever before. Wind and solar, when paired with Yukon's existing hydroelectric production, would mean less dependence on fossil fuel power generation for backup energy.

Will this government commit to diversifying our supply of clean, sustainable energy beyond hydroelectricity?

Hon. Mr. Kent: The microgeneration program that I mentioned does apply for microhydro projects as well as wind and solar and biomass. The independent power producers policy will look to alternative renewables as well.

When I talked about wind power, as Yukoners know, that is an intermittent supply of power. Sometimes the wind doesn't blow and you need backup power to supplement that energy when the wind doesn't blow. In many cases in southern jurisdictions, that backup power is provided by natural gas. We are, of course, in the process of installing the natural gas backup at the Whitehorse Rapids facility.

Yukoners need that assurance that when the power goes out, their lights will continue to be on, their furnaces will continue to operate. I know that when the Minister of Environment and I attended a PNWER meeting in Anchorage a couple of summers ago, Kodiak Island was brought forward as a presentation. They supply most of their power with wind generation, but of course they have backup power as well

when that wind is not blowing. That is something that is very important and it is something that we need to ensure — that when peoples' lights go out or their furnaces turn off, we have reliable backup to ensure that the safety of Yukoners continues to be respected.

Ms. White: Yukoners want to see government invest their own money in a renewable future and stop depending on others to take us into that future. We are also told that the Yukon has considerable geothermal potential for power production, with the Yukon's resources being second only to British Columbia. This could be a huge boon to our economy.

The Yukon Party, when presented with a choice in recent years, has not chosen geothermal as a power producer. Economists estimate that more than \$6 trillion will be invested in the renewable energy industry. Wind, solar and other renewables are technologies — technologies that cost less over time, whereas fossil fuels are commodities — commodities with fluctuating costs that increase over time. Yet the Yukon Party to this day continues to be stuck in the dark ages.

Will this government devote as much effort into developing clean, renewable energy as it does to promoting the oil and gas industry?

Hon. Mr. Kent: In my first response to the member opposite, I stated our long-term plans and our short- and medium-term plans for renewable energy. Mr. Speaker, over 99 percent of the energy produced on the grid by Yukon Energy Corporation was renewable energy. The vast majority of that of course being hydroelectric, with a small portion of that being wind.

There are many sources of renewable energy that we need to look at, but again, I think that Yukoners need to have an informed conversation when it comes to renewable energy. We need to look at the costs — what those costs could be for rate payers and what opportunities exist.

When it comes to renewable energy future it's something that we're definitely committed to, not only in the long term with that next generation hydro project, but in the short and medium term with the micro generation program, with the independent power producers policy and looking at other sources of renewable energy that will help to supplement the Yukon's energy grid.

Speaker's statement

Speaker: I would like to remind people in the gallery that you are to listen, not to participate. That includes applauding or showing pleasure or displeasure with any comments made here. This is a timed event. Your interference takes time away from the members.

Question re: Internet connectivity

Mr. Silver: For two years now, I've been asking questions of this government's plan to improve our Internet connections to the rest of the world. We have known what happens when our fibre optic line to the Outside is cut. The government's preferred option for a secondary Internet connection would see a link from Whitehorse though

Skagway to Juneau and then on to Seattle. The minister said this spring that this was his preferred option and the Premier reiterated their support in a letter to the editor recently.

Yesterday, the government of N.W.T. announced the construction of a fibre optic line from High Level, Alberta to Inuvik. This opens the possibility of creating a link from the Dempster corner through Inuvik instead of going through Seattle.

Mr. Speaker, is the government open to considering this all-Canadian option?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: The member opposite is quite correct that we are very much interested in improving Yukon's redundancy when it comes to telecommunications, in particular our fibre optic cables. We've done a lot of work on this file to date so far, and we indicated previously that we are willing to invest in this kind of project at a capital level. I have to say that our intent with this project is to be outcomes-based. What we want is fast, affordable, reliable telecommunications for Yukoners, and we want it at a level that's comparable to the rest of Canada. That is the outcome we are seeking in this project. Which route we choose and how we go about achieving that has yet to be determined, and we are doing the work right now to determine the best course of action.

To answer the member's question directly, yes, we are absolutely open to that option and we have had discussions with Northwestel and a number of other consultants about that option. It's still very much on the table but, as I've indicated previously, up until this point the Skagway-Juneau option has looked a little bit more attractive but, with what's going on in the Northwest Territories, that may cause us to reconsider the Dempster alternative.

Mr. Silver: I guess the question now is how far down the Juneau rabbit hole we've gone. A great deal has changed in this file since the last time we discussed it in the spring. The project in the Northwest Territories is now a go and it certainly changes the economies for the entire discussion. A link through Inuvik would also ensure that there's redundancy for communities north of Whitehorse, whereas the minister's preferred option — as he called it before — through Juneau does not, other than a few communities.

Another advantage of this route through Inuvik is obviously that it's all-Canadian and it avoids the United States altogether. We know the government is spending approximately \$600,000 on this project this year. I guess the question is: Is the all-Canadian route going to be looked at as well? Also, does the minister acknowledge that an all-Canadian route could have more opportunities for partnerships with various levels of Canadian businesses and governments?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Mr. Speaker, both options — whether it's the Juneau route or the Dempster route — provide the opportunity for investment by the Yukon government, by First Nation development corporations and by a range of businesses, including Northwestel, which is the main player when it comes to telecommunications in Yukon.

We haven't ruled out any option. I know the member has a very derogatory opinion of the Juneau option so I'll take that into consideration. I should note that —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry. I'm a little distracted by the heckling from the Liberal leader here.

We haven't ruled out any option. We have undertaken a number of studies of both options. We are currently advancing that work, and we look forward to presenting that work in due course and making a decision that makes sense for Yukoners. But, as I said, our primary concern is the outcome of this project. We want fast, affordable and reliable telecommunications for Yukoners because we know that will make us more economically competitive and will diversify our economy to a greater extent than it is currently.

Mr. Silver: I must apologize to the minister responsible. I'm not picking a plan one way or the other. I'm just wondering if he went too far in one direction so far with this new information — that's all.

An all-Canadian route opens the door to partnerships with Yukon First Nations, funding opportunities with the Government of Canada and, as I mentioned previously, redundancy for communities north of Whitehorse, including Dawson City. The Juneau option enjoys none of these benefits and limits the benefits of redundancies to only a handful of communities. Let's move on.

The consultants' report on this project is due in December of this year. Will the minister commit to making that report public when he receives it?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I guess I misinterpreted the question when he said that we had gone too far down the foxhole in the project in Skagway —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Sorry — rabbit hole. Whichever animal's hole he used to characterize that project, I think it's clear that he has an unfavourable opinion of that particular route.

In any case, he is quite correct. We have engaged Stantec Canada to provide us with some expertise and some opinions on how to move forward on this project. They are going to consider all options that are on the table and the communication that we have given to them so far is that the Yukon government's position is that we are outcome-based. We want fast, affordable and reliable Internet and telecommunications available to Yukoners. That is the goal of this project; that is the goal of this government. Now, which route we ultimately choose will be one we give careful consideration to and we will take into consideration all of what is going on in the Northwest Territories, what is going on in Alaska and what is going on in points elsewhere. I will obviously commit to making that decision public. How we make that decision will happen in due course, and I look forward to sharing it with Yukoners.

Question re: Solid-waste management

Mr. Barr: From our exchange yesterday, it seems clear that the government will not meet their platform promise on waste diversion. With that in mind, I would like to offer the minister another opportunity to give Yukoners the clear answer they deserve.

Does the government intend to uphold its promise to divert 50 percent of Yukon's waste by 2015 — yes or no?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I think it's worth reminding both members of this House and the public what our commitment was in the last election. Our platform — and I'll quote it right now — is to commit to, and I quote: "Endeavor to meet the target recommended by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee that Yukon develop a goal of zero waste with a target of 50% waste diversion by 2015." That is what we are doing and that's what we are committed to. We have taken a number of actions that are endeavouring to meet that target. We have made investments in our solid-waste management throughout the territory. We've made investments and taken measures to improve waste diversion and recycling in the territory.

Most recently, we've announced proposed changes that would be significant, systemic changes to our recycling regime that will benefit Yukon, not just between now and 2015, but in the long-term going forward. What we have to ensure is that political expediency is not our primary imperative. We have to ensure that the strengthening and financial sustainability of our recycling regime is sound, going forward to the future. That's the focus of this government and that's what we'll continue to focus on going forward.

Mr. Barr: Another day, another non-answer — tick-tock, tick-tock.

The Yukon Party platform promised action on waste diversion, but instead, that responsibility is being downloaded to municipalities through chronic inaction.

In Mount Lorne, local leaders have found a way to divert approximately 75 percent of the hamlet's waste on an annual basis. Last night the city of Whitehorse filled the leadership void left by this government and commissioned a study on a city-wide recycling collection service. While the city has the vision, they don't have the money, so the program may involve passing on the cost of waste management to residents in the form of a \$15 monthly charge.

Does the minister realize that his lack of leadership might have a direct impact on Yukoners' pocketbooks?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: What's important to recognize is that in the long-term our recycling regime needs to be financially sustainable. That's why we're taking the proposed actions that we've put forward to date with regard to the increase in the beverage container regulation and the expansion of the designated material regulation. All of these actions do have financial implications. Right now they are primarily being borne by the taxpayer through the Yukon government. When we have to take hazardous e-waste out of the dump and deal with it, that costs the taxpayer dollars. When we have to remove tires and ship them south, that costs the taxpayer dollars.

So what we're talking about is shifting the burden from the taxpayer — from the public — to the individuals who purchase the products at the till. What that means is that there is a surcharge on these products up front, but we think that, in the long run, that is a more sustainable model for the territory.

With regard to what other levels of government have done, obviously we're working very closely with the City of

Whitehorse. We provided funding for the study the member referenced and have supported the city in that work. As recently as last week, the Minister of Community Services and I met with the City of Whitehorse to express our support and to continue a dialogue about how best to move forward together. Obviously the City of Whitehorse is a very big player when it comes to waste management in the territory, and we would be foolish not to engage them, as we have.

So we'll continue to provide leadership, we'll continue to take action and we'll continue to invest in ensuring that Yukon has a solid-waste plan moving forward.

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

Mr. Barr: The city is doing its part, and Yukoners are doing theirs. The only people not chipping in right now are the government caucus. The waste-management woes are getting worse every day. I recently learned, on top of open-pit burning at Ross River waste-management facility, there's a large pile of contaminated soil that has been sitting idle and half-covered in plastic sheeting since this July. I have the photos. It's 2014. When it comes to waste management, instead of bringing the Yukon up to snuff with the rest of Canada, this minister is letting open-pit burning happen and letting contaminated soil continue to sit idle at the landfill.

As winter sets in and the snow begins to fall, what does the government plan to do about the contaminated soil languishing at the Ross River facility?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: First of all, the soil that the member is referencing — my understanding is that it is going to be safely transported to Fort Nelson and that it is safely stored at this point in time.

I would remind the member that open-pit burning is in fact illegal and is not allowed under the permits; so anyone who lights a dump is committing a violation of the permit. I would remind the member that, contrary to his mistaken assertion that the Yukon government is not doing anything as my colleague the Minister of Environment pointed out, in addition to jointly working with the city on exploring options for long-term solutions for our recycling system, we have in fact contributed to the costs of the consultant's study that they are doing.

The Minister of Environment and I both reiterated to city council as recently as Friday, we continue to have money identified under Building Canada fund for investing in recycling equipment and capital upgrades that could include Whitehorse and throughout the territory. In fact, this current budget includes the money that the member has mistakenly characterized as being cut from the budget — \$841,000 — under Building Canada, earmarked for investment in recyclables. That is in addition to the \$896,000 that is contained in the supplementary budget for investing in equipment at the Whitehorse landfill, including a chipper and composting equipment.

Question re: FASD diagnoses

Ms. Stick: Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder is a permanent, lifelong disability. An individual with FASD can

have cognitive, physical and social challenges throughout their lifetime. This makes it a disability with significant implications for those with FASD as well as their families and their communities. It is widely acknowledged that an FASD diagnosis or assessment is the first step in ensuring appropriate supports are in place for individuals.

Despite the urgent need for such diagnoses, Yukon lacks a coordinated, territory-wide approach to adult FASD assessments.

Can the minister tell us how many assessments and diagnoses for adults with FASD have been completed by his department for Whitehorse and the communities in this fiscal year?

Hon. Mr. Graham: No, I can't give an exact number. I believe it is somewhere in the neighbourhood of seven, which is one of the reasons that the Yukon government is in the process of establishing our own FASD team that will be able to more appropriately supply those diagnoses as required during the year.

Up until now, Mr. Speaker, we have relied on outside expertise to give us those diagnoses. We no longer will do that. We will be taking on that responsibility ourselves and establishing our own teams that will be responsible for providing those FASD diagnoses.

Ms. Stick: Mr. Speaker, I believe the seven that were completed were done in the last fiscal year. On October 27 of this year, the minister responsible said — and I quote: "We are requesting a revote of \$105,000 for the fetal alcohol spectrum initiative that supports the development of a common case-management approach and also the development of a local adult diagnostic team."

The minister just spoke to that. Previously, FASSY did that work. But why now the revote? Is this for the Yukon prevention gap analysis, or does this mean the local adult diagnostic team is not in place and has not been doing the assessments of adults with FASD?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I'm not quite certain which revote the member opposite is talking about so we'll wait until we reach that part in the supplementary budget. What I can inform the House of is that the Health and Social Services department is in the process of developing the local FASD diagnostic capacity. It's in process at the present time. I can't give you an exact update as of today, but this approach will give us availability of these diagnoses through the year.

Ms. Stick: Nearly a year has passed since the last assessments were completed by FASSY. It has been just about a year. That's too long. It is only looking at the people in Whitehorse, not the communities. We have lost the opportunity to complete those assessments and to start helping individuals in Whitehorse and the communities who need support.

The job was being done, it was taken away, and we're now waiting for the department. Can the minister please tell this House how soon that new diagnostic team that we're going to have to build from scratch will be in place and how many assessments do we anticipate to be completed this fiscal year?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Once again, the member is absolutely incorrect in her assertion that we've now lost the ability to deal with these diagnoses. We simply haven't. We're changing the focus because we felt that we were not getting the appropriate service under the previous method of doing things. By bringing the assessment process in-house, we will have the process available to all Yukoners throughout the year, as the member opposite herself stated.

It was only available to people in the City of Whitehorse. We do not intend for that to continue. This is a service that has to be available to everyone throughout the territory, and it will be available to all residents once the diagnostic team is established.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

Notice of opposition private members' business

Mr. Silver: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I would like to identify the items standing in the name of the Third Party to be called on Wednesday, November 5, 2014. They are Motion No. 740, standing in the name of the Member for Klondike, and Motion No. 741, standing in the name of the Member for Klondike.

Ms. Stick: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I would like to identify the item standing in the name of the Official Opposition to be called on Wednesday, November 5, 2014. It is Motion No. 715, standing in the name of the Member for Whitehorse Centre.

Government House Leader's report on length of sitting

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 75(4) to inform the House that the House Leaders have met for the purpose of achieving agreement on the maximum number of sitting days of the current sitting. The House Leaders have agreed the current sitting should be a maximum of 30 sitting days.

Mr. Speaker, that would usually mean the final sitting day of the 2014 Fall Sitting would be Tuesday, December 16, 2014. However, earlier today I gave notice of a motion that, if adopted by this House, would have the House not sit on Monday, November 10 and Thursday, November 20. Should the motion be adopted in its present form, the final sitting day of the 2014 Fall Sitting will be Thursday, December 18, 2014.

Speaker: Accordingly, I declare the current sitting shall be a maximum of 30 sitting days with the final sitting day to be determined as explained by the Government House Leader.

We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chair (Ms. McLeod): Order. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, in Bill No. 15 *Second Appropriation Act, 2014-15*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

Some 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. 15: *Second Appropriation Act, 2014-15* — continued

Chair: The matter before the Committee is Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, in Bill No. 15, *Second Appropriation Act, 2014-15*.

Department of Tourism and Culture — *continued*

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I would like to welcome back Jeff O'Farrell and Jonathan Parker — officials from the department — and thank them for their assistance today.

Madam Chair, as I mentioned yesterday, this budget reflects many programs and activities that the department undertakes in its mission to facilitate long-term economic growth for the tourism industry through developing and marketing Yukon as a year-round travel destination, as well as maximizing the socio-cultural benefits to Yukoners and visitors, by preserving and interpreting our heritage and supporting and promoting the arts.

I am pleased to say that in both of these aspects of its mission, the department has made great strides in building on the work of previous years.

In our Yukon Party platform — as I mentioned yesterday — we committed to working with industry, communities and First Nations to promote the Yukon tourism brand that markets Yukon as an attractive, year-round destination. We committed to that and we have delivered.

In 2014, in recognition of the growth opportunities this industry provides, we are making the single largest investment in marketing the government has ever made in the tourism sector. You will recall last September when Yukon government and Government of Canada announced joint funding of \$3.6 million over two years to increase our marketing efforts and draw more visitors from around Canada, the U.S. and overseas. This historic investment has already

generated several exciting and innovative marketing projects that are captured under the program Yukon Now.

Working with our industry partners, the program will include a television advertising campaign targeting other Canadians, currently Yukon's second-largest tourism market. Commercial production — the winter production for the commercial will get underway soon and will be available in February. The summer commercial will be shot next year. These are commercials that the department and this government feel Yukoners will be very proud to see on TV.

Yukon Now will also include an increased investment in media relations in all markets. The Yukon Now program represents an integrated approach to using many marketing tools; \$1.5 million of Yukon Now funding will be spent on marketing activities targeting the Canadian traveller. This will be combined with the existing \$1.7 million allocated to the domestic market for a total of \$3.2 million.

The investment responds to a request from our industry partners from the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon and Yukon Chamber of Commerce. I would like to thank them for their ongoing support and the relationship with the department and myself. Thank you also to our own research on the growth potential of the domestic market. Marketing efforts overseas with our partners in Europe, U.K., Australia and our growing Asian markets in Japan and China will receive a boost of \$195,000 additional dollars through Yukon Now for a total of \$1.5 million.

In our Yukon Party platform, we committed to enhanced marketing of the Yukon as a quality travel destination through general awareness campaigns, especially in relation to Yukon's traditional markets in the United States, Canada and Europe. We committed to that and we are delivering.

We have also announced that in spring of 2015, I will be travelling to our Asian markets with department officials and Yukon businesses. I hope that these visits will have the same positive impact as the government's previous missions to overseas markets, including German-speaking Europe, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Australia.

In our platform, we committed to promote affordable domestic and international air access — another thing we are delivering. A couple of months ago, the Minister of Environment and I announced the extension of all VICs in 10 key campgrounds and again, I would like to thank the Minister of Environment for his continued support, as well as department officials, on that file.

Visitors from all over the world will now have access to Yukon travel information from qualified travel counsellors for a longer period of time than ever before and enjoy full services at many campgrounds through their September visits. This is something that we heard specifically from the German market when we met with them down in Vancouver at Rendezvous Canada this year.

This is something deliverable that we were able to take over to Germany in September, and our key tour operators in Europe were very pleased with this announcement.

An interesting number I reported to members yesterday — between September 20 and September 30 of this year,

Yukon information centres provided services to 5,990 people. I think that number is significant to the good work that the department is doing, marketing around the world. Yukon government's investment in visitor services, industry services and, of course, tourism marketing speaks to the importance of the tourism industry to the economy, and we are committed to supporting the sector in realizing its significant potential. We also see continued investments, as I mentioned yesterday, in areas like the arts fund, the Advanced Artist Award, the tourism fund, and the new Canadians event fund that will help Yukoners host cultural events that help promote multiculturalism and diversity in our great territory.

We continue to make investments in our heritage and our culture. The palaeontology program's success in the Klondike is really exemplary of the relationship-building that happens in every unit of the Department of Tourism and Culture.

In our Yukon Party platform, we committed to continue efforts to make Kluane National Park more accessible to Yukoners and visitors, and we committed to work with Whitehorse and Carcross to develop their respective waterfronts. Again, we have made those commitments and we have delivered.

We continue our investments in support of museums, cultural and heritage centres with \$1.5 million through the museum contribution program and the special projects capital assistance program.

First Nations-related tourism has tremendous growth and potential in Yukon. Yukon First Nations have rich cultures to share and there is great demand around the world for authentic First Nation cultural experiences. The Yukon First Nations Tourism Association is a strategic tourism partner. The organization participated in the Premier's 2013 European trade mission to Germany and the United Kingdom. The Yukon First Nation Tourism Association is also prominently featured within the department's six marketing pillars under heritage and culture on the travelyukon.com website.

Starting in the summer of 2014, Holland America modified its Yukon land excursions and announced that they would no longer be travelling through the Kluane area on the north Alaska Highway. The shift in land-based routes was to address changes in Holland America's consumer demand, and we spoke about this before in this Legislature. To mitigate the impacts these changes would have on the tourism industry in the Kluane area, the Department of Tourism and Culture has been working with stakeholders along the north Alaska Highway to facilitate discussions on ways to grow tourism in the area. As I mentioned yesterday, we will be hosting another tourism day out in Kluane on Friday. I thank the Member for Kluane for his hard work in addressing that need in that region of Yukon.

The Yukon government also recognizes the social and economic importance of preserving and presenting First Nation heritage and culture. The Department of Tourism and Culture works in partnership with Yukon First Nations to advance their visions for the creation, development and operation of cultural and heritage centres. The department is providing over \$500,000 for operations and programs at seven

Yukon First Nation cultural and heritage centres, so good work continues to be done in that area.

Again, in closing, I thank the Department of Tourism and Culture for working hard and working smart. Their strategic approach to marketing our territory around the globe is just one example of working smart. The department's dedication and their commitment to their clientele and stakeholders is exemplary. Initiatives such as Yukon Now, the Advanced Artist Award funding increase, the Yukon palaeontology field office and the extended visitor services season are just a few examples of the many activities the department undertakes to foster a prosperous tourism industry, rich heritage resources and vibrant cultural communities. Thanks to the expertise, skills and enthusiasm of its employees, the department continues to deliver programs that truly benefit all Yukoners.

Mr. Barr: I'm just going to ask a couple of questions here in succession and make a few comments, and turn it over to my colleagues. I would like to welcome back the officials from Tourism and Culture and thank you once again for your hard work.

While in Carcross this summer — and thinking back to last spring, I am encouraged and thanking the minister for following through with my request to extend the visitor information centres' timelines.

I think that it's a welcome initiative right across the board. I know that when I was bringing that forward last spring — it's taking tourism seriously in the Yukon — and not having our visitor information centres open while people are already a week in the territory. At that time, I was thinking that it impacted Carcross, but more so people who would be up the highway — it might take them longer. While I was at Kluane and the community meetings around increasing tourism opportunities in Kluane, it was noted by me and by the minister opposite that the visitor information centre — people had been circling around that information centre for days trying to find out what was available to them in that region, and so on and so forth. I do congratulate the minister on moving forward on this.

One of the questions that I have is that I know that wi-fi is available in the Carcross VIC. I also noted that it was rather slow, so I'm not sure if this year the minister will be increasing the speed at which people can access wi-fi and if it's right across the territory in all our VICs.

My other question is: which communities will be receiving the monies for the maintenance of museums? If the minister has that information, I would appreciate receiving it. I know that Big Jonathan House in Pelly was one in particular that was looking forward to fixing the roof there.

Can he explain that process? When will the consultant's report for erosion control assessment for Fort Selkirk be completed? Will the minister forward that to me when he has that? With that, I'm going to wait until we get to line-by-line and I thank everyone for your contributions.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: It is a real honour to be able to work with the department and especially defend the very important budgets that are before us in this Legislature. I'm particularly pleased to be able to report that we have received

new tourism indicators for September. Yesterday, I reported that year-to-date border crossing stats from January to August of 2014 showed a reduction of four percent. Today I am able to say that with September figures now in, the year-to-date figures reflect a moderate decline of three percent. September border crossings were up 11 percent, year over year, making a net positive contribution to the overall year-to-date numbers. Within this increase, we saw a very encouraging increase of 16 percent in U.S. travellers and 17 percent in overseas travellers. While year-to-date stats show an overall decline of three percent, overseas visitation continues to grow with a nine-percent increase so far in 2014.

I'm also pleased to report that visitation to Dawson City — including Little Gold border crossing, combined with air arrivals at Dawson City airport — are up 21 percent compared to the same time last year. Of course, year-to-date figures as of September do not tell the whole story for 2014 as we have three months left in the year to report. These figures suggest, however, that with a modest three-percent decline, visitor performance in 2014 is on track toward ending the year with border crossings being close to the all-time record year observed in 2013.

Yesterday I spoke about how the department plays a key role in advancing the commitments made to Yukoners through four pillars: better quality of life, the environment, the economy and good governance. As a part of the Department of Tourism and Culture's commitment to good governance, we work closely with various levels of government, First Nation governments, non-profit organizations and the business community, just to name a few.

As I describe in further detail the various activities we are involved in, you'll see how our day-to-day operations are closely linked to the entire community and how we work efficiently and openly with all our partners. Tourism contributes to a sustainable economy through visitor spending, job creation and business opportunities. The Yukon government uses two key surveys to assess the economic impact of tourism in our territory — the Yukon visitor tracking program and the Yukon business survey, conducted by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics.

The Yukon visitor tracking program provides detailed information on visitors to Yukon, including volume, trip characteristics, travel behaviours and expenditure information. The 2012 Yukon visitor tracking program estimates that annual expenditures by visitors to Yukon are about \$180.5 million. The Yukon business survey provides information on Yukon businesses, including revenue levels, employees, hiring and expected growth, just for example.

The 2013 Yukon business survey indicated that Yukon businesses attributed to approximately \$250 million of their gross revenue in 2012 to tourism and that tourism gross domestic product accounted for 4.3 of Statistics Canada's estimate of Yukon's total GDP in 2012.

The Yukon visitor tracking program is one of five major visitor studies the department has conducted over the past 27 years. Similar to past visitor exit surveys, the department first began implementing major visitor studies in 1987 and then

again in 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2012. These major visitor studies provided the base for demand-side estimates of visitor volume and spending in Yukon because they survey visitors directly. Surveys like the Yukon Bureau of Statistics' Yukon business survey provides base for supply-side estimates of revenue attributable to tourism because they survey Yukon businesses that sell products and services to visitors and other businesses that serve the tourism industry.

Combined, major visitor studies and Yukon business surveys provide a general understanding of the impact that tourism has on the Yukon's economy at a specific point in time. Nationally, Statistics Canada relies on the travel survey of residents of Canada, the TSRC, and the International Travel Survey which is the ITS, to track tourism performance and measurement of this particular industry. These surveys help to inform the Tourism Satellite Accounts, TSA, and the National Tourism Indicators, NTI, which provide tourism GDP and employment nationally.

While the Tourism branch attracts visitors to Yukon and helps build a sustainable economy, the Cultural Services branch contributes to the quality of life for Yukoners and helps make Yukon a great place to live, work, play and raise a family, and visit.

The Arts section is receiving \$3.9 million to continue building and celebrating our dynamic cultural sector. The annual budget for the Advanced Artist Award is increasing from \$80,000 to \$115,000 this fiscal year and then to \$150,000 in 2015-16 and beyond. The maximum individual funding awards are doubled to \$5,000 and \$10,000 per category.

The Yukon government values the creativity, dedication and discipline of individual professional artists who make a significant contribution to core arts development in Yukon and to our diverse cultural fabric. This award is made possible thanks to Lotteries Yukon, which commits a portion of its yearly revenue to arts funding programs run by the Department of Tourism and Culture. Since its inception in 1983, 644 grants have been awarded in over 65 application cycles.

Yukon government is committed to supporting a diverse and dynamic arts sector for the benefit of each and every Yukoner. The Yukon arts policy, the *Arts Act* and the Yukon Arts Advisory Council provide the foundation for how programs are designed and delivered.

Peer review and arms-length assessments continue to be the cornerstone for decision-making. The department works with the arts community by participating in arts events and providing outreach and learning opportunities. Meetings with individual artists are held to ensure the programs are operating as they are intended.

Yukon's cultural spending ranks first among all provinces and territories at \$539 per capita. This past spring, the Department of Tourism and Culture announced the creation of the new Canadians event fund. This new program supports festivals and events that celebrate the multicultural diversity of Yukon's new Canadians. The fund also recognizes Yukon's long-standing openness to and acceptance of new Canadians

and new Yukoners. Organizations such as the Yukon China Community Association, the Teenage Life & Young Adults International society and the Chinese Canadian Association of Yukon have already accessed this fund. According to the 2011 national household survey, just over 3,600 Yukoners — 11.3 percent — were born outside of Canada. Whether Yukoners are hosting events here at home or outside of the territory, we are so very proud to support them in their contributions to culture and to diversity.

Fort Selkirk is a designated Yukon historic site and the department works with Selkirk First Nation to ensure this site is around for future generations to enjoy. Bank erosion threatened the schoolhouse at Fort Selkirk during the 2013 spring breakup. The schoolhouse has been safely moved back from the eroded area of the bank. Yukon government is working with Selkirk First Nation and consultants to investigate options to mitigate the effects of erosion at this particular site. Fort Selkirk is part of the homeland of the Selkirk First Nation and a place for spiritual and cultural renewal. For others, it is a cherished reminder of the past, a rare glimpse into the First Nation way of life and a look at the history of trade and settlement here in the north.

Yukon has rich heritage resources and the department takes preserving and protecting them very seriously, for the benefit of future Yukoners and visitors to our territory.

The Yukon government also acknowledges the important role of museums and First Nation cultural heritage centres in protecting, preserving and interpreting Yukon's heritage. The Department of Tourism and Culture provides over \$1.54 million annually in operation and maintenance and project funding to 18 museums and cultural centres under one umbrella organization. The department met with the museums community on October 20 to discuss options to improve funding allocation. We are working to develop a model that will benefit our clients.

Museums and First Nation cultural centres are among the most popular tourist attractions in Yukon, welcoming over 125,000 visitors a year to these institutions. The Yukon government recognizes the social and economic importance of preserving and presenting First Nation heritage and culture.

The Department of Tourism and Culture works in partnership with Yukon First Nations to advance their vision for the creation, development and operation of cultural and heritage centres. This year the department is providing over \$500,000 for operation and programs at seven Yukon First Nation cultural centres.

In 2014-15, the special project capital assistance program provided \$370,000 to support 15 projects that included artifact inventories, cooperative marketing ventures, exhibit planning and building upgrades. As members will be aware, significant components of the Cultural Services branch are the Archaeology and Palaeontology units, which collect and preserve Yukon's rich artifacts and fossil heritage.

One example is the ice patch research, which, in 2014, has proven very successful. First Nation students and elders participated in site visits to ice patches and archaeological sites in August 2014. All participants have committed to

reconvene to review the results of the 2014 season and hold preliminary discussions on future research. Yukon ice patch research began in 1997 when a 4,000-year-old wooden dart fragment was discovered melting out of an alpine ice patch near Kusawa Lake.

Another way the Cultural Services branch preserves and protects our collective history and heritage is through the Yukon Archives. The Yukon Archives acquires, preserves and makes accessible the valuable and irreplaceable documentary heritage of our territory. The Yukon government is committed to ensuring the Yukon Archives continues to preserve Yukon's rich documentary heritage. The existing storage vaults are nearing capacity. The Yukon Archives has undertaken initiatives to maximize current storage.

With \$879,000 identified in the 2014-15 budget for capital design, the Yukon government issued a request for proposals for archives vault expansion design on September 24, 2014. The departments of Tourism and Culture and Highways and Public Works will review the conceptual and schematic designs over the course of this winter. I would like to thank the Minister of Highways and Public Works for his assistance on this file.

Yukon Archives provided service to 1,500 researchers and retrieved over 7,500 archival records last year. Yukon Archives holds over 6,500 linear metres of archival and library material.

As you'll recognize, the Department of Tourism and Culture is involved in a wide variety of activities, whether supporting the arts, attracting visitors, preserving our rich heritage and artifacts or supporting our museums and First Nation cultural centres. Yukon's tourism and cultural sector is robust. It is resilient and it is vital to the ongoing social and economic prosperity of the territory.

In conclusion, the department truly supports the government's four pillars and each branch and unit plays an important role in contributing to a better quality of life, the environment, the economy and good governance.

The member opposite had asked about wi-fi provided to all Yukon visitor information centres this summer. This is something that I had asked for and this government had committed to provide to our visitors, whether they are visitors coming from out of the territory or visitors coming from Whitehorse to Carcross or to Dawson City — this is available. This is another first for this government in the territory. It is greatly appreciated by tourists when making onward travel arrangements and booking Yukon activities, hotels and so on. Wi-fi has made our visitor information centres even more vibrant than they had been in the past.

As for the speed of the wi-fi in Carcross being limited by DSL line and modem, we're looking at potential upgrade options, but it will be limited by that particular technology. I know that the Minister of Economic Development is also looking at options for the territory as a whole.

A few minutes ago, I talked a little bit about the Fort Selkirk Yukon riverbank erosion. As I have indicated, Fort Selkirk is a designated Yukon historic site and one of the most historically significant sites in the territory. We know that

bank erosion threatened the schoolhouse during last year's spring breakup. As I indicated, the schoolhouse has been safely moved, but the Yukon government will continue to work with Selkirk First Nation and the consultants to investigate options to mitigate the effects of the erosion at this particular site.

Yukon government also acknowledges the important role of museums and First Nation cultural centres in protecting and preserving Yukon's heritage. I could go through some of the funding, but I don't know if I'm going to have enough time. We continue to meet with the museums community in understanding their needs moving forward and have committed to work with them on potential solutions.

Mr. Silver: At risk of continuing all afternoon with a public service announcement, I am just going to put all of my questions on the list and the minister can choose to either answer them now or continue with his marketing of the tourism industry. I'm glad that there will be new funding for that.

I'll put these questions out here and, of course, if I don't get the answers today during Committee of the Whole, then we will be asking these questions in line-by-line.

I'm going to start with an interesting one that came to my attention. The department has paid a number of times a team of researchers to come and look at the abandoned sternwheelers in Dawson City. I've seen the report and I'm just wondering what the department intends to do with the information it sponsored.

We've talked a bit about the Dawson City runway. This summer has been the first year for Air North and Holland America flights between Dawson City and Fairbanks. The cruise ship traffic these flights are carrying accounts for a substantial amount of Yukon's visitation. An issue I brought up in the past, and will continue to bring up, is the paving of the airport runway. Is the Department of Tourism and Culture working with Highways and Public Works to get the Dawson City runway paved?

We talked a bit already about the Klondike palaeontology centre. We're wondering — in 2012, a report was done by Cornerstone Planning Group. Was this report released publicly? If not, may I request a copy of that?

The minister went on at length about different missions to Germany. I believe he visited there again this summer. While he was there, he signed three trade agreements, and we're wondering: Who did the government sign the trade agreements with and what is the estimated impact of these agreements, in terms of both dollars and visitation as well? Also, what is the total cost of the minister's trade missions, specifically with the Netherlands? Given that the Netherlands is not listed in the top 10 of Yukon markets, we were wondering if the minister can explain to us the importance of this, as one of the designations of the places he visited.

This brings us to TV marketing money — the new Yukon Now tourism campaign has been unveiled recently and I commend the minister for listening to the tourism industry on the funding of this campaign. However, the money currently depends on CanNor to fund 50 percent of it. Is the government

looking to extend this program should it prove successful? Will the Yukon government pay the additional 50 percent if the federal government is unable to continue funding television marketing?

I believe that these are all of the extra questions that have not already been asked by my colleague, the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I thank the member opposite for his questions on the floor of the Legislature today.

Madam Chair, as you know, steamboats were the main mode of early transportation in Yukon — a total of 266 sternwheel and sidewheel steamboats operated on the Yukon River from the time of the gold rush until the 1950s, when the construction of the Mayo Road put an end to large-scale river traffic. There are currently more than 24 documented sternwheel steamboat sites. Together these vessels comprise the largest documented collection of historic sternwheelers in Canada.

Since 2005, the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, working closely with the Department of Tourism and Culture, has led field studies of the Yukon River steamboats with local, national and international researchers. The project has led to the advancement of knowledge in Yukon steamboat history and design.

The institute's 2013 Yukon field research was featured on the cover of the institute's fall 2013 magazine and was presented at the Society for Historical Archaeology's annual conference in January. In 2013 and 2014, researchers have focused on the West Dawson sternwheeler graveyard. This graveyard contains seven vessels located on the Yukon government heritage reserve and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in settlement land.

The Department of Tourism and Culture has supported this collaboration with researchers on documenting the over 24 sternwheeler sites in the territory. As I've indicated, the Institute of Nautical Archaeology team has spent 10 seasons researching and conducting detailed site assessments of Yukon shipwrecks and Yukon River steamboats. This research has resulted in the discovering of the *A.J. Goddard* shipwreck, which is now a designated Yukon historic site, and also the publication of technical reports and popular articles in *National Geographic* television programs.

The member opposite spoke briefly about the Paleo in Klondike. As I mentioned yesterday and previous times, Yukon government is working collaboratively with the placer mining community to ensure the continued stewardship of fossils uncovered in the mining process. In 2010, a study commissioned by the Klondike Placer Miners' Association recommended the Yukon government explore the possibility of developing a palaeontology research and display facility in Dawson City.

Since 2010, the department has operated an enhanced palaeontology program in the Klondike during the summer months. During this time, the Yukon palaeontology program has collected over 3,000 new fossils each year in those gold fields. The potential for a palaeontology facility in Klondike is being assessed in the context of the government's capital

planning. In 2014, the Heritage Resources Unit published two new best management practice booklets to assist the placer mining industry to protect both fossils and buried sites in the Klondike goldfields. Copies of these publications were mailed out to all placer miner operations.

As I mentioned yesterday, at the annual general meeting of the Klondike Placer Miners' Association in September of this year, the association voted unanimously in favour of a resolution supporting the development of a palaeontology facility in Dawson and the development of a program to legitimize the ownership of fossil woolly mammoth ivory. At present, my colleagues and the government are considering these requests.

In addition to conducting active palaeontological fieldwork in the summers, the Department of Tourism and Culture is considering the feasibility of developing that facility in Dawson — more work to be done. The facility would certainly support important scientific research while celebrating and preserving Yukon's rich fossil heritage.

The member opposite also asked about Holland America. I have to thank Holland America, as well as Air North, for creating some new opportunities for the territory and for visitation.

As you know, Holland America made changes to its 2014 Yukon and Alaska tour offerings to meet changing consumer needs and interests. This exciting development will have positive impacts on our Yukon economy. These changes resulted in a shift in the way passengers travelled between Fairbanks and Dawson. All Holland America passengers to Yukon now travel between Dawson and Fairbanks on Air North's daily charter flights from mid-May until mid-September. Half of the passengers arrive into Canada from Alaska and require customs and immigration clearance by CBSA, the Canada Border Services Agency, at the Dawson airport.

To accommodate inbound passengers, the Yukon government invested in a new modular unit for CBSA, located beside the existing Dawson terminal. Holland America is considering minor revisions to some of their 2015 Yukon tours by increasing the number of two-night stays in Dawson City. I have to extend a great thanks to the Minister of Highways and Public Works as well as his officials for working with the department, Air North and Holland America on this file.

The member opposite asked about the overseas travel to Germany this year. Germany continues to be our largest overseas market — German-speaking Europe, I might add to that effect, so that would include the Netherlands, Switzerland and Austria. As I mentioned, the European market contributes significantly to Yukon's overall visitation.

In 2013, 17,870 European travellers visited Yukon, representing a three-percent increase in visitation over the previous year. This year, border-crossing statistics for overseas markets are also looking strong. In August, overseas markets were up 17 percent, compared to August 2013, and year-to-date — that's January to August and the numbers that

we have available — overseas markets are up seven percent compared to the same period last year.

International arrivals at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport are also up 27 percent year-to-date. These are positive indicators for Yukon, as overseas visitors spend more money per day than any other market.

Yukon has been actively marketing in Europe since the early 1990s. Germany, Switzerland, Austria and the Netherlands form Yukon's largest overseas market and the third-largest market overall, with 8,740 visitors crossing our border in 2013. This market contributes \$9.3 million annually to Yukon's economy through direct spending.

Yukon has been targeting the United Kingdom market for several years. This secondary market for Yukon represents the third-largest overseas market, with 4,176 visitors crossing our border in 2013. Tourism from the United Kingdom contributes \$3 million annually to Yukon's economy through direct spending.

Emerging markets include France, as well as Belgium — the Netherlands is part of that — and Luxembourg, collectively referred to as Benelux. Together, these markets account for over 2,000 visitors to Yukon each year and provide future growth opportunities for our industry.

Part of our success in Europe is the strong international connections Yukon enjoys for European travellers, whether it's with Condor on their direct non-stop weekly charter flight or through connections provided by Air North, Yukon's airline, Air Canada and WestJet via our gateway cities in southern Canada — that would be Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton. Yukon is easier to get to from Europe than ever before.

This fall, I led a successful tourism trade mission to Europe and that resulted in three new cooperative marketing agreements with German tourism operators and new ties with the Netherlands market. I met with many leading tour operators at a function hosted by the Canadian ambassador where I heard directly about the potential Yukon holds as a travel destination, particularly for the Dutch.

I just mentioned the Netherlands as an emerging market. There is a new expanded airlift to Canada through Air Transat, AMS to YVR — Amsterdam to Vancouver — three times a week, so that is up from two times a week. I think that answers the member's questions.

Mr. Tredger: Just a quick question for the minister on the Yukon Heritage Resources Board. They were housed in the Taylor House. The Heritage Resources Board is an offshoot from chapter 13 of the *Umbrella Final Agreement*.

I attended several functions at the Taylor House. It was the centre of many activities. I know it was used for stick gambling — there are several organizations and cultural activities that go on there. I look forward fondly to their open houses each year. However, this year it was decided that the Commissioner of the Yukon should take that space over. I know at the time there was some talk with the Heritage Resources Board as to where they could go. It was unfortunate that they had to vacate it. They were not pleased, and they didn't receive a lot of notification. But at the time I understand

that — I assume it would have been the minister responsible for Tourism and Culture who would have helped to make arrangements for the Yukon Heritage Resources Board to have new accommodations, which would allow them to continue to do many of their activities.

Can the minister report on where that is and any recent conversations that he has had with them?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Tourism and Culture is responsible for maintaining the historic integrity of Yukon's signature buildings. Highways and Public Works is responsible for building spaces and manages all leases and government-owned buildings.

The Yukon Heritage Resources Board was formally informed in August of 2012 of the intention to reallocate the Taylor House. The Taylor House lease expired on April 30, 2014. Highways and Public Works delivered a 30-day notice under the lease on July 28, 2014 to be effective August 31, 2014.

For the past year, Yukon government has held vacant space for the board in the T.C. Richards Building, another signature heritage building. However, the board elected not to take us up on this space.

Extensive maintenance and minor renovations are planned for the Taylor House. I know the Commissioner has a vision for that property and we will continue to work with the Commissioner on his visions. I think he will probably announce that vision at a later date.

Historic Sites is working with Highways and Public Works to ensure the work will not impact the significant heritage values identified in its designation as a municipal historic site.

The Department of Tourism and Culture supports and values the key role that the Yukon Heritage Resources Board has in the heritage community. The board has a long-standing relationship with the department, jointly participating in historic site designation ceremonies and adjudicating historic resources fund applications. The department works with Highways and Public Works to ensure that the important heritage values of Yukon government's signature heritage buildings are preserved.

Mr. Tredger: Is the minister working with the Yukon Heritage Resources Board to find a new home? How successful has that been?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: As I indicated to the member opposite in my last response, the Yukon Heritage Resources Board was formally informed in August 2012 of the intention to reallocate the Taylor House, as that lease expired on April 30. Highways and Public Works provided the notice and, for the last year, as I have just mentioned, Yukon government has held vacant space for the board in the T.C. Richards Building; however, the board elected not to take the space.

To answer the member opposite, the Department of Tourism and Culture continues to work with the Yukon Heritage Resources Board on a number of fronts.

Mr. Tredger: That sounds quite unfortunate.

Could I get a copy of the July 2013 Cornerstone report on Klondike palaeontology?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I think I just heard the member opposite say that it was unfortunate that we continue to work with the Yukon Heritage Resources Board. I'm a little bit concerned about that statement. He may want to retract or rephrase that statement for the record.

Mr. Tredger: My question was: Would the minister please release a copy of the July 2013 Cornerstone report on Klondike palaeontology?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I thank the member for his question. That's something I'm going to have to look into.

Mr. Tredger: As the MLA for Mayo-Tatchun, I'm sure the minister is aware of the beauty and the value of tourism in my area. It is a very rich and diverse area.

For the past number of years, Silver Trail Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Association have been writing an annual letter to both the Minister of Tourism and Culture and the Minister for Highways and Public Works expressing concern about the state of roads and access for tourists to the area. Just this past May, on May 20, 2014, they raised a number of issues in letters to both ministers. I realize that the Minister of Tourism and Culture is not responsible for all of it, but we would assume that the government is not working in silos and is working together. My question for the Minister of Tourism and Culture is: Has he been advocating on behalf of the Silver Trail Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Association business owners in the Silver Trail area and in Mayo-Tatchun? There are four major points here.

The one is the main road from Mayo to Keno. The majority of the road has no surface remaining, so blading is ineffective. A major reconstruction of this part of the highway needs to be a budget item as there are public safety issues. The second aspect of that is that the side roads are very difficult to traverse. In particular, the Duncan Creek Road loop is a challenge and is unsafe in some areas. As well, the Keno Hill Signpost Road is again in danger of washout. Both of these roads are important to tourism infrastructure along the Silver Trail as they are identified as destinations and are part of our Stay Another Day program. I refer to the 2014 vacation planner for that.

The less proper repair and maintenance is done on all our roads, locals and visitors alike will not have a good driving experience on the Silver Trail. Recently they have been very concerned about Duncan Creek Road and it is an alternative road to Keno. There is an increasing number of tourists and people who want to access that.

I've spoken very proudly in this House about the merchants and business owners in Keno, who have continued to open buildings and need some support in terms of access to the area. I have recounted my visits to the grand opening of the Keno City Hotel, the experiences there — I have enjoyed the Sourdough Café — of course, Mike Mancini's Keno City Snack Bar is famous throughout the Yukon, and I'm sure everybody likes to go there. There are a number of other places opening up — the Silvermoon Bunkhouse. However, the Duncan Creek Road is an important part of that. Has the minister sat down with the Minister of Highways and Public Works to look at ongoing maintenance in an integrated

approach to maintaining both the Duncan Creek Road and the Signpost Road in order to meet the needs of the travelling public? It would be important for the ministers to get together to come up with a plan, or a long-term strategy, so we don't have a road crisis every spring.

Finally, that letter referred to the signage along the Klondike Highway and along the Silver Trail to ensure that tourists know where they are and to know some of the attractions along the Silver Trail, so that on their way to Dawson they may consider staying another day, which is a great idea. I commend the Department of Tourism and Culture for coming up with some of their promotions.

Right now, there are some infrastructure points and I'm asking the minister if he has advocated with his colleague, the Minister of Highways and Public Works. If they are working together, will they make a long-term commitment to the Silver Trail Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Association, avoiding the annual rite of spring or what has become the rite of spring — the annual road crisis?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I thank the member opposite for his question. One thing I have to do. I remember driving up to — I believe it was to Dawson — on a motorcycle with a friend this summer — and passing by the new kiosk at Stewart Crossing, which is the little visitor information centre they have there. They have done a phenomenal job on that little site. There must have been about 10 cars parked there when I went through and it was just impressive to see that the community pulled together and they now have a bit of a refresh happening there, so my hat's off to them. I would like to thank the Minister of Economic Development, through the CDF fund, for working with the community to develop a new kiosk.

As the member opposite knows, when we're marketing the territory, it's important that the Department of Tourism and Culture advocates not just for one tourism business in the territory, but really, all of the tourism businesses in the territory. We continue to work closely with them on an equal basis, but we will continue to advocate on behalf of all tourism businesses in the territory.

The member opposite was asking about highways and I benefit from a great working relationship with the Minister of Highways and Public Works. I know that he works very hard. He is usually the first one in the office in the morning working on behalf of Yukoners, and I would like to thank him for that. I will refer any questions pertaining to road or road maintenance to the Minister of Highways and Public Works when we debate that department on the floor of the Legislature.

I need to go back and talk about marketing and advocating on behalf of all businesses. I think where we have been successful — when we look at 2013 being a record-breaking year for border-crossing statistics with an eight-percent increase in the number of private vehicles and motorcoaches crossing the border into our territory. Those vehicles could potentially be travelling through the member opposite's riding. The stats show a seven-percent increase in the number of visitors from the U.S., and a 17-percent

increase in the number of visitors coming from Canada. It was those numbers and that data that led us to believe that marketing domestically within Canada was a great idea — and working with TIAY and the Yukon Chamber of Commerce in developing the Yukon Now program. We also saw last year an eight-percent increase in overseas visitation, something that this government is very proud of.

I also hosted the tourism ministers' meeting last September, in 2013. The meeting was focused on Canadian tourism competitiveness, and I touched on that yesterday.

Truly, how competitive marketing — a jurisdiction in Canada as small as Yukon — around the world when we are dealing with — even in Canada, provinces like Ontario that have hundreds of millions of dollars for marketing their area. We were fortunate to have the leadership of the Premier on the Premier's European trade mission that resulted in an accord between Yukon government, Air North and Condor, which I spoke to yesterday.

The Premier and European partners also signed several marketing agreements with German tour operators. The resulting marketing efforts targeted over three million people in German-speaking Europe.

When I was in Germany just a couple of months ago, we continued to build upon the relationships with the tour operators in that area. It is very, very important that we have a positive relationship, that they remember who we are, and that we continue the dialogue and the communication with those companies.

For example, we signed three cooperative marketing agreements when we were in Europe. One was with SK Touristik. Our contribution to that agreement was \$18,000. The stakeholder contribution to that agreement was \$57,000. So you can see that when I mentioned earlier about the Marketing Unit — one that the Member for Klondike referred to as a public service announcement, but the Marketing Unit works very hard and they work very smart at stretching the marketing dollars.

Another cooperative marketing agreement that I signed was with CANUSA — another great company over in Germany, one that is very proud to carry Yukon product. Our contribution to that agreement was \$40,000. Canusa's contribution was \$80,000 — again, stretching our marketing dollars.

Now with CRD, which is a slightly smaller company over there that is very excited about building into the Yukon visitation, we signed some small agreements with them and that was a \$12,000 Yukon contribution to their \$12,000 stakeholder contribution.

We'll continue to work with CRD, with CANUSA and with SK Touristik on marketing our very great and wonderful product of Yukon within German-speaking Europe.

Mr. Tredger: I think the minister for the brief answer. I'm glad that he did mention the kiosk at Stewart Crossing. I know that the Silver Trail Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Association worked very hard on that. I would like to also mention that they had some partners in that — Victoria Gold and Yukon Energy Corporation as well as the

Village of Mayo worked in partnership with them to create that. It's a sign of things to come.

I hope the minister, when he said that he had to be responsible for all of the operators in the Yukon, was not implying that there was only one operating in the Keno area. There are many and the Silver Trail Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Association represents many businesses. Their simple question is: Would the minister seriously consider road maintenance and safety issues on the Silver Trail and the associated secondary roads — and the signage issues — as part of his commitment to work in collaboration with the government with the Highways and Public Works minister?

It's a serious issue and it is affecting tourism in the area. The minister should be advocating for that. There's another road that springs to mind, and I'm assuming there are many across the Yukon. I'm just talking about ones in my area.

The minister stood up and spoke about Fort Selkirk and the resource that it is. I've mentioned it before in this House. The minister at that time said he had never heard any concerns about the roads. I will repeat that concern: There is a road from Pelly Crossing to the Pelly River Ranch that provides access by boat from there to the Fort Selkirk historic site. That access is also used in a cultural way for many fish camps. It's used by people going into the area for hunting, fishing and hiking. It's also used by placer miners. It's a widely used road; it has not been maintained for two years by this government.

I've asked the Minister of Tourism and Culture if he would consider advocating with the Minister of Highways and Public Works to have that road serviced and maintained so it doesn't fall apart. Local residents are doing what they can. In fact, at the historic Bradley Ranch — the Pelly River Ranch — which is an iconic tourist attraction in and of itself, they maintain most of the road by plowing and keeping it open throughout the winter. They do not have the resources to rebuild the road, as is soon becoming evident as necessary. It's another situation like the Duncan Creek Road. I'm sure members from all rural ridings have areas like that and roads like that, which need our attention.

Is the Minister of Tourism advocating for these important infrastructure venues into our historic sites and our tourist sites?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I need to first remind the member opposite that today we're debating the Department of Tourism and Culture, not the Department of Highways and Public Works — just in case he was a little bit confused about that.

When he talks about highways — and I won't get into the other minister's department — but iconic drives through the territory are one of the six pillars to our marketing campaign.

When we talked to tour operators in Australia, German-speaking Europe, in U.K. and in the U.S., they continue to be impressed by the iconic drives that we have in this vast territory. I think it's important to note when I'm talking about iconic drives that we have to give credit partially where credit is due and that is to the six visitor information centres, including the kiosk in Stewart Crossing. When our visitors have questions about where to go and what to see, the good

staff at the visitor information centres are able to direct our visitors to some pretty spectacular places in this place that we call home. Thanks to all of the staff at both government and non-government visitor information centres around the territory.

Mr. Tredger: I just have a follow-up for one of my previous questions. I asked for a copy of the July 2013 Cornerstone report on Klondike palaeontology. The minister said he would have to get back to me.

Will the minister commit to getting that report to members of the Legislature?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: What I can do is commit to reviewing the report and looking into the option of perhaps providing a copy of that.

Chair: Does any other member wish to speak in general debate on Vote 54?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: May we please take a 5-minute recess?

Chair: Committee of the Whole will recess for 5 minutes.

Recess

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

We are on Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, going into line-by-line debate.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Cultural Services

Cultural Services in the amount of \$598,000 agreed to

On Tourism

Tourism in the amount of \$2,088,000 agreed to

On Total of Other Operation and Maintenance

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

Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$2,686,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Corporate Services

On Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space

Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space in the amount of \$15,000 agreed to

On Cultural Services

On Historic Sites — Fort Selkirk

Mr. Barr: I had asked previously if the minister would forward the consultant report for erosion control assessment when it was completed. I didn't get a response to that.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: That report has not been completed yet.

Mr. Barr: Will the minister forward it to me when it is completed?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I can't make a commitment on something that I haven't received. I will have to wait to see the report before I can make that commitment.

Historic Sites — Fort Selkirk in the amount of \$150,000 agreed to

On Historic Sites — Forty Mile

Historic Sites — Forty Mile in the amount of \$33,000 agreed to

On Museums — Military and Industrial Artifact Assessment

Museums — Military and Industrial Artifact Assessment in the amount of \$5,000 agreed to

On Museums — Museums — Capital Maintenance

Mr. Barr: I also asked previously and did not get a response — which communities will be receiving the money? For which museums — does the minister have that information?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I'm a little bit confused by the member's question. We're on line-by-line debate here on Museums — Capital Maintenance, an increase of \$110,000.

This \$110,000 was to replace the HVAC system at the Transportation Museum.

Museums — Museums — Capital Maintenance in the amount of \$110,000 agreed to

On Museums — Beringia — Capital Maintenance

Museums — Beringia — Capital Maintenance in the amount of \$30,000 agreed to

On Museums — Beringia — Exhibits Renewal

Mr. Barr: May I get an explanation of this amount please?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: This fund was reallocated to the renewal project to the Fort Selkirk historical site erosion control project.

Museums — Beringia — Exhibits Renewal underexpenditure in the amount of \$100,000 cleared

On Total of Other Capital

Total of Other Capital in the amount of nil cleared

Tourism and Culture Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$243,000 agreed to

Tourism and Culture Total Expenditures in the amount of \$2,929,000 agreed to

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I move that the Chair report progress on Bill No. 15, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2014-15*.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Nixon that the Chair report progress on Bill No. 15, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2014-15*.

Motion agreed to

Chair: The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 82, entitled *Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, continuing debate on the amendment to clause 27 moved by Ms. Hanson.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

Bill No. 82: Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act — continued

Chair: The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 82, entitled *Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, continuing debate on the amendment to clause 27 moved by Ms. Hanson.

On Clause 27 — continued

Ms. Hanson: When we left off the other day, on October 30, I had introduced to the Legislative Assembly an amendment that I intended as essentially a friendly amendment to allow for an opportunity for this government or a future government to fulfill the commitments that were established and set out in the select committee on off-road vehicles, which had tabled its report and which formed the basis, we had thought, for the legislative initiatives of this government with respect to those 14 recommendations.

In addition to the 14 recommendations, members will recall that the committee also identified a number of other actions that were required to be implemented with respect to environmental and access restrictions and penalties for environmental damage and separate environmental protection legislation to target and penalize where damage was done, rather than restricting specific users.

In my comments — and I just want to reiterate them for the record — it's clear from the conversation and debate that has occurred to date on this legislation that — I'm not going to go as far as some public commentators have, which have described it as being completely useless — and that's a quote — and that it speaks to off-road vehicle use only on maintained roadways. Some people see that as an oxymoron when we're talking about off-road vehicles and we're talking about off-road vehicles only on highways. My colleagues and others have clearly identified the deficiencies in this legislation as it speaks to the issues of helmets and helmet safety.

We heard the minister speak repeatedly about his personal commitment to the issue of safety and we laud him for that. We find it unfortunate that he's not been able to convince his Cabinet colleagues that safety is of paramount importance. We were disappointed that, for example, the Minister of Health and Social Services has not taken a strong stance on this and recognized the data and the evidence with respect to the cost to the health care systems from even one paraplegic, quadriplegic or brain injury that results from not wearing helmets as a result of an accident with one of these off-road or all-terrain vehicles.

We pointed out that despite what the members opposite have said, other jurisdictions have found ways to address the concerns that I think we heard coming from across the floor, which is that you can't just have a mandatory helmet law because some people might not agree.

We pointed out that in British Columbia, yes, there is a mandatory helmet law with no exemptions; similarly with Alberta. In Saskatchewan, there is a mandatory helmet law, but it doesn't apply to when you are operating one of these off-road or all-terrain vehicles on land that is owned by the immediate family member. We pointed out that in Manitoba there is a mandatory helmet-use law, but again there is an

exemption when operating an ATV for the purpose of farming, commercial fishing, hunting or trapping. In Ontario, we pointed out again, there is a mandatory helmet law, but it doesn't apply when operating these vehicles on land occupied by the owner of the ATV. Quebec has a mandatory helmet law. New Brunswick has a mandatory helmet law, as well as Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. That leaves Yukon, sadly — as this government uses its majority to push this legislation through — as a government that clearly does not listen to the citizens, does not listen with respect to the recommendations made by user groups, nor listens to the other level of government, which has spent a significant amount of time and energy talking with citizens of the City of Whitehorse with respect to off-road vehicle use and has made explicit requests.

In their submission to the select committee on off-road vehicle use, they had seven key points. I'm not going to reiterate them, given the time factor that we're dealing with here, but I commend members opposite to actually read the submission in particular made by the City of Whitehorse so that we could actually demonstrate that the senior level of government, the territorial government, and the municipality can actually work together with a view that how we ensure that our legislation works in a coherent manner so that drivers of off-road vehicles moving in and out of municipal boundaries are not subject to the vagaries of the law — sort of changing different jurisdictions. We're not a huge territory. You would think that the territorial government, that has the lead on this, and the municipal government would be able to find a way to work more effectively with our sister governments.

I didn't spend much time in my comments and I know others have and certainly would, if given the opportunity, speak to the opportunity that is provided by doing a review to ensure that when government has actually enacted the necessary legislative amendments and regulatory changes to give effect to all 14 of the recommendations made by the all-party select committee, keeping in mind that there was no dissenting opinion. This is a consensus report. It reflects the values and the interests of the members of this Legislative Assembly and the voices of several thousand Yukon citizens and many, many submissions to that committee.

The opportunity that is provided to government to work to not only reflect the values and the interests that were expressed in the select committee on off-road vehicles use — it also ensures that, as we go forward as government, we're working with all levels of government, including First Nation governments, on this important issue so that if there are issues as we've noted in some jurisdictions where there are exemptions for certain purposes — perhaps for trapping, commercial fishing or other issues, hunting — those are taken into consideration by government as amendments. It's one thing to actively engage in those discussions — it's completely unacceptable for government to run, hide and say, "Gosh, this is too hard. We won't be popular with somebody so we're not going to do it." That's not what government is all

about. Our job as legislators is to make the hard choices and to actually do the right thing for the right reasons.

As I've said, the amendment calls on this Legislative Assembly to agree to review that three years after this act, the *Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, come into force, the government should conduct a comprehensive review of this act and shall submit to the Legislative Assembly within one year after beginning that review any amendments to the act.

I would hope that any future government would read that in an expansive way that would include and recognize that it is intended to reflect all of the recommendations of the select committee. It is intended to ensure that the required amendments with respect to lands and legislation with respect to our lands and our environment — the *Environment Act* — are also covered off here — and the regulatory changes that were identified by the members of the select committee who spoke to the need for environmental and access restrictions to be implemented — and which have not been acted upon by this government despite repeated commitments by the Minister of Environment that something was coming, something would be happening in due course, in due time.

The fact of the matter is that every day in the fall season and the spring season, we see again more damage being done. It doesn't matter how many times we talk about the majority of responsible users. It's the same as the majority of drivers do not drink. It is the irresponsible ones who cause the deaths and the damage. We have a responsibility as legislators to ensure that we go up to the highest bar. We also recognize that there are times when there will be transgressions, and that's our responsibility.

We have to ensure that we follow through on the commitments made. The commitments made, I would argue, are reflected in the good work that was done by that select committee. I would encourage all members to support the amendment as proposed.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I would like to start by acknowledging the work of the minister and his department in tabling this legislation. I want to certainly also acknowledge the hard work that went on with caucus on this issue. It is certainly something that affects Yukoners' way of life throughout this entire territory.

I also want to acknowledge the work of the select committees. I also want to acknowledge the fact that it is this Yukon Party government that has essentially used the process of select committees entirely. I believe there has only been one select committee that ever existed by either the Liberals or NDP. This has been a very useful tool that the Yukon Party government has consistently used to engage citizens and also to engage both sides of the House on issues that are important to Yukoners.

What we see here in this proposed amendment is really the opposition's solution to most problems, and that is to create legislation and regulation. Once they do that, then they can pat themselves on the back and congratulate themselves that they have done a good job. I would like to say that I believe the Minister of Environment stood up and articulated some of the challenges and some of the lifestyles that exist in

this territory — the things that were discussed earnestly before the legislation that you see tabled before us today. Of course, municipalities always have that opportunity to provide further enhancements through their bylaws as well as we are aware.

The reality of the amendment is that this government will not support the amendment simply because, if the legislation is working fine, there is no reason to waste time and money to do a review. If the legislation is not working, then any responsible government has an obligation to look at the legislation. Legislation should be looked at if it requires modification, not because we set a timeline on it, and then we waste time, we waste peoples' time and we waste taxpayers' money to do such a thing. We won't support this amendment. If there needs to be changes in the future, government at the time would do that because that's the right thing to do. The government will not support the proposed amendment to the legislation.

Ms. White: Just to add a bit more depth to the conversation, to have a comprehensive review of an act built in is not unusual. You can look at different legislation across Canada to see it. You can even look to our own *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* where, for the review in 2009 of the statutes of Yukon, there was a clause put in, entitled "Review of act". It talks about how at least once every six years the minister must cause there to be a comprehensive review of this act and must submit a report respecting the review to the Legislative Assembly within one year after the commencement of the review.

This is not an unheard of step. It is a check and balance and it gives the minister the opportunity — or the government the opportunity — to take a look at how it has been going and to come back. If it's going great, that's fantastic, and if it's not, then there is that ability to fix the problem. It is not unheard of to have this built into legislation, and we can look no farther than our *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to find a similar comprehensive review built into legislation.

Chair: Are you prepared for the question on the amendment?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Count

Chair: Count has been called.

Bells

Chair: Would all those in favour please rise.

Members rise

Chair: Would all those opposed please rise.

Members rise

Chair: The results are six yea, 11 nay.

Amendment to Bill No. 82 negatived

Chair: Is there any further debate on clause 27?

Clause 27 agreed to

On Title

Title agreed to

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: Madam Chair, I move that Bill No. 82, entitled *Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, be reported without amendment.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Istchenko that Bill No. 82, entitled *Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, be reported without amendment.

Motion agreed to

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

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

Chair's report

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

Committee of the Whole has also considered Bill No. 82, entitled *Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, and directed me to report the bill 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.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

Bill No. 82: *Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act* — Third Reading

Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 82, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Istchenko.

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I move that Bill No. 82, entitled *Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Highways and Public Works that Bill No. 82, entitled *Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I just want to thank everybody for their hard work — our officials — on this bill. I also really want to thank the select committee for the hard work that they did on this. You know, Mr. Speaker, a lot of legislation goes through where the opportunity to comment and the opportunity to speak, for me, is engaging and it is something that I look forward to, but this bill — what we have done here — is very important to me. I like the balance that we have had between rural Yukon — my phone rang off the hook — when the City of Whitehorse did some of the stuff that they did. I think we have a balance there for rural Yukon and the City of Whitehorse has an option to move forward on stuff, but there

is always that opportunity in future to look at different acts and different legislation. There is always a legislative agenda out there that can be opened up and changes can be made.

For me, I think it is key — the education in this. I think that, as a government, we are finding a balance here to ensure the safety, the protection of our children in putting the responsibility for a person's safety in the hands of the adult riders. The amendments require that youth under the age of 16 wear a helmet wherever and whenever they are travelling. Anyone else who is travelling on our roads has to wear a helmet and all the drivers that are on the roads have to hold a valid operator's licence, registration and insurance. I think that is also very important. I do commend the House for the debate on this and I do thank everyone for their input.

Ms. Moorcroft: I stand here to say that I am going to disappoint the Yukon Party government.

I rise on behalf of the Official Opposition to state that our caucus will not be supporting an *Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act* at third reading for many reasons. We've had considerable debate about the amendments when they were first brought forward last week. There is no question that the government had a difficult task before it to respond to the 2009 report from the Select Committee on the Safe Operation and Use of Off-road Vehicles. The committee itself was divided about people wearing helmets as a safety measure when riding snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles or motorized trail bikes. As we questioned the Highways and Public Works minister during committee debate, it became clear he is in a difficult position.

On October 30, the Minister of Highways and Public Works said, "helmets save lives and it only makes sense that helmet use is now legislated for ORV users and their passengers." He said, quote: "Safety is of the utmost concern for this minister." He said: "I fully agree with safe, safe, safe, safe, safe, but it's up to the individual, I believe" when we were talking about the need for safety measures that protect all people from brain injuries when they are riding an off-road vehicle by wearing a helmet.

What this minister failed to grasp during the previous afternoon we spent debating these amendments is the validity of opposition concerns about the safety of all off-road vehicle drivers, including those riders over the age of 16 who, under this bill, will not be required to wear a helmet.

The minister has dismissed the evidence of two major health studies. I want to thank my colleague, the Member for Riverdale South, who presented information from a report prepared by the Canadian Institute for Health Information looking at all-terrain vehicle injuries in Canada from 2001-02 to 2009-10.

There was a 31-percent increase in ATV injuries requiring hospitalization across Canada during that period. The greatest number of injuries was among young men aged 15 to 19. Dr. Natalie Yanchar said that kids are risk-takers and can lack judgment. They don't perceive danger the way adults do, including speed, approaching vehicles, rocky ledges or sharp inclines. Doctors have called for measures to reduce the

inherent hazardous risks when young people ride off-road vehicles.

In December of 2010, the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Calgary released a report on 10 years of all-terrain vehicle injury, mortality and health care costs. They noted that all-terrain vehicles are increasing in popularity worldwide. The Province of Alberta accounts for 25 percent of Canadian ATV sales. The study examined the records of the Alberta trauma registry and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of Alberta.

ATV accidents resulted in 459 serious trauma cases, 395 trauma centre admissions and a 17-percent mortality rate. A 17-percent mortality rate — that's a lot of deaths. Male patients aged 18 years to 19 years had the highest incidents. Head, neck and cervical spine injuries were most common and predictive of mortality. Vehicle rollovers, vehicle ejection, alcohol intake, helmet use and incident location were predictive of mortality. The cost of these injuries was \$6.5 million to the Province of Alberta over this 10-year period. The cost to families of those lives that have been lost cannot be measured in a dollar amount.

The Canadian Medical Association passed a resolution to make helmet use mandatory. Following that resolution being passed at the national body, the Yukon chief medical officer of health expressed his hope that the Yukon government might act to support mandatory helmet use. But the Yukon Party government and the minister have chosen to ignore all of that evidence and the advocacy supporting the use of helmets. The Yukon Party government response was, "We don't want to make a trapper a criminal."

I'm going to quote something the minister said: "But we just don't believe in making criminals of the trappers, the Canadian Ranger or the wilderness guide outfitter who is doing some trail maintenance." I would remind the minister and the government that our sister territories of Northwest Territories and Nunavut have safety laws in place for mandatory helmet use. I know the members opposite are aware that Nunavut and Northwest Territories both have trappers, and that they will have taken those trappers' interests into account before enacting legislation requiring helmet use. If the government believes that there needs to be any exceptions to helmet use, other jurisdictions — Manitoba, for example — have made exemptions. The requirement to wear helmets in Manitoba does not apply when operating an ATV for the purpose of farming, commercial fishing, hunting or trapping.

In Committee debate, I asked the minister for a copy of the information they considered from other jurisdictions, and we're the last jurisdiction to consider safety measures to do with off-road vehicles. But the government decided what it wanted to decide without regard for what other jurisdictions have done. They made their decision without regard for the recommendations of the Canadian Medical Association, the chief medical officer of health's position, and without regard for two national studies.

I would like to turn now to the lack of respect this government has for other levels of government.

In considering these amendments, the government excluded unincorporated communities without even approaching them to ask whether they wanted to be exempted, or whether they would like to have protections related to licensing, registration, helmets and other safety measures.

The government sent notices to Yukon First Nations, and when they did not receive any responses, they left it there. They did not take the opportunity to address the issue of amendments to the *Motor Vehicles Act* at the Yukon Forum through the *Cooperation in Governance Act* so there is another statute that they have ignored. It would have been really useful to have had that discussion with Yukon First Nation governments.

The government also has paid no heed to the City of Whitehorse submission to the select committee on off-road vehicle use. The city requested a number of amendments, which included requiring that all off-road vehicles be registered with the Motor Vehicles branch at the point of sale and requiring all drivers of off-road vehicles to hold a valid driver's licence. They requested that the amendments require all off-road vehicle riders in the territory to wear a helmet when operating an off-road vehicle. There were explanations of the reasons for those requested amendments, Mr. Speaker.

The off-road vehicle registration and licence plate — the city considered this to be the single most important amendment to the legislation being sought by the city. Currently, it is extremely difficult to identify offenders, as their vehicles have no licence plate and drivers are difficult or impossible to locate.

City bylaws are near impossible to enforce under the current circumstances. The city responds to a number of complaints over off-road vehicle use that involve minors operating a motor vehicle. A valid driver's licence would help ensure driver education was obtained and help prevent minors from driving ORVs.

The City of Whitehorse, as in most jurisdictions in Canada, requires helmets to be worn while operating off-road vehicles. Having territorial legislation would help bolster this safety effort and provide a united message to the public on the importance of ORV safety.

Mr. Speaker, I hear the minister heckling about the issue of requiring a valid licence. We have to emphasize here that these amendments only apply to people who are driving an off-road vehicle on a highway or on a maintained roadway.

We had some inconsistent and confused statements coming from the minister during debate on that. At one point, the minister said, "The way that the act is written, when you are riding on the shoulder of the road, going to a trail, you won't require a licence or registration." Then that was corrected, but it highlights the need for good public education measures in communicating to the public what exactly is and is not included in these amendments. There's a lot more that is not included than is included.

I also want to speak to the fact that the off-road vehicle select committee report addressed both environmental concerns and safety concerns.

We saw some amendments to the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* previously but there have been no regulations put in place in over a year and a half since those amendments were made to put any substance to that bill. There is not protection offered for ecosystems and for preventing harm that can be done by some, by few, who are not responsible riders and who might damage sensitive alpine areas and other parts of the Yukon.

The minister said, “I think with that in the back country, that sort of issue should be addressed and it will be addressed when we bring the regulations forward.” That was in response to a question about a visible licence plate. Well, that’s exactly the point. The legislation can allow for regulations, but if no regulations are brought forward, then no action is taken.

So we are left with these amendments, which only apply standards for licensing, insuring off-road vehicles when people are riding on highways and maintained roadways. Similarly, helmet use is only required on highways and maintained roadways and for people under 16. I have spoken about the two reputable studies that have been done about the harm, about the deaths and about the injuries that can occur when people ride off-road vehicles without a helmet.

I’ve spoken about the fact that these studies show that young men aged 18 and 19 are most at risk of injury or death when they are riding without a helmet. There had better be a really solid public education campaign that will encourage people over the age of 16 to wear a helmet. I don’t want to be standing in this Legislature when there has been another fatality in our community by a young driver who is over the age of 16 but the law didn’t require him to wear a helmet and so he didn’t. This is a very serious bill before us, and it is an inadequate bill before us.

The minister spoke about balance. The minister said that his government was confident that they had struck an appropriate balance. I don’t think there is a balance here. I think I have illustrated the lack of information. I think I have illustrated that the government has not responded adequately to the recommendations of the select committee on off-road vehicles.

I will not be supporting this bill. We are sorely disappointed in the amendments before it. I urge all members to vote against it. I ask the people responsible for health in the government to think about what they’re doing if they vote in favour of these amendments. I urge members to vote against the amendments before us.

Mr. Silver: It’s a good debate. I wanted to echo some of the comments made by my colleagues here across the floor.

When I was 18-years-old, I had a couple of different motorbikes. I had a Shadow 750 and I had a Suzuki 185. Of course, the Shadow is a street bike — the highways — and you have the law enforcing the rules for that — but the 185 was the bike for the beach, for the high fields — and back home the rules are the same. You have to wear your helmet; it doesn’t matter if you are on the highway or if you are on the trails in Nova Scotia.

At the time we had an officer named Ziggy Seewald — Officer Seewald. It is because of him that I kept my helmet on when we were off the trails. He was quite a mentor for all of those who raced bikes back in the day. He taught me how to do my first camel jump. He also, through the RCMP program, was instrumental in teaching everybody how to drive motorbikes properly.

There was one day that he gathered us around to show pictures of head trauma. I’ll never forget those pictures, ever, for as long as I live. He said, “Boys, keep your helmets on.” The most important thing for us when we were 18-years-old on the trails and on those bikes was looking good and having fun. I tell you — it was instrumental. Those pictures were really important. We have all seen it around here. We’ve seen the boys booting around on the bikes and in their cars around town. You hear it late at night, people screeching around town. The number one thing on their mind is not safety.

At some point there comes a time when legislation needs to step in and save some peoples’ lives. We have had a great debate, and I’ve talked to the member from Old Crow about traditional hunting and these types of things. I’m not arguing anything that has to do with responsible Rangers or elders hunting — not that type of stuff. I just remember being 18 years old, and that kid needed a rule for a helmet — absolutely.

As I had stated in second reading, the biggest concern for me in this act is the regulated use of helmets. The amendment to the act calls for selective mandatory helmet use but excludes large demographics and areas.

I brought up former members — former Minister Archie Lang — putting forth a motion that did urge the government to amend the legislation to make helmet use mandatory. People don’t stop getting injured because they turn 17 years old, and they certainly don’t stop getting hurt just because they’re not on a major highway. This bill is an improvement — absolutely — to having no regulations at all but, unfortunately, it doesn’t go far enough and, for that reason and for that reason alone, I will continue to say that I will not support this bill.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I would like to thank the minister for bringing the bill forward and I would like to thank members for their comments today. I think there has been an array of very passionate and articulate viewpoints on this issue, and I’m happy to add my voice to debate on this issue and to speak at third reading for this bill.

This bill obviously goes a long way toward implementing the recommendations of the select committee of the Legislature on the safe use of off-road vehicles, which reported in 2011. It doesn’t address all those recommendations. Some of those recommendations have been addressed already through other measures.

But, in particular, I think recommendations 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 are best addressed through this piece of legislation. We have begun to address recommendation 14 through the amendments made last year to the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* and I know that the regulations pursuant to that act are

forthcoming. I look forward to seeing those regulations implemented, as those are the ones that deal specifically with the environmental concerns related to this issue.

Obviously the majority of the discussion we have had is related to the various provisions of the bill, but I think the issue of helmet use is probably the one that has received the most attention and for good reason. We have a legitimate and honest disagreement about this particular issue. I don't think it's a bad thing. I don't think any less of any member for having a different viewpoint on this. I think the members who have spoken already have raised strong arguments in favour of their viewpoint, and I certainly can't fault them for that. But at the end of the day, this comes down to a very simple and clear disagreement on the philosophical approach to this issue.

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Dixon: As I was saying, I believe this is a philosophical difference about the role of government — vis-à-vis the law — and the role of the individual — vis-à-vis liberty — in the decision around safety and the role that the individual needs to play in personal safety. I could tell from the off-mic comments that the Leader of the Official Opposition is making that she disagrees with me.

That's fine. This is something that we are very clearly disagreeing about and the members on the various sides of the House are disagreeing about. That's not wrong. That's not bad. That's just the way democracy works and I'm happy to say that this kind of debate is a healthy one, I think.

Each one of us, as representatives from our communities from our areas of the territory, has to justify our positions that we take in this Legislature to our constituents, and I and all those members on this side of the House will have to do that when we go speaking to people in our constituencies — knocking on doors or visiting with people in the communities — about why we've taken the positions we have and likewise the members across the floor will have to do the same as well.

At the end of the day, I think all of the information that the members opposite have presented we appreciate. It's not that it wasn't considered and it's not that we aren't aware of these issues; it's that we have a different approach and we've decided to go with a different approach. That's not to say that we ignored anything. That's not to say we ignored any other jurisdiction, report, piece of evidence or commentary from others. It's simply to say that, on the balance of what we heard and on the balance of what we know, we decided to go a certain direction. That's evident here and I look forward to voting on this bill because I am in favour of it.

I appreciate the viewpoint that we've taken in this legislation and the approach that we've taken and I respect why the members opposite are disagreeing and will be voting against it. I appreciate that they supported the second reading and then through the course of debate decided to switch. I understand that happens from time to time — except for the Liberal member, he voted against it in the second reading as well, I should note.

I look forward to voting in favour of this bill. I appreciate the debate that we've had today, I appreciate the differing

viewpoints on this important issue and I look forward to supporting the bill.

Ms. White: I thank the Minister of Environment for his comments and his delivery of those. I appreciate that we will have a difference of opinion in this House and this is an example.

I'm going to reference two different jurisdictions, because I think there's a lot to learn there. I'm going to talk about Manitoba and about British Columbia, because we have one jurisdiction that made laws in 1987 and we have one that just passed laws on March 24, 2014 — so 27 years apart.

I think about the difference of children growing up in Manitoba now — so in 1987, I would have been 10 years old and laws would have changed there. The reason why I'm citing Manitoba as well is because they're also the jurisdiction with exceptions to the helmet rule. In their law, under section 28, it talks about when helmets are required. In 28(2), it says when they're not required. But I know that any kid who grew up in Manitoba, from 1987 onward, will have incorporated helmet use into their daily life because that's what's required. So anyone who would be my age now, or anyone who is younger than me — this wouldn't be an issue for them, because that's what they would have grown up with — this requirement. It would have been law. So it's interesting, because they would have had these conversations in their legislative assembly 27 years ago, and they would have had the hard talk about for and against and why and why not.

I think it's also really fascinating to know that, in 1987, they had the foresight to say that vehicles needed to be registered with visible licence plates and insurance. What that does is it gives that ability — no matter where that vehicle is and no matter what it's doing, it's identifiable. We have talked about our concerns — that the only ones in these amendments that have to be identified are the ones that are on the highway.

It is interesting — so that is 1987 — and I cannot imagine the conversations that they had there. I mean, they have got a different landscape and they have different things happening, but it would have been fundamentally the same. Do we restrict rights and freedoms, or do we turn it toward safety? Do we ask for identification? Do we not ask for identification?

Then we can flip to Bill No. 13 in British Columbia. This received royal assent on March 24 of this year, which I think is really relevant because it is very recent. The chart that was tabled about legislation across Canada — at the time it was done in 2012, B.C. had no requirements and the only laws that affected off-road vehicles were under Chapter 319 of the *Motor Vehicles Act*. Now, in 2014, they have the off-road vehicle act that they passed. It is interesting to note that they made the hard decision that helmets are mandatory and they have not excluded people from the forestry industry or people from northern B.C., who are trappers. They have not excluded them. They have put everyone in there. That must have also not been an easy conversation.

It also bears mentioning that just in the beginning of this year they also had the conversation about registration and it has a couple of different ways that your vehicle can be

identified. I will bring it up so I can cite it properly — it talks about number plates, decals and stickers. It talks about vehicle identification numbers and insurance and how that's important to have.

I think again it's the idea that a vehicle is recognizable and identifiable if something untoward is going on. I would have appreciated to know that if I saw something that was being done that wasn't kosher, I would be able to say to someone that this happened. You just have to talk to people who have had near accidents or accidents, people who have been run off trails, people whose dogs have been run over and the person has left. I can't imagine how it would have been for the person on the vehicle, but I can imagine the person left behind with an injured animal, vet bills or even the possibility of that loss — there's nothing that they can do, because you can't describe what a vehicle looks like well enough to have the RCMP go and have a chat with the person or issue a ticket.

I just wanted to highlight that across Canada, with the vast landscape and the different lifestyles that we have, most jurisdictions have decided that helmets should be mandatory, and that's because of safety, right? It's not because of the restriction of rights and freedoms, it's because, ultimately, it comes back down to safety.

So Manitoba — I don't know how they came up with it in 1987, but my hat is off to them for their legislation, for the foresight, for figuring out what industries they didn't think required helmet use, for the foresight of insurance and vehicle registration, and then to British Columbia which, until very recently, had no legislation. I just want to highlight the differences and where we fall in there.

Thanks for the opportunity and I guess I'm looking forward to voicing my opinion with the vote.

Speaker: Does any other member wish to be heard?
Are you prepared for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. 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.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 11 yeas, seven nays.

Speaker: The yeas have it.

Motion for third reading of Bill No. 82 agreed to

Speaker: I declare the motion carried and that Bill No. 82 has passed this House.

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

The matter before the Committee is Vote 7, Department of Economic Development in Bill No. 15, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2014-15*.

A five-minute recess has been requested. Committee of the Whole will recess for five minutes.

Recess

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

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

Chair: The matter before the Committee is Vote 7, Department of Economic Development, in Bill No. 15, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2014-15*.

Department of Economic Development

Hon. Mr. Dixon: It's a pleasure to rise and speak to the fall 2014 supplementary budget. This supplementary budget is pretty straightforward for the Department of Economic Development. I know that members of the opposition parties have had a briefing on this, so I look forward to hearing what questions they might have about this budget.

Ms. Hanson: It is refreshing indeed to have brevity, at least at the outset, when we're dealing with a supplementary budget.

I did have a number of questions prepared, but I will be frank and honest at the outset in saying that, given the experience over the last three years, it's very unusual to have the minister stand and actually proceed immediately to questions. So I have to take second here and find my notes,

because I was expecting him to go on for 15 minutes, as has happened in the past.

I just wanted to follow up on a number of matters that we had raised in this Legislative Assembly, and then we can come back to them when we resume. They're matters that deal directly with the department and are not often dealt with in Question Period so I just wanted to raise with it the minister — because I think in this budget debate that we have the luxury of a little bit of an opportunity for an exchange of ideas, as opposed to just throw it out there for a minute and then get a minute and a half of some sort of response.

I just wanted to go back to a question I had raised when we were — the issues that had come out when we were doing the debate on the mains in April. At that time, there was some discussion by the minister with respect to the budget amount of over \$1 million for business incentive programs that offer rebates to businesses that hire Yukoners. I would like to ask — so these are rebates to businesses that hire Yukoners, use Yukon-manufactured goods and hire apprentices and Yukon youth to work on eligible Yukon government projects.

I would be most interested if the minister could elaborate for us the actual breakdown of how that works and whether or not it is a matching kind of a program. If you could give examples of which businesses — yes, the businesses that have received rebates for hiring Yukoners — and does that apply, for example, when the Government of Yukon brings in employers to work on major capital projects, such as F.H. Collins Secondary School or others?

So that is one area that we have not — given that we have such limited time in Question Period to discuss — that is an area that is of interest to this side of the House. As well, the minister has said that the department would be conducting a review of its business incentive program, and so I am interested if the minister could elaborate on the outcomes of the review of the business incentive program and whether or not that review is actually a public document. If so, will he be tabling it in the Assembly? It is an issue that — clearly when the economy is having some struggles — I do hope we have an opportunity to revisit some of the statistics that were put forward by the economists for the Yukon government at the Opportunities North conference. Again, I am signalling to the minister the areas that I think would be helpful for debate.

I think I did raise some of these with the officials the other day, and I forgot to thank them at the outset for their briefing. Business incentive programs — an area where there has been some discussion in the context of the support that the Government of Yukon provides to culture and cultural businesses — but it's actually, as I found to my edification during budget debate a couple of years ago, that the Film and Sound Commission and related activities are under Economic Development.

One of the questions that I would like to raise with the minister and put on the record now so we can have further discussion in budget debate is the current Film and Sound Commission's project funding process and what review, if any, has been done with respect to how that incentive program operates — what review has been undertaken with respect to

the objectives of that program, with a view to further supporting and recognizing this is an area of the economy that is often undervalued in many ways? It will be no surprise to the Minister of Economic Development that I will be asking him, because I have raised it with his officials and I raise it in any venue that I can. I did raise it with the economist for the Yukon government at the Opportunities North conference as well.

What analysis and what tools has the minister responsible for Economic Development directed to be both developed and utilized to assess the multiplier effect of the cultural industries? That is why, when I raised the question about the Film and Sound Commission and the incentive programs that we have for that industry — in order to know whether and how much to invest in an area — it's about what kind of return we get. What is our ROI on any dollar that we are putting in from government? What is our track record and how do we project going forward on the cultural side — film and sound — that Economic Development is doing?

The Minister of Tourism and Culture has spoken at length about the statistics that are employed by the Department of Tourism and Culture, but those are all static data. They are exit/entrance data. What the TIAY — the question I have asked various economists and I'm looking to the Minister of Economic Development is what work is being done to determine the economic multiplier effect of the tourism dollar?

I have asked this before and I gave notice to his officials that I'll continue to ask this question, because when I see and I hear statements being made by ministers opposite, including the minister responsible for Economic Development, that we put a value — we can say we have a value to the resource extraction industry — and, at the same time, when I look at his strategic plan for his department, a couple of the main pillars of that economic planning process for this government includes not just the resource-extraction industry and resource-extraction sector, but also tourism.

So as legislators, I think we need to be mindful of making sure that where there are opportunities to increase that investment, and we all know we make decisions — at least I do, and you do, I'm sure, Madam Chair, in terms of your investment of resources — based on what you anticipate your return on that investment will be. So I'm looking for either the evolution of or the actual econometric tools that this government is using as it's assessing how to increase investments in that broad tourism sector.

As I said, I think I referenced — I know the minister has picked up on some of the work and some of the suggestions that were made by Dr. Norman Foster, when he talked about considering the opportunities for Yukon's economy, if we just set aside the paradigm we operate within now and look at the opportunities. We've heard him talk about the data centres and that notion — the potential that might be there. There are economic models that underlie that.

I'm looking for the minister to be able to address and to speak to the economic modelling and the multiplier effect —

specifically, what research. I'm asking him to share that with the Legislative Assembly.

I appreciate that some of my questions — I would be leaping out a little bit more than I would like to and I would like to be able to present the minister some additional questions but, given the time, I move that you report progress.

Chair: It has been moved by Ms. Hanson that the Chair report progress on Bill. 15, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2014-15*.

Motion agreed to

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

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

Chair's report

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

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

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

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

Motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 5:26 p.m.