



# Yukon Legislative Assembly

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Number 168

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33rd Legislature

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## HANSARD

Thursday, November 6, 2014 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable David Laxton

# YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

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

## CABINET MINISTERS

### NAME CONSTITUENCY PORTFOLIO

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

## GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS

### Yukon Party

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

## OPPOSITION MEMBERS

### New Democratic Party

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

### Liberal Party

<b>Sandy Silver</b>	Leader of the Third Party Klondike
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## LEGISLATIVE STAFF

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Clerk of Committees	Allison Lloyd
Sergeant-at-Arms	Rudy Couture
Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms	Doris McLean
Hansard Administrator	Deana Lemke

**Yukon Legislative Assembly**  
**Whitehorse, Yukon**  
**Thursday, November 6, 2014 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

## DAILY ROUTINE

**Speaker:** We will proceed with the Order Paper. Tributes.

## TRIBUTES

### In recognition of Remembrance Day

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I rise today to recognize the significance of Remembrance Day. I am sad to acknowledge that much has been said in this House of late with regard to remembering the contributions of our military and our law enforcement personnel. Observing Remembrance Day has renewed reverence for those of us here and all Canadians, it seems, with Canadian men and women in uniform once again answering the call of duty and participating in a combat role on an international stage as well as the recent tragic and senseless losses of Canadian soldiers on our own soil.

Remembrance Day was first observed in 1919, on the first anniversary of the end of the so-called “war to end all wars” on November 11, 1918, at 11:00 a.m. — the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month — World War I, the Great War, finally ended. Thirty million military personnel were killed or injured in that war; a combined 117,000 Canadians were killed in World War I, World War II, the Korean War and other conflicts.

These casualties are nearly impossible for us to imagine today here in Canada, where we enjoy so many freedoms — freedoms we would not enjoy without such sacrifice. We wear our poppies at this time of the year to remember those who suffered and made the ultimate sacrifice; these women and men who gave their lives in the name of freedom for Canadians and for citizens all over the world. This Tuesday we will mark Remembrance Day.

I encourage all Yukoners to attend ceremonies in their communities or observe a moment of silence in their homes or workplaces. I would also encourage all Yukoners to support the Royal Canadian Legion by donating to the poppy campaign and by wearing one proudly on their left lapel, as close as possible to their heart.

Let us think of all the families who continue to be affected by the loss of a loved one and whose family members continue to serve. Let us think of what we can do to contribute to peace in our own communities and our country.

**Ms. White:** It is a great honour to rise on behalf of the Official Opposition to commemorate Remembrance Day. It is a day that I worry. I worry that in this day and age we get caught up in the nuances of our own lives and we forget the importance of the day. I worry that when Hollywood

glamorizes war and video games have desensitized us to the realities of conflict, war becomes a distant, disconnected idea. It becomes almost unbelievable, because in the movies, the good guys always win and no one really dies.

Images on screen blur the line between make believe and reality. We can easily make the mistake that conflict doesn't affect us because it only happens in faraway places. From a distance, we can easily forget that right now in Canada armed conflict is affecting our friends and our neighbours. Families have been separated as men and women have been sent off to distant places. Today, right now, Canadians are living with the very real consequences of war.

Mr. Speaker, until last week, I used to think that everyone understood the importance of the poppy. I used to think that people generally understood that the red flower worn close to the heart was a symbol of remembrance, that they understood the poppy was a visual pledge to never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice for what we have today.

I should probably explain why I am not so sure that people fully grasp the meaning behind the poppy any more. Last year, after a lot of thought, the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes and I became members of the Legion. To be clear, I am not in the habit of collecting memberships. I take seriously the groups and organizations I choose to support. I wanted to be sure I had something to offer back to the Legion.

I haven't been able to offer much, but last week I was finally able to help. My friend Max and I signed up to man a poppy table at the liquor store and, to be perfectly frank, I was a little nervous. What if I was the worst poppy purveyor of all time? What if I somehow did a disservice to the Legion?

I learned a few things leading up to my 4:00 p.m. shift. First, poppies are not for sale. You don't need money to get a poppy. You just have to have the will to wear one. Donations are graciously accepted, but not expected. Secondly, poppies not only acknowledge the sacrifice of those who lost their lives, but they acknowledge the sacrifice of those who answer the call of duty and walk among us today. Finally, you can disagree with war. You don't have to like it, you don't have to support it, and you don't even have to want to talk about it. The poppy isn't a symbol that supports war. It doesn't symbolize the politicians who make the decision to engage in armed conflict. It symbolizes the men and the women who have borne the cost of those decisions.

Max and I set up our table just past the end of the checkout lines, against the back wall next to the tower of boxes. I was surprised by the amount of people who would not make eye contact. Based on their reactions, I know what it must feel like to sell raffle tickets. I was surprised by the amount of people who, when even asked, said, “No, I don't want a poppy.” Even after we explained that they didn't need to leave money behind — “You can just have one. Just let me pin it on.”

For the first half hour, only a few people stopped at our table. Has society really forgotten the symbolism behind the red flower? I asked Max if he thought it was possible that, collectively, society has forgotten why we wear poppies. He told me that he didn't think so, but I still wasn't so sure about

that. Then a young man came up to the table, he reached into his pocket and pulled out his wallet. He smiled and said that he used to be a cadet. He was taught the importance of the poppy and he put \$20 in the box. I almost cried. It was like an invisible barrier had been broken.

Max and I continued to explain to people that they didn't need to pay to take a poppy. They just needed to want to wear one, and if they felt like it later on, they could leave money behind at the next poppy table they saw.

We pinned poppies on the lapels of a great many people last Friday, but it saddens me to say that twice that many people passed us by without even looking up. That young man changed everything for me on Friday. He gave me the hope that the sacrifices made by Canada's veterans, by our military and by our RCMP — both past and present — will not be forgotten.

Poppies take up such a small amount of real estate over your heart, but they represent so much more. One year I promise I will get through this. They honour the veterans of the past; they show respect for those serving in the present and they foster hope for the future. Lest we forget.

**Mr. Silver:** I rise today on behalf of the Liberal caucus to pay tribute to Remembrance Day. It is on Remembrance Day that we recognize the sacrifices of the men and women who Canada sent to lay down their lives in foreign lands. This day marks the day and time where soldiers laid down their arms and stopped fighting in World War I on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month.

We have had a few opportunities to commemorate our military personnel and our veterans since this session began. Unfortunately, it is because of tragic events that have taken place in the last month. These events serve to remind us that our values, our way of life and our democracy do not come easy. Canada's men and women have defended our freedoms in conflict zones since World War I, and the sad reality is the battle rages on.

On Tuesday we will come together as Canadians along with others in the Commonwealth nations for a moment of silence. We will recognize the more than 1,500,000 Canadians who have served throughout our nation's great history and the more than 118,000 who made the ultimate sacrifice. This Remembrance Day, as we do every year, we will add a few new names of Canadians that we will remember.

We wear the poppy before and on Remembrance Day in memory of those men and women to show our respect and our support for Canadian troops and veterans and commemorate their sacrifices. Remembrance Day services will be held all across Canada and I will once again be attending at the ones in Dawson City. Lest we forget.

### **In recognition of Holocaust Education Week**

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I rise on behalf of all members of the Legislative Assembly here today to recognize Holocaust Education Week. This marks the 34<sup>th</sup> year of Holocaust Education Week here in this country. The Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre has chosen the theme

for Holocaust Education Week as, "collaboration", wherein students are encouraged to explore the dual nature of collaboration by considering those who worked together to resist the Nazis as well as those who collaborated with the enemy. Understanding the atrocities of this dark chapter of human history reinforces that we must do everything we can to ensure that never again can this history be repeated.

Holocaust Education Week is an opportunity to highlight the power of human perseverance by showing the strength and resilience of holocaust victims and survivors. It's an opportunity to celebrate the strength of human compassion and dedication and it's a time to share stories of the heroes of the holocaust.

One of those heroes is that of holocaust survivor Robbie Waisman, who has joined us here in the gallery in this afternoon's Assembly. Mr. Waisman spoke last night to the Whitehorse community at F.H. Collins Secondary School. This morning, I had the honour of introducing Mr. Waisman at a presentation he gave to students of F.H. Collins Secondary School, Porter Creek Secondary School, as well as Vanier Catholic Secondary School. I can say first-hand that the presentation was moving, it was real, it was heartfelt, it was captivating and it was certainly an inspiration of hope.

I would like to recognize and honour Mr. Waisman for coming to the Yukon — his second time, as I understand — to share his experiences of the Nazi occupation of Poland, living in the Jewish ghetto and later working in a German factory as well as his time at the Buchenwald concentration camp and his eventual immigration to Canada.

Hearing his stories first-hand creates and illustrates the imperative and the very importance of teaching our younger generations about the dangers of prejudice, racism and intolerance. I commend, like all of us in this Assembly, Mr. Waisman on his commitment to sharing these powerful stories over the many years and thank him for the wisdom he has shared with our community.

I wish to also recognize and commend the students of the History 12 class at F.H. Collins Secondary School and their teacher, Mr. Toews, who has also joined us here today, for taking the initiative to organize the public presentation that was held last night and for their work to partner with many, including the Human Rights Commission, Yukon College and others to bring this important initiative to fruition.

I wish to also recognize the "Anne Frank — A History for Today" international travelling exhibit which is also on display at F.H. Collins Secondary School. It was on display at Vanier Catholic Secondary School just recently and will be travelling over to Porter Creek Secondary School later this month. It's very timely that this exhibit is displayed, and it's interpreted by a number of student peer guides, who have also joined us here in the gallery today. They have been trained to tell the story of teenager Anne Frank's two years in hiding in Amsterdam during the holocaust.

Seeing this part of the history of the Holocaust through the eyes of fellow younger generations makes a strong impact on all of us. It makes a strong connection with the students who both attend and guide the exhibit. Observing Holocaust

Education Week with events like Mr. Waisman's presentation and the Anne Frank exhibit helps our students to engage with some very difficult chapters of our history and to confront the legacy of war and genocide.

This occasion of teaching and learning with young people of Yukon helps us all to fulfill the promise to never forget and guard against the danger in the future. As has been said, those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. May the lessons we learn about discrimination, hatred, hope and social conscience stay with us beyond this one week of remembrance.

I wish to extend, on behalf of all members of the Assembly, a warm welcome to Robbie Waisman, who has joined us in the gallery here this afternoon.

*Applause*

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Also joining him, I want to make mention, as earlier today in the Tribute — we also have Mr. Toews, who is the teacher responsible and oversees the History 12 class at F.H. Collins Secondary School. We have a number of students here from his History 12 class and I would just like to list off some of their names: Devon Widrig, Ryann Anderson, Liam MacInnis, Jarvis Scheffen, Patrick Yalloway, Alex Gobeil and Samantha Steele.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize in the Assembly a number of members from the Jewish Historical Society of Yukon starting with the president himself, Mr. Rick Karp and also Dr. Sharon Katz, who is a director with the society.

*Applause*

### In recognition of Yukon's Farmers of the Year

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** It is a pleasure to rise here in the Assembly today on behalf of the government caucus to pay tribute to Yukon's Farmers of the Year for 2014. I would also like to begin by thanking the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources for allowing me to deliver the tribute, since two of my constituents were the successful recipient — Rolland and Mary Girouard — who run Rivendell Farm north of Whitehorse on the Takhini River. They have been farming in the Yukon for many years now and the two traits that stand out in them and their farming operations are tenacity and adaptability. It is fitting that Rolland and Mary have been chosen this year by their peers as Yukon farmers of the year.

They have successfully rebranded their operation as Yukon's organic experience catering to locals and visitors as an experience not to be missed in Yukon agriculture.

The Tourism Industry Association is one of the organizations that nominated Rolland and Mary Girouard for Farmers of the Year. TIA's nomination reflects the role that Mary and Rolland's Rivendell Farm played in the first Yukon culinary festival this past year. That festival was a great success in promoting Yukon-grown food.

Rolland and Mary opened their farm to the culinary festival's successful Feast of Farms event, which drew national acclaim for visiting chefs and a full house for an evening meal of locally grown goods. The Feast of Farms

provides a connection to local food, giving diners the opportunity to meet the farmers who have grown the food and an opportunity to showcase local products.

Mary and Rolland are leaders in Yukon's farm community and, as part of that, have also sat on and contributed to numerous boards and committees, including the Yukon Agricultural Association and Growers of Organic Food Yukon. Rolland served for a number of years as president of the Yukon Agricultural Association.

They have successfully pursued organic certification for Rivendell Farm and are helping to educate the next generation of Yukoners participating in the school program From the Ground Up, which gives kids the opportunity to visit Yukon farms and learn more about where our food comes from and the potential for agriculture here in the Yukon.

The leadership role that Mary and Rolland fulfill in the community benefits all Yukoners and puts food on the tables of many Yukon families. Their collaboration with people in agri-tourism and education is a concrete example of their innovative approach to farming in the Yukon and demonstrates their awareness of the connections between agriculture and other sectors of the Yukon economy.

Innovation in sales, marketing and promoting Yukon-grown food is something that Rolland and Mary have done an excellent job of throughout the years.

For all of their work, it is a pleasure to honour Mary and Rolland as Yukon's Farmers of the Year. I would like to ask the Assembly to join me in welcoming Mary and Rolland, as well as the executive director of the Yukon Agricultural Association, Bev Buckway.

**Mr. Tredger:** It is with pleasure that I rise on behalf of the NDP Official Opposition and the Third Party to pay tribute to Yukon's Farmers of the Year. I would begin by recognizing the Yukon agricultural community as a whole. I commend them for working together to establish a vibrant, innovative, entrepreneurial and supportive industry. I have been fortunate to attend many agricultural speaking events and conferences over the last few years. Last weekend, I was able to attend an excellent introduction to holistic farming at the North of 60 Agriculture Conference.

The agricultural community is, if I can borrow from Rivendell's webpage, "harvesting excitement". Yukon is fortunate to have a growing community of producers and consumers working together to produce local, sustainable and healthy products. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the Yukon Agriculture branch of Energy, Mines and Resources, Growers of Organic Foods Yukon, and the Yukon Agricultural Association, as well as farmers markets throughout Yukon, the Potluck Food Co-Op and especially all those farmers and gardeners who are producing quality Yukon food. Through their efforts, "grown in the Yukon" has become synonymous with excellence, healthy, sustainable and affordable.

Prime movers in all this excitement are this year's farmers of the year, Rolland and Mary Girouard, proud owners of Rivendell Farm. Rolland and Mary acquired the

land for Rivendell Farm in 1983, and since then, they have carefully and sustainably cultivated the land into the farm that it is today.

What is evident to me is their belief underlying all they do, that if you put the health of the land first, the land will look after you. Throughout Rivendell's history, Rolland and Mary have cultivated oats, hay, elk, poultry, swine, commercial vegetables, bedding plants, herbs, vegetables and berries. Throughout their history, they have been innovating.

In 2006, they set about to get Rivendell Farms an organic certification for the farm itself and all its products. This was not a difficult transition as Rolland and Mary had been using sustainable and organic practices for years at their farm. In 2009 Rivendell was certified organic.

Mary and Rolland have made Rivendell Farms a warm, open place to visit, to share stories, to pick your own fruits and your own vegetables. Rolland and Mary are passionate farmers. When they set out to cultivate their farm they wanted to prove gardening and farming can be done organically in the north. Through their tireless efforts and devotion to their work, they have certainly proved it can be done.

I was fortunate to witness a prime example of their hospitality and their "harvest of excitement" at this year's annual agricultural banquet, which by the way, is a fine banquet of locally grown foods, but most importantly, it is a gathering of the agricultural community. At my table were two young farmers from Mayo as well as Ralph Mease, a long-time organic farmer from Mayo, a young WWOOFer, Mary and Rolland and Bev Buckway, the executive director of the Yukon Agricultural Association. It didn't take long for the sharing, for the stories, for the ideas, the learning, the exploration of possibilities to begin to ferment. We were joined with visits and interactions from tables around. It was a melting pot of ideas, suggestions and potential. I looked at my wife and I said, "This is like sitting with an encyclopedia." It was amazing.

I thank Mary and Rolland for freely offering their thoughts, their encouragement and especially their willingness to share their harvest of excitement.

Other people have told me that the kitchen table at Rivendell is always full of such conversation, with a wide variety of people coming and going — conversation that instills, pardon my pun, growing excitement. Mary and Rolland are constantly innovating and educating. The Feast of Farms this summer was a prime example of that — a partnership with Air North and the Tourism Industry Association of Yukon — and led to a wildly successful event. Through years of hard work and thoughtfulness, Mary and Rolland have created a sustainable and vibrant farm.

Mary and Rolland Girouard, stewards of Rivendell Farm, you are truly deserving of Yukon's Farmers of the Year award. On behalf of all Yukon people, thank you Mary and Rolland for your efforts, your innovations, the years of hard work, the sharing of the fruits of your labour, your willingness to help others do the same and your many contributions to community and life in the Yukon — and especially your great food.

I will finish with your words and advice upon accepting the Farmers of the Year award: "Buy local, stay warm".

*Applause*

### **In recognition of Teen Parent Centre 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I also rise today in recognition of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Teen Parent Access to Education Society. As a mother, as a Minister of Education and minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, I know firsthand the pressure of juggling the demands of education, demands of a career and the demands of being a parent.

The proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child", comes to mind. This saying reminds us all that parents can't do it all. We as a community all have different things to offer. The four corner partnership that backs the Teen Parent Centre reflects a community of support. Because of this partnership, the Teen Parent Centre offers a holistic network of care that supports teen parents and their kids.

When the program first welcomed the teen parents and their children back in 1990, it was housed in a few portable units beside Selkirk Street Elementary School. It relocated to its present location next to F.H. Collins Secondary School in 1995.

Through this enduring partnership, the centre continues to provide a full suite of programs and services to help young parents to complete their high school. It provides academic support and childcare, supports cultural and healthy family development, and also offers scholarships.

There have been a lot of people who have contributed to the centre over the past 25 years. In particular, it's the partners — the staff and the volunteers — who make the Teen Parent Centre the caring and welcoming place it is today. It's not just what they do, but how they do it.

Having visited the centre on a number of occasions over the years, I can say first-hand that they are, in fact, doing a fabulous job. Their work helps ensure a positive future for young families and our partners are giving teen parents access to the knowledge and skills they need to succeed at home, at work and in the community.

Our partners are shaping the lives of new babies' first role models. I would like to extend my thanks on behalf of all members of the Legislative Assembly to all those involved in the four corner partnership, in particular the Teen Parent Access to Education Society, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Education and F.H. Collins Secondary School. I would also like to extend a big shout-out to the volunteers and to the teachers who have worked really hard over the past 25 years to ensure students got the support they needed to do the final heavy lifting on the way to their diplomas.

Above all, I wish to recognize the many young Yukon parents who have subscribed to the Teen Parent Centre over the years. As I said, being a young parent is no easy task. Being a young parent who is also a student is a juggling act. It takes a lot of courage to walk through the doors of the Teen Parent Centre — and even more courage to keep coming back.

The reward is the diploma they receive, which is the key to a better future, both for them and their families.

Again, our congratulations to all of those students.

Tomorrow evening the Teen Parent Centre is hosting a celebration dinner right at the Teen Parent Centre and I understand that is a work in progress as we speak. I would hope that all of us will join them in congratulating and commending all those involved in this very important work at this society.

Mr. Speaker, before I conclude, I would like to just also ask all members of the Assembly in helping us welcome to the gallery a number of representatives from the society: starting with the president of the society, herself, Colleen Wirth; we also have in the gallery Helena Shewan, who is the former president of the society — who I understand completed her time with the society in the fall back in 1998, if I am not mistaken, Nils Clarke, vice-president; we also have David Knight, long-time board member and current society member; Ron Pearson, also a board member and current society member, and we also have with us Mae Gudmundson, who was the first teacher director at the Teen Parent Centre in 1990.

Also, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the hard work and the inspiration that continues to breathe life into the Teen Parent Centre over these recent years: Kathy Heinbigner, who is a teacher director at the Teen Parent Centre.

Also joining us in the gallery today is Kerri Scholz, who is a former graduate from the Teen Parent Centre and a very successful contributor to our society here today.

Welcome and thank you to all of you. Congratulations.

### **In recognition of National Community Safety and Crime Prevention Month**

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I rise today on behalf of this House to recognize National Community Safety and Crime Prevention Month. Every November, the Canada Safety Council, one of Canada's voices and resources for safety, brings awareness to the importance of building community safety and reducing crime.

This year's campaign encourages Canadians to reach out to their neighbours. A connected, united and caring community is one of the best defences against crime. In light of this theme, I would like to recognize and thank the individuals and groups that are actively working to improve community safety in Yukon.

Recently, I had the privilege of presenting eight Yukoners with community safety awards in acknowledgement of their important role in building and promoting community safety. These eight individuals and 21 other nominees were commended for their collaborative community-building work. From innovative crime prevention and community policing initiatives, to providing support services for victims of crime and volunteering with at-risk youth, the work being done within this community is impressive, to say the least.

Congratulations to this year's award recipients. These include the late Dr. Anne Williams, Chief Superintendent Peter Clark, Tamara Horsey, Constable Ben Kingdon,

Sergeant Cam Lockwood, Ann Maje Raider, Constable Craig Thur, and Morgan Yuill. I would also like to recognize the latest crime prevention and victim services trust fund recipients. These organizations have received financial support for a wide range of grassroots projects that are aimed to reduce crime, prevent violence against women and children, address the root causes of crime, provide services and information to victims of crime, or to provide information about crime prevention and victimization.

Funding has been provided to the Town of Faro, Bringing Youth Toward Equality — better known as BYTE — Ynklude Art Society, Yukon Public Legal Education Association, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society Yukon, Kona's Coalition, Yukon Circle of Change, Yukon Association for Community Living, Yukon Women's Transition Home Society, Nakai Theatre, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations' Anda Ta Youth Centre, Northern Cultural Expressions Society, Boys and Girls Club of Yukon and the Carcross-Tagish First Nation.

The Department of Justice looks forward to sharing more information on these projects and providing updates on their progress through the Department of Justice website soon. If illegal activity is happening in your community on property, I would like to remind Yukoners that they can contact the safer communities and neighbourhoods — the SCAN unit — to make a confidential complaint. SCAN helps keep communities safe by investigating and, if necessary, shutting down properties that are being used for illegal activities such as drug trafficking or bootlegging.

Finally, I want to highlight a recent meeting hosted by the Yukon Police Council, which itself is a group of citizens working hard to reach out and hear from their neighbours. It focused on the development of recommendations for policing priorities. Stakeholders from over 30 organizations attended the meeting to help identify important community safety issues.

The efforts of these stakeholders and continued willingness to work together in the spirit of partnership are a key ingredient in fostering safe Yukon communities.

In closing, in recognition of National Community Safety and Crime Prevention Month thank you to all of the volunteers and organizations that play such an important part in building safe communities. I encourage Yukoners to become involved with community groups — such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Neighbourhood Watch, Block Parents, Citizens on Patrol, among many others — where they can help make contributions to crime prevention. Keeping our communities safe and crime-free is all of our responsibility. Each of us can integrate crime prevention activities in our daily lives and National Community Safety and Crime Prevention Month reminds us that it can start with getting to know our neighbours.

I would also like members of this Legislative Assembly to join me in welcoming a few guests to the gallery. We have with us from M Division of the RCMP Whitehorse detachment, Corporal Jeffrey Myke and operational communication centre manager, Gaylen Shoemaker. We also

have Annette King, chair of Crime Prevention and Victim Services, and from SCAN public safety investigations, Kurt Bringsli and Navhreet Nijhar. Welcome.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Introduction of visitors.

### INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Ms. Hanson:** I invite members of the Assembly to join me in welcoming Pat Mooney to the Legislature. I have known Pat for a long time. You know, Mr. Speaker, people often wonder what happens to young activists and Pat was one of those. He was one of the founders of the Miles for Millions in the 1960s, which mobilized hundreds of thousands of people across this country.

He is now a renowned advocate on the issues of biotechnology and food. He has also received the Right Livelihood Award, the “Alternative Nobel Peace Prize” in the Swedish Parliament, and the Governor-General Pearson peace prize and the American Giraffe Award, given to people who stick their neck out. Pat’s going to be speaking tonight at the Beringia Centre as part of the communicating climate change adaptation lecture series, and also at the Alpine Bakery on Friday about the global food industry. That’s sponsored by YDEC and the organic food growers association.

I would also like to ask members to welcome to the Legislative Assembly Stu Clark. Stu is a former senior policy advisor at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank in Winnipeg, who is now living in Whitehorse and writing on international food policy. So welcome, Pat and welcome, Stu.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

### TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Ms. Hanson:** I have for tabling today a document, entitled *Changes to YESAA Threaten our Land, our Economy, our Yukon: How Bill S-6 affects Yukon: Background & Fact Sheet*.

I also have for tabling a supplement to the four letters of support provided yesterday with respect to the Tr’ondëk-Klondike UNESCO world heritage nomination project — letters of support from the Yukon Chamber of Commerce, the Yukon Historical and Museum Society, the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon, Parks Canada, Dawson City Museum and the Yukon Chamber of Mines.

**Mr. Silver:** I have for tabling the Statistics Canada provincial and territorial economic accounts for 2013.

**Speaker:** Are there any reports of committees?  
Are there any petitions to be presented?  
Are there any bills to be introduced?  
Are there any notices of motions?

### NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to:

- (1) acknowledge that the majority of the territory’s greenhouse gas emissions are caused by transportation;
- (2) agree that affordable, accessible and comfortable public transportation reduces greenhouse gas emissions as well as transportation costs for individual Yukoners;
- (3) reduce Yukon’s greenhouse gas emissions by developing an affordable inter-community public transit service in collaboration with First Nation governments, municipalities and relevant businesses;
- (4) work with the City of Whitehorse to improve and expand the services offered through Whitehorse Transit; and
- (5) call on the federal government to support the work of Canada’s provinces, territories and municipalities in expanding their services through the creation and implementation of a national transit strategy.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to provide a full public accounting for the \$51 million F.H. Collins school replacement project, including how many jobs have been actually filled by Yukoners and how much money has gone to companies from outside the Yukon.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to:

- (1) invest in improving secondary school trades training, such as welding; and
- (2) address the lack of facilities available in some of our secondary schools for trades training.

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

### QUESTION PERIOD

**Question re: YESAA process**

**Ms. Hanson:** Mr. Speaker, for the past several months, the Premier has been living in a bubble. This morning, the Council of Yukon First Nations burst that bubble. The Premier has continued to claim that his government has a great relationship with First Nation governments, and it has been clear to everyone except the Premier that these are just empty words. The Council of Yukon First Nations has removed all doubt with their clear statement of opposition to Bill S-6, with its proposed amendments to YESAA. Yukon First Nations are clear that, by unilaterally changing YESAA, a made-in-Yukon law designed to meet the needs of Yukon First Nations and Yukoners, the Yukon Party invites serious consequences to Yukon.

In light of today’s clear statement by Yukon First Nation governments, does the Premier still support the federal government’s unilateral changes to YESAA?



**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** Prior to the tabling of Bill S-6 in the Senate of Canada, there were approximately seven years of consultation that occurred — literally thousands of hours of consultation. From that consultation, there was agreement by all parties on 73 of 76 recommendations, which is an outstanding effort.

Yukon First Nations have guaranteed participation in the environmental assessment process. They recommend three out of seven representatives on the YESA Board. This legislation will ensure consistency with our neighbouring territories — Nunavut and Northwest Territories — and consistent assessment legislation with the provinces, Mr. Speaker.

That allows Yukoners to be competitive and that is a priority for this government — the creation of jobs and the creation of prosperity for Yukon families.

**Ms. Hanson:** It doesn't matter how many changes are agreed to, when after-the-fact unilateral changes which undermine the spirit and intent of YESAA are made. It is clear that the Premier does not understand the fundamental nature of the relationships created in the First Nation final agreements and, through them, YESAA. This Premier has turned his back on the opportunities realized through partnership and has chosen confrontation over collaboration.

Yukon First Nations acted in good faith. They have tried to have their voices heard, but they have been ignored. The Premier needs to understand that Yukon First Nations do not stand alone. Yukon citizens stand with them against the federal government and their Yukon Party cheerleaders to protect the essential pillars of our final agreements.

How can the Premier support the amendments to YESAA that go against the spirit and intent of final agreements — agreements that represent all Yukoners?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** Mr. Speaker, amendments to the YESAA legislation cannot be in conflict with the final agreements. It is clearly articulated in section 4 of YESAA that if there is a conflict between YESAA and the final agreements, the final agreements will always prevail. It is very clear. Bill S-6 received unanimous support in Canada's Senate, including all the Senate Liberals, without amendment.

Consultation occurred for almost seven years between Yukon government, Canada, CYFN, all Yukon First Nations and YESAB as well. Yukon government, through this entire process, shared all of our comments with all of the parties that were at the table. We are supportive of an assessment process that is consistent with all jurisdictions across this country, ensuring the opportunity for this government and this territory to create jobs for Yukon families.

**Ms. Hanson:** You know, unanimous support from an unelected Senate — uh-huh.

Yukon First Nations have been really clear, and they have stated clearly the serious consequences to Yukon if the YESAA amendments are passed. These amendments will bring uncertainty, harm Yukon's economy, scare off investment, put Yukoners' jobs at risk and delay resource development. I'm quoting here, Mr. Speaker, from the release this morning that I tabled in this House.

First Nations have indicated that Canada's decision to impose amendments like this will likely end up in court. The Premier has a choice to make. He can side with the Harper government or he can stand with Yukon First Nations and for the Yukon.

Can the Premier explain why he has chosen to side with the federal government and abandon Yukon First Nation governments and his responsibilities as Premier of Yukon?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I stand on the side of ensuring that we have legislation that is consistent with Nunavut, Northwest Territories and the other provinces in this country. I stand for the seven years of consultation that has occurred with engagement of all Yukon First Nations, YESA Board, CYFN, Canada and Yukon government.

The Yukon government shared all of its comments through that time with all parties at the table. There were 76 recommendations with the support of all parties on 73 of them. We are committed and supportive of an opportunity to continue to attract investment and create good job and business opportunities for Yukoners and create prosperity for all people in this territory.

#### **Question re: Dawson City waste-water facility**

**Mr. Barr:** The Dawson City waste-water treatment plant has been plagued with problems since it was built. Originally, this government had committed to hand over the facility to the City of Dawson well over a year ago and yet the facility is still in government hands. Before the hand-over is to take place, the waste-water treatment plant must pass a series of tests that it has failed on numerous occasions in the past.

Is the plant complying with the water licence and have the conditions to hand over the Dawson City waste-water treatment plant to the City of Dawson been met?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** The Government of Yukon and the City of Dawson are working together to ensure that the Dawson waste-water treatment plant meets the contract terms and conditions. We remain committed to ensuring the operation and maintenance costs are manageable for this plant as well. In fact, government — both the Department of Community Services and the Department of Highways and Public Works have worked closely, and will continue to do so, with the City of Dawson, both at the elected level and at the administrative level, to ensure that together, we are holding Corix to the terms of the contract and are doing everything within our power to ensure that the plant performs as it is supposed to by holding the contractor to the terms of the contract.

**Mr. Barr:** As the timeline for the hand-over of the Dawson City waste-water facility grows ever longer, Yukoners are seeing another proof of this government's inability to manage capital projects.

A waste-water treatment plant that cannot comply with the water licence is not a very attractive problem to have on your hands and the City of Dawson knows this. The repeated failures of the treatment facility to comply with the water licence test begs the question: Does the minister believe that in its present state the Dawson City waste-water treatment

facility can pass the test that must be satisfied before it can be handed over to the City of Dawson? If it can't, what steps need to be taken?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** As I indicated in my first response, what we're doing is working closely with the City of Dawson and we will continue to do so to ensure that we are holding the contractor strictly to the terms of their contract and requiring them to do what they committed to do when they took on that contract.

I would also note, as I have before to members, that in fact choosing a mechanical treatment plant was a choice made, resulting from citizens of the City of Dawson objecting to lagoon options, and as the result of the outcome of a referendum that occurred.

I hear the Leader of the NDP blames the citizens for this. I am hearing her comments off-mic, but in fact, we respect the decision that was made by the people of Dawson City. The choice was made for a mechanical plant. Those are more challenging to operate than a lagoon system, but what we're doing is working very closely with the City of Dawson to ensure that we are united in holding the contractor strictly to the terms of their contract.

**Mr. Barr:** There is no blame to the citizens. It is this government's inaction.

This government has previously indicated that the Dawson City waste-water treatment facility would only cost \$340,000 a year to operate. However, the City of Dawson expressed concerns that costs could be much higher. The facility has yet to operate properly, and Yukoners are concerned that they will be on the hook for another poorly managed Yukon government project. As it stands, the Government of Yukon is still in control of the facility and still covering much of the cost of running a plant.

What is the total cost to date to operate the Dawson City waste-water treatment plant?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I can see that the member is reading his script. It's unfortunate that he does not seem to understand this issue — and I hear, once again, the Leader of the NDP's absolute disrespect for the citizens of Dawson City off-mic.

I would again point out to the members that what we are doing at this plant was chosen as a result of a binding plebiscite done by the citizens of Dawson City, where they clearly indicated that they were not satisfied with the lagoon options because of the effect on the community. Mechanical waste-water treatment plants are more challenging to run, commission and get working effectively. That has been the case with other plants of this type that are now running successfully.

We do believe that this can be made to run successfully, and what we are doing is working very closely with the City of Dawson and doing our utmost to ensure that the contractor strictly fulfills the terms of the contract and does what they committed to do when they took on that contract and signed it.

Again, we will continue to work very closely with the City of Dawson throughout this process, including working with them on ensuring that they are satisfied, that it has met

the conditions of the contract before handing over ownership of the facility.

#### **Question re: Economic growth**

**Mr. Silver:** I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development. Just over a year ago, the minister issued a news release, patting the government on the back for its role in seeing the Yukon through yet another year of economic growth. There's only one problem with the minister's self-congratulations — he was incorrect and the final numbers weren't yet in.

Yesterday, Stats Canada released their final GDP numbers for 2013 and Yukon's economy actually shrank in 2013. In fact, we had the worst economic growth of any jurisdiction in Canada in 2013. Our economy shrank by almost a full percentage point.

The Yukon Party likes to take credit when things are going good, Mr. Speaker. We'll see if they can accept the responsibility when they are not. Will the minister confirm for the public that the Yukon had the lowest economic growth of any jurisdiction in Canada in 2013?

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** Thank you to the member for bringing this question forward. Of course the Stats Canada data has come out recently. It's important to recognize what that data says. What it says is what many Yukoners already knew: 2013 was a difficult year for Yukon's economy. We recognize that. As the stats indicate, it was particularly challenging for the construction industry, both in residential and non-residential construction, as well as challenges faced by the mining industry.

That's why, in response to that challenging year, Yukon government brought forward the largest capital budget in Yukon's history. That's why we see now, throughout the Yukon, including in Whitehorse and other communities, construction projects underway. We have F.H. Collins underway, which I know the member doesn't support; we have construction at the Whitehorse Rapids facility on backup power generators, which I know the opposition parties don't support; we have construction going on for seniors facilities down on the Whitehorse waterfront, which I know the members opposite have all voted against.

It's important to recognize that yes, 2013 was a challenging year, but that's why this government brought forward the largest capital budget in Yukon's history to ensure that our construction industry continues to grow and continues to benefit from government expenditures.

What I anticipate is that 2014 will be a stronger year. We know that the construction that is going on today is much better than it was last year. We know that the residential construction has improved greatly by this government making land available and we know that the mining industry seems to be improving based on exploration numbers to date.

**Mr. Silver:** It's nice to know that the minister says, "We recognize this", because a year ago he said in 2013 Yukoners continued to enjoy a growing economy. He also said we were expecting to experience a tenth consecutive year

of GDP growth. The problem is the minister spoke before all the numbers came in.

We had the lowest economic growth in the country and our economy actually shrunk in 2013. Yukon is one of only two jurisdictions in Canada in 2013 where the economy actually contracted and we are in last place in terms of growth in Canada. This is despite a billion dollar budget, mostly from the feds, which this government likes to boast about.

The government has downgraded its economic forecast several times already for 2014. After claiming it would see growth of 8.8 percent, the government has been backpedaling furiously and now we're as low as 1.7 percent.

Would the minister confirm what the latest GDP numbers are for 2014?

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** It's been clear throughout the years that we have been debating these types of issues that the opposition parties really don't like the economists in my department. They don't like the work that they do and they don't appreciate the opinions that they have.

The economic forecasts that are conducted by the Department of Economic Development are not influenced by me, they're not done by me and they're not a result of any sort of political direction. They are done by the economists in the department who work as best they can with the data that they have available.

Now we make that data available twice a year and the GDP forecasts will be again available at the end of this of calendar year as it always is and as it will always continue to be from hereon in.

When we see the criticisms of government's economic forecasts — we know that that is not a direction given by me or done by anybody on this side of the House. It is done by the forecasters in the Department of Economic Development who are doing the best they can with the data they have available to them. If the members want to criticize them, then that's too bad. I will continue to support those officials in the department who do the best they can with the data they have available to make Yukoners aware of what is going on in the economy at time.

**Mr. Silver:** All I asked was what the latest number is.

Yukon has the worst economic growth in Canada for 2013. Our economy actually shrunk under this government's leadership. We will have one the lowest growth rates in Canada for 2014.

This government talks a good game about the private sector growth and employment, but let's look at some stats from here. From September 2012 to September 2014, the number of government public sector jobs increased by 1,200 jobs. At the same time, the private sector dropped by 300 jobs. So the government's own numbers do not back up the rosy picture that the Premier and the minister try to paint. We are seeing growth in the public sector and losses of jobs in the private sector.

When is the government going to admit that their own numbers do not back up their claims of growth in the private sector economy?

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** Well, the member, in the numbers he just cited, confirmed the fact that the private sector did grow. I know he doesn't like the fact that the public sector has grown as well. He doesn't like the fact that the federal government, the First Nation governments, municipal governments have grown as well. That is in part, of course, because First Nation governments are growing and becoming more mature. The federal government is increasing. The territorial government, yes, is increasing as well and so are municipal governments.

The public sector is not just the Yukon government; it is all public sector governments in the territory. The member opposite quotes numbers indicating that the private sector grew and that employment increased and then wonders why it has decreased. Well, he is simply wrong, Mr. Speaker. The private sector has grown. The numbers he has just cited —

**Some Hon. Member:** (inaudible)

### Point of order

**Speaker:** Leader of the Third Party, on a point of order.

**Mr. Silver:** This will be on Standing Order 19(h): issues that another member is "...uttering a deliberate falsehood." The numbers speak for themselves.

**Speaker:** Government House Leader, on the point of order.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** On the point of order, I believe it is simply a dispute among members. The minister did not accuse the Leader of the Liberal Party of deliberately misleading this House. He said that the leader was saying two mutually contradictory things, which is absolutely correct.

### Speaker's ruling

**Speaker:** It makes it interesting when you don't have the instant replay right in front of you. The wording is interesting but I do not believe there is a point of order at this time. It is a dispute between members. All members are free to present and interpret the facts as they choose.

**Some Hon. Member:** (inaudible)

**Speaker:** Excuse me? Did you want to add to the point of order?

Please carry on.

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** If the Leader of the Liberal Party is concerned with some of the public sector jobs, perhaps he can indicate to us which public sector jobs he would like to see cut. If he's concerned with the growth of the public sector, perhaps he can give us a list of the jobs that he would like to see cut, and we can let those employees know that the Liberal Party doesn't value their contributions to our economy.

### Question re: A Safe Place program

**Ms. White:** A Safe Place is offered jointly by the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre and the Yukon Status of Women Council. This program offers after-hours and weekend drop-in programming and nutritious meals to women and their children, targeting those experiencing precarious housing and food insecurity in Whitehorse. A Safe Place is an

incredible community response to support women who have fallen through the cracks. Citizens are asking: Why is it falling to community organizations to fill the gaps left by government policies?

Women in all situations are more likely than men to have difficulty finding affordable housing and to experience psychological and physical health issues related to precarious housing. Will the minister responsible for housing explain why so many Whitehorse and Yukon women are precariously housed?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I would like to thank the member opposite for raising this important matter. I would concur wholeheartedly that A Safe Place is providing a valued and needed service for vulnerable women and children who are experiencing housing and mental health challenges, food insecurity and the like.

Recently I actually had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, as well as the Status of Women Council to discuss first-hand the program's development and its success. Since that meeting, we have been working collectively with those particular organizations on some short-, medium- and long-term options. Indeed we are working with them and we do value this very important service being offered.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for the answer. I still wonder why women in the Yukon face such precarious housing.

According to Yukon Women's Directorate data, women earn less money than men in Canada, and single-parent families headed by women have, by far, the lowest incomes of all family types. The situation for aboriginal women is even worse. Perhaps relatedly, the majority of women accessing a safe place are aboriginal.

This economic insecurity forces women to make difficult choices like those between adequate housing and nutritious food. As the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition reports, the Yukon is the third most food-insecure jurisdiction in Canada. Females, single parents, women and children, and aboriginal women are those most at risk of food insecurity.

Will the minister responsible for Economic Development explain why so many Whitehorse and Yukon women are at risk of food insecurity?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Again, Mr. Speaker, that's in fact why this government has invested in housing initiatives such as the family-focused housing initiative in Riverdale. That creates and has very much resulted in well over 30 units of some two to four different bedroom units available for single-parent families for that very reason. We have worked collectively with women's organizations over the years. We continue to help build capacity within those organizations through funding mechanisms and through specific initiatives. As I mentioned, a safe place is but one of the many initiatives that we continue to work with collectively with women's organizations and the community at large to advance women's equality in this territory.

### Question re: School structural safety

**Ms. Moorcroft:** More than a year ago, a report prepared for the departments of Education and Highways and Public Works identified three schools at high risk of failure during an earthquake and another five at medium risk.

Some short-term fixes were made to reduce some of the hazards, but the serious structural issues won't be fixed until a long-term strategy is developed.

Apparently, assessments are underway to figure out how to best address the seismic risks; then more planning must be done before a 10-year financial plan is prepared for consideration by decision-makers. The time lag is a concern, especially for families with children attending the high-risk schools.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Highways and Public Works assure parents of the 1,300 students in the eight at-risk schools that their children's safety is important and structural upgrades will be undertaken as a high priority?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Highways and Public Works works hard of course to make sure that our buildings are clean, warm and safe — and I say this all the time — for our Yukon students, especially our Yukon schools.

In November 2013, the Yukon government announced that it was working on a seismic mitigation program to minimize the potential impacts of our seismic activities at our schools. This program assessed non-structural risks such as windows, pipes, bookcases, lockers and school equipment in the Yukon schools and defined the work required to improve the safety of the eight schools that the member opposite mentioned that are at medium to high risk for seismic.

To date, we have completed detailed structural and non-structural assessments of the eight schools at medium-to-high risk in an extreme seismic event. This summer — 2014 — we completed a series of non-structural mitigations in these schools, things like replacing or fastening light fixtures or ceilings or walls, equipment lights that may fall or sway, arrest cables, bookcases — lots of stuff that we did there. We have also worked with the students and staff in our Yukon schools to ensure that they know how to respond in a seismic emergency.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Given this government's track record when it comes to building schools, let's hope there isn't a serious earthquake in the next decade. It seems Yukon schools are on shaky ground.

Schools are often the backbone of our small communities, a comforting place where families gather for events such as Christmas concerts, sports activities and community festivities. It's all too easy to say words meant to convey confidence; it takes more than words to address parents' concern about their children's well-being while in the government's care at school.

The Haines Junction, Destruction Bay and Beaver Creek schools are at high risk in the case of an earthquake. When will the minister take action and make public his plan to address seismicity risks in our schools?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Well we take this matter seriously. That is why, in fact, we are taking immediate and longer term

actions. A key mandate of our government is to ensure our kids are safe, they're protected and they're welcome in every school — all 28 of our schools.

As the Minister of Highways and Public Works just outlined, seismic screening on each of our 28 schools has been completed. Subsequent to that, full seismic evaluations were completed on eight specific schools deemed to be at medium to high risk. With that information, we're proceeding with a number of initiatives, as outlined by the member, including public education and discussions with our communities, including school councils, staff and administration about safety at our school facilities.

We're working on the delivery of enhanced training and materials for distribution in the schools and we're proceeding with non-structural and mitigation work. At the same time, we have engaged the same structural engineering firm that completed the initial screening and assessments to itemize and prioritize that work required to bring our schools up to a life safety standard.

That work will help inform the longer term plans for those facilities and their replacement within their life cycle. This is a subject of importance to the Government of Yukon and we are taking steps.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** We've now heard two ministers stand and speak about the work that has been done on assessment and on non-structural mitigation. I want to get back to the pressing issue regarding the structural integrity of these schools, some of which need a significant amount of repair or perhaps the school needs to be replaced. But this government does not have a good track record when it comes to planning for and constructing new schools or hospitals. For instance, the replacement of just one school in Whitehorse — F.H. Collins — took almost a decade of planning before construction started about six months ago.

What steps will this government take to get the school upgrades completed as quickly as possible and without lengthy delays?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** It is unfortunate the member opposite wouldn't get off the script and actually listen to the answers being provided by this side of the Legislature.

As I just outlined, there are a number of actions being undertaken for short-, medium- and longer-term actions. I am not going to reiterate all the work that has been underway and is currently underway by the government, but as I just mentioned, we have engaged the engineering firm that completed that initial screening — those assessments — to itemize and prioritize that work required to bring our schools up to a life safety standard. That work is currently underway. That work will in fact be completed and wound up by the end of the year. That work will also help inform the longer-term plans for these facilities — all of our schools — and their replacement within their particular lifecycle. We are acting on those recommendations made by the Auditor General of Canada back in 2009 which spoke to the longer-term assessment of all of our schools.

We take this matter very seriously and we are taking steps to adhere to each of those recommendations.

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

### Speaker's statement

**Speaker:** Order please. For the last few days, I have seen the temperature in this House starting to rise. The heckling and comments on both sides are starting to get quite loud and I ask members to bring it down a notch. I need to be able to hear what the members are saying in order to rule. If I cannot hear them, I cannot rule on them.

In giving those rulings, I'm going to remind members of a couple of the Standing Orders.

Standing Order 6(4) states, "When the Speaker speaks at any time, any member speaking shall sit down and the Speaker shall be heard without interruption." That includes heckling and comments, whether they're trying to be under your breath or not. I don't take this job lightly and I don't appreciate members' comments.

I would also like members to have another read of Standing Order 6(1) on your own.

We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

## ASSENT TO BILLS

**Commissioner:** Please be seated.

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

**Clerk:** *Pioneer Utility Grant Act; Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act.*

**Commissioner:** I assent to the bills an enumerated by the Clerk.

Before I leave today I just want to say a few words about Remembrance Day that is coming on Tuesday, November 11 and encourage and all Yukoners to take the time in your respective communities to attend the Remembrance Day ceremonies. This year is even a little more important because of the recent events in Ottawa and in Quebec. It is important to pay our respects and honour those who have served our country so well and provide us with the freedoms that we share in this Legislature and in this country.

I encourage all of you on Remembrance Day to try to attend your ceremonies in your very communities.

*Commissioner leaves the Chamber*

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

## GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

### Motion No. 751

**Clerk:** Motion No. 751, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Cathers.

**Speaker:** It is moved by the Government House Leader:

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.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I will be brief in speaking to this. I would just note that while this is not an annual occurrence, it has been done several times in the past when there is one sitting day between the weekend and Remembrance Day. The House has chosen on several occasions to provide the opportunity for rural members to spend more time in their ridings rather than having to burn more fuel and spend more time commuting from their ridings. That is the intention behind the proposed change which would have us see Monday, November 10 not be a sitting day.

The other change would also allow another longer weekend for rural members as well as accommodating the ability for two ministers to attend FPT meetings without having to arrange for a pair being absent from debate, including Question Period.

*Motion No. 751 agreed to*

### Speaker's statement

**Speaker:** As the House has adopted Motion No. 751, the Chair shall inform the House of consequential changes to the House's schedule for the 2014 Fall Sitting: (1) the Executive Council's response to Petition No. 18, pursuant to Standing Order 67, shall be given on or before Monday, November 24, 2014; and (2) the final sitting day for the 2014 Fall Sitting shall be Thursday, December 18, 2014.

The adoption of Motion No. 751 also means that today is the final sitting day before Wednesday, November 12, 2014, when government private members' business shall have precedence during Orders of the Day. Therefore, I ask the Government House Leader to identify the government private members' business for November 12.

### Notice of government private members' business

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** The items standing in the name of the government private members to be called for debate on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, are Motion No. 756, standing in the name of the Member for Watson Lake, and Motion No. 723, standing in the name of the Member for Watson Lake.

**Speaker:** Government House Leader, please.

**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 No. 15, Department of Health and Social Services, in Bill No. 15, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2014-15*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

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

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

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

#### Department of Health and Social Services

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** First of all, I would like to introduce you to the two folks who will be assisting me. As everyone knows, I need a lot of that. On my right is Paddy Meade, who is the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services. On my left is Peter Hayes, who is a director in Finance in the Department of Health and Social Services as well.

I am pleased to be able to introduce the Department of Health and Social Services supplementary budget for this year. The department is requesting an overall net increase of just under \$5.4 million in operation and maintenance funding and \$150,000 net in capital for a total of around \$5.6 million, which is less than a two-percent increase from the \$338 million budgeted in the mains budget.

The \$5.4-million increase mainly originates from Health Services, primarily for the territorial health system sustainability initiative and for increased physician claims. This is partly offset by a reduction of \$1.4 million for the Yukon Hospital Services.

The slight \$150,000 net increase in the capital budget is attributed to over \$1 million increases in most divisions and branches and this is offset by a large reduction of \$4.4 million in Continuing Care, largely related to the reprofiling of funds for the McDonald Lodge replacement in Dawson City.

I will talk about the operation and maintenance supplementary first. Corporate Services required an increase of \$105,000 for work on the fetal alcohol spectrum disorder prevalence and case management in the adult corrections

population initiative. One hundred percent of that total is recoverable from Health Canada.

The \$57,000 net increase for Family and Children's Services is mainly for a transfer from the Adult Services branch to fund the Kwanlin Dun First Nation family supports transfer payment and internal transfers to expand the healthy families program to two additional communities.

The \$75,000 decrease under Adult Services reflects this transfer to Family and Children's Services to fund the Kwanlin Dun First Nation family supports transfer payment. The increase of \$75,000 is to reflect the higher number of families involved with child welfare in Whitehorse. Health Services requires an increase in the department's O&M supplementary budget. The primary drivers for this increase are the territorial health access fund and increased physician claims. Over \$4 million is required under the territorial health access fund, including a one-time \$1.6 million increase under medical travel. An increase of almost \$2 million is required for physician claims to reflect the increasing number of physicians now practising and anticipated to practice in Yukon, as well as for recruitment and retention activities.

Other reasons for this increase include: additional requirements for a revote for the collaborative care initiative for the Yukon Medical Association, and that amounts to \$145,000; hearing aid purchases, \$250,000; system support for the claims processing system and mandatory reporting requirements of \$200,000.

I should add that two physicians in the territory total approximately \$35 million in this budget. In response to challenges in recruiting and retaining physicians to work in Yukon, the government is collaborating with the Yukon Medical Association to recruit additional physicians to the Yukon. The recent establishment of the Watson Lake physician recruitment and retention committee with key stakeholders is an innovative approach for community involvement in the attraction, recruitment and retention of qualified, suitable physicians to the community on a permanent basis. Finally a decrease of \$1.4 million under the Yukon Hospital Corporation is to reflect the actual pension solvency repayment required, based on an actuarial assessment.

In capital, I'll just run through essentially what changes are required for the department's capital budget. First of all, a \$1.4-million total increase for Corporate Services systems development and information technology; a \$1.8-million increase for the Adult Services Unit various initiatives, which we can get into; a \$4.4-million decrease for Continuing Care; a \$27-million increase for Health Services, Community Nursing; and a \$1.4-million increase for Yukon hospital services.

Under Corporate Services, a number of initiatives require increases, including the Canada Health Infoway for e-health \$836,000, most of which is recoverable from Canada under an agreement. The hospital information system and electronic medical recording connect, which is the HIS-EMR connect system is \$194,000 — 100 percent of which is recoverable from Canada.

Completion of the public health information system, Panorama, which is in cooperation with the Province of British Columbia is \$122,000 — also under the Canada Health Infoway — and various other system development projects totalling \$121,000; incident management and reporting, alcohol and drug service indicators, vital statistics and a case management system.

Canada Health Infoway is an independent, not-for-profit corporation created by Canada's first ministers in 2001 and funded by the federal government. Canada Health Infoway collaborates with the provinces and territories to facilitate and invest in a network of electronic health record systems across Canada.

Under Adult Services, several initiatives require increases in funding, including the purchase of land and project management and planning in support of the Salvation Army redevelopment project; which is \$412,000.

The Adult Services renovation project to complete security renovations and upgrades to the social assistance building will be \$125,000, and for general office equipment, another \$15,000 in total; for the Sarah Steele Building replacement, \$906,000 is to match the construction schedule; and \$360,000, including a revote of \$265,000, is required to complete the schematic design phase of the project.

Construction of the Sarah Steele Building replacement is expected to begin in March of 2015, and we hope that it will be completed by July of 2016. The new building will be purpose-built to include medically supported detoxification, a separate youth detox unit, youth and family treatment programs and it will have continuous intake for treatment and expanded treatment capacity.

Under Continuing Care, the initiatives that require increases include: continuing the development of a 15-bed care facility to replace the existing McDonald Lodge, \$423,000 including a revote of \$204,000; and supporting the completion of a business case and risk assessment for the planning of a new continuing care facility in Whitehorse and that is \$113,000, including a revote of \$51,000.

Also under Continuing Care, a \$5-million decrease is to reflect reprofiling to match the McDonald Lodge replacement construction schedule in 2015-16.

Replacement of the existing Alexander McDonald lodge in Dawson City is a priority project for Health and Social Services and, in fact, for the whole government. We anticipate completion of this facility in late 2015 with occupancy early in the year of 2016.

Under Health Services, a \$10,000 revote is required to complete the Faro Health Centre fire panel replacement, and a \$17,000 revote is required for the Broselow pediatric emergency system. This is a system designed to facilitate rapid access to pediatric emergency equipment and supplies needed to perform common pediatric emergency procedures.

Finally, under the Yukon hospital services, supporting the implementation of the Whitehorse General Hospital emergency department MRI expansion program will require an additional \$1.4 million, and the opening of the new MRI

wing at the Whitehorse General Hospital is on schedule and is expected to be operational by the end of January 2015.

Those are just some of the highlights of the 2014-15 supplementary budget for Health and Social Services. I look forward to answering any questions that members opposite have.

I thank you very much for the time, Madam Chair.

**Ms. Stick:** I would like to thank the officials here today for their assistance with the briefing this morning. Unfortunately, I only had it this morning, so if I ask questions that the minister has already spoken to in his introduction here, I apologize ahead of time. There was a lot of information given and I hope I haven't missed any of it. I certainly do appreciate the work that was done by the officials. It's always very clear and understandable when they give us the information. I like to tell them they have the best cheat sheets in the budget. Thank you.

I just want to take a minute to thank the people of Riverdale South, whom I represent. It's quite a diverse community. I was just writing down a few things here. Within my area, I have five schools, I have businesses, I have sports and recreation facilities, I have the tourism with the fish ladder, I have the Millennium Trail, I have daycares, churches, neighbourhood pubs, and a dance school. We have the wonderful addition of the Heart of Riverdale which is seeing more and more community activity. I would like to thank the people who work hard and volunteer. I will also thank the minister for funding for that also.

We have seniors housing, we have social housing, family homes, apartments, families with single-parent housing and suites in places. It's quite a diverse population. Many of the people I meet at the doorstep are living in homes they built back in the 1960s and 1970s and are still there. I've also noticed there has been a real influx of families with young children to the neighbourhood, and I see them. I see them walking by my house, I see them on the trails, I see them running with their families or on the Millennium Trail, and it's really good to see a new influx of young families because, for awhile there, it felt like there were not a lot of children around, but there are certainly more now.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the influx of deer into our neighbourhood. A friend of mine had seven in her front yard the other day in Riverdale working off the mountain ash trees and helping themselves to the berries. That is new and unusual but they're welcome to the neighbourhood also. I just want to thank the constituents for the welcome I have had at the doorsteps this summer and fall and I hope to carry on throughout the winter and see the people on whose doors I haven't had a chance to knock on yet.

I'm going to ask questions and I will be following the sheets that were given to me. I do have a number of questions on different areas and it is not so much about the number necessarily — although it could be — but it is also about the program areas.

I will start with the very first which is the revote of \$105,000 for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder prevalence and case management in adult corrections population. I understand

this is done with the Department of Justice. I will ask a couple of questions and give the minister a chance to answer those.

When we look at this \$105,000 and the fact that it is a revote, I'm wondering if the minister can tell us what has not happened at this point that we have brought this forward for a revote. I'm curious as to whether this prevalence in case management is strictly looking at individuals who are in Corrections or in Whitehorse Correctional Centre? Then, along this line — because we are talking about FASD — what about those adults who aren't captured within the Justice system? Certainly, there are lots of people without FASD who are living in the community of Whitehorse as well as the communities outside of Whitehorse who aren't captured by the Justice system. I know that there are groups looking and hoping that there can be some more concrete assessments done and a better case-management system for those. That would be so important in keeping them out of the Justice system and keeping them in our communities participating, working and raising their families with the supports they need. In particular, I'm concerned that much of this has been focused on Whitehorse and not a lot of attention has been paid to the communities on this.

I will start there. I'll let the minister answer and then we'll move on.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** This money represents a specific program grant from Health Canada and it had very tight parameters. The Minister of Justice and I had a great deal of conversations about this specific project. It was intended only for residents of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. The scope did not include any others in the territory.

They were not included in the scope of this project. We're very clear that that is what it is for — WCC and people who have moved out of WCC who perhaps are on probation, but they began the project as part of the inmate population. The revote is simply because some of the policy work for the study was not completed. Other expenses surrounding the policy work and the people who were brought in to this prevalence study would account for the other \$62,000, I believe. There was \$43,000 specifically for the policy work. It had very tight parameters. The agreement with the federal government between Justice and Health and Social Services included only those people in WCC or those who had subsequently been released and are on probation.

**Ms. Stick:** The first question would be: How many assessments have been completed at WCC for FASD? The second part would be: Is there a case-management model for individuals who are leaving WCC and going to the communities and are coming under case management? It might be probations, it might be the social worker or the First Nation. Is there a case-management tool that is going with that individual back to their home community?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Once these folks are out of WCC, they are followed. If they return to their home community, they are followed by their caseworker or the community health people. If they remain in Whitehorse, then it's much easier to follow their progress. The intent of the program was



to follow up on those individuals even after they left. That's the intent of the program.

I know the member opposite asked me: What about people outside of the WCC? This is part of what I talked about the other day when I said we were trying to develop our own capacity. That was why the contract that we previously had with FASSY — the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society Yukon — we cancelled that contract for \$75,000, I believe it was — \$75,800 — and we are using that money this year to create analyses or teams in the territory that will be able to conduct future FASD studies or diagnoses here in the territory.

I probably didn't answer the member's question adequately in Question Period the other day, when she asked how many diagnoses were done in the last few months, since April. None. We have been busy developing these teams. We hope to have the teams in place early in 2015 so we should be able to start doing diagnoses early in the new year.

We expect to be doing a minimum of 10 per year with the team that will be in place. Because of the fact that we will have this local expertise, we hope that in the future we will be able to increase that somewhat.

The pilot project at the jail — the FASD prevalence study — did involve quite a small number of adult offenders at the Correctional Centre. One thing I must point out is that the program was entirely voluntary, so only those people who volunteered at WCC to be in the program actually were diagnosed. The process required a team of clinical professionals to administer the interviews, the medical exams and the neuro-physiological tests. Some of these tests just took extra time. One of the good things was that each participant will receive a personalized report that explains their cognitive strengths and challenges regardless of whether or not they were diagnosed formally with FASD. The reports that these participants will receive will also provide recommendations to assist each of the participants in the future.

If you want a little background information, perhaps I can take a couple minutes to give it to you.

It is recognized, I think, now across Canada, not only because of the work being done by Yukon government, but also by non-profits such as FASSY and OFI — that the Yukon has assumed a leadership role in FASD work across the country. It started in September 2008 with a report, entitled *The Path to Justice: Access to Justice for Individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder*. Since that time, the Department of Justice has continued to work on how to address FASD and the challenges it presents at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. It became a priority item for the federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for justice, and it gave us an opportunity to work with our counterparts across the country to develop the most effective responses. Health and Social Services became involved with the prevalence study because of our desire to build diagnostic teams here in the territory, so we have done a lot of that work as well.

We also should tell you that members — and I have to thank the Minister of Justice. One of the other things that we have to talk about is community wellness courts and their involvement in the process.

I will leave it at that. If the member opposite wishes, I can provide you with a lot more information.

**Ms. Stick:** I thank the minister for that information. Just a couple of comments — it was suggested that they are looking at 10 assessments and diagnoses, hopefully, for individuals with fetal alcohol syndrome disorder or spectrum and 10 doesn't seem like many when I know the numbers that organizations like OFI or FASSY are working with. I think the last time FASSY did the same work, they were able to complete seven with a small budget of approximately \$78,000.

I am hoping that can be an increased number because I'm certain that they have a long list of people who would be waiting to have assessments and possibly a diagnosis. I'm going to move on — and this is one of those areas that I am going to apologize right now. It has to do with THSSI and THIF and THAF and all these territorial health funding agreements that have started, morphed into something else and are proceeding into something else. I confess I do not understand them completely, and I wish I had somebody sitting next to me giving me the information on these, because I do find it confusing.

I understand that it is funding. It comes from the Government of Canada and we are part of pan-territorial in some of these cases. So I'm going to look at the \$2.408 million for program management. The explanation that I understood was that this is one-time and it's a — I believe it's old funding and current funding as we move into negotiations for the new one, which will be the territorial health incentive fund.

I might be right on that, I might be wrong. Anyway, I'm just wondering if I could get a bit more of an explanation — I understand it's in negotiations and that it has not been finalized — on the impact of maybe the changes on this. We have \$2.4 million to carry us over while these negotiations are going on. Are we going to be looking for funding in other areas? Will the new THIF meet the same needs that we have now?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I'll just make one small comment about the inmates when they're prepared to be released back to their community. Integrated offender management is part of the Justice department and places a great deal of focus on the transition period, particularly at the beginning, because that's when clients are particularly at risk to offend. The integrated offender management places a great deal of focus on that time frame, and they're the ones that will assist the inmates in transition back into society, once they've left.

When we get to THSSI, which was the territorial health system sustainability initiative, it expired on March 31, 2014. We had been in conversations with the federal government for some time, up until April 1, 2014.

The message that came across loud and clear was that we were not going to receive as much money going forward as we had received in the past. In the past, the territorial health system sustainability initiative funded things such as palliative care. It funded things such as the mental health practitioners and mental health workers that worked in communities. I

know I have had this conversation a number of times with the Member for Kluane, because they found that the worker stationed in Haines Junction — the mental health worker — was a tremendous asset to their community and to others, because she travels around the territory.

There were a number of initiatives and travel was always one — travel for health reasons. That was a large part of the territorial health system sustainability initiative. When we did not have an agreement signed by April 1 of this year, we had two choices. We could either have laid off all those people and ended the programs that we thought were extremely good for the territory, or we could come back with a request for additional funding to continue those positions until such a time as we had funding to cover at least some of them. We are still in negotiations with the federal government — although it is much more difficult this time around than with THSSI, in that they are not funding any positions because of the fact that what happened with the last program is that there was a huge number of positions funded and then we either have to continue them or lay all of these people off.

This is my government's response to not having that agreement in place. We will continue to fund the vast majority of programs funded under THSSI — not all of them. Some didn't survive the cut, but the vast majority of the programs and things such as palliative care, Mental Health Services, Chronic Disease, medical travel — can you think of anything else?

**Some Hon. Member:** (inaudible)

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** The rest has been absorbed in other program areas where THSSI funding has always funded the program. We're working with the federal government now on where this new fund can be utilized in providing services or changes because that is one of the things the federal government was very clear about: the new THIF funding, which is the territorial health innovation fund. They would like to see us fund new and innovative programs and practices, but not to use the money to actually fund positions that would fill those innovative practices that we are going to come up with.

The one thing that came across again loud and clear when Leona Aglukkaq was the minister was that they don't want to fund medical health travel any more in any of the territories. In the Yukon, I think we're getting \$1.2 million this year for medical travel from the THIF fund. It was over \$2 million, I believe, last year, so we have taken a substantial hit in that area. It will reduce in the next two years to \$800,000 and will eventually, after three years, disappear altogether. We either have to remodel our medical travel system and work to reduce costs or else we're going to have to add a lot of money to that file.

If you need any more information about THIF, THAF and THSSI, I'll be happy to help.

**Ms. Stick:** I just wondered if there is going to be a report that talks about the funding that we did receive through THSSI and THAF that kind of talks about the outcomes of those programs — and the minister mentioned a number of them: the palliative, the community mental health and an array

of others — and whether there is a summation of what has happened and what the outcomes of those programs are and perhaps even what this government will no longer be able to carry on with.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** There was no requirement under THSSI to evaluate and report on programs other than we did do a report, called the pan-territorial — we did report to the federal government, or the federal minister, on the progress of the THSSI fund. It was very high-level. We did that report. Did we table that one?

**Some Hon. Member:** (inaudible)

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** What this report really did was justification for the federal government to continue funding THSSI at the time. It was an evaluation. We gave a number of reasons for continuing the funding.

One perfect example to me was palliative care, as well as the mental health workers in the communities. Those two items alone have made a phenomenal difference in life in the territory for people. Those are two of the really high-priority items. There were a number of other ones, but there wasn't a huge amount of evaluation done, and one of the real problems was that positions were filled because this program had gone on for six years from 2008 to 2014. There had been positions filled that had proven to be very valuable to the government. They filled an important need in the community, so it has been determined that we are going to continue funding them. I guess that is an evaluation in one way, but a formal evaluation was severely lacking over the years.

I don't know what changes we will make until we have completed the negotiations. Anything is possible. There have been a couple of programs that we haven't chosen to continue. That is part of our strategic plan. They just simply didn't fit in.

**Ms. Stick:** I appreciate the difficulty of not knowing how we are going to be moving forward when those negotiations haven't been completed.

I don't think there is any more on that, without confusing me more, so I will leave that one.

The next one — and I am sure the minister spoke to me about this, probably in the budget speech in the spring, but I haven't had a chance to go back and look. This is a revote of \$145,000, and it is required for the collaborative care initiative for the Yukon Medical Association. I am wondering if the minister could please remind us what this initiative actually is and perhaps why the revote — why this money was not spent prior.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Under the agreement we negotiated with the Yukon Medical Association, collaborative care was an issue. So we agreed, as a government, to fund the collaborative care portion, or at least a collaborative care initiative, in several clinics around the territory. This \$145,000 represents our part of the collaborative care initiative to hire and integrate nurse practitioners into clinics in the territory in a variety of areas.

You know that we have just recently added a nurse practitioner in the women's sexual health clinic and there has been one for a time in the referred care clinic — that was, I believe, our first or second nurse practitioner hired to work in

the referred care clinic. We hope to continue working with the physicians to implement more collaborative care clinics.

**Ms. Stick:** I would agree with the minister that it would be great to see more nurse practitioners. We have had the one at Copper Ridge, the one at the women's sexual health clinic — and that is actually shared between two clinics — and the one at the referred care clinic, but that that's only really two positions.

Does the minister have any idea of why there hasn't been a take-up on this? It's a revote, so it didn't get spent. We're bringing it forward, and are there different ways that the Medical Association might be suggesting — or what more can we do to increase access to efficient primary health care needs, instead of the use again of the emergency department or people calling their doctor because they're sick and being told they have to wait a week before they can get in, when really, you wanted to see them yesterday?

Are we looking at different ways of doing this? Is there a better way to move this ahead? I do hear about the nurse practitioners who can't practice here, or don't have a job to practice here, and therefore they're leaving the territory again. I know the minister agrees that this a good use of our health care dollars, and a more financially efficient way of spending dollars and meeting more people's needs for the health needs that we have that aren't critical, when you do have — I don't know — a sinus infection or something that you need to see a doctor for, you can't wait 10 days, you don't want to go to emergency, and even the walk-in clinics are not a place to go, because we only have one and it's busy.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** As everyone is aware, nurse practitioner implementation in the territory was a high priority for our government. That's why we passed legislation as quickly as we could after we took office.

I guess the most difficult thing for many of us to do is change, and this is a massive change in the way things are done in the medical community in this territory. Nurse practitioners will continue — their role will continue to expand in the Yukon — I have absolutely no doubt. We have one position, as you are probably aware, in Copper Ridge as well. We are recruiting them as often as we can into positions.

Change takes time. We are having some interesting discussions with the Yukon Medical Association right now with respect to how things are going to change over time. As you know, we recently put out the clinical services plan and — again — that one wasn't really well accepted by many members in the medical community because it recommends a great deal of change. What we hasten to tell people is that the clinical services plan is just one of a number of tools that we in the government will use to effect change in the medical system throughout the territory. The clinical services plan may not be the be-all and end-all, and we fully understand that and we agree, but it at least gives us a road map. With that road map, it's easy to change too as systems change and as times change. That, along with some of the other things that we have done in the territory, indicate to me that change is coming. It's now more of an accepted practice than it was two years ago.

We will continue to not only look at how nurse practitioners but other medical practitioners — expanded-scope nurses — we would like to see more mental health and addictions people brought into collaborative-care-type clinics. We know there has been a real willingness by the YMA and by the medical community as a whole in the Yukon to really discuss together how we improve the health outcomes for all Yukoners because they realize too there are difficulties, especially when we start talking about small communities around the territory. There are difficulties servicing those communities so we need a different model. I have been really encouraged by recent negotiations and recent discussions that we have had with YMA and I am sure they will continue. In the last six months, we had nurse practitioners approved to have tests handled by the Whitehorse General Hospital. That is something that is very good. We are going to keep moving in that direction as much as we possibly can.

**Ms. Stick:** One last question on nurse practitioners, as the minister just reminded me. Do we have those regulations in place for the nurse practitioners that we had talked about in cooperation with YRNA? When we passed that legislation, I thought there were going to be nurse practitioner regulations. I'm wondering if those are in place now.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** What we needed to bring nurse practitioners into the territory is in place. There is always going to be some negotiation with respect to how they're used in the territory, where we will use them and what the scope of practice is for nurse practitioners, but we will continue those negotiations not only with YRNA but with the Yukon Medical Association and other associated medical health professionals to ensure that nurse practitioners can work to the full scope of their practice.

We look at expanded-scope nurses too and we haven't lost sight of those people because our expanded scope nurses are still really required in the territory and play an important role in many of our small communities. Collaborative care doesn't only mean nurse practitioners; it means all those other medical health professionals that we have as well.

**Ms. Stick:** I was going to ask about the one-time increase of \$1.6 million for medical travel, but I think the minister explained that this is one time, it will continue to drop and that we're going to have to find funding for that to replace it. I just wondered if the minister had anything else to add there.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** This is the money that will replace what we spent last year. We had to carry forward some funding because we didn't know how much we were getting from THIF, the newest fund. We now know that \$1.2 million is the maximum we're going to get, but this money had to be brought forward in this supplementary budget. What it will mean is that there will be \$400,000 that the Government of Yukon will be on the hook for that won't be covered by THIF this year.

**Ms. Stick:** The next question I've already spoken to the minister a bit about and that would be with regard to hearing services. I think I understand it, but I just wanted clarification. This is for hearing aids that the department

purchases and then, in turn, recovers the money from clients or people who come in requiring the hearing aids. I have two questions. One would be: Does the department sell them to individuals at the same cost that they purchase them for? Then something that was of concern a year ago was the wait times for hearing testing and audiology tests and that type of thing — if the minister could comment on that please.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Thank you very much for the question. The current number of people on the wait-list is still higher than we would like to see at 450, but it's down considerably from the 700 it was at this time last year. What we also do is make sure that, if people have an urgent need or if they're acute or if they're referred by a physician, they're seen within a very short period of time. If it isn't urgent or if they haven't been referred by a physician for a specific need, then they may wait a little longer. Children are also seen as a priority, and they are seen as quickly as possible.

In many instances, when the audiologist is in town, people are asked if they can come on very short notice because somebody has not shown up or something has happened. We call people on the list. We try to keep as busy as possible. Audiologists are in short supply across the country — there is no doubt. As the population ages, there is an increased need for audiologists.

We are working very hard to attract professionals here, but we are in competition with all of Canada because it doesn't appear that there is any one jurisdiction that has a surplus. We have one audiologist resident in the Yukon. We have a number of others who travel to the territory throughout the year, and we are attempting to find more. We would love to have another permanent full-time audiologist here. We simply haven't had the opportunity yet.

Madam Chair, I don't know what more I can tell you. It is a long wait for some people. I have heard of people who have waited as long as a year, and that's really unfortunate. Those would be people who weren't a high priority but, to me, all of our patients are a high priority, so the more we can do to reduce that wait-list, the better off we will be.

**Ms. Stick:** I just want to remind the minister of the question I started this with, which was with regard to the purchase and selling back to individuals of hearing aids.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Yes, Madam Chair, we provide them at the exact same price that we pay. We don't try to make a profit on any of it.

**Ms. Stick:** The next amount was a \$1.7 million-increase for physician claims, and here it has \$700,000 for Watson Lake and \$1 million for the increasing number of physicians now practising in, and anticipated to practise in, Whitehorse. I am wondering if that is not rather low, because I did review some of the contracts for doctors and, for the Town of Watson Lake to date, it is over \$800,000, and Watson Lake also has a similar amount. I am just wanting clarification. Are these physician services that are going into the hospitals? I understand that finding permanent doctors is still a priority, so you are having to contract with a number of different doctors to go into communities.

So, if I could just get some information with regard to Watson Lake and the number I have, but also, what are we looking at for Dawson City, with the new hospital opening there too?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** First of all, the Watson Lake expense is an additional \$700,000 over what we had already budgeted. We are talking about an additional \$700,000 for Watson Lake and an additional \$1 million for the rest of the territory, so we are talking an overall increase.

The bad news is that it's costing us an extra \$1.7 million; the good news is this encompasses all doctors' salaries. It includes specialists as well as doctors working in the ER, in addition to the doctors working in their clinics around the territory. We don't differentiate; we don't try to separate that funding out.

**Ms. Stick:** I wanted to go back for a quick minute to the audiologist one again. I understand there is a lack of audiologists across the country, but I'm wondering if there are any people with their own businesses or private audiologists that we might be contracting with in Whitehorse or in the communities to do assessments as well.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** We do bring people up, and I can assure the member opposite right now that, if there was a private business in Whitehorse that an audiologist wished to establish, we would contract with them immediately in hopes of reducing our wait-list even further, but to the best of our knowledge, there are no private businesses in Whitehorse with audiologists. If there are, we would love to hear from them because we will provide clients.

**Ms. Stick:** Thank you. Moving on, there is an amount here for \$46,000 required for risk assessments around pre-diabetes and the diabetes programs. I understand that this is 100-percent recoverable, but I have a couple of questions about the program itself.

Is this a program that is offered in Whitehorse and the communities? How many individuals are we hoping or anticipating will participate in it? A key question is: Does it have to be physician-referred for a person to get into these programs?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** This is a risk assessment project. In other words, it can be used by physicians, it could be used by our community nurses — which we anticipate will be the biggest single use of the project. It is a screening tool to identify an individual's risk of pre-diabetes and diabetes. It is part of the CANRISK program that is being developed in conjunction with the Government of Canada. This is to actually develop the tool that we will be using to screen people who may be at risk of diabetes.

**Ms. Stick:** Just to be clear then — this is a tool used by community nurses or doctors themselves. It's not necessarily a program, so much as an assessment tool for use by them.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** That is correct. We see that any qualified medical health practitioner should be able to use this tool to diagnose people who may be at risk of diabetes.

**Ms. Stick:** I think I will move on to some of the capital costs, and I have a number of questions there.

I'm going to start with the announcement. The Salvation Army and the transitional shelter expansion that was announced on October 29 of this year — part of the money that we've heard — I'm just trying to — so one of the things that we see here is there is that there is \$350,000 toward the purchase of land and we understand that the Salvation Army doesn't plan to build on the same piece of property they own now. I was curious, if this \$350,000 is money to purchase land from the government — like, given to the Salvation Army to purchase land back from the government or is this a private sale of property?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** It's really unfortunate that this — because of the fact that the Minister of Community Services made a presentation about where this funding was going, this had to be included — the money that was being available to the Salvation Army redevelopment project, but I think it's really important to understand that we have not yet concluded our negotiations with the Salvation Army. We have an agreement in principle, but we haven't concluded the actual negotiations at this time and we don't have a signed agreement.

I really hesitate to provide a huge amount of detail in a public forum until we have a signed agreement and I can say, "This is exactly what everyone has agreed to." I would be happy to brief the member opposite after the session or after the agreement has been signed because we anticipate that it should be in the very near future. These discussions have gone on for, as you know, a long time. Unfortunately, the Salvation Army has a process that they must go through, the same as we do in government. When you consider the size of the organization — they have billions of dollars of assets such as these across the country, and they are very careful. Again, we simply have not yet signed the agreement. We hope to do so in the very near future and I will be very happy when that happens.

**Ms. Stick:** I understand and I would appreciate a briefing on that, but the bottom line is that we have already voted, to date, just about \$3.5 million. We are being asked for another \$412 million in capital costs, but we are not getting a lot of information on that. Is it anticipated that this project is going to start? Because these are capital costs and it is a lot of money with not a lot of information. I would just ask the minister to comment on that please.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** In conjunction with the Salvation Army, there has been a great deal of planning undertaken up until now. As you know, that is an expensive process in its own right.

What we have also done, in conjunction with the Salvation Army, is identified a number of things that we would like to see as part of this project. I guess we have also negotiated on the cost-sharing of this project as well, as you can see from some of the funding that has already taken place. We are providing the up front funding for all of the planning, the land acquisition and other related items, shall we say, but we haven't completed the agreement and I really hesitate to say anything until we complete that agreement.

**Ms. Stick:** I find that difficult that we are being asked — I understand negotiations; I understand it is ongoing — but we are already being asked to agree to an increase when we don't know the details. Some of the concerns I have are that this is a lot of money. This isn't a project that went out to tender and there wasn't a request for proposals on this. Certainly it was part of the government's platform — they have talked about it and their partnerships with Salvation Army. I am not dismissing anything that the Salvation Army currently does, but we also are aware that certain restrictions that come with working with the Salvation Army on these kinds of housing models and it is of concern for a lot of people in the Yukon.

I guess one of my questions would be — there were other projects that have been proposed out there. Certainly with the northern housing trust fund, many of the projects did go out for requests for proposals and many did go out to tender.

Why, in particular, have we just narrowly focused on this organization and not expanded it to other groups that might not be offering the service right now, but certainly have the background, information and support of other community organizations to provide the same kind of service?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** The Salvation Army was already providing — or is already providing — a number of the services that we requested in the new facility. So that gave us a base. We decided to partner with the Salvation Army because they bring a great deal of expertise and funding to the table, something that no other NGO could do.

The government could possibly construct this facility on its own and then go to tender for a local NGO to run that facility, and that's still an option. We feel that the Salvation Army brings a great deal of expertise and a great deal of commitment to a project like this, and that's why we are negotiating with them and that's why we started with the process with them. Things like the construction project will be tendered. That's not something that we are going to rush off and give a sole-source a contract to do.

The normal procurement procedures will be followed, but we have to make sure that we have all of our ducks in order so that when we sign an agreement with the Salvation Army — and we anticipate doing that fairly quickly — all of the funding has been approved that is necessary to commence construction, shall we say, or commence the purchase of land and construction and everything immediately.

**Ms. Stick:** So when we're looking at program management of this project and, as you mentioned, putting this out to tender, then I'm assuming that the government will be the project manager on this capital project, if that's the way it's going through. I'm looking for confirmation of that. Is the government going to be the project manager on this? I know the staffing situation now at the Salvation Army here in Whitehorse, and they're a busy lot. I don't imagine they would be able to do that or have the expertise that is required.

My other question would be: When that is completed, what kind of agreements are we looking at, in terms of O&M of such a big project when we don't really understand how big or what's included yet?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** What we're talking about now is the construction. That's all that's in this budget. As part of any construction project undertaken by the government, we also provide estimates of future O&M costs. That happens as part of the capital project.

With this project, part of the project will be the project management. The departments of Health and Social Services and Highways and Public Works will be working very closely on a project like this, but the Salvation Army is a massive organization. Across this country, they have — as I said before — billions of dollars in assets. They have a great deal of experience in constructing these facilities and in managing these facilities.

We fully anticipate that when the agreement is reached with the Salvation Army they will co-manage construction of this building. This is going to be a cooperative construction project. There is no doubt about it. They have tremendous expertise that we will be calling on and we have a lot of expertise available in Highways and Public Works and in Health and Social Services that will guide the project from a Yukon context.

Again, once the final agreement is signed, we will have all of this information available for you. Unfortunately, like I said, it has not been signed. We are dealing with a bureaucracy similar to our own or even larger when we deal with the Salvation Army.

**Ms. Stick:** The minister mentioned earlier in his introduction to this debate a start date and an end date, I believe, for this project. I didn't write them down. I'm wondering if he could repeat those for me please.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I am just looking for my notes and I will give you exactly what I said. I know that we will be starting this project or we definitely feel that we will start this project in the spring and it will be completed — we expect that occupancy will be in 2016. In my opening remarks, I didn't give exact dates.

I said that it will begin the spring of 2015 and we anticipate occupancy in 2016. Those are the anticipated dates. Again, we have to get the agreements signed, and part of the agreement will be construction dates.

**Ms. Stick:** I think there are a lot of questions around this that we're not able to get because, as you say, you're still within negotiations, but they are concerning to me — that we can already project when we're going to start and when occupancy is, but there is not a lot of detail in-between there, and I plan to come back to this in the House, but I would like to move on with some of the other things still in the supplementary budget here today.

One of them that I was interested in that was mentioned under capital projects was about capital work to be done at the Kluhini Building renovation project to complete security renovation and upgrades to the social assistance building. I understand there are a few programs housed in that building. I'm just curious about what new security systems are going to be needed in that building, where you already have security guards sitting there. I remember when they put up the glass between front-line workers, such as the receptionist or

financial workers, and clients coming into the building. I'm curious about what further security items we are looking at for Adult Services.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I will just go back one step, because what I can tell you for sure about what will be happening with the Salvation Army redevelopment project is that we will have an expanded shelter — as I have said, I think, once before. We will have an expanded shelter in order to separate men and women. We will have transitional housing. We will have a larger kitchen. There are a number of things that we have agreed on. What we haven't agreed on are a number of other issues that we are busy negotiating, as we speak. We hope that it will be done in the very near future.

The Kluhini Building renovation project was really — I did change my opening remarks to "Adult Services building," because it doesn't include only the social assistance area. This is for the whole Adult Services building and addictions, so we are including Alcohol and Drug Services, as well as Adult Services and social assistance. It includes the whole building project.

I can get you some additional information, if you would like.

**Ms. Stick:** So I am taking it that these are rolled in, because we clarified this at the briefing today, that Alcohol and Drug Services is not in the same building as social assistance and the Adult Services. But you did say in your introduction — you specifically talked about security. That is why I was curious about that.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I think that during the briefing this morning — they admit that did say the wrong thing. I said the right thing in my opening remarks. It is Adult Services. A few of the things that are being done — new private offices so interviews with clients can be held in a private setting instead of an open-office setting. Those are the kinds of things that they are doing. It does include all three areas — the ADS Unit, Adult Services and, to some extent, the Kluhini Building as well.

**Ms. Stick:** I wanted to talk a bit about the Sarah Steele Building. We are seeing just about a doubling in capital — an additional \$1.266 million — and part of this, I understand, is a revote and we're still in the schematic-design phase of this. I have a number of questions about this whole program because we have been talking about it for quite awhile now.

One of the first ones is: What are the timelines in terms of beginning construction of this? I will ask a couple of them right now and then let the minister answer them. Where will this new building be located? I would like some information on the range of programming that is going to be provided, and what is going to happen with the current Sarah Steele Building that is on Sixth Avenue?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** The timeline that has been proposed — and so far it's on schedule. In September the design development detail was well underway. It will be used to develop the tender package. The draft was ready. I know that the kitchen design was slowing the project down, but I understand that it is now fixed. We expect that construction documents will be completed in January 2015. The

construction documents will be put out for tender in February 2015, and we expect that the contract will be awarded in March 2015 and that construction will begin in the spring of 2015. We have targeted July 2016 for the construction to be substantially completed. It will be placed on the lots immediately behind the current Sarah Steele Building, and the current Sarah Steel Building, once this building is completed, will be torn down — not immediately, but very shortly thereafter.

There are other things that are underway at the same time. The kitchen contractor is waiting for final approval. The kitchen hasn't been finalized yet, but it is in process. There will be some discussions with Kwanlin Dun with respect to the YACA agreement. That kind of stuff has to be done as well.

**Chair:** Would members like 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. We're continuing general debate in Vote 15 in Bill No. 15, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2014-15*.

**Ms. Stick:** I have a few more questions with regard to the new Sarah Steele Building and some of the programming that will be offered there. The minister did speak briefly to it in his introductions. Some of the concerns we've heard over the last while have been the wait time for some individuals to get into the program. The minister said there would be a continual intake of people.

My question with regard to that is: Right now, you have programs for males and programs for females. The minister also mentioned a youth program. How does a continuous intake with three different streams work, or will there possibly be three 28-day programs running at the same time in the same building? I'm just curious as to how that might work.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Before I answer that question, I will just answer one other one. There is a part-time audiologist in Whitehorse who is in private practice, and we are utilizing those services. Through the magic of electronic communication, I was corrected. Not that I was wrong — it was just that I was corrected.

The member opposite is quite right that we will — the replacement building for Sarah Steele has been designed so that we can actually handle those separate programs for men, women and youth at the same time. What the member has to understand is that they aren't necessarily all 28-day programs. We will have a detox section for youth as well. That is one of the reasons that the building is substantially larger and more expensive. We have decided to go with the ability to do all of those things in the same building.

**Ms. Stick:** Will there be opportunities in the programming with the new buildings for families to also be accommodated? As I think everybody here knows, a person going through treatment also needs the support, hopefully, of

their family and friends — being able to have family there — and also for them to receive some of the support and treatment that they might need with regard to dealing with the individual when they come home, with changed behaviours, and how families also need treatment and support skills to be able to continue to help their family member.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** The building has been planned in such a manner that family involvement will be easy to accommodate in this new building — not necessarily accommodation for the family at the same time the youth is in the facility. Again, it will depend on the usage, but we're not saying that family accommodation will always be available when a youth is in the facility.

One of the other things that we're really concentrating on is the pre- and post-supports that must be available in order for these people to succeed. I think in the past we have talked about how many times a normal person who has addiction difficulties goes through the 28-day program before it finally takes. The relapse rate is very high. We know that one of the reasons for that is because of the supports that are available to the person before and after they complete the program. That's one of the things that we're really concentrating on, and it's one of the reasons that we will have spaces available for accommodation post-program.

**Ms. Stick:** I apologize for not being clear with regard to the family support also. I was also talking not necessarily just youth, but about if it's a spouse who would come and accompany her or his partner to the treatment program and whether that was available.

So I will ask that one again, but I also wanted to move on and ask another question. The minister remarked on different lengths of time for some programs and he has partially answered it with a post program where, I presume, a person could stay there and in effect extend the 28 days so they might be able to stay. Is there a time limit of how long they could stay?

**Some Hon. Member:** (inaudible)

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I can say that if I want to. I am sorry, Madam Chair.

To answer the first part of the question; the family involvement will still be there for spouses and family supports, but we simply won't have enough room in the building to provide accommodation for all of those family members as well. It is one of the things that is going to come out in the new policies or the new program plan that we will be doing for not only addictions but mental health as well. We anticipate that it will be part of the planning process. It is something that I know First Nations are really concerned about too, which is the post program. The member opposite is correct when she said that some of these things may be shorter.

The program might be shorter than 28 days, but you're right, some of them might go longer and we will be able to accommodate those folks who have addiction difficulties longer than 28 days if that is what is necessary. But it is also one of those things that we hope that we will be able to work together with the Salvation Army in the new building with

post-program care as well. We hope to have transition beds in the Salvation Army that will be available to people leaving the Sarah Steele Building. As members opposite know, we recently contributed \$1 million to the on-the-land program with Kwanlin Dun and we see that program as being another post-drying-out phase — I guess you would call it — in Sarah Steele. On all of those things we will work together. We will work with the Salvation Army. We will work with Kwanlin Dun on the on-the-land program and we will be working with people in the communities as well because I know some of these people will go back to their communities and that post-program care will have to be available there as well.

**Ms. Stick:** I think I'm going to move on to McDonald Lodge in the Klondike. I'm sorry I don't have my note from this morning. We have revotes and many of these are. But then this was a reprofile and it is minus \$5 million. I'm just looking for an explanation of that.

Does this mean that what's happening right now with McDonald Lodge is that it's behind schedule or will this \$5 million be in 2015-16? Is this behind schedule now?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** The reprofile of the money is just to accommodate the construction schedule. We were behind schedule slightly, but we think we are now on schedule once again. We've also identified at least one area where we may have some difficulties in the new year — like in January or February — and if those difficulties do arise we may be delayed slightly, but we don't think that it will be a huge delay. We are working hard right now to accommodate those difficulties. As the member opposite from the Klondike is aware, the liens process with the facility that was constructed there will end at the end of November. Until that time, we have some difficulty proceeding with the connection of mechanical services between the existing facility and the new McDonald Lodge. Until that lien period has elapsed, we know that we're not going to be able to correct any problems. That's why I say that we may run into a slight delay in the new year, but we hope not.

**Ms. Stick:** I think I will leave that and move on. The Member for Klondike might have more questions on that.

Whitehorse continuing care facility — we haven't heard a lot about that since it was first announced. I still have many, many concerns. We're up to \$7 million now on the capital costs of this. What I haven't seen is any progress — what are the plans? I've heard from many people with regard to consultation. I've heard from First Nations and communities who are concerned about losing those resources in their communities, like elders and seniors, who are such a strength and resource for people and for the community.

I just think of my own experience with whenever there is a death within our First Nation and how the elders are pulled in — they are the ones who guide the process in making decisions about workers and cooks and who will be involved and when it is going to be. It doesn't matter how old they are or even how great their health is, they are a part of the decision-making of the community. I have heard the concern of the loss of that and how they are the history that goes with each community.

What we haven't heard since this announcement is anything about timelines, about costs and any alternatives that might have been discussed.

We did see the report that came out in June 2013 and it talked about a lot of things, such as the closing of Macaulay and the Thomson Centre. If we close the Thomson Centre and if we close Macaulay Lodge and we move palliative — if we take those people in the hospital — not just the Whitehorse Hospital, but Dawson Hospital and people who have been transferred to the Watson Lake Hospital — and bring them into this initial 150-bed facility, it is already just about full and there is still a wait-list out there.

I am really concerned about whether this is still the best model. I am not convinced it is — to house 300 individuals within one location and for everyone from the communities — not every community, but most communities — to have to come to this central location, separating them from families, friends, and familiarity.

I have got a lot of thoughts on this and I am really concerned. One of the biggest disappointments to me is that I remember when the Thomson Centre was opened and the number of beds in there and how it was designed at that time in particular for people with Alzheimer's or with dementia. We recognize that some people did have to come in from the communities, but it was very purposefully and thoughtfully built at the side of the Yukon River. The reason for that was because every community has a river that runs through it — most communities. You think of Dawson, Mayo, Pelly, Carmacks, Whitehorse — Watson Lake has a lake — Old Crow, Teslin has a river —

**Some Hon. Member:** (inaudible)

**Ms. Stick:** Yes, it does have a river. There is a lake and a river that comes out at the bridge.

It was purposely built to give those individuals coming to the Thomson Centre a sense of place. It was familiar; it might not be the same river — it probably isn't — but it was purposely built around that whole design of — this gave them a sense of home, a sense of place — and we're losing that.

We need more offices at the hospital; we're expanding the ER and all of that. I think it's a real shame to take something that was so purposely built for seniors and elders in all our communities, and to not utilize it any more. The design of it: the circular paths; the common kitchen area where people could share cooking — all of those and with the river. That river was the real central focus, because that's what so many seniors and elders, who have grown up and lived all their lives in the communities, are familiar with.

I didn't mean to go on about that, but I just have to get that out because I can't do it in a minute when we have Question Period. It's important, and I think the loss of that facility and that busy place, where people can see what's going on across the river and they can see downtown — I love it when there's the Yukon River Quest. You can actually see them — they're out on the balcony, and some of them have signs urging people on. It's activity and it's based.

We don't see that same thing up at Copper Ridge, where there's not that same sense of community and activity and



things going on around you. There are homes and there is traffic, but there is not necessarily the same thing — even at Macaulay Lodge. You have kids walking by to school. You have the grocery store there. There is that sense of community and that you belong somewhere. There's a neighbourhood pub across the street where you can go, you know, and some do — all of those things. I'm concerned about that. We're up to \$7 million and we don't know where this place is going to be yet. I don't know if the minister does. I'll ask that question. Have we got a location for this?

I guess the big thing is the consultation. When is that going to happen — not just with seniors groups, but with every community in the Yukon because presumably that's where people will be coming from? There needs to be information given, but also an opportunity for people to express their concerns. I understand the statistics and about the growing needs of seniors. I understand all of that. I don't need the statistics; I understand that. But what I am concerned about is the way we're going about this and the consultation that needs to take place. I'll sit down, Madam Chair.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I will try to answer. If I miss a few, I'm certain you will fill me in.

The one thing that we have to realize is that — and the member opposite saw that from the study that was done — the number of seniors who are going to require these facilities in the next 20 years is phenomenal. We believe there will be as many as 450 additional beds needed to accommodate seniors over the next 20 to 25 years.

We are planning for the long-term. It's a real dilemma, because we don't really want to take anybody out of their home and put them in a long-term care facility, but the acuity levels that we are seeing — especially in our frail seniors — they're living longer and there aren't enough resources to accommodate each of them in their home communities. It's a phenomenal cost to staff these buildings on a 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week basis. One of the reasons that we've increased home care so much is because we feel that home care is a reasonable alternative. Home care will allow us to keep seniors in their homes long after they normally would have gone.

I speak with some experience because my father-in-law spent quite a bit of time at the Thomson Centre when he was no longer able to exist on his own, and my mother has lived with me for 18 years. During 16 of those 18 years, she has been blind. She is not exactly a young lady any more, so I know what it's like to have those folks with you in your home. I know how difficult it is. It would be even more difficult if home care wasn't there to help. It's one of the reasons that I'm a real advocate of home care. I see what it does; what those services do, especially for my mom, although she only lets them come once a week because my wife is her favourite nurse and that's the way it is.

The other thing with Thomson Centre is that it was built quite awhile ago. It has only been recently that it has been rebuilt, but it's really not up to current standards or best practices for dementia and Alzheimer's. The new facility will be built to accommodate dementia and Alzheimer's patients.

As we have said before, what we also plan to do is to provide some palliative care. Mental health is something else that we will probably provide, although we haven't done those kinds of community consultations to determine exactly, but those are the kinds of things that we will be suggesting that we go ahead with.

I think that we have identified a few locations. There are very few locations within the city that can handle a facility of this size. As the Deputy Minister of Public Works said, this is going to be the largest single construction project so far in the territory. It has to be well-done; it has to be well-planned. That is one of the reasons there is \$6.9 million in this budget just for site planning and the preliminary things that have to be done. The next step, once this preliminary plan has been okayed by Management Board, is to go out and consult with the community. Again, I understand what it is like to move seniors out of their homes, especially in communities when that has to happen, but at this time I really don't see any alternative until some of these communities get a lot bigger. It is extremely expensive.

Even with the current facilities we have, it costs us in the neighbourhood of \$400 or \$420 a day to keep a patient or a senior in one of these facilities. That cost per person will probably decrease — well, it won't decrease because by the time this facility is constructed, inflation will take care of any savings we make, but a facility of this size will definitely limit the increases that we experience in years to come.

I hope that I answered most of the questions. If not, then we'll continue.

**Ms. Stick:** I'll agree with a few of the comments the minister spoke about. One of them is home care and how important it is. In fact, I know and I've heard that there is a wait-list right now for home care and, in particular, that it is not fully staffed. I think until we see something like this, those home care numbers should increase and we should be able to look at evenings or we should be able to look at weekend home care for individuals instead of just Monday to Friday. It is the best option for many of the seniors and for some of those seniors waiting in hospital right now. Some could return home if there was increased access to home care, but unfortunately that's not happening.

The minister spoke about yes, it's not good to be taking people away from their communities and I agree. The minister said something there that just made me even more worried — well, maybe we'll include mental health too. How big is this place going to be, how many people are we going to accommodate and how are you going to pay for that? Like the resources, the O&M, the staffing — I can't even begin to think where we are going to find all of those people. Now we're talking palliative, Alzheimer's, people who are currently at Thomson, Macaulay, day programs and mental health.

I worked in an institution that we closed down. It housed 1,200 individuals; it had staffing of over 1,200 and that wasn't a great institution. We're talking wards of 20 to 30 people and it still took us a staff of 1,200. I worked in one of those. We closed those. We said that wasn't the way to go.

Again, I worry about the consultation. We heard that from the Auditor General: “You’re doing all of this work ahead of time. You haven’t done the community consultation.” That was pointed out in the Auditor General’s report on the hospital projects. We shouldn’t be making that same mistake again of saying, “We’re going to build this; now what do we need and what do people want?”

It’s backwards. What do the communities want? I think every community realizes they each can’t have their own place. They know that. But there are also groupings of communities. We have the north Klondike. We have the north Alaska Highway. Even in the clinical studies, it divided out different portions of the territory into groupings. Those are there, but to suggest that everything should be here and something of that size and that broad a scope — that’s huge, it really is.

I think if you talk to people in palliative care who are right now providing that service in hospital or in homes — some people are fortunate enough to be able to stay at home through their palliative care, and that’s great — I’m concerned. Yes, we are living longer, but I also might suggest that a lot of us are living healthier. We are living healthier; we’re living longer, but we are a lot more active. I would look to the minister and to most people — or all people in this House — we are active and we are getting older. I think we are more active than what we saw with previous generations and, I’m thinking, healthier. I know the stats are telling us otherwise with regard to Alzheimer’s and yes, we will become fragile at an older age. I’m not going to argue statistics — they’re there — but I really do think there has to be a different or a better consultation going on sooner rather than later asking citizens, who are paying for this, “What do you want? What do you think is going to be best for your community, for your family members, for probably yourself at some point in your life — what is going to be best?”

I just know that there are too many people who will be taken from their community and will not have contact with their family again. I’ve seen it in my own family where a family member was here at Thomson Centre and those of us who lived here in Whitehorse could go visit them, but the family members who lived out in Haines Junction didn’t have vehicles and didn’t have transportation.

They came in to see him — the family member — if they could get a ride or if they hitchhiked, but it wasn’t very often and they lost that contact. The person who felt it the most was the person in Thomson. They were happy to see us, but I wasn’t the son; I wasn’t the stepson that they had spent all of their time with — it wasn’t me they wanted to see. They appreciated it, but that is not who they wanted.

We’re up to \$7 million after this and we haven’t talked to the communities and we have not said: “What do you want?” I just think that is so wrong — we’ve done this before and why are we doing this again?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I have to correct one thing first. The member opposite said that the Auditor General said we had to consult with the community in their report. The Auditor General talked about needs assessments, not community

consultation — so that is the first thing. A needs assessment — two separate needs assessments were done. One was done as a result of there being a certain amount of controversy over whether or not the numbers were accurate. Another independent needs assessment was done that actually said that based on current statistics, we will need more than 300 beds by 2035.

There is no doubt that the need is out there. You know, you talk about home care and we doubled home care. We doubled home care in the last year. We have some difficulty — there is no doubt — keeping all of those positions staffed and there is a constant turnover, but we are keeping the vast majority of those positions staffed. But when you talk about taking seniors out of the hospital and moving them back to their homes, in many cases you are talking about seniors who would need daily home care and who would need probably some kind of contact with a nurse — an expanded scope nurse or nurse practitioner. All of those things for the higher acuity patients whom we’re talking about would be required, and the possibility of getting that many new positions in home care and staffing them and keeping them staffed is pretty slim. Not only that, the cost would then rapidly approach what it is going to cost us to keep somebody in a long-term care facility.

When we talk about the other facilities, there are a number of ideas floating around out there, but we know that Macaulay Lodge is way past its best-before date. Macaulay can’t take the level of need that we’re finding in our current citizens. There are stairs that they have to be able to get up. It was built to standards in the 1950s and that is great, but it just no longer fits the need that we have.

The other thing was that, when we came up with the concept in order to — we’re trying to make sure our planning is done properly on this.

We took this concept out to long-term-care experts or long-term-care groups in both B.C. and Saskatchewan to say, “This is what we’re considering. This is the concept. What do you think?” Some of the things they told us were amazing. We’re on the right track. They don’t build facilities any more in either of those provinces that are for less than 300 people, because the economies of scale simply are not there and it is costing a great deal of money to staff these facilities. We will have to get back and see exactly what they said. I just was informed that it could have been as low as 200.

But small facilities just were not economically feasible. We know that’s exactly what everybody would want. That is what I would want. If I was living in Pelly or Destruction Bay, I would want to be able to keep my senior with me there in the community. We know that. It’s one of the reasons we are building a new facility in Dawson City. We realize that Dawson City has had this facility in the past. We’re expanding the size. We understand that Dawson residents themselves may not be able to fill it completely, and it would be great if it was available for Mayo, Pelly Crossing or other communities in the north. In a sense, we have constructed a regional facility.

When the member opposite talked about mental health, it’s interesting that you would be concerned about this

because what we're talking about here are the unmet mental health requirements of our senior citizens.

We know that there are a number of people in our facilities who have unmet mental health needs, and we want to be able to fulfill that need, so we will have that available for them in the new facility.

We are also looking at best practices with this facility. We want to build it in a neighbourhood. We want to build it with smaller units. It's a neighbourhood concept — I'm sorry — so that there will be smaller pods that will be all interconnected with a larger facility where we will have the main laundry, kitchen and those kinds of things. That is the concept that we are going to build it in, so you won't have corridors of nothing but doors where these folks will be living. It will be a neighbourhood concept. It will also be constructed in a neighbourhood where there are other people around. You talk about Macaulay Lodge, where you see the kids going to school and that. That is what we intend to do with this.

We are not 100-percent certain yet of where it's going to be constructed. We have a number of areas, but we have to talk with the city, we have to consult with all the users of this facility in order to determine exactly where we are going to build it. It's one of the reasons that we develop concepts. That's the reason it costs so much money up front. We have to develop these concepts to be able to say to people, "This is what we propose" or "These are some of the ideas that we have. Which one would you prefer?" or "Do you have some ideas?" But to just go out there and say to people, "We are going to build a long-term care facility and we think we are going to need 300 beds — what do you think?" Without something to look at, people aren't going to respond to that kind of stuff. They just won't be able to.

The concept of a 300-room facility — is almost mind-boggling to me and I've been working with it for a year. We will have some concepts available for people. We are making sure that the planning is done. We are going to attempt to make it the best possible thing, but we also have to keep in mind our fiscal responsibility. Simply to build a bunch of smaller units around the territory isn't going to work. Not only will we not be able to hire the people — you know, we have trouble right now getting social workers and nurses to live in some of these communities. What are the chances that we're going to be able to put in a long-term care facility too?

One other thing that the member opposite talked about was the wait-list for home care. As far as I'm aware, there is no wait-list at the present time for home care. We have some people with higher acuity needs that perhaps aren't getting all of the services they would like to have, but we are providing whatever service we can to folks. We're also working with the hospital because we know there are a number of beds at the hospital that are currently housing people who should be in long-term care. We know the difference in price between a bed in long-term care and a bed in the hospital, so we would like to move them out as quickly as possible. We're looking at alternatives as we speak to be able to do that quickly.

We know this 300-bed facility won't be ready — even if we build it in phases. The first 150 won't be ready for a while

so we're trying to identify some short-term solutions. But we're also working with the Hospital Corporation to identify needs earlier in the process so that when a person requiring some home care is discharged from the hospital, we're able to identify that. Our staff can sit with the hospital staff and do a plan of care. If there are needs that can be met by home care, that's what we do. It's a much better process than just saying at the hospital door, "Okay, you're healed now. Goodbye." and that's it and you stand there and wait for a taxi to come and take you someplace because you are not even sure what you can do.

We're working really closely with the hospital on those kinds of things. I can't see any other notes that I made here that I haven't talked about so I will sit down and wait for more questions.

**Ms. Stick:** There was a lot said there and a lot of it we're going to disagree about. The minister spoke about the cost of a bed in continuing care being \$450. I would suggest that home care — a bed continuing care is \$450 a day is what I understood —

**Some Hon. Member:** (inaudible)

**Ms. Stick:** Yes, \$420 a day. I would suggest still that home care is cheaper even if we could provide more. The minister talked about being able to staff it. We talk about the trades and skilled training and the college we have and there is the LPN program. Let's expand those programs and offer it to Yukoners and give them incentives and say to them, "Look, do this program and we will give you jobs. We will give you home care jobs where you are working independently and able to go into peoples' homes and provide the support for them to stay in their homes."

I know it can't happen today. I understand that, but there are a lot of people looking for work. There are people in the communities — we know what the unemployment rates are in the communities. There are some solutions because if this goes ahead, we are still looking I don't know how many years down the road. It is not going to be one year and it won't be two, because you are still going to have to staff that. So let's start now; let's start giving people skills and let's put them in home care and take care of some of those numbers. There are people in the hospital who, with appropriate support, could be aging in place — not all of them — I understand that. I realize some people really do need to be in those long-term beds. I am not arguing that and I know we don't have any. I know that to them — to take up those hospital beds — never mind \$420, or even \$450, it is way more and the result of those beds being taken up is knee surgeons coming up and not being able to do one.

I spoke with the surgeon myself about people not being able to receive the surgery they are scheduled for. I am not going to argue with a surgeon who calls me and tells me about this. I am going on what a surgeon has told me.

We're looking long down the road, but in the meantime, we have these other concerns and we have people taking up bed space that is not meant for that and it is certainly the most expensive form of care. I worry that people are being shipped away from Whitehorse, never mind bringing them to

Whitehorse. Individuals are being shipped away from Whitehorse to the Watson Lake hospital. I'm not sure about the Dawson hospital. I don't know. It's true. A friend of mine has called me and has spoken at length with me about — I'm not saying it's bad to go to the Watson Lake hospital, but this person is from here and they were told because they don't have family here, it's okay for them to go there — never mind that they still have a social support program or people here that now they are cut off from. They're not from Watson Lake.

We're bringing people in, we're shipping people out and it's costing a lot of money. I'm going to stop right now and give the Member for Klondike an opportunity because I know he has questions too. I really think that, before this goes much further, there has to be a lot more consultation and talk with the communities, care providers, families, seniors and palliative care professionals about how to do this best and whether really this is.

It might be great for Saskatchewan that they don't build anything smaller than 200 beds. You could build a 200-bed facility in Saskatoon and fill it with people from Saskatoon. I mean, we're talking about a completely different population and set. With that, Madam Chair, I will let the Member for Klondike go ahead.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I didn't hear a question there, but I'm just going to reiterate what I've already said. We look at it from a number of viewpoints. When the member opposite talks about home care being a panacea for the people living in the hospital — sorry, it isn't. We look at every person who is in that hospital and we try to determine the best alternative. We know that we don't want them in the hospital, not only because of the cost, but because of other things as well. If there is a flu epidemic, there won't be enough beds.

For the member opposite to say that surgeries were cancelled because there were too many long-term care patients in that hospital, you had better be very careful with that because every time there is a bed situation at the hospital, my department sits down with the Hospital Corporation people and we attempt to resolve the situation to ensure that no surgeries are cancelled because there are people in that hospital.

There are a number of other reasons that surgeries may have been cancelled, but the bed shortage should not be impacting on surgeries. We have made it very clear to the hospital that we will do everything we can to move people out, and that's one of the reasons that we have to move them to Watson Lake. It's interesting that the member opposite has a difficulty with this but we're making the best use of the facilities we have in the territory. We've increased home care. We're in the planning process for this new facility. We're attempting everything we can. We'll also consult with the community but we know that there are some things we simply won't be able to accomplish, and setting up a long-term care facility in every community in the territory isn't going to happen.

**Mr. Silver:** I want to begin by thanking the minister for that conversation, for all these conversations. His conduct in

Committee of the Whole in general — I don't think I ever heard him spend his complete 20 minutes just talking about a briefing note and I love the fact that he has no problem engaging in the debate. Thank you for that. We're not going to always agree, that's for sure, but at least he welcomes the debate.

**Some Hon. Member:** (inaudible)

**Mr. Silver:** Thank you for that.

With that said, I will give him a lob ball to start with. I just wanted to know if the minister can give me an update on his communications with Little Blue Daycare in Dawson City.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Early last month, I believe, the director of the Dawson daycare came to Child Care Services with a copy of a report — I think it was a situational report and recommendations for the Little Blue Early Care and Learning Centre. The report was completed for the Dawson City children's society by Learning Edge Corporation of Dawson.

The report examined the current situation in Dawson. They included physical, environmental, vocational, financial, and community factors and they came up with a report that said there are four options: maintain the current facility, expand the current facility, lease new facility or build new facilities.

I think the report said we would like to see a new facility — a new expanded, dedicated building constructed at a cost of almost \$1 million. The report also stated that it would increase capacity for 24 to 32 children and we are only too happy to discuss the report with the folks from Dawson. I think a meeting has now been scheduled with the Dawson City folks. We are talking with them. I think the folks in Dawson are also taking a look at some other funding options and we really encourage them to do that because the chances that I am going to get another million dollars for a daycare in Dawson City in the next little while are fairly slim.

We think it is an excellent report. We don't agree with everything in the report, but we think it is an excellent report and we look forward to proceeding with it as quickly as possible.

**Mr. Silver:** I do appreciate that update and I do appreciate the minister and his team spending the time to talk with the daycare folks and their board.

One of the largest problems that the daycare has — first of all, it is really hard to get training to begin with, and then once they get people trained, it is such a transient population that it is really hard to keep those individuals. It is hard for people running a not-for-profit daycare to compete with the types of salaries that can be offered in different places just in Dawson, let alone in Whitehorse and that type of thing.

We had a conversation this summer with the Little Blue Daycare board members and we were talking about the affordable housing money. Wouldn't it be great if, as we plan for a new facility, one of the things that could actually get as supplementation to the income of these individuals is — we're going to build a new daycare; in this new daycare, we're going to have apartments above it and those apartments would basically be affordable housing. The daycare could provide

for the employees they are having a hard time keeping by saying, “We can’t pay you as much on the grid as, let’s say, the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in can at their daycare, but we can offer you affordable housing.”

The minister is looking for some extra money. Maybe there’s an opportunity for him to sit down with his colleagues along the way in Community Services and discuss the fact that there are millions of dollars waiting around in affordable housing money. The minister can respond to that if he likes, but I’m just putting that out there as a suggestion. I know that the people at the Little Blue Daycare thought that would be an excellent idea — of course they would.

I’m going to move on to the Salvation Army. It’s a clarification. I know there was a discussion earlier about this. I just didn’t get out of that conversation whether or not there actually has been land chosen. I know there are ongoing agreements, but it just comes down to: Has there already been a place chosen for the new building?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I will speak about the daycare proposal first. I have already told my department the same thing — that anything is up for discussion. You know, we’re willing to listen to any ideas. This one I had not heard, but again, it’s an idea that we would be happy to discuss.

With the Salvation Army, because of the fact that we haven’t signed that agreement yet, I think it became apparent the other day when I heard the folks from the Salvation Army responding to a radio interview that they said much the same thing: no, nothing has been decided. We hope that if the agreement can be signed in the next little while, we’ll be only too happy to share all of that information with everybody but, until that agreement is signed, we won’t.

**Mr. Silver:** I appreciate the answer from the minister.

I’m going to go to the pensions at the Yukon Hospital Corporation. I know it’s the corporation, but the minister did speak a bit about the shortfall in the pensions earlier on in this fall session.

How is that shortfall being addressed? I understand that the corporation takes out a line of credit — or lines of credit — for the shortfall. I am just wondering — and once again, if this is a conversation for the Yukon Hospital Corporation, we will wait for them to appear as witnesses — but I am wondering how much interest is being paid on that line of credit? How much has been paid out over the last number of years?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Last year — or at the beginning of this year — we budgeted \$5 million to top up the Yukon Hospital Corporation’s pension fund to meet the minimum standard required by the Office of the OSFI. Luckily, the return on investments was very good in the last year, or the last three years — since the last actuarial evaluation, the pension returns — the investment returns — were very good.

Consequently, when it came time for the actuarial evaluation, they found that they did not need the full \$5 million that we had budgeted to top up the pension fund. They don’t get a line of credit; what they do is get a letter of credit from a bank, and with that letter they can do up to 50 percent of the deficit. We have to be careful to understand that

the deficit we are talking about is a mythical deficit. It is a windup deficit. In other words, what we are funding is the actuarial cost of winding up that pension fund today. The reason I call it a “mythical cost” is because the college was in the exact same position. They have to fund this windup calculation, even though the only entity that can wind up the college and the hospital is the Yukon government, and the Yukon government should be able to guarantee those things, but it can’t.

I have a number of suggestions that I know, with the Minister of Finance, I am discussing, because I think this is an untenable situation. It’s Canadian law. It’s under the *Pension Benefits Standards Act* that we must do this. On an ongoing basis, both of those funds are in a surplus position. In other words, they can meet their current expenses and all of the pensions that they are paying out at the present time, based on the returns they are making. I know the Hospital Corporation, in conjunction with the union, has also made a recommendation to increase the percentage that employees pay.

That is helping offset the deficit as well but, on an ongoing basis, it’s not a problem. It’s this wind-up calculation that’s the problem and it’s a massive problem. It’s several million dollars. It’s not like it’s \$2 million or \$3 million; it’s more like \$8 million to \$12 million — in that range.

**Mr. Silver:** I’m going to move on a little bit more about the continuing care, the 300-bed facility. We know that there is \$7 million in the budget for this project this year. We’re wondering how much will be spent this year. Has a total budget for the project been set already? The minister already talked about whether or not there will be a location selected and he did not have one set so far. I have more questions on that, but I will start with that.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Madam Chair, we have identified a number of potential locations for this facility. The final decision has not yet been made. It will be made when we complete consultations. This \$7 million will get us through this phase of the project — the planning and the development of concepts. It will get us through that phase. We expect that this money will be spent this year, but I’m not going to get trapped in that whole thing about — “How much is it going to cost?” and then I’ll say, “\$300 million,” and then I’ll be held to that five or 10 years down the road. No. At this point, we don’t have any solid costs. We do have some class D estimates that are plus or minus 40 percent.

We have a concept in mind. We have a concept price in mind, but until we spend some of this \$7 million to narrow our focus down, we won’t be able to come up with a closer price.

**Mr. Silver:** I definitely appreciate that answer.

I do have a question about the McDonald Lodge in conjunction with this 300-bed facility. A lot of this question is probably going to be best answered by the Minister of Highways and Public Works.

We were contacted by the contractor who is doing the engineered fill for the expansion. They had a concern because the original contract was for two stages of this McDonald

Lodge. The first stage would have been a certain amount of area in front of the hospital and then there was also supposed to be the expansion afterward, as far as they understood it. When they did the contract, it was shrunk to just one part of that plan. The contractors were wondering if that means that later on when we expand the original number of beds for the McDonald Lodge facility — the replacement — would they then, if they wanted to expand, have to come back in and do more engineered fill beside a now existing building? It started the conversation going on how many beds are going to be in the McDonald Lodge in this first round — if there is a first round — as compared to a second round. Does this mean that the second round maybe isn't even being considered?

So it got the conversation going. Was there a larger facility that was going to be constructed in two phases? Is that now off the table or is this something where, just to save some money right now, we're just going to do the engineered fill for one part of this expansion and then later we're going to go back? I know that as far as the actual physical asset, those are questions for another minister.

I guess the question is: Is this a two-phase project and is there a certain amount of beds to this project in total? Are we getting some now and some later?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** No, it is not a two-phase project. We understand that there may have been plans made at some point in the past but we planned 15 beds for that hospital. In discussions, we have also said that there is a possibility that we could add another five sometime in the future if they are needed. As part of this construction project, no, 15 beds are what we planned, 15 beds are what we got funding for, and 15 beds we will build.

We know in the back of our minds at Health and Social Services that if we need another five beds at some point in the future, a lot of the planning has already happened for that, but it is not a two-phase project right now. Fifteen beds is what we planned and 15 beds is what we will build.

**Mr. Silver:** So the minister did speak earlier with the Member for Riverdale South about this facility being kind of more of a hub, I guess, for some of the more northern communities. So we're not talking about just Dawson City; we are talking about Old Crow; we're talking about Ross River; we're talking about Mayo — 15 beds. I urge the minister to talk with Marion Roberts up in Dawson. She gave me a list of 20 names just from Dawson alone. They want to retire. They are going to be looking for space in the McDonald Lodge — and that is just Dawson.

So maybe when we're talking about how hopefully there's another stage to this, and bringing the question forth to the minister about five more beds — it's needed. It is a needed thing. I know the minister has had a conversation with the Member for Riverdale South about expenses and these types of things, but he did also mention the fact that this particular facility is best served by being a northern hub. In that, I am cautioning that 15 beds does seem small, especially when with some of the elders in Dawson City alone we have lists of 20 names of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens alone. This isn't just

Dawson citizens — this is specifically Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens.

It might not be enough for the community; it might not be enough for the northern hub. I don't want to go on about Mrs. Roberts' opinions about coming to Whitehorse to retire. I'm just going to leave that there and ask a question. Well, I'll give the minister a chance to respond.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** As part of the needs assessment, Dawson City was looked at. In fact, every community in the Yukon was looked at. I don't have the needs assessment here in front of me, but they actually gave us numbers based on each community. The first one and then the second one looked at the data and did their own extrapolations, and the numbers actually were slightly higher in the second one. That's why we realized that, at some point, we may have to expand the Dawson City nursing home.

What we also have to look at is that many of these people may be better served by home care. It's exactly like the Member for Riverdale South said — that home care is something that we are expanding continually. We really think it can serve as a hub.

I think the current McDonald Lodge is almost never full, and it only has 11 beds. We think that the 15 beds will get us over quite a long time. In fact, we look forward to being able to perhaps enhance home care in the City of Dawson because, as you know, it is kind of a part-time thing for people. The good thing is that it's collaborative, because it includes a large number of people who are only doing part-time. It is something that we can look at in the future.

Once again, I kind of have to say that a smaller facility is really difficult, but in this case we are just replacing it so it was an obvious thing to do.

My deputy just said that we did involve the surrounding community in the needs assessment of McDonald Lodge. That is quite interesting to me — that they were involved in the needs assessment and we looked at the numbers, which is probably where the additional five beds came from.

**Mr. Silver:** I am going to give Marion Roberts' phone number to the minister. They can talk about that later.

The Sarah Steele Building was discussed earlier as well. I'm just picking through my notes. That was a long debate with my colleague from Riverdale South. When the new and larger Sarah Steele is completed, what is the expected increase in operation and maintenance? Also, how many additional staff will be required to work in the building and to service it?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** The approval — well, you know what the total was there. For capital — and I didn't write down what we expected. I'm sorry — I'll have to get back to you with that number. The anticipated additional cost wasn't that big because we've already instituted some of the — like the medical detox has already been implemented, but we will definitely have more beds. We will be providing uninterrupted detox programs. Because of that, the staff required will be greater than what we have right now. There was some additional money needed but we will get back to you with the exact numbers.

**Mr. Silver:** I think I can sneak one more question in here before our time elapses for the day.

I am going to move to the Canadian Foundation for Health care Improvement. This summer it was announced that the Yukon government's Continuing Care branch would be one of the 15 Canadian health care organizations selected to participate in a project aimed at improving care for dementia patients.

The questions would be: How will this money be used? How much money and over how many years will this funding be transferred to the Yukon government?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** This is part of a study being done in cooperation with some other jurisdictions. Not only is it a study, it is an implementation using better management of dementia patients, looking at the misuse of drugs in dementia patients and what impact that has. We'll be working only with dementia patients in Copper Ridge but we'll be assisted by other jurisdictions and staff will receive direction. It's better ways of managing dementia than through the use of drugs. That's what it's all about.

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

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

*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.

**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:** Seeing the time, 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. on Wednesday, November 12, 2014.

*The House adjourned at 5:26 p.m.*