



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 173

1st Session

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HANSARD

Wednesday, November 19, 2014 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable David Laxton

YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER — Patti McLeod, MLA, Watson Lake

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Hon. Elaine Taylor	Whitehorse West	Deputy Premier Minister responsible for Education; Women's Directorate; French Language Services Directorate
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**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Wednesday, November 19, 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 Bullying Awareness Week

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I rise in the House today to recognize Bullying Awareness Week across Canada and to pay tribute to all of the Yukon students and school staff who are committed to eliminating bullying behaviours in our schools. Bullying Awareness Week is a national campaign in Canada conceived by educator and www.bullying.org president, Bill Belsey. The theme this year is “Stand Up! (to bullying)”. The campaign takes place during the third week each November and aims to raise awareness about bullying among students in Canada. It promotes positive relationships and provides youth with real-life solutions to help them deal with bullying behaviours.

Bullying can be physical, sexual, verbal or emotional. School bullying can be defined as unwelcome behaviour among school-age children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behaviour can be repetitive and aggressive and can result in anxiety and depression.

Beginning with Challenge Day in October, Yukon schools integrate and do very well at bullying awareness and education into activities, lessons and events throughout the school year. Yukon’s participation in Bullying Awareness Week culminates in the Sea of Pink Day on Friday when school students and staff alike will wear pink to show their solidarity against bullying.

As many members in this House know, the Sea of Pink owes its origins to a 2007 event at Central Kings Rural High School back in Nova Scotia. Two students bought and distributed 50 pink t-shirts to their peers after a younger male student in grade 9 was bullied for wearing a pink shirt on the first day of school. This gesture went viral and took off from there with pink shirt days being recognized throughout Canada and the world.

While in the Yukon schools celebrate the Sea of Pink in November, there are a number of dates where other jurisdictions encourage students and citizens alike to wear pink to help campaign against bullying. Some of these dates include Anti-Bullying Day in British Columbia at the end of February and the International Day of Pink in early April. Regardless of the day, people organize to wear pink and the message remains the same: bullying is everybody’s problem and it’s a problem that we all have a collective duty to work to bring an end to.

Department of Education is leading an inter-agency working group to coordinate efforts to raise awareness, to prevent and to respond to all forms of bullying in our schools. Through policies such as safe and caring schools and the sexual orientation and gender identity policy, we continue to promote respectful and safe school environments throughout the Yukon.

Participation in self-regulation strategies and participation in programs like MindUP in our classrooms are helping also increase socially appropriate behaviours and are helping to develop our schools’ capacity in this particular area.

Together with the Department of Justice and the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, we’re working to build stronger and safer communities for children and youth in the on-line and the off-line worlds.

This Friday, students, educators and communities across the territory will be wearing pink to show solidarity against bullying behaviours and to support building positive and kind relationships in our schools, workplaces and homes.

Mr. Speaker, you will notice that most of us are wearing some show of pink here today, as we will not be sitting on Friday. It is our opportunity to show our support for anti-bullying.

Before I conclude my remarks, I want to also extend a warm welcome on behalf of the Legislative Assembly to a number of individuals who have joined us here today in the gallery. We have with us: Annie Pellicano, the faculty advisor to the F.H. Collins Gay Straight Alliance; Morgan Yuill, this year’s youth recipient of the Community Safety Award for his work with the Be the Change team; and Nell Roothman, also very active in keeping F.H. Collins a school where students feel safe, cared for and celebrated.

Although not present here today, I would also like to recognize F.H. Collins Vice-Principal Christine Klaassen-St Pierre and her student teams who have and continue to lead the change and the charge in the school’s anti-bullying movement for many years, and for her work in continuing to inspire other schools along the way, and for having earned national recognition last year for having received the Canadian Safe Schools Network/TD Award for Excellence.

It is individuals like Christine, Annie, Morgan and Nell, and initiatives such as Be the Change and Sea of Pink that are paving the way and the change we wish to see in the world today and tomorrow.

Applause

Ms. White: I rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP Official Opposition and the Third Party to recognize this 12th National Bullying Awareness Week.

Some have raised concerns that we shouldn’t be using the words “bully” or “bullying” in our schools and our workplaces out of fear that it will encourage some to engage in this harmful behaviour, but you can’t have a national non-smoking week without talking about smoking. When we’re raising awareness about the risks and dangers of smoking, the population isn’t being driven to pick up the habit and the same needs to be said about bullying. So let’s call it what it is.

Barbara Coloroso, author of *The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander*, has this to say on the matter: “Bullying is not about anger, it is not a conflict to be resolved, it is about contempt — a powerful feeling of dislike toward someone considered to be worthless, inferior and undeserving of respect.” Contempt comes with three apparent psychological advantages that allow kids to harm others without feeling empathy, compassion or shame. These are a sense of entitlement, that they have the right to hurt or control others and intolerance toward differences, and a freedom to exclude, bar, isolate and segregate others.

That sounds bleak, doesn't it, Mr. Speaker? But all hope is not lost. In the last number of years, we have seen incredible change across the country. In Nova Scotia in 2007, high school students — in retaliation to an act of bullying — flooded their school with pink shirts. This action of resistance led to the International Day of Pink, now celebrated in more than 25 countries worldwide with more than eight million participants in 2012.

Communities like Cochrane, Alberta have not only recognized Bullying Awareness Week, but are striving to be bully-free. Other municipalities are following suit and taking the pledge to be bully-free. Closer to home, schools like F.H. Collins have, with open arms, taken up the challenge to end bullying in their ranks. On Friday of this week, the hallways across the territory promise to be flooded with pink, as students and faculty tackle bullying head-on.

If you want to see something truly beautiful, I invite you to join me at F.H. Collins on Friday at 11:15 a.m. to witness the student body stand up against bullying by taking this pledge: Today, I have an obligation. No longer will I be silent if you need help; silence is participation. I refuse to participate in the problem. We're all different but we all deserve respect. If you need me, come to me. If you need help, I'm getting involved. I've got your back.

Mr. Speaker, when we stand together against bullying, we can truly make a difference.

Applause

In recognition of National Restorative Justice Week

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I rise today in recognition of Restorative Justice Week. This year, it is from November 16 to 23. This annual celebration was started in 1996 by the Correctional Service of Canada and has since expanded globally. Restorative Justice Week offers us the opportunity to reflect on the efforts taken to find alternative methods to address the harmful effects of conflict and crime and to create safer and healthier communities.

This year's theme is “Inspiring Innovation”. The theme reminds us that by working together, we can approach conflict and crime differently and create opportunities for communities to grow. Restorative justice, in its essence, promotes innovative approaches that empower communities to find ways to bring victims, offenders and members of the community together to resolve their issues and ultimately heal. Restorative justice is grounded in values such as respect, inclusion, healing and compassion. It promotes community

accountability and responsibility and responsiveness to unique cultural needs, such as First Nation communities.

Yukon restorative and community-based justice is focused on addressing the needs of our communities on a daily basis through locally developed responses. Community justice workers are customizing services based on the local needs of victims, offenders and communities.

In partnership with First Nations and Justice Canada's Aboriginal Justice Strategy, the Department of Justice supports nine community justice projects in communities such as Old Crow, Dawson City, Ross River, Haines Junction, Teslin, Carcross, Whitehorse and Watson Lake. These community justice projects are facilitating healing and accountability through a wide range of programs, such as by offering alternative justice system approaches like circle sentencing, conferencing and elders boards, opportunities for healing and repairing relationships and support tailored to child and youth needs. Also, the programs are providing consideration for cultural, spiritual and traditional values and mental, emotional and physical needs of victims, offenders and community members.

As a government, we are so very proud to be working with partners to offer restorative justice processes that are positive and impactful.

In closing, I would like to sincerely thank members of community justice committees, community justice coordinators, RCMP, governments and First Nation officials, families, elders and youth — among others — for their hard work and dedication to finding local solutions to resolve conflict and crime.

In recognition of Restorative Justice Week, I encourage us all to ask ourselves how we can inspire and integrate innovative restorative justice approaches in our lives and in our communities. It can be hard work, but the results are clear.

When we integrate restorative respectful and collaborative practices, we create healthier relationships, which in turn can create stronger and safer communities.

I would ask all members to join me in welcoming some folks to the gallery. We have with us Corporal Dwayne Latham, Constable Walter Wallingham, and the manager of Offender Supervision and Services, Leah White.

Applause

Ms. Moorcroft: I rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP Official Opposition and the Third Party to pay tribute to National Restorative Justice Week, held the third week in November.

The 2014 National Restorative Justice Symposium program in Banff this year reported that it has been 40 years since Mark Yantzi and Dave Worth inaugurated the contemporary restorative justice movement by co-facilitating the first victim offender mediation in Elmira, Ontario. Since then, restorative justice has spread around the globe and evolved in many countries.

Restorative justice practitioners provide services that meet the dynamic needs of people in order to acknowledge harm, to meet the needs of those affected, to provide

meaningful opportunities for accountability and to provide a means for reparation and healing. This holistic approach promotes dialogue, justice, fairness, truth and safety and continues to inspire innovation in schools, communities, families, government the criminal system and so much more.

Small actions can result in significant transformation and innovations in restorative justice can lead to huge impacts in peoples' lives and in their communities. Restorative justice promotes understanding and cultural wellness. Restorative justice includes conflict resolution and peace-building — good skills for youth and adults to develop.

Restorative Justice Week is acknowledged at colleges, schools, prisons, churches and in legislatures. Thinking broadly, restorative justice practices could include residential school curriculum in our schools and art therapy programs in correctional facilities.

In Montreal, a unique restorative justice activity is “Art for Freedom: Life After Crime”. Artworks created by victims of criminal acts are put on display and help to raise public awareness. It's important to bring to the conversation about restorative justice that victim/offender mediation needs to be safe for victims and it is not appropriate for serious and violent crimes or crimes of violence against women without safeguards for victims.

Restorative Justice Week is a time when we can think about ways to create a peaceful community. As part of Restorative Justice Week, we should ask ourselves how we can advocate for social justice for all members of society, youth in care, missing and murdered aboriginal women, incarcerated people and those who struggle with housing and meeting their basic needs.

I want to thank and acknowledge all of those who incorporate restorative justice practices in their work — NGOs like the Elizabeth Fry Society Yukon and Second Opinion Society, government workers such as those in the Department of Justice, Victim Services unit.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Opposition would like to thank the RCMP for restorative justice approaches they undertake and all of those who contribute to nine Yukon restorative projects in partnership with Justice Canada, Yukon government and First Nations: the Kwanlin Dun Justice department; Carcross-Tagish First Nation Community Justice; Teslin Tlingit Council Peacemaker Court; Haines Junction Community Justice Committee, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations; Vuntut Gwitchin Community Justice Committee in Old Crow; Ross River Justice Committee, Ross River Dena Council; Dena Keh Justice, Liard First Nation in Watson Lake; Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Community Justice in Dawson City; and Tān Sakwāthān youth diversion program at Skookum Jim Friendship Centre.

In recognition of Lung Cancer Awareness Month and Radon Awareness Month

Hon. Mr. Graham: I rise in the House today to speak to Lung Cancer Awareness Month and Radon Awareness Month.

The Canadian Cancer Society estimates that there will be over 26,000 new cases of lung cancer in 2014, and approximately 20,000 deaths. The five-year survival rates for men and women are 14 percent and 20 percent respectively.

While more than 85 percent of the total new lung cancer cases in Canada are related to smoking, about 16 percent of lung cancer deaths are related to radon exposure. This year, the Canadian Cancer Society is making a point of focusing attention on radon as a leading cause of lung cancer. Part of the reason for this is that cancer due to radon exposure is completely preventable.

Radon is a colourless, odourless, radioactive gas that occurs naturally in the environment. It comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soils and rocks. Radon gas becomes a health risk if it accumulates to high levels in closed spaces within inadequate ventilation in homes or buildings where people spend a significant amount of time.

According to Health Canada's recent cross-Canada survey of radon concentration in homes, which was published in 2012, Yukon, along with Manitoba, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, are reported to have the highest percentages of participant homes testing above the radon guidelines. Of the 200 participating homes in Yukon, one in five had radon levels above what is considered a safe level. Fortunately, there are ways of reducing and mitigating exposure to radon gas, and I encourage everyone to visit the Yukon Housing Corporation website for excellent, Yukon-specific information on identified radon sites and how to test their homes for radon gas.

Unfortunately, the risk of developing lung cancer due to radon exposure increases significantly if the resident is also a cigarette smoker. The radon can be addressed by identifying exposure and mitigating it if needed. The smoking is more difficult — I agree — but the Department of Health and Social Services offers free programs to help Yukoners quit. I encourage all Yukoners who smoke to contact Health and Social Services or visit www.quitpath.ca to find the help they need. Lung cancer remains one of the deadliest yet most preventable forms of cancer. Let's all do whatever we can to ensure that we keep our lungs healthy.

In recognition of International Education Week

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I rise in the Assembly today on behalf of all members of the Assembly to tribute International Education Week. This year's theme is “Celebrating Canada's Engagement with the World.” This week recognizes the opportunities for Yukoners and Canadians to study and serve abroad through a number of exchange programs.

Living and learning overseas helps to prepare young people from Yukon and other regions of our country to become responsible global citizens. Providing students with opportunities for immersion in different countries, languages and cultures offers deep and rich experiential learning. Pursuing education through travel offers students unique insights into how people live around the world and the values they hold near and dear. It gives students new perspectives to

consider, as well as developing the competencies of communication, thinking and personal and social skills.

Yukon students and schools have various opportunities to very much get involved in international education through school trips, on-line opportunities and student exchanges. Students — for example from Porter Creek Secondary School — just recently travelled to Germany last spring to explore historical sites in Berlin. Students from Dawson City were able to also travel to France. The grade 5 class at Robert Service School participated in an on-line global exchange visit with students from Sierra Leone and Nunavut last spring with storytelling, songs and discussions.

Schools welcome and host exchange students as well from countries like Japan and Ukraine, providing student visitors with an immersive Yukon cultural learning experience and offering students the opportunity to make new friends from around the world. As Mary Ritter Beard once said: “Certainly, travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living.”

This week also honours and welcomes international students from kindergarten to post-secondary institutions in our schools, colleges, universities and other institutes of education as they continue their pursuit of learning here in Canada.

The Department of Education, along with its federal partner, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, is proud to support the Multicultural Centre of the Yukon, and L’Association franco-yukonnaise.

The Multicultural Centre of the Yukon provides direct services to immigrants to Canada, such as information, referrals, translation, counselling, job searches, and so forth as well as free English language learning classes and access to a language lab where students can learn English at a self-directed pace on computer software.

L’Association franco-yukonnaise offers similar information and referral services in French for French-speaking immigrants to Yukon as well as a strong support network through Yukon’s francophone community. Through these centres, newcomers to Yukon are able to access the assistance and the training they need to succeed in their home communities in our region. International Education Week also encourages reflection on our duty to act as citizens of Yukon and of the globe, to seek out new perspectives and new ideas, to understand other cultures and languages and to welcome newcomers to this special corner of the world.

International education is all about promoting understanding, unity and community in the midst of diversity. I urge everyone in the territory and certainly in the Assembly and all lifelong learners here in our territory to pursue opportunities in international education and overseas experiences and to very much welcome and support new Yukoners as they build their new lives here in our communities in this country.

In recognition of National Adoption Awareness Month

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I rise today on behalf of all members to recognize that people across Canada and in Yukon are observing National Adoption Awareness Month. Adoption is a complex process that involves the transfer of parental rights over children; however, most importantly, adoption allows for the possibility that every child will have a family to call their own.

A number of laws have been developed to support the protection and promotion of children’s rights, particularly after 1991 when the United Nations ratified its *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. I found it fitting to provide the tribute to National Adoption Awareness Month for the Minister of Health and Social Services today.

Shortly after I was born in the summer of 1969, my biological mother placed me up for adoption. After a few months living with a foster family, I was adopted by my amazing and very loving parents, Jack and Vonda Nixon. I don’t ever recall being told for the first time that I was adopted. It was important to my parents that I was raised always knowing. I also respect the strength it took for my biological mother — and thousands of other mothers for that matter — to make that important and courageous decision to place their child for adoption.

When I was 18 years old, I researched and located my biological mother. I felt it was necessary to meet her to collect some background health information on the family and tell her that I respected her decision, just in case she had a doubt. I will also note that my government caucus colleague, the MLA for Riverdale North, and his wife Amanda recently adopted a little boy into their family. I commend my colleague and his wife for taking on this wonderful responsibility and for giving Eli a meaningful life with loving parents.

Here in Yukon, our *Child and Family Services Act* came into force in April 2010. This act allows for the adoption of children in permanent care that honours the customs of a child’s and families’ First Nation. We have learned from the past and all those who have been affected by adoption that our families and communities benefit when adoption is a transparent and open process.

To support this, our act also promotes the idea of openness in adoption among birth families and adoptive families that directs the Department of Health and Social Services to facilitate these processes. These changes have made it easier for birth parents and people who were adopted to find each other and has allowed for better access to adoption records.

In closing, I want to acknowledge all Yukon adoptive families, birth families and adoptees, and all those whose lives are touched through adoption today.

In recognition of World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Day

Mr. Hassard: It is an honour to rise to speak on behalf of all members to recognize today as World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Day, more commonly known

as COPD. World COPD Day is organized by the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease. It is an effort to raise awareness about COPD in our communities and around the world. The continuing theme is “It’s not too late.”

A 2010 Statistics Canada report states that, at 15.5 percent, Yukon has the highest prevalence of COPD for people over 65. This is compared to the national average of 7.3 percent. In 2013, 954 Yukoners were identified as having COPD, which is a steady rise from the 440 Yukoners identified in 2004. We know that it is the fourth leading cause of death in Canada, and we know that COPD is under-diagnosed.

Two of the most common conditions identified with COPD include chronic bronchitis and emphysema. The early signs of COPD are sometimes subtle and can masquerade as a smoker’s cough, a decline in fitness, or even aging. The Canadian Lung Association states that if you are over 40 and currently smoke cigarettes or have smoked in the past, you may be at risk of developing COPD.

There is a quick test called the Canadian lung health test which we can take to identify if we are at risk of having or developing COPD. We can find it on the Yukon Health and Social Services website at www.hss.gov.yk.ca. It takes less than a minute and it can help us gain valuable information about the state of our lungs’ health.

The Health Promotion unit, in partnership with the chronic conditions supports programs, has organized a free one-hour presentation and discussion tonight at the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre starting at 6:30 p.m. It’s a good opportunity to find out more about COPD, including ways to improve how to live with it and the services available to help people quit smoking. It’s never too late to find out more.

In recognition of Crohn’s and Colitis Awareness Month

Mr. Elias: I rise in the House today to recognize November as Crohn’s and Colitis Awareness Month.

As you are aware, most people can eat and drink most ingredients without experiencing many side effects. Some of our citizens, however, experience painful, debilitating side effects from one of two inflammatory bowel diseases: Crohn’s disease which affects the entire digestive system, or ulcerative colitis which affects locations of the inner bowel lining.

I raise awareness of Crohn’s and colitis, since younger people and citizens living in northern regions are often diagnosed with one of these bowel diseases. The further from the equator, the higher the incidence of these diseases is.

Canadians have more reasons to be concerned about Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis than anyone else in the world. One in every 150 Canadians is living with Crohn’s or colitis, at a rate that ranks the highest in the world. Furthermore, families new to Canada are developing Crohn’s and colitis for the first time, often within the first generation.

There are around 800 people living with these conditions in the territories and 250,000 across all of Canada. Alarming, the fastest growing age of incidence is 10 and

under. The number of new cases of Crohn’s disease in Canadian children has almost doubled since 1995.

The medical community does not know the cause of these chronic diseases, yet they primarily point to environmental factors and family history and they have no recognized cures. People with Crohn’s and colitis can only do their best to manage their disease through early detection, medication and managing associated risks, particularly since they also have an increased change of developing colorectal cancer.

The national organization, Crohn’s and Colitis Canada wants to reduce patient isolation. It also funds medical research across Canada and provides education, advocacy and patient services such as on-line support services. It will soon be launching a peer-to-peer mentoring program on-line and expanding its on-line services to help those in rural communities.

Recognizing Crohn’s and colitis in November will help Crohn’s and Colitis Canada to raise awareness about these misrepresented and underfunded diseases. As such, we were asked to let the public know these serious conditions are in need of more support. Let’s help improve the lives of those living with Crohn’s and colitis by being more informed, and donating to Crohn’s and Colitis Canada.

Speaker: Introduction of visitors.

Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I have for tabling the Yukon Arts Centre 2013/14 Annual Report and interestingly enough, there is an insert in the document, entitled “Jim Robb’s Yukon”.

I also have for tabling Yukon Geographical Place Names Board 2013-14 annual report.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Pursuant to the *Education Labour Relations Act*, I have for tabling the *Yukon Teachers Labour Relations Board Annual Report 2013-14*.

I also have, pursuant to the *Yukon Public Service Labour Relations Act*, the *Yukon Public Service Labour Relations Board Annual Report 2013-2014*.

As Minister of Environment, I have for tabling the *Yukon Environment Act* final audit report for the fiscal year 2012-13.

Ms. Hanson: I have for tabling today two documents related to the debate this afternoon: Designated Office Evaluation Process and Executive Committee Screening Process from YESAB.

Speaker: Petitions.

PETITIONS

Petition No. 18 — response

Hon. Mr. Kent: I rise today to respond to Petition No. 18, which was presented to this House on November 4, 2014.

Petition No. 18 asks the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Yukon to ban hydraulic fracturing in Yukon Territory.

I would certainly like to thank the citizens of Mayo for bringing their views to the Legislative Assembly in this manner. This government — and indeed this Legislative Assembly — has taken a clear, concerted approach to the subject of hydraulic fracturing with the establishment of an all-party Select Committee Regarding the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing in May 2013, which has a mandate to gain science-based understanding of the technical, environmental, economic and regulatory aspects of hydraulic fracturing.

The committee, which is comprised of three members of the opposition and three members from the government benches, is tasked with considering the potential risks and benefits of hydraulic fracturing if it were used in Yukon, as well as whether hydraulic fracturing can be done safely if properly regulated.

Following extensive public hearings as well as a number of site visits that I believe the committee undertook, they are currently preparing the final report with recommendations for the Legislative Assembly. It is due before the rising of this House in the current sitting.

It is important that we engage with several different information sources, groups and the Yukon public in developing legislation and regulations that are sound and relevant to the oil and gas industry. While the committee gathered information and is compiling the recommendations, no hydraulic fracturing has been permitted in the territory. In fact, Mr. Speaker, hydraulic fracturing has never been permitted in the Yukon.

I wish to assure all of those concerned that any final decision on the matter will have considered all of their perspectives.

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

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon government and the Town of Watson Lake to work together to upgrade Watson Lake's drinking water system, using the \$5 million that has been allocated for this project by the Yukon government.

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

THAT the Yukon Legislative Assembly, pursuant to subsection 7(1) of the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*, recommends that the Commissioner in Executive Council appoint Andrew Nieman as the acting Child and Youth Advocate, effective December 16, 2014.

Mr. Silver: I rise to give notice of the following motion:
THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to:
(1) stop blaming Dawson residents for their request to have a mechanical sewage system;

(2) admit the final decision to go with a mechanical system was made by the Yukon Party government of the day;

(3) admit the final decision on what type of mechanical system to use was made by the Yukon Party government of the day; and

(4) focus its energy on ensuring the \$25-million plant actually works properly.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to release estimates for the annual operation and maintenance costs of the Dawson City waste-water treatment facility.

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, the Premier has indicated that if there is a conflict between the changes to YESAA contained in Bill S-6 and the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, the UFA would supersede these changes.

Yukon First Nations have stated on numerous occasions that they believe many of the proposed amendments to YESAA contained in Bill S-6 will be inconsistent with the UFA. A simple question — and Yukoners deserve a clear answer: How does the Premier think Yukon First Nations can go about proving whether or not the changes to YESAA contained in Bill S-6 contradict the UFA?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: What we all see is really a developing trend and really, Yukoners have two choices: the Yukon Party or an NDP/Liberal coalition opposing development in the Yukon.

The NDP and the Liberals continue to claim that they support development and then oppose and obstruct any initiative that is taken to promote it here in Yukon. As a government that represents all Yukoners and are committed to a strong economy in Yukon, we see these amendments as a necessary step forward for the territory.

Yukon First Nations have an obligation to represent their members and their interests and we encourage them to continue to raise their concerns. This government will meet its obligations under the UFA and will work with Yukon First Nation governments in the interests of all Yukoners.

Ms. Hanson: Except for First Nation citizens apparently. You know the answer is a simple one — First Nations have no option but to challenge Bill S-6 in the courts. The fact is that this government's preferred way of interacting with Yukon First Nations is through the courts.

Earlier this year, the Premier said that courts create certainty. Lawsuits do not bring certainty to mining companies looking to raise capital; they bring risk — and capital is by nature risk-averse.

The reality is that Bill S-6 may not be challenged in the courts directly. Instead they will be challenged when a developer goes to assessment. So when the Premier is inviting outside companies to invest in Yukon, he is also inviting them

to be his guinea pigs to test flawed legislation. When will the Premier realize that providing a competitive business environment is not about gutting environmental assessments and alienating First Nations, but about creating partnership —

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

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: This Liberal-NDP coalition — or another way to maybe put it is the NDP-NDP light coalition — opposing development really should try to get their facts straight before they spend thousands of dollars to go to Ottawa. They don't understand the implications of these amendments and continue to be obstructionist when it comes to moving the economy forward here in the Yukon.

YESAA applies to every single project in this territory, whether it is resource extraction, whether it is building wind farms or whether it is clearing trees from your property. Any Yukoner wanting to work in this territory wants certainty and consistency in the assessment regime. The Yukon Party continues to be the only choice for Yukoners who want to see a strong economy and opportunities for Yukon families to prosper.

Ms. Hanson: Yukon citizens and Yukon First Nations deserve better than to be mocked. All that this government's blind devotion to the federal Conservatives will get them is more legal fees on the taxpayers' dime. With this government's blatant disregard for the UFA, lawsuits are inevitable. Lawsuits create uncertainty and no one, except the Premier, disputes this. Uncertainty impacts investment and hurts the economy. No one disputes that either. The Premier has repeatedly stated that he supports Bill S-6 because it benefits Yukon families, but lawsuits, uncertainty and less investment in Yukon will not benefit Yukon families.

When will the Premier recognize he simply got it wrong on the YESAA amendments and actually represent Yukon's interest in Ottawa rather than representing Ottawa in Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Again, I have to say to the members opposite that the process of coming out with these amendments occurred during almost seven years of consultation.

There were thousands of hours of consultation, both during the five-year review, and then the subsequent two years, where there was consultation that was consistent with Canada's action plan to improve northern regulatory regimes, and which also is supported in the northern strategy of the federal government. It's also supported by the northern vision that's put forward by the three territorial governments.

These amendments increase environmental protection and provide certainty and clarity for industry. What that does is create more opportunities for Yukon to be competitive, which creates jobs and prosperity for Yukoners.

Question re: Special needs education programming

Mr. Tredger: Parents are telling us that an increasing number of decisions about Yukon students with special education needs are being made at the Department of Education and not at the school administration level. The

Education Act is very clear on the matter of who has jurisdiction in this matter. It is the school administration — in consultation with professional staff and parents — that is responsible for determining which students have special needs.

Have there been changes to the *Education Act* that centralize the decision-making on which students qualify for special needs programming?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Of course we are very much committed to providing the necessary supports and programs in each of our classrooms to ensure that students thrive and succeed in our learning environments in all of our 28 schools in the Yukon.

As the member opposite should know full well, we confide with schools with respect to the allocation of educational assistants and paraprofessional supports in each of our classrooms, each and every year. We do that according to individual student needs and of course we provide that according to the allocations for the number of enrolled students, the achievements of the students in the school, the rural equity adjustments according to our formulas, and overall student learning profiles.

In fact, we do have a base allocation of staffing allotted for all schools each and every year and in fact that allocation has indeed risen substantially over the past decade.

Mr. Tredger: This digression from the *Education Act* isn't the only question parents have been raising. The act also says that students demonstrating special needs are issued an individualized education plan — an IEP — to help them grow and learn, but an increasing number of students are instead being given learning plans. These are not mentioned in the section of the *Education Act* pertaining to special education. Often, parents are not involved in developing learning plans.

Why are an increasing number of special needs students being given less-structured learning plans instead of individual education plans, as called for in the *Education Act*?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, what I can in fact say — again — with respect to this matter, is that we work with a whole host of various stakeholders, including our school councils and including our school administrations for each of our 28 schools. We work with the Yukon Teachers Association and of course we work within the department itself through Student Support Services in determining allocations of resources pertinent to individual student needs and based on each of our respective school-based allocations.

As I said, those resources have, in fact, risen over the past decade, and we have almost 187 positions, as I understand, for this particular school year. It is the same as it was last year but has risen substantially over the past decade. That does not include, of course, other available supports, including counsellors, classroom teachers, school administrators, our own specific consultants, our support workers and community education liaison consultants. Again, based on the specific needs, we are in fact working with individual students.

Mr. Tredger: Parents of a child requiring special education must be involved in the IEP planning process. No one knows the sometimes complex needs of the student better

than their parents. Many of these parents do not know that they have certain rights under the *Education Act* — like the right to appeal decisions to not implement an IEP or significant changes to the education, health or safety of their children, the right to participate in school-based teams, and the right to consultation in the development of specialized education programs prepared for their children.

Yukon parents are not given the information they need to be effective advocates for the needs of their children. What is being done to ensure that Yukon parents have the information they need and can engage in a meaningful way in decision-making processes, including their right to appeal?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: What this government will continue to do is provide the resources necessary to ensure that our students have a very successful and thriving environment to learn in and to very much rise up to the occasion, on par with the rest of the student population.

As I tried to articulate for the member opposite, we do provide resources from individual supports to more intensive supports to more generic supports in the classroom. We apply that with respect to individual paraprofessionals in the classrooms. This year alone, we have some 76 students who are supported with intensive paraprofessionals for student support. We provide some 16 students who share intensive supports with paraprofessionals. We have a number of students who are enrolled in shared-resource programs — and that is in addition to other resources that we provide in the classrooms as a whole, as well as school-based allocations.

Our government is very much committed to providing the necessary support. We are very proud of the level of support and we continue to work effectively with all stakeholders, including parents, school councils, administration and so forth.

Question re: Dawson City recreation centre

Mr. Silver: Mr. Speaker, before the sitting began, the Premier told Yukoners that the government had fulfilled many of its commitments during its last election. It certainly left the impression that the government thinks that its work is done and is trying to decide what it should do next. Well, here's a suggestion.

Before the 2011 election, the Yukon Party candidate in the Klondike held a sod-turning ceremony with the former Yukon Party Minister of Community Services to begin construction of a new recreation centre in Dawson. Three years into the government's mandate, the long-standing Yukon Party commitment to build that rec centre has fallen off the table.

This year's budget contains no funding, and nothing is mentioned in the long-term plan either. Has the government broken this promise to my community?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: It would take quite awhile, actually, to talk about the investments this government has made in the member opposite's riding, specifically within the City of Dawson City — just coming in, in terms of the investment that's being made at the airport. If we look at the brand-new hospital — which, for the record, we know the

Leader of the Liberal Party, the Member for Klondike, opposed that hospital. He also opposed the new McDonald Lodge nursing home that we're building — the waste treatment plant that we've invested in and are continuing to work with the city on — even providing special asphalt that came all the way from France. It was shipped here to be used on Front Street to minimize the impacts and ensure the integrity of the historical value of that community. We continue to invest significantly in that community.

I also want to note that there is ongoing financial support for the rec centre, and we continue to work with the mayor and council on their priorities for their community.

Mr. Silver: The Premier makes it sound like the communities need an allowance that's out of his own purse. This is taxpayers' money, Mr. Speaker. He can avoid the question if he wants, but one of the myths that this government tries to keep alive is that it's making promises and delivering on them. In the case of the new recreation centre, which he avoids answering, that promise has been broken.

The Yukon Party candidate for the Klondike, during the 2011 election campaign, told voters that a newly elected Yukon Party government would build a new rec centre. People expected the government to live up to that commitment, and they did not. Days after our House rose in the spring, Dawson City released a report on the condition of the existing rec centre.

That report recommended extensive repairs with a price tag of approximately \$12.5 million. The government's public response on this report has been silence.

Is the government going to pay for at least part of this upgrade or do we have to beg for that as well?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: What I would note to the member is that, in fact, we have money that has been identified and committed to Dawson for supporting upgrades to their existing recreational centre. That is based on the results of discussions by me and my predecessor as Minister of Community Services, as well as officials with the City of Dawson, and working with them to discuss options for going forward.

I would point out that what the member is referring to is a commitment made by a previous MLA of something he would work for, but it is also not something that is part of a platform commitment. For the member to suggest that we're not keeping our commitments, the member is absolutely wrong. What we are doing is continuing to work with the City of Dawson. Fortunately, we have a good relationship with the City of Dawson because what we hear from the Member for Klondike is not very useful or very productive.

Mr. Silver: What we saw in the newspaper was a sod-turning ceremony with the Minister of Community Services and also the candidate for Klondike. If that's not a campaign commitment, well I don't know what is.

Let's recap. The Yukon Party candidate in Dawson — he ran a platform on building a new recreation centre. He lost and the government now is refusing to honour that commitment. The government has a report that provided a permanent fix for the current facility, and has sat on it for close to a year

refusing to say whether or not it would fund the much-needed repairs.

The report recommends demolishing the current rink and replacing it. It recommends a new ice plant and several renovations to the ice rink. It recommends a new ice plant and several renovations to the ice rink. It also pegs the cost at about \$12.5 million. Is the government going to proceed with these renovations, or do residents of Dawson have to wait for the next government to get the job done?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: The first question that member opposite brought up was recognizing the work of the former MLA and that is exactly what I would like to do. I never in my response acknowledged the hard work of the Yukon Party former MLA for Klondike and the work that he did in delivering the hospital, in delivering the waste-water treatment plant, in delivering the special asphalt for Front Street, and such facilities as SOVA as well. I want to thank the former minister and MLA for Klondike for the hard work and what he delivered for his constituents during his representation of that riding.

Question re: Yukon nominee program

Ms. White: Two days ago it was announced that wages for Yukon nominee program employees in the food sector would be going up to \$15 an hour based the government calculation of the median wage in Yukon. Yesterday, the Minister of Education said that she would be travelling to Ottawa and would raise concerns about the wage hike for Yukon nominee program workers.

Will the minister be lobbying the federal government to decrease the wages of the Yukon nominee program employees in the food sector?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Actually, I will be travelling to Toronto tonight on the red-eye flight and I will be convening a meeting of all of my provincial/territorial counterparts on the labour market file. With respect to the Yukon nominee program, the median wage rate increase was brought to our attention by the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce, who had sought our assistance to help facilitate a meeting with the federal government, who is responsible for ensuring — and certainly setting — the overall prevailing wage rates when it comes to Yukon nominees.

We have, in fact, engaged with officials from ESDC, the Government of Canada. We are working with industry stakeholders to arrange that meeting and we are looking to have that at the end of November.

Ms. White: The Yukon Nominee program policy statement says that the wage must match the median wage set by the new wage structure established by Employment and Social Development Canada.

So, why would the minister think that this tool that has been successfully used for years would suddenly be off? Until recently, nominee program employees working full-time at the median Yukon wage would have to spend more than half of that income just to pay the \$900 Whitehorse median rent.

No one who works full-time should be living below the poverty line, so is it this minister's intention to try to argue

with the federal government to bring down the wages of some of the lowest-paid employees in Yukon?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: No, Mr. Speaker, this minister is actually listening to the Chamber of Commerce, who has asked for the Government of Yukon's assistance in helping facilitate a meeting of the federal government and the Yukon government to bring the Yukon Bureau of Statistics together with industry stakeholders. That would include the Federation of Labour. That would include the chamber and other industry stakeholders in a full and wholesome discussion on prevailing wage rates for nominees and other related issues.

What in fact has prevailed on the national stage over the last year, under my tenure — and certainly under the tenure of Minister Kenney and the federal government — is to ensure that we work more closely with provinces and territories, including NDP governments in the country, to ensure that the labour market information that we use accurately reflects local labour market information.

We have indeed agreed to facilitate a meeting. That in fact is taking place at the end of the month and in fact is a decision ultimately up to the federal government.

Question re: Youth issues

Ms. Stick: Raising healthy and happy children is the most effective and least expensive way to promote a healthy society, but the chief medical officer of Health Yukon says, "Not all Yukon children and youth are doing well". The 2013 Health and Social Services background paper, *Pathways to Wellness — Our Children and Families*, states: "More adolescents in Yukon smoke cigarettes, binge drink and use cannabis than in other parts of Canada." It also notes that our youth underestimate health risks of substance use compared with their Canadian peers.

In the *Yukon 2012 Health Status Report Focus on Children and Youth*, these alarming trends are even higher among rural students. How will the minister explain why the wellness gap between Yukon youth and their Canadian peers has not been closed with respect to alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and other substance use?

Hon. Mr. Graham: We're aware of the problem. This is why we commission reports. It's why we started the interdepartmental steering committee, which will guide the social inclusion assessment of people in the territory. It's why we believe in the healthy families approach to creating healthy families in the territory. We're attempting, through many of the things that we've done, things like supports for children suffering or youth suffering addictions problems in high schools.

We have ADS workers on call in all three high schools in the City of Whitehorse and available in very many communities in the territory. So we're working on the issues. We realize they're there; it's a long process — the same as many of these processes are — but we will continue working on them and we will continue attempting to channel all people, not only children and youth, but adults as well, into a healthy lifestyle here in the territory.

Ms. Stick: It's true — there are many reports. The department's 2012 *Kids Count — Measuring child and family wellness in Yukon: an indicator framework* states that, in order for people to be able to make healthy lifestyle choices, they must live in an environment that makes those choices easy. According to a 2013 department manual on supporting youth in our communities, youth workers and community members cite lack of access to harm reduction resources and lack of access to mental health facilities, services and diagnoses, as some of the biggest risk to youth growing up healthy in Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, our youth need early intervention support services that meet their needs and focus on equity and social inclusion. Will the minister commit to increasing mental health supports and harm reduction services to Yukon youth in both Whitehorse and the communities?

Hon. Mr. Graham: We've already made that commitment. In fact, we've already attempted to, in many cases, carry out that commitment throughout the territory. We will continue to develop more services in Yukon communities, because mental health is really a priority with this government.

I've stated in previous Question Periods that we will be coming out with a draft mental health strategy in the very near future for various delivery agents around the territory to take a look at it and work with us. We recently completed a needs assessment in Dawson City and Watson Lake for Health and Social Services, which identified the very important role that mental health workers play in the territory. We agree that it's a difficulty. We also are continuing to work on that, but simply throwing money at every problem — which seems to be the model that the NDP espouses — is not something that we totally agree with. We think we have to be more collaborative in our use of resources. We have to make better use of our resources, especially in the communities.

Ms. Stick: The Yukon's chief medical officer called the health situation of Yukon's children and youth as: "A portrait that at times is disturbing ..." It's time to paint a different future for our youth. The *Kids Count — Measuring child and family wellness in Yukon: an indicator framework* was a good first step, but we must develop a comprehensive public health plan as recommended by the Yukon's chief medical officer — a plan that would enable us to set goals and targets and track outcomes of the health and wellness of Yukon youth and children. The minister made a clear commitment to keep the wellness of children on the agenda. It's time to cash in on that commitment to Yukoners.

Will the minister act on the chief medical officer's recommendations and commit to developing a comprehensive public health plan that includes specific goals, targets and outcomes for the health and wellness of children and youth in the Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, we continue to work with all government departments to try to coordinate an approach to mental health as well as physical health here in the Yukon.

As I said, Alcohol and Drug Services provides youth counselling in three local high schools as well as the student residence. We have youth-specific clinical services through the youth and family services department for alcohol and drug health programs. We run community-based organizations in the communities such as Many Rivers. We have them here in Whitehorse through Skookum Jim Friendship Centre. Enhanced services to youth and families will be available here in the new Sarah Steele Building which is scheduled to be built next year. We are also providing counselling services through a number of psychologists and counsellors for people with mental health difficulties.

So we are progressing. We will continue to work with all departments — the Department of Education, the Department of Justice — in order to further facilitate this planning and coordination of services to youth and children throughout the territory.

Question re: Whitehorse Correctional Centre segregation cell

Ms. Moorcroft: Mr. Speaker, legal and health experts have been raising concerns about the negative impacts — mental and physical — to prisoners who are held in solitary confinement. An editorial published in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* highlighted these concerns, stating the profound lack of stimulation and social interaction that occurs in solitary confinement can have negative mental and physical health effects, noting that those in solitary confinement are at an increased risk of self-harm and suicide.

Solitary confinement has a negative impact on people held in corrections and that effect can be amplified for those with pre-existing mental health problems. Will the Minister of Justice commit to amending the *Corrections Act* to end the practice of using solitary confinement for prisoners who suffer from mental illness at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I thank the member opposite for her question. There are a number of things that we are doing at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre to address this very issue, but we have to keep in mind that there are reasons for separate confinement within a correctional facility.

Before I go into those, I have to thank all the staff and the management of the correctional facility. It's not an easy job they have to do on a daily basis — 24/7 operation. I commend them for the work that they do within our community.

When the staff and management have to make that tough decision — and they don't take it lightly — to put an individual into separate confinement, they need to look at a number of things, like protecting staff and other inmates from situation or chronic violence; they need to protect the inmate from, perhaps, other individuals in the correctional facility; they need to isolate inmates with significant physical or mental health problems that cannot be accommodated in other areas; they need to protect the inmate from self-harm; they need to isolate an inmate who is believed to be concealing drugs or other dangerous contraband; they need to isolate an inmate for the purpose of having his or her mental health condition assessed under the terms of the *Mental Health Act*;

and they need to take into consideration inmates who may be segregated pending the disposition of a disciplinary hearing. So we don't take this lightly.

Ms. Moorcroft: Putting inmates with mental health issues in solitary confinement will only make matters worse. It does not improve the safety of corrections staff or the public when inmates develop further mental health problems.

The minister provided this House with data regarding the use of solitary confinement last sitting. However, when a University of Manitoba law professor doing research on the use of solitary confinement in Canada asked Yukon government for those numbers, she was denied.

Will the minister be publicly accountable for the use of solitary confinement in Yukon's correctional system and provide those statistics to academics conducting research on this important matter?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Also, when the team takes into consideration placing an inmate in separate confinement, they need to look at inmates placed in segregation for disciplinary purposes that are heard before independent adjudicators, as per section 26(1) of the *Corrections Act*.

The vast majority of inmates have never been separately confined for any reason. There were 887 admissions into the Whitehorse Correctional Centre during 2013; 59 of those individuals were separately confined at Whitehorse Correctional Centre during the 2013 calendar year. This equates to just under seven percent of the inmates.

I have read off the list of what the team takes into consideration when they believe somebody may need to be separately confined. I have to take my hat off to the team at the Correctional Centre for taking all of those things into consideration, for not taking separate confinement lightly and using it as it is as last resort.

Ms. Moorcroft: There's a growing recognition in Canada that solitary confinement has a negative effect on prisoners' physical and mental health and, by extension, on the safety of correctional officers.

The correctional investigator appointed as an ombudsman for federal offenders has called for a prohibition on the long-term segregation of mentally ill, self-harming or suicidal inmates. The UN rapporteur of the Human Rights Council has said that solitary confinement for longer than 15 consecutive days is a form of torture and should be banned. We know for a fact that inmates have been held in solitary confinement at Whitehorse Correctional Centre for more than 15 days.

Is the Minister of Justice willing to invite the correctional investigator to conduct an audit on the use of solitary confinement at Whitehorse Correctional Centre?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I believe that I've answered the questions for the member opposite already. The staff and the management take into full consideration a number of separate criteria when they are placing an individual into separate confinement. As I've said in this House before, we are a government that believes in holding offenders accountable, and we're proud of that. We're also a government that feels very strongly about providing services to victims of crime, and we will continue on that path.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

OPPOSITION PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Clerk: Motion No. 774, standing in the name of Ms. Hanson.

Speaker: It is moved by the Leader of the Official Opposition:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to:

(1) acknowledge the opposition of Yukon First Nation governments and Yukon citizens to changes to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* contained in Bill S-6, *Yukon and Nunavut Regulatory Improvement Act*, that undermine the spirit and intent of Yukon Final Agreements; and

(2) recognize that in a challenging market environment, it is critical to create certainty by preserving Yukon's reputation as a stable jurisdiction that has a well-respected environmental assessment and regulatory regime.

Ms. Hanson: I am pleased to speak this afternoon to this motion. I have a certain sense of déjà vu. I think it would be useful to recap how we got here. I remind members that on November 12, 2014, the Yukon NDP spoke to a motion from the Member for Watson Lake that spoke in general terms to the environmental and regulatory regimes in Yukon without referencing the key piece of legislation undermining Yukon's unique circumstances arising out of the mutually binding *Umbrella Final Agreement* and through it, First Nation final agreements, that commit the Yukon government, Yukon First Nations and Canada. I'm referring, of course, to YESAA, the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*, which is, as Senator Dan Lang said at this past weekend's mining investment forum when referring to YESAA — he said — and I quote: "It is basically the foundation of our economy."

It was with that intent that the NDP Official Opposition moved to amend the motion put forward by the MLA for Watson Lake — to have it read:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to ensure that Yukon's regulatory regimes are consistent with the spirit and intent of Yukon land claims agreements and competitive with other jurisdictions, while also providing for sustainable and environmentally responsible development of Yukon's resources by urging the federal government to:

(1) reject the unilateral changes to YESAA contained in Bill S-6; and

(2) direct the federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to collaborate with Yukon First Nations and Yukon government to revise YESAA in accordance with the mutually agreed upon provisions in the five-year review.

Mr. Speaker, in the debate that ensued, the facts tabled did nothing to deter the Yukon Party government members from veering from their pre-packaged speaking points, many of them directly from the federal government's website and so the amended motion was defeated.

There's an old saying — and I actually thought it was a proverb because it's one of those ones that has been in the back of my head for so many years, but it's actually from former U.S. President James Garfield. It has guided me for years. It goes: "The truth will set you free, but first it will make you miserable".

Here we are today, speaking truth to power and hoping that in doing so, we can achieve agreement on the motion before us today that is put before this House with a sense of hope and optimism that as legislators, we can rise above partisan differences and act out of our responsibility to Yukon citizens.

My motion says that we're urging the Yukon government to acknowledge the opposition of Yukon First Nation governments and Yukon citizens to changes to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*, contained in Bill S-6, entitled *Yukon and Nunavut Regulatory Improvement Act*, that undermine the spirit and intent of Yukon final agreements and, secondly, to recognize that, in a challenging market environment, it is critical to create certainty by preserving Yukon's reputation as a stable jurisdiction that has a well-respected environmental assessment and regulatory regime.

Members may note that the motion I originally tabled with respect to this matter also included the following — a third clause — that urged the federal government to withdraw Bill S-6 until the conclusion of a comprehensive consultation with Yukon First Nations and the Yukon public on the amendments to YESAA introduced after the completion of the five-year review process. However, after the bill was tabled, I was informed that this part was procedurally incorrect, but I am confident that all members present will join me in agreeing that the only way to achieve the objectives of the first two parts of this motion is to effectively and collectively demonstrate to the federal government that the late-in-the-game unilaterally imposed changes to YESAA that are reflected in Bill S-6 are not acceptable and have the potential to do real and lasting damage to Yukon, to our intergovernmental relationships and to our economy.

In the days following our November 12 debate, there have been a number of events that focused attention on the importance of maintaining the integrity of our made-in-Yukon YESAA — our own environmental and socio-economic assessment process.

On November 13, an overflowing crowd of Yukoners, First Nation and non-First Nation, crowded into the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre to hear first-hand from the Council of Yukon First Nations and First Nation leaders, have them outline for them their concerns with the approach taken by the federal and Yukon governments in their efforts to push through Bill S-6. What was truly inspiring was the number of non-First Nation Yukon citizens who rose to talk about the

importance of Yukon land claims agreements as "our agreements". They get that these agreements are between us all. They are not First Nation agreements alone. They are not First Nation agreements with First Nations, but they are solemn undertakings by our respective governments that set out the basis for a new relationship that is not rooted in the past, but premised on the promise of the future.

Yukon citizens see the actions by the federal and Yukon government on Bill S-6 as not just a threat to Yukon First Nations, but to all Yukon citizens. Yukon citizens have increasingly realized that they do have a voice and that democracy is not just about the ballot box; it is about trust and respect. When citizens feel their government no longer respects them or the institutions like YESAA that protect their interests, then trust in government is eroded.

It is an old but true saying that trust must be earned; it cannot be assumed. When, in this past weekend, I had an opportunity, along with my colleague, the Member for Mayo-Tatchun, to attend the 2014 Yukon Geoscience Forum, it was a fascinating weekend.

On Saturday, the focus was on investment. On Sunday, the theme was seeking certainty through progressive partnerships. I give credit to the Yukon Chamber of Mines for hosting this and for inviting a very diverse array of speakers who challenged those present to think through the consequences of decisions taken in the short term. My colleague, the MLA for Mayo-Tatchun, and I were there for the entire two days and, as I said, there were some very interesting and thought-provoking presentations. I could not help but think that if only the Premier or the Minister of Economic Development or the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources had stuck it out and been present throughout the two days, they might not take so cavalier an approach to their expressed support for Bill S-6.

Mr. Speaker, that forum on Saturday on investment started with a speech by Senator Dan Lang, who kicked it off with his emphatic endorsement of Bill S-6 and quoted the Premier's unequivocal support for Bill S-6. The senator was very clear and stressed that he wants to see this bill passed quickly. I don't know how many times he said that. Not surprisingly, Senator Lang's speaking notes and those we have heard and will hear today, no doubt, mirror those used by the Yukon Party.

What struck me was this statement by the Yukon senator: "It is important for the federal government to take responsibility in this area," he said, "because they do own the resources." That may be technically true. It is the second time I have heard the senator say this. He said it in front of the Arctic Council in September. It is true that, with the exception of the 16,000 square miles owned by Yukon First Nations retaining aboriginal title to that 16,000 square miles, the underlying title to Yukon, since we are not a province, does rest with Canada. Seriously, Mr. Speaker? It does beg the question: What does devolution mean? Are we simply the caretakers for the federal government? We have now the responsibility for management of lands and resources, but we will just follow whatever the direction they want to give us?

That is certainly not how the Yukon Party has billed devolution to Yukon citizens. It is a pretty sad day when we are prepared to have a federal senator stand in a public forum and basically undermine the devolution transfer agreement.

Here we have, and have had over the last month or so, a Yukon Party Premier endorsing an unelected senator who has convinced a committee of unelected Conservative and Liberal senators to support a bill that reverses Yukon autonomy achieved through devolution in our rush to accede to the federal Conservative government's vision on northern resource extraction.

Yukon may find that, in the rush to be competitive, the nightmare that is Faro will be ours — all ours — just with a different name.

Senator Lang, just as the Premier has demonstrated, did not like to be questioned about Bill S-6. Nor did he appreciate the reiteration by Teslin Tlingit Council Chief Sidney that passage of Bill S-6 will bring, in quotes, “investor uncertainty”. But the speaker immediately after Senator Lang was Randal van Eijnsbergen — and I will spell it, Mr. Speaker, because if I try to pronounce it, the folks in Hansard may find it difficult — E-I-J-N-S-B-E-R-G-E-N — who spoke about the world commodity situation from a focus of wealth investment. His remarks, before he got into his presentation, were that the debate, the questions that had ensued pursuant to Senator Lang's speech — he said, from his perspective, that is what investors look at. He said, around the world, cooperation is what is necessary. Cooperation is what is sought, and he said it's important that you cross that bridge, because it makes it more attractive from an investment point of view.

It was Mr. van Eijnsbergen who had used the phrase to describe what Yukon — those people who are interested and involved in the mineral extraction industry, what they're facing, he said — and I quote: “a challenging market environment.” He went on to say in simple plain words, it's not pretty. He pointed out that the junior miners index is down 84 percent since 2011, the TSX venture index down 69 percent since 2011, and he said, if you could extract just mining, it would be down even more. He described the cycle of marketing emotion — and I'm sure many others in this room have seen this depiction before, but it very aptly captures the sentiment of the markets right now — and it's described as the vomiting camel. He said — and it was pretty straightforward — it's a pretty despondent picture.

So you would think, when we're dealing with challenging world economies that have direct implications for the Yukon — and you would think that, as a government, we would be trying to find ways to ensure that we do not destabilize a stable environmental and regulatory regime that we have touted — that I have heard members opposite tout, that I have heard industry leaders tout — in terms of their support for YESAA.

It strikes me that, in a current economic situation, the Yukon should be celebrating the diverse elements of our economy and bolstering the emerging economic engines that

are really epitomized by First Nation development corporations.

In the debate on November 12, I spoke to the testimony at the Senate committee of the chair of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Dakwakada Development Corporation. I just wanted to reiterate that what that chair had said was that, he said — and I quote: “I believe that the YESAA process is very much an economic engine for the Yukon. It's functioning effectively and ensuring that the relationship between First Nations and various other governments are working effectively, and that is critical, in our view as a company, to the success of Yukon's economy.”

The Dakwakada Development Corporation is just one example of a number of development corporations. I could use it as a classic example of the opportunities that are going to be squelched by this government's determination to turn its back on — not just to turn its back on, but to provoke First Nation governments, through its pursuit of Bill S-6.

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: Government House Leader on a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, the latest remarks from the Leader of the Official Opposition would appear to me to be in contravention of Standing Order 19(g), imputing false or unavowed motives to another member. She is, in my opinion, clearly imputing motive to the government that is not only incorrect, but is contrary to what we have publicly stated and what we are doing.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: There is no point of order. It is a dispute between members.

Leader of the Official Opposition.

Ms. Hanson: As I was saying, the Dakwakada Development Corporation is one of a number of development corporations established by self-governing First Nations that have, in fact, over the last number of years, become incredibly important drivers in Yukon's economy.

I just wanted to highlight some of the contributions that the Dakwakada Development Corporation has — the economic impact of this organization. They have a combined staff of 194. These are private sector jobs created by a First Nation development corporation. Multiply this by 11, Mr. Speaker — this is pretty significant. They have combined salaries and benefits of \$14,073,000; combined revenue — this is one development corporation — \$56,316,000. Their contributions to the economy are also bolstered by their contributions to the local economy where they support — wherever they can — buying from local companies and supporting local businesses. Their sponsorships include everything from — the Dakwakada Development Corporation — everything from the Geoscience Forum, the Klwane Chilkat bike relay, just about every single minor hockey association, swim team, dustball, broomball, Sourdough Rendezvous.

These are responsible businesses that have a significant contribution and they do play it and take it seriously. We should not underestimate the power of Yukon First Nation businesses and governments in this territory, and it is why I cannot understand why this government chooses to turn its back on our real partners, which are our fellow Yukon citizens, through the Yukon First Nation development corporations and First Nations.

At the conference on the Sunday morning, after the Premier left, when the Grand Chief spoke to the delegates, she said that First Nations do focus on economic development and resource development.

We have, she said, good working relationships with the resource development sector, and that was repeated several times during the day. We spoke about seeking certainty through progressive partnerships. She did say, “However, Yukon First Nations face another challenge, Bill S-6.” She said — and I quote: “Proposed amendments will affect everyone, including your industry.” The Grand Chief went on to say — and I quote: “We will seek your support, industry, to correct the dilemma.”

Mr. Speaker, this is not simply a situation where we should be seeing the territorial government echoing what the federal government, or certain elements of the federal government, intend to do in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. This is a situation where we should be seeing a territorial premier who understands his unique role and his unique responsibilities in working with and honouring the commitments that Yukon government has made in terms of working with Yukon First Nations.

I’ve heard repeatedly that these are necessary because the mining sector thinks that this is really important. I remind you, Mr. Speaker, that YESAA, as it was developed over the years, was developed in collaboration, in a collegial manner, involving everybody, including the resource sector. I’ve spoken with, over the course of this weekend, many people who were involved and who said to me that YESAA is fundamentally good. My question to them is, so why take a sledgehammer to something that is fundamentally good, when perhaps a scalpel was more appropriate?

As we consider — that’s really important, I think. There was a process to talk about what changes after a period of time of working through what YESAA means on the ground — there was a process. We’ll come to where that process was betrayed.

In defending Bill S-6, the Premier and government ministers have been quick to use or tweet a few tired lines, but I have for tabling a simple and straightforward information sheet, entitled *Changes to YESAA Threaten Our Environment, Our Economy, Our Yukon*. This information was produced by the Council of Yukon First Nations, and it sets out in clear, plain language, the myths and the realities surrounding the proposed amendments. You will no doubt recognize, as I go through this document, the myths spun by both the federal and Yukon Party governments. I hope by careful consideration of the counters to those myths that we can, as a united body, come to a realization that, in its present form, Bill S-6 does

not assist Yukon in preserving our reputation as a stable jurisdiction that has a well-respected environmental assessment and regulatory regime.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Yukon First Nations thought — I really do think that they thought that there would be an opportunity to find common ground with the federal government and the territorial government, because that is how we have done it in the past. We have sat down and we have worked it out but, when push comes to shove, sometimes you just have to say that these are the facts. Let’s go through them, Mr. Speaker.

Myths and realities — and I am quoting from the document that I have just circulated: “There are a lot of misunderstandings and incorrect statements being made about the proposed amendments to YESAA, and Yukon First Nations issues with these amendments. This “*Myths and Realities*” document is aimed at correcting some of the more common myths and twisting of the facts and issues.”

“Myth: There have been thousands of hours of consultation with First Nations on changes to YESAA over the past 7 years.

“Reality: The Parties discussed the YESAA process for many hours between 2008 and 2011, as part of the YESAA five-year review. It was a review required under the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA). The Parties to the UFA, the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN), Canada and Yukon agreed to work together to improve the YESAA process through shared decision-making and by consensus, when possible.”

“The amendments to YESAA under Bill S-6 that are of concern were never discussed and were never raised by Canada during the five-year review. The amendments of concern include: giving binding policy direction to the Board; handing over powers to Yukon; imposing maximum timelines for assessments; and not requiring assessments when a project is renewing or being amended. These new amendments were introduced with little opportunity to ensure adequate consultation and accommodation.”

“On February 26, 2014, Canada arrived at a meeting and provided paper copies of these amendments and refused to provide electronic versions to the First Nations that were on the phone for the meeting. This stopped them from being able to participate in a meaningful way.”

“Yukon First Nations had less than two months to review and respond to the changes proposed by Canada. That is not enough time to review important changes to the YESAA law. Consultation means providing the necessary information to the parties. Canada didn’t do that step. Canada failed to meet the test of its treaty and common law duty to consult and accommodate.”

“Myth: The amendments in Bill S-6 come from the YESAA Five-Year Review.

“Reality: Bill S-6 has 40 clauses for amending the YESAA. Over 75 percent of these proposed amendments have nothing to do with the YESAA five-year review. All of the amendments that are of concern were not part of the five-year review.”

“Myth: The Parties agreed on 73 of the 76 recommendations from the Five-Year Review.

“Reality: This statement has been used to suggest that the changes under Bill S-6 are reasonable and speak to the majority of First Nations’ concerns. It is wrong to view the level of agreement from the Five-Year Review like a score sheet for consultation and accommodation of First Nations concerns over the proposed amendments in Bill S-6.

“The majority of the recommendations in the Five-Year Review had to do with changing policies and procedures, or starting new work to support the YESAA process and nothing to do with changes to the law.

“Myth: ‘Beginning-to-End’ time limits for assessments will provide predictability for proponents, and, in turn, promote economic certainty and investor confidence.

“Reality: The YESAA process already includes time lines for each specific step in the process. The YESA Board and Designated Offices have mostly met these timelines.

“Often, the delays in assessments are associated with the time required for proponents to prepare responses to information requests. Projects that have taken the longest in assessment processes are those that didn’t have enough information. Establishing ‘beginning-to-end’ time lines may speed these projects through the assessment process, but this will result in rushed assessments that will not fully address potential environmental or socio-economic impacts. It may also result in a greater number of rejections of project proposals or referral to a Panel of the Board if assessors cannot determine the significance of possible impacts. This will not promote economic certainty and investor confidence.

“Approval of large projects often requires a water license. The Water Board process and other regulatory review and approvals occur after the YESAA review has been done and adds to the total time of assessments. The amendments Canada proposes will not change this added time and will not address the bigger issue of coordination between YESAA process and water licensing.

“Myth: The handing over of power under Bill S-6 should not be a problem since Yukon First Nations have already agreed to Devolution, and Canada has no immediate plans to hand over powers.

“Reality: The Yukon Devolution Transfer Agreement (YDTA) was carefully negotiated and crafted to deal with specific matters and does not address environmental review matters and does not deal with the operation of the YESAA.

“To be consistent with the treaties and devolution arrangements, Yukon First Nations must be equal partners with Canada and Yukon in decisions concerning delegation of authority. Having no plans to delegate is little comfort.

“Myth: First Nations should not worry about these changes as a violation of the Treaties, since the YESA Act already has a clause stating: ‘In any event of an inconsistency or conflict between a final agreement and this Act, the agreement prevails to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict (section 4, YESAA).’

“Although the reference to the clause is accurate, and the Final Agreement shall prevail in any inconsistency or conflict,

the only way to resolve this when it arises would be to take the matter to the courts. If proposed amendments have been clearly identified as being inconsistent with the Treaty, Canada should be taking the utmost caution in pursuing these sorts of amendments to their conclusion.”

It’s pretty serious stuff, and it’s not just Yukon First Nations who warn of the negative implications of forcing First Nations to go to court to defend their, or our, rights. As I mentioned, the investment forum this past weekend underscored the importance of certainty. On Sunday, November 16, I mentioned that the Chamber of Mines sponsored a session entitled “Seeking Certainty Through Progressive Partnerships”. In addition to having speakers from the Ta’an Kwäch’an Council and the Council of Yukon First Nations, and briefly the Premier of Yukon, there were presentations from Rodney Thomas, who is president of the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada. There was a presentation on finding support from aboriginal Canadians. There was also a presentation on exploration mining and aboriginal peoples and lessons learned.

One of the more provocative speakers of the weekend was a lawyer, author, negotiator who has been involved in major resource developments across this country, including Voisey’s Bay. He was invited by the Chamber of Mines to speak to this conference. He’s an author of the book called *Resource Rulers*. He took the audience on what he called a “tour down Evidence Road”. He clearly outlined how, over the past very few years, First Nations have rejected the status quo. They are not prepared to have governments say, “Don’t worry. Be happy.” They are actually believing that they have a right to exercise their rights. He said — and I quote: “Unsurprisingly, their legal winning streak coincides with the long list of lost resource project opportunities, and the toll on Canada’s economy has been enormous.”

I think Mr. Gallagher compellingly showed that legal precedents are causing considerable uncertainty in the business community. He places a high level of risk for the whole resource extraction industry in this country.

First Nations have been forced to turn to courts because they have had their constitutionally protected rights — and we should never, ever underestimate the fact that First Nation final agreements are constitutionally protected. It became very clear that, to First Nations — it didn’t take long for them to realize that taking their chances in court was preferable to lobbying governments for incremental, often piecemeal, changes that seemingly led nowhere. So we are facing a situation here where First Nations have demonstrated, time and time and time again, their absolute willingness — not just by words, Mr. Speaker, but by action — to work with the development companies, with resource extraction companies throughout this territory, historically and in the current times.

Despite that — and despite what I’ve talked about and what they’ve demonstrated through their investments in this territory through their development corporations — we have a Yukon Party government that is prepared to say, “Too bad. It’s much more important for us to align with the federal

government because they are our masters.” That’s a sad, sad commentary.

Mr. Gallagher described the First Nations’ legal wins across the country —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: Government House Leader, on a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: That would appear to me to be a contravention of Standing Order 19(g), and I believe there have also been previous rulings by Speakers that it’s out of order to make such accusations to other members. The member — I think that she should be — I would encourage you to ask her to retract that and apologize for that, her last statement.

Speaker: What was it in her last statement that you found offensive, sir?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: The accusation that government is taking direction from Ottawa, and referring to the federal government as the masters of the Yukon government is highly offensive and, I believe, in contravention of the Standing Orders.

Speaker: Opposition House Leader, on the point of order.

Ms. Stick: I heard my colleague state an opinion of what she believes to be true, and I believe this would be actually a conflict between members.

Speaker’s statement

Speaker: If memory serves, the statement that the opposition leader made has been used several times in the past here in this House and was not deemed at that time to be offensive, but now it seems to be. I’m going to have a look at the Blues and take a careful review of it and, if needed, I will give a ruling at that time.

Leader of the Official Opposition, please.

Ms. Hanson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, the track record of court cases wherein First Nations across this country have won, the achievements are, at the last count — there are 196 legal wins that have radically transformed the corporate government First Nation relationships across this country.

One should be mindful that these are not just court challenges against provincial and territorial governments — and this territorial government is all too familiar with the track record there — but as well against the federal government. There were, I think, 12 cases in British Columbia alone last year of which First Nations won 10.

The score is not that good for governments challenging aboriginal rights. Why would we? Why would we challenge something that we committed to when we entered into these agreements with First Nation governments?

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Gallagher, during this talk on the weekend, described the legal wins for First Nations being like a popcorn popper reaching full tilt. It’s coming faster and

faster. The Yukon — the Yukon economy, Yukon citizens, and the relationship with Yukon First Nations — does not need to be thrown into that popper. We have a tried and true process in this territory. We talk with each other. That’s how YESAA has evolved over the years. Taking a sledgehammer to a process that has served us so well, even at the height of all the economic exploration and activity over the last couple of years, is so counterintuitive.

I am looking forward to hearing the Premier explain how those four amendments that were never discussed with Yukon First Nations — were never part of the five-year review — will contribute to the economic certainty of this territory, because I would like him to lay it out in this people’s Chamber for the elected members of this territory to hear before he sends the lawyers to court to make this argument. As the elected members of all Yukon people, including Yukon First Nation citizens, we have an obligation to ensure that we uphold the commitments we made as the Government of Yukon to work with Yukon First Nations and to ensure that the institutions like YESAA, which we committed to establish and to make whole and to make effective, are not undermined by some vague notion, absolutely evidence-less — no evidence proven for it, absolutely no evidence. That’s the irony of it. This is ideologically driven, and this is a sad, sad commentary.

Today it’s our opportunity to demonstrate our support for the relationship and the ever-expanding opportunities associated with giving life to and respect for our Yukon agreements. Yukon citizens expect us to act, as you said again in our daily prayer, with dignity and honour. I urge my colleagues in this Assembly to support the motion as tabled this afternoon.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I rise today in debate of motion day today of Motion No. 774. I would like to begin by again reiterating the Yukon government’s support for the comprehensive and objective assessment processes established in the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* — or YESAA — and the opportunities that it provides for First Nation and public participation.

The Yukon government is pleased that Canada is amending YESAA and we support the amendments, as proposed in Bill S-6, which has now passed the Senate unanimously, including all those Liberal senators, and is now, I believe, in second reading in the House of Commons.

We believe that the proposed act changes align with Yukon’s focus on cost-effectiveness, value and timeliness of processes and ensuring the Yukon assessment regime is competitive and responsive. The Yukon government also supports the upcoming regulatory review that is being proposed by Canada. We believe that having an assessment process that is consistent with other jurisdictions, including the territorial neighbours to our east — Northwest Territories and Nunavut — can ensure that we remain competitive and provides certainty — certainty for local businesses, certainty for exploration companies that are looking to come to Yukon to do work, certainty for miners as well, and certainty for

people who are willing to invest. Right now, I am talking about mining, but of course I will also spend some time to also ensure that people understand that YESAA is not just about resource extraction. YESAA is, in fact, about all development projects that exist here in Yukon.

Most of the amendments that exist in Bill S-6 are really administrative. Most of the amendments, in fact, came through a process that was the five-year review that began in 2008 and continued through until October 2012, when Yukon First Nations, CYFN, and Yukon government received notification from the Government of Canada that the five-year review was ending and that there were 76 recommendations as a result of that review. Seventy-three of those recommendations received unanimous support of all parties, which is outstanding. There was nothing stipulated within YESAA or the final agreements that stipulated that there had to be unanimous support on all recommendations; however, 73 out of 76 was quite outstanding.

What the federal government also stated at that time was that they wanted to continue to proceed with consultation with Yukon First Nations, CYFN, and with Yukon government on Canada's action plan to improve the northern regulatory regimes, and that it was also consistent with the Government of Canada's northern strategy. As I have also mentioned earlier, these amendments really are supported by the pan-territorial governments and northern vision document that was just, in fact, updated this fall.

When it comes to the actual amendments, there were, as I mentioned, mostly administrative amendments, but there some key proposed act amendments and I would like to spend a few minutes talking about those. One of them was the policy direction — the ability for the federal minister to issue direction to YESAB. This policy direction really ensures common understanding between government and the board to help reduce uncertainty and delays. Any policy direction must be consistent with the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*; it must be consistent with the *Umbrella Final Agreement*; it must be consistent with individual land claims; and it must be consistent with other Yukon legislation. Policy direction is common in other jurisdictions across this country and, in fact, the Yukon government has the ability to provide policy direction to the Water Board through the *Yukon Waters Act*. Policy direction must pertain to the exercise or performance of board powers, duties and/or functions. Policy direction cannot change the assessment process itself. Policy direction cannot expand or restrict powers of the board. Policy direction cannot interfere with active or completed reviews.

I look to our neighbours to the east — I believe policy direction has been applied but only three times since 2003 — where this power, as I have said, already exists.

I believe what we are hearing from, really, the NDP-Liberal coalition are statements that are not reflective of what is actually being presented by the Government of Canada in its proposed amendments through Bill S-6. The NDP-Liberal coalition — or I think my other description was NDP and NDP light.

The next key proposed act amendment would be on delegation. This is the ability for the federal minister to delegate authorities under YESAA to the territorial minister. This is really a permissive amendment, and I would like to again say that the federal minister and I have both stated numerous times that no delegation is contemplated at this time. Delegation allows for administrative efficiencies and those authorities are quite limited. For example, the regulations cannot be delegated, and that is essentially the largest piece. For example, there are things such as activity thresholds that exist within the regulations. The federal government cannot delegate the regulations.

YESAA will remain a co-managed process and First Nation participation continues to be guaranteed. There are seven members to the YESAA board — three members are on the executive committee, one nominated by Yukon First Nations, one nominated by Government of Canada, one nominated by Yukon government. There are four other board members. Two of them are nominated by Council of Yukon First Nations, one by Yukon government and one by Canada. Adding that up, that means that Yukon First Nations have three out of seven board members guaranteed participation within the YESAA process.

It is also interesting to listen to the opposition on this topic, because they are opposed to direction or leadership from the federal government through policy direction, but they're also opposed to delegation of authority. So they're opposed no matter which way you look at it, and I think that's a great example of exactly what we hear from the Liberals and the NDP.

We believe that, while there is no contemplation of delegation, delegation has been a pretty good thing for Yukon since the devolution of the responsibility for the management of the land, water and resources. I think the performance history — that the numbers show that, since Yukon Party government has come into power, and along with self-government agreements that have been reached with 11 of the 14 First Nations, and devolution, there has been a tremendous growth in this territory — over a 20-percent increase in population — consistent growth in an economy that has outpaced the rest of the country. I look back at 2009, when the whole world's economy contracted. Everybody in Canada had contraction in their economy, except for PEI, which was flat at zero. I believe in 2009, Yukon's economy that year — GDP — increased by 7.7 percent.

We believe that delegation and the assumption of powers closer to the people allows better decisions to be made and is very positive, but we do have the opposition, who are opposed to seeing clarity to the board to ensure consistency between the board and the government. They're opposed to that, but they are also opposed to seeing more powers devolved to the territorial government.

Again I will just mention that, really, devolution, if it was to be enacted, would certainly be restricted to mostly administrative roles, that the regulations could never be devolved. I know that if, in fact, this was to occur in the future, before such a delegation would ever occur, that there

would be engagement with the Yukon First Nations before such a thing would happen. I'm sure the government of the day would be very willing and responsive and note that as being something that should be necessary as well.

The next proposed act amendment is around the renewals or the amendment clause, clarification that an amendment or a renewal to an authorization does not in itself require an assessment. This act amendment clarifies that a decision body determines if a project requires a new assessment, after having considered whether there is significant change to the project and whether that change triggers an assessment under YESAA. This is a clarification clause. This clarifies that any time there is an amendment or renewal, that in itself isn't going to trigger a YESAA assessment. There are many projects that continue on, come to the end of their renewal and haven't changed anything, yet they have to go through this process again — a process that, depending on the size of the project, can have a substantial financial implication. It takes up a lot of time and money of the proponent, as well as the assets of YESAB, where they could be working on other projects. It, quite honestly, makes no sense, if there is no change or changes that are not significant, that they should have to go through another assessment simply because they need a renewal or an amendment.

Such things also create a lot of uncertainty, not only for the proponent, but for all those people who work at that project, and also all the suppliers as well. There is very strong agreement, I believe, by whomever you talk to, to say that it doesn't make sense to have to trigger another assessment just simply because you need a renewal or an amendment to the licence. As I said, there are a lot of projects that need to be looked at and, if we are spending our time doing that, it doesn't really make any sense at all.

This also stipulates who decides this — if it isn't automatically triggered by a renewal or amendment, that it's the decision body. So on settlement land means it's the First Nation that would decide whether or not that project needs to have another assessment. If it's on Crown land, it would be the Yukon government that would decide whether or not. It really clarifies that and it's really interesting because the Leader of the NDP stood up here and was wondering how could we ever not accept all the recommendations that come out of a YESA board project analysis? We do find that very interesting because we're pretty sure that if we asked the First Nations, they'll be adamant that it's they as the landowner on settlement land who have the ability to accept, modify or reject the recommendations of a board of unelected, accountable-to-nobody board. It is the elected officials who have the weight of that responsibility, not the YESA board.

We know — she was quite clear in her assertions. We know that the First Nations will be interested to hear what the position of the NDP is on that.

Ensuring that we don't have to put projects unnecessarily through another assessment process does create that certainty for families, employees, project suppliers and indirect businesses who support those projects and, as well, the international investment community — looking at where is the

best place to put their money. Significant time and cost goes into doing those reassessments and we believe that the decision body should decide whether or not it needs to happen and it shouldn't be an automatic trigger.

On timelines — another key proposed act amendment — so legislative timeline limits that include the adequacy stage for designated office evaluations — nine months. Executive committee screenings — 16 months and panel views — three months to develop terms of reference plus 15 months. There is no change in those timelines. These timelines were in the board rules. They are now put into the legislation. What that does is create certainty by having them be part of the legislation. Certainty is something that we know — and I talk about industry; I talk about businesses — but I also know that First Nations want certainty as well.

These timelines, of course, do not include the time a proponent has to answer information requests. When the assessment process requests information from the proponent, the clock stops until they submit that information, at which time the clock starts again.

So really, when you look at it, successful completion of assessments really require timely action by not only the assessors, but also the proponents as well to ensure that we can get through this process in a timely manner.

CEAA — the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* — is being removed from application and this is essentially a clarification or housekeeping item. This is another request that was made by First Nations through the consultation as well.

As I have mentioned, there are some enhancements to the environmental assessment process and I believe that this was articulated in the Senate hearings by everybody — the acknowledgement that the assessment process in itself is remaining essentially unchanged, except it is getting a little bit better. So it's better — I won't say it is unchanged; it is better. What it allows for is for the potential effects of likely future projects to be considered in the assessment. It also ensures that cumulative effects can also be considered in an assessment.

For people to imply that these amendments are bad for the environment is simply wrong. What has occurred here has enhanced environmental protection. Most of these amendments have essentially nothing to do with the assessment process, but the one that does, makes that assessment process even better.

As I mentioned, YESAA is not just about resource extraction. It is about all kinds of projects — roads, new bridges, energy. You know, there was the LNG plant for backup power that of course had to go through YESAA. Fibre optics, water stations, waste water, clearing trees on your property, power poles, culverts — everything is impacted through this process.

There were a number of people — or organizations I guess — in attendance with the Senate hearings in Ottawa who were supportive of these amendments. Of course the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada was supportive, of course. The record states that the Government of Yukon as well has been supportive of these

changes. Also represented was the Yukon Energy Corporation by the former CEO of Yukon Energy who was there and supportive; the Klondike Placer Miners' Association, Yukon Chambers of Mines, Alexco Resource Corporation — these are some of the people who addressed the Senate committee and were there in support of these amendments.

It is a bit disconcerting, as I said, that when we see the NDP and the Liberals stand up and consistently say that they support the economy; they support development — they say that — but then every time they turn around they continue to be obstructionist and ensure that things don't go forward.

That is just how it is. That's why really I think we refer to them as the NDP-Liberal coalition, because they're both having that approach where they'll stand up proudly and say we support things — we support economic development — then turn around and find an excuse always to be in the way, to further delay, to restrict and to throw water on the fire of economic development. Quite frankly, they don't understand the implications of these amendments. They continue to be obstructionist when it comes to moving any economic development forward in the territory and the record of voting will stand for itself.

I stood up here today and thanked the former member who represented Klondike who delivered many, many projects for that community and the benefits of those projects and that investment continues to live on today. Sadly, the current member has voted opposed to every project and every investment that we have attempted or we have delivered in that community. But I'm sure he goes to his community and tells everybody how he delivered it.

YESAA applies to every project. Yukoners want certainty and they want consistency in their assessment regime, because that will allow for more opportunities to exist.

First Nations have an obligation to represent their members and their interests and we have certainly encouraged them to do that and to raise their concerns. It is very important that they do. My responsibility and this government's responsibility are to support and look after all citizens of this territory. We believe that the amendments to this legislation are good for the territory, but we also acknowledge that this is a federal process. We stand here to support a process that is really being driven by the federal government. Yes, it did start in the Senate. There are many pieces of legislation that start in the Senate, but all of us in this House know that all of that legislation must travel through both Houses. It has gone through the Senate unanimously. All senators supported this amendment, Bill S-6. They supported it without making any amendments to the bill that was put in front of them. Again I will say that it was all senators, including the Liberal senators as well.

It is now sitting in the House of Commons for second reading. It will also go to Committee as well and we look forward to the travel of that bill through the House and having it be proclaimed. We also look forward to the engagement that will occur — that has already begun to occur with respect to the regulations that the federal government has committed to moving forward with.

The motion that we have in front of us today — I will move an amendment to the motion.

Amendment proposed

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I move:

THAT Motion No. 774 be amended by deleting clause (1), and the number “(2)”.

Speaker: The amendment is in order.

It has been moved by the Hon. Premier:

THAT Motion No. 774 be amended by deleting clause (1), and the number “(2)”.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: With the proposed amendment, members of the Legislative Assembly will see a motion in front of them that is, in fact, very similar to a motion that was debated in this House very recently, and that was Motion No. 756, standing in the name of the Member for Watson Lake.

It read: “THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to ensure that Yukon's regulatory regimes are clear, consistent and competitive with other jurisdictions, while also providing for sustainable and environmentally responsible development of Yukon's resources.”

This motion passed this House, sadly without the support — in fact, both the NDP and the Liberals — we have a theme here — voted against this motion, a motion ensuring that the government have a regulatory system that's clear, consistent and competitive with other jurisdictions in this country but, while doing so, providing for sustainable and environmentally responsible development of Yukon's resources.

I could not believe that the opposition could vote against such a strong and responsible motion in this House. I know that members in the private sector are keen to know yet again, as I have stated, that while those parties talk about promoting an economy, they find every reason to obstruct moving forward with a growing economy in this territory.

With that motion, what we have now proposed is that this House urges the Government of Yukon to “recognize that in a challenging market environment, it is critical to create certainty by preserving Yukon's reputation as a stable jurisdiction that has a well-respected environmental assessment and regulatory regime”.

That is exactly what this government's goal is and, as I mentioned, it really fits in strongly with the motion that was debated in the past in this House very recently. It's sad to see that the Liberals and the NDP have voted against that motion, but they also vote against all of our investments in infrastructure, which is another component of what this government is doing as part of our responsibility toward ensuring the greatest opportunity for strong economic growth and opportunity for Yukon families — by investing in roads; investing in bridges; investing in power and new telecommunications; investing and supporting work in the ice-free deep-water ports that we have access to; investing in training, such as the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining and the mobile trades training trailer — and also taking the time and making those amendments — working with First Nations, working with industry to look at our regulatory

processes, as well as the assessment process, to ensure that we can have that clear, transparent consistency that everybody is looking for — and that's just not industry. I talk to many First Nation chiefs who say the very same thing. We need to get rid of duplication. We need to make the processes clear because, when projects come in, they are looking at the project as a whole. From there, we fractionate it.

What we need to do is, we need to ensure that, through the assessment and regulatory permitting processes, that we find the best path forward. That is one of the things that this government has been working on and we will continue to work on.

With this friendly amendment to this motion, we feel that the motion then really reflects where this government stands. Of course, we are very supportive of the amendment that was passed just last week.

Ms. Hanson: I'm not surprised — disappointed yet again — at, I guess, how occasionally obtuse the arguments get in this room. You won't be able to find insult in that, Mr. Speaker.

The difficulty that is presented by the Yukon Party again tabling this motion, which is essentially, as the Premier said a replicate of what was tabled on November 12 by the Member for Watson Lake.

I will remind the Premier that, when I rose this afternoon, I said that my concern that I had expressed with respect to the motion that the Member for Watson Lake, in tabling that motion — there were a number of issues that were embedded in that. It's like there is an assertion or a mindset that assumes that, if you just repeat something over and over and over again, people are going to believe you even when there is no basis for that belief.

It's telling that nowhere in what the Premier just tabled is there anything that would indicate that he acknowledges that we have a relationship with Yukon First Nations. We would have expected that, at minimum, he could have taken something with respect to the spirit and intent of the agreements that we have negotiated with Yukon First Nations. He has made it clear that he doesn't think that he has a relationship as the Premier of this territory. He doesn't think he has an obligation to fulfill the obligations and the commitments set out in those agreements.

It's more than disappointing. I think that the motion that was put forward totally undermines and, as was intended, contradicts the intention of the motion that we had put forward as the Official Opposition, which really was to reassert the importance of that relationship.

In putting forward this motion — excuse me, Mr. Speaker. I am just looking for my scribbled notes to myself as the speaker was going on here because it sort of took me aback that he would be as audacious as that to turn his back on these First Nation relationships. It rattles me because I can't understand how a Premier of this territory could be forcing us into this situation. When we had this debate two weeks ago and we attempted to get this government to recognize — and you will recall that we

proposed an amendment that talked about ensuring that Yukon's regulatory regimes are consistent with the spirit and intent of Yukon land claims agreement, and this government voted against that.

We asked this government to support Yukon First Nation governments and Yukon citizens to reject the unilateral changes to the YESAA contained in Bill S-6. It was telling that the Premier repeated the same speaking points off of the federal website that he tweeted yesterday and then retracted. Surely to heavens, if there are reasons why he thinks or his government thinks that the amendments to Bill S-6 that did not emanate from the five-year review — then he would be able to explain them. He has not. He has simply reiterated the federal speaking points. That is not leadership.

It is incredibly disappointing that they have put forward yet again a motion that does not reflect that what we're talking about when we talk about a sound and a stable regulatory regime in this territory is one that is YESAA. That's what it's about. That's the foundation. That foundation was developed by us all. It took a long time. What the actions of this government are doing is threatening to tear it apart and to throw it to the courts and to have the courts drag this out.

One would have thought, if there was thought put into it — this is not an evidence-based government. It makes a decision and then tries to prop it up with whatever sources they can find. The courts across this country, up to and including the Supreme Court of Canada, have made it very clear that when you have constitutionally protected rights, do not trifle with them. Do not try to trample them.

What the government is doing here is putting forward a motion that, on one hand, recognizes what the experts are telling us — as I said in my speaking points, recognizing that we are in a challenging market environment and they are inviting it. They are saying, "Come on, come on, let's have more challenges." Not only is it hard for companies, for individuals, for businesses to attract investment, we're just saying, "Guess what — we want to up the ante. We want to make it more difficult." Those are the messages the businesses are hearing.

I say go for it. Pass another Yukon-Party-dominated motion that is ultimately rendered meaningless because you have refused to include any reference to what it refers to, which is all about our relationship with Yukon First Nation governments. Fill your boots. It's your job, you can do it.

Ms. Moorcroft: I rise to speak against the amendment introduced by the Premier. The reason that I'm speaking against this amendment is that it guts the intent of the very good motion that was presented by the Leader of the Official Opposition, which calls on this Assembly to urge the Yukon government to acknowledge the opposition of Yukon First Nation governments and Yukon citizens to changes to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* contained in Bill S-6, *Yukon and Nunavut Regulatory Improvement Act*, that undermine the spirit and intent of Yukon final agreements.

Mr. Speaker, that is so relevant to the issue before us. The amendment would fail to acknowledge the decades of hard work done by Yukon First Nation citizens and leaders in asserting their rights to their land and sovereignty and the work by former political leaders for First Nations, Yukon and Canadian governments, and their officials.

As a result of that work, we have in the Yukon land claims and self-government rights that this amendment does not want to acknowledge. These treaty negotiations were slow but, during the course of the negotiations, people developed relationships of trust and goodwill. The land claims agreements resulted in the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*, a development assessment process built over years of collaboration between governments. I believe collaboration between individuals and between governments is possible.

YESAB is a demonstration of that collaboration between aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities. The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board is an independent, neutral, arm's-length body responsible for the administration of the assessment responsibilities under the *Yukon Environmental Socio-economic Assessment Act*.

I would like to contrast that collaborative approach with the Harper Conservative government in Ottawa, which has denied the legacy of colonialism. Let me briefly outline some of the evidence of colonialism that all of us must by now be aware of in Canada. Colonialism is about stealing land and resources from indigenous peoples for the economic and political benefit of — in Canada's case — the white settler society, leaving First Nation communities to struggle against systemic racism. Examples of systemic racism are: poor educational outcomes of First Nation students; housing shortages; higher unemployment rates; over-incarceration; extremely high rates of violence against women and missing and murdered aboriginal women; addictions; and social alienation.

Generations of Yukon First Nation students have survived residential school and still today we see high numbers of First Nation children in government care. These are harsh realities to speak about, but they are facts affecting the lives of First Nation people today. Notwithstanding colonialism and racism, during and following 40 years of negotiations for their rights, Yukon First Nations remain strong in their culture and their traditional knowledge. This summer, I witnessed that at the Moosehide Gathering and at the totem-pole raising ceremony in Carcross.

Elders provide a link to the stories of the past and to the traditional economy of Yukon Indian people. First Nation people's special relationship to the wilderness environment encompasses spiritual, physical and heritage values. First Nations have a deep connection to the land and the water and give respect to all life — people, and also plants, animals, birds and fish. First Nations believe that societies and economies can be sustained for the future, only if we protect the environmental quality of life for future generations.

YESAA was a success because it was achieved through collaboration and includes First Nations at the decision-

making table. YESAA is a balanced approach to assessing projects and, of significant importance, YESAA is a regime that gives certainty to all parties. YESAA is good for industry, for investment and for solid working relationships between parties.

The objectives for a development assessment process are set out in the *Umbrella Final Agreement*. It provides for consideration of the traditional economy of Yukon Indian people and their special relationship with the wilderness environment; guaranteed participation by Yukon Indian people in the development assessment process and it protects and maintains the well-being of all Yukon residents and the protection of environmental quality and of heritage resources.

A recent AR association surveyed rural First Nation people about mining because they tend to live closer to mining projects and are more likely to be affected. The survey revealed that only 38 percent of aboriginal Canadians have a positive perception of the mining industry. The survey identified that industry needs to improve things like honesty and trust as well as how their work impacts the environment, and then how good a job they are doing with providing opportunities to, and working with, aboriginal communities.

Yukon First Nations have indicated they can support and work with industry. The Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Ruth Massie spoke at the recent Geoscience Forum about First Nation focus on economic development, but that focus on economic development relies on YESAA, which this amendment would remove from discussion in our motion debate today.

Yukon First Nations community members do want to get training to participate in the resource sector economy. We see this with First Nation graduates of on-the-land training that incorporates elders' traditional knowledge and First Nation students' successes at the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining. That success relies on *Umbrella Final Agreement* and YESAB, which provide for participation of First Nation people in the development assessment process and in economic benefits of projects undertaken consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

In Yukon, YESAA process contributes to trust between the parties. CYFN and its member First Nations have clearly said Bill S-6 is a challenge for industry, because the amendments defy those agreements and that will end up in court, as First Nations have warned us.

Recently, Teslin Tlingit Council citizens located hazardous materials in the bush — more of the dirty garbage left behind during the construction of the Alaska Highway during World War II — a project long before YESAA was in place. So it's not hard to understand why Yukon First Nation leaders today want to ensure the specific objectives of the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, signed in 1993, are met and that YESAA continues to respect the *Umbrella Final Agreement*.

YESAA was seen as benchmark environmental legislation when it came into law in 2005. Almost a decade later, the Harper Conservative approach to YESAA amendments is an arbitrary and colonial approach to law reform. The federal Conservatives chose to introduce Bill S-6

YESAA amendments in the unelected Senate, with Yukon Senator Dan Lang leading the current charge against land claims agreements, just as he and his territorial counterparts were staunchly and vocally opposed to land claims while they were being negotiated.

After conducting a five-year review, which discussed how well YESAA was achieving the objectives set out in the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, the federal government released a revised draft report without the consent of the Yukon government and Yukon First Nation governments. The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's submission to the Senate committee stated that several proposed changes to YESAA contained in Bill S-6 extend beyond the scope of the five-year review.

It is deplorable that the Premier and his government are stepping backward from self-government principles by supporting the Harper Conservative agenda that would establish the right of the federal government to impose binding policy direction on YESAA. I guess that's why the Premier has tabled his amendment to remove from discussion the opposition of Yukon First Nation governments and citizens to these unilateral and arbitrary changes to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*. To be consistent with the treaties and devolution arrangements, Yukon First Nations must be equal partners in decisions concerning delegation of authority.

MLAs in this Assembly should recognize First Nation rights, and this amendment removes all discussion of that. But those First Nation rights are legal rights. The Yukon government is obliged to respect constitutionally protected Yukon land claims and self-government agreements, agreements that led to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*. I would add that Yukon First Nations and the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board share concerns about the federal government imposing an arbitrary 16-month time frame into the YESAA process.

I would like to share with this Assembly something I've learned living and working in the Yukon. Working together requires us to listen to others. It requires us to allow for debate on important matters, even when we may disagree with one another. We have a duty to be responsible legislators. I've talked about some of the ways that hasn't been done well in the past and some notable successes: land claims agreements that create certainty and benefit all Yukon people and, for that matter, the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* — also a notable success.

What we can do today, the responsible thing to do today is to vote against the amendment before us, because it takes the Yukon down a road of division and uncertainty.

The motion as presented by my colleague, the Member for Whitehorse Centre, would urge this Yukon government to acknowledge the opposition of Yukon First Nation governments and the opposition of Yukon citizens to changes to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* found in the bill in the Senate — Bill S-6, the *Yukon and Nunavut Regulatory Improvement Act* — because it does

undermine the spirit and the intent of Yukon final agreements. First Nations have been organizing and publishing information about how these changes to YESAA threaten our environment, our economy and our Yukon. I would urge members to defeat the amendment before us.

Mr. Silver: I'm hearing a lot of that "coalition" word today. It's quite interesting. It's kind of interesting because what I see in the opposition right now is two different and very distinct parties working and listening to First Nation governments. I have been communicating with several different chiefs in the last couple of days. It's interesting to hear the Premier defending Harper on the changes based upon Ottawa when, really, this comes down to a very, very simple concept. There are a couple of amendments that came out of the blue — no consultation. That's the crux of what we're talking about here. It's not about anything else past the fact that 2012 or therein somewhere, the wheels fell off of consultation. Now you have two parties that are willing to work together to support another level of government in the Yukon and say to Ottawa, "You don't have the facts straight." Whether those senators are Liberal or not, we'll disagree with that concept until the cows come home. It doesn't matter. It doesn't matter. The next steps forward on this in Ottawa are going to get a lot more rocky.

We have discussed many, many times in this House that one of the defining characteristics of this government is its inability to forge partnerships with the First Nation governments and here we go again. As we speak, taxpayers are on the hook for hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees because this government would rather litigate than negotiate.

The government's secretive approach to the changes in YESAA is just one of the most recent examples. In January, I issued a press release calling on the Premier to go public with these secret negotiations that he was conducting with the Government of Canada for the changes to YESAA. He ignored the suggestion at that time. Then I raised it again in the spring in the Legislature. In April, I predicted that the government's my-way-or-the-highway approach would once again strain relationships between the public and the First Nation governments and here we are.

The Premier had a choice: Allow Yukoners to have some input into his government's submissions or keep it secret as instructed by Ottawa — and we know which side he picked. I spoke to a chief this morning who said 74 of these recommendations — we consulted on it. We're not necessarily 100-percent in agreement with all of these, but we worked together on these. That's not the issue here, Mr. Speaker. I don't think it does a very good service to this whole debate to cloud that. There are a few amendments that were secretive. Those few amendments — well, they make this one of the legacies of this Yukon Party government. We'll see what happens.

This spring, I asked the Premier — and I quote: "Why has the Government of Yukon decided to go alone instead of

working with Yukon First Nation governments to come up with a united position to present to Ottawa?"

The Premier was interviewed recently on this issue and he said this: "I can't really comment on the level of consultation that occurred between the federal government and the Yukon First Nations". How many times have we discussed in this Chamber how important the Yukon Forum is for these conversations? How many times has that forum met since this incarnation 2.0 of Yukon Party government?

As I said last week in the Member for Watson Lake's motion, the Yukon Liberal Party is in favour of a clear and consistent regulatory regime and there are definitely areas where things can be streamlined and can make permitting more effective. But ultimately, it's the approach. The approach of this government is going to create uncertainty for the mining industry and it will not improve the process.

I recognize that there are issues in terms of mining regulation here in the territory — absolutely. Mining companies are experiencing extended timelines and the duplication of data collection and analysis. Many of these delays and added expenses — they have slowed, they have halted and they have even scared away responsible resource development in the Yukon.

Although the changes to YESAA may address some of these problems, it's the way that the Yukon Party government has approached the changes that will lead to even bigger issues for mining in the long run. Now we have a difference of opinion on this, clearly. Time will tell.

Yukon's mining industry has seen a decline in the last year — in the last two — resulting in our GDP dropping. We're the worst economy in Canada right now. There has been one party at the helm since the devolution transfer has started, since hundreds of millions of dollars have been coming from Canadian taxpayer's hard-earned money to this government and, over a decade later, we're the worst economy in Canada.

Private sector investment is drying up, forcing the minister to inject more government money into exploration. Mining incentive money — it's great, absolutely. But what the industry needs and what they really want is their projects not to get locked up in lengthy legal battles, which is what will happen because of this government's approach to the changes to YESAA.

We've heard from Yukon First Nations that they will take the government to court over this. In speaking to several chiefs about the changes, I know that they are not opposed to mining in the territory. That's the good news. It can be a very strong economic driver for many of Yukon's rural communities, including mine. They also have no problem, like I said, with over 70 of these amendments that they've had a chance to actually debate on. But First Nations are not going to allow the federal government to make amendments — changing the legislation — that so blatantly fly in the face of the *Umbrella Final Agreement*; amendments that they were not consulted on.

Further eroding the relationship between Yukon First Nations and the Yukon government is not a solution to what is

ailing the mining industry. Yukon's mining industry will never succeed in an environment where we pit it against Yukon First Nation interests and their legal rights under the *Umbrella Final Agreement*. The minister talks about regulatory certainty for all Yukoners. He's forgetting Yukon First Nations in that suggestion.

The Yukon Party spent seven years, we are told, consulting with Yukoners, but ultimately they ignored their own process. The mining industry needs market certainty and Bill S-6 will not create that.

It is very disappointing to watch this government blindly defend Ottawa when it hurts Yukon. Yesterday, the Premier took to his Twitter account and tweeted out a series of federal government talking points. We also saw this Yukon Party government take the same approach with the Parks Canada cuts when they shortened the season for visitation to Dawson. Only last week did the federal government recognize what a mistake that was by holding a press conference to celebrate undoing their own bad decisions.

Mr. Speaker, the Yukon government is supposed to represent Yukoners, not Stephen Harper. We only have to look at the lengthy list of tributes to recognize that this government does not want to see this discussion about YESAA on air on the cable channel stations. Tributes and table documents that could be spread over the week and months all conveniently scheduled on opposition private members' day.

It is abundantly clear that Yukon First Nations are opposed to these changes — not all of them, but the important ones that they weren't consulted on and that they will have to defend their rights on this matter by legal means. Vocal and legally-binding opposition to these changes will not help streamline mining processes. It will create uncertainty for the industry and drive away investors. Yukoners also have a right to comment on Bill S-6 and should be allowed that opportunity.

I guess we are here seeing some amendments basically gutting the intent of the original motion. I applaud my colleagues — not my coalition, sir, but my colleagues in the NDP — for bringing forth this motion and helping to support other levels of government, where this Yukon Party government has decided not to. I look forward to working with other parties, either across the floor or on the same side as the opposition, because that is what we do in the Liberal Party. We work forward on good ideas.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not be supporting this amendment.

Speaker: Does any other member wish to be heard on the amendment?

Are you prepared for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Graham: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Kent: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Agree.

Ms. McLeod: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Agree.

Mr. Hassard: Agree.

Mr. Elias: Agree.

Ms. Hanson: Disagree.

Ms. Stick: Disagree.

Ms. Moorcroft: Disagree.

Ms. White: Disagree.

Mr. Tredger: Disagree.

Mr. Barr: Disagree.

Mr. Silver: Disagree.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 10 yeas, seven nays.

Speaker: The yeas have it. I declare the amendment carried.

Amendment to Motion No. 774 agreed to

Speaker: Is there any further discussion on the motion as amended?

Ms. Stick: Now the motion reads: “THAT this House urges the Yukon government to recognize that in a challenging market environment, it is critical to create certainty by preserving Yukon’s reputation as a stable jurisdiction that has a well-respected environmental assessment and regulatory regime.”

The members opposite might be surprised to find out that we will support this motion because it talks and speaks to what we have, recognizing that we are in a challenging market environment. As my colleague from the Third Party mentioned, though, we are the worst right now in terms of GDP — from across Canada. So this is a challenging market environment, and it is critical that we need to create certainty by preserving Yukon’s reputation as a stable jurisdiction. Well, we support that, Mr. Speaker. We do need to support the reputation we’ve had up to this point as a stable jurisdiction.

In the last number of weeks, there has been a growing groundswell of support of citizens, Yukoners and First Nations who want to see that we have a well-respected environmental assessment and regulatory regime. Unfortunately, in the House of Commons right now is Bill S-6, which will throw everything in this motion, actually, into chaos. We will not maintain that certainty. It will not be well-respected because it will end up in court over and over.

I have listened to Yukoners. I have spoken to representatives of many Yukon First Nations about their concerns about what happens if Bill S-6 is proclaimed without the changes or without the consultation that Yukoners and First Nations and CYFN are looking for. This bill is flawed. It’s flawed in the process of how it went forward.

We’ve heard the talking points. We have heard the myths — 73 out of 76. Yes, we understand that, but it’s the four areas that are of concern to the First Nations and that really will undermine the spirit and the intent of Yukon final agreements. They’re not the Yukon First Nation final agreements. They’re the Yukon final agreements. We are all participants in that. We are all beneficiaries of that because it was a document signed, not just by First Nations, but by the Government of Canada and the Government of Yukon. It involves all of us.

It was very interesting to read through the presentations made before the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources. First Nation representatives who went to Ottawa and were part of this many-year assessment process, and who had many, many concerns with what is in Bill S-6, were given one hour. It’s notable that they shared that time. I would like to acknowledge that there was the Grand Chief Ruth Massie of the Council of Yukon First Nations. There was: Chief Eric Fairclough of the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation; Councillor Mary Jane Jim of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations; Daryn Leas, legal counsel for the Council of Yukon First Nations; Brian MacDonald, legal counsel for the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations; and Roger Brown, manager of environment and natural resources for the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.

In the end, they actually went over that hour, to one hour and 19 minutes. This government was given an hour to do their presentation. Mr. Morrison, past president, was given 38 minutes. Yukon Chamber of Mines and the Klondike Placer Miners’ Association — one hour and 10 minutes. Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers was given 42 minutes. Alexco — I’m not sure how much they were given, but they were on the agenda. Besides the First Nations, these other groups were in support, but the First Nations were not and they were very, very clear about the difficulties they had with Bill S-6. I think we need to hear again what those concerns are because it impacts all Yukoners — not just First Nations.

Grand Chief Ruth Massie spoke first and some of her concerns — I’ll just quote a few. This one, I thought, was a major one: “The proposed amendments in front of the Senate today were not discussed in the five-year review process with Canada and the Yukon government.”

There is support for parts of Bill S-6, but not for what they were never consulted on.

Chief Eric Fairclough of the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation was clear. There were four specific amendments that were deeply concerning — policy direction — and he stated that they “oppose any amendments that provide authority to the federal first minister to issue binding policy direction to the board with respect to any of the board’s powers, duties and functions”. Chief Fairclough went on to describe how the independence of the board and designated offices in conducting assessments is paramount. Giving one party authority to direct the board would be contrary to the whole intent of YESAA and the provisions in the final agreement.

Also one of his concerns he spoke to was the ability of the federal minister to designate this power to the Yukon government territorial minister. One of the senators responded and tried to clarify a little more the concerns of Chief Fairclough and he said that well, it's never happened — so why the concern? Well, if it has never happened and they are not concerned, why would it be in there? It was one of those — trust us, it won't happen — and First Nations aren't buying it. One of the speakers there suggested that if the federal government is so concerned and wants to be able to designate powers, why only the Yukon territorial minister, why not First Nation governments? They are equal partners at this table.

Another concern of Chief Fairclough's was that, under Bill S-6, this would create “a bilateral federal-territorial process that would be inconsistent with the intent of the final agreements” — another quote from him.

Another concern was exemptions for renewals and amendments. He wanted to remind people that the *Umbrella Final Agreement* was signed by three parties: Canada, Yukon and Yukon First Nations. That was a monumental day. The committee heard from Mary Jane Jim, who was then a councillor for Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. She no longer is, but she was there representing chief and council and the First Nations, which were going through an election process at that time. She was concerned about the federal government wanting to unilaterally make additional amendments to the YESAA and did not request the amendments. The Champagne and Aishihik did not request these amendments and stated that they do not support them. She felt that the federal government had not demonstrated any mandate or interest in meaningful consultation or negotiations with the Council of Yukon First Nations and Yukon First Nations to address the substantive issues and interests concerning Bill S-6.”

She was clear that First Nations are not against all of Bill S-6, but they believe they have not had the opportunity to be heard and they are looking for amendments to that. They were looking for an opportunity to come back together and discuss and negotiate in a meaningful way those substantive issues and interests, and that has not happened. They do not want to follow down the trail that they see in the Northwest Territories with devolution that has led to litigation, but they made it clear that they will take the steps necessary to protect the integrity of the final agreements.

There was some discussion — there wasn't a lot; an hour and 20 minutes — that the First Nations refer to YESAA as made in the Yukon — a negotiated coming-together of three parties in agreement. They don't necessarily want to be the same as Nunavut or Northwest Territories. We have YESAA. It's made in the Yukon and people are happy with that.

Brian MacDonald, legal counsel for Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, said — and I quote: “... I believe that the YESAA process is very much an economic engine ... for the Yukon.” Mr. MacDonald is legal counsel, but he also participates in the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations' Dakwakada Development Corporation. They are a big economic driver and he said that we need to have certainty as

a company to protect the shareholder interests in the various investments that we do. My colleague gave a few examples of some of the things that they do, but he described their investment portfolio that has grown to almost \$30 million in actual value, revenues over \$65 million, and close to 200 employees. They do have a vested economic interest in what happens and they do want to have a stable jurisdiction, because it is a challenging market environment. So they're looking for that certainty too, but they do not see it. They do not see this government coming forward and protecting their interests and speaking for them — for all Yukoners.

Many First Nations have development corporations that are big economic drivers in our communities across the Yukon. They contribute to the economy, they hire northerners and they invest in our communities. They want the same certainty, but they do not feel that the passing of Bill S-6 will give them that. What it will give them is litigation.

Mr. MacDonald again spoke and said — and I quote: “... primarily focused on what we believe are the unilateral amendments that kind of went in parallel with our process.” He went on, “Yes, First Nations didn't get everything that they hoped for, but they believe in compromise and recognize that everybody has to have something out of these processes.” But to be left out, to be handed something as completed — this is it, there is no consultation, there is no time — is not fair play. We did not have that opportunity to put forward in that process and to do the review that was requested.

My favorite line was one from, I believe, Chief Fairclough: “If the intent of these amendments before us today is to bring them up to date, modernize them, then fine, focus on that. But don't kick the legs out of our environmental process and our First Nation agreements in doing so.”

So we will support this motion because it recognizes that we do not have right now a well-respected — well, we have a well-respected environmental assessment. But that's why I spoke to Bill S-6 because without amendments or without this being pulled back to the table for negotiations, we'll not only be in a challenging market environment, it will be much worse and we'll be in court. First Nations do not want to litigate. They want to negotiate. They want to be at the table, not denied their access to it.

We will be supporting the motion we put forward without the first bit that speaks to Bill S-6, the *Yukon and Nunavut Regulatory Improvement Act*, but it is there. It's by recognizing the challenging market environment — it's critical to create certainty by preserving Yukon's reputation. If we allow Bill S-6 to go forward, we will not be preserving our reputation. We will be in court. We will not be a stable jurisdiction. We will be in court.

This is something for all Yukoners. It's not just about First Nations. It's not just about the *Umbrella Final Agreement*. It's about doing what's best for all Yukoners, so we will be supporting this.

Motion No. 774, as amended, agreed to

Motion No. 729

Clerk: Motion No. 729, standing in the name of Mr. Silver.

Speaker: It is moved by the Leader of the Third Party:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to make the temporary two-year tourism marketing funds announced this summer a permanent part of the Department of Tourism and Culture's marketing budget.

Mr. Silver: Mr. Speaker, as we have discussed in previous private members' days, the value of tourism marketing is incredible. I am tabling this motion because I believe the temporary tourism marketing money should be a permanent budget line item. I am sure that everyone in this House will agree that our tourism assets are absolutely impressive, so let's ensure that the rest of the world knows this as well.

I would like to once again congratulate the Tourism Industry Association for their lobbying efforts on the new tourism marketing funds that appear in this budget. The government was a little bit reluctant to come on-board on the proposal but, in the end, we did see a commitment from the territorial government to make this a part of the department's budget, but we would like to see the government make this a permanent part of the department's core budget, and not just a one-off in the next few years as a run-up to an election. This is too important to be handled on an application-to-application basis with Ottawa.

The Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon and the Yukon Chamber of Commerce both expressed strong support for the funding initiative. We have heard from TIA Yukon that, for every tourism marketing dollar spent \$28 returns to the territory in visitor spending. That's a huge return on investment, which ultimately creates more jobs and builds the GDP. As I am sure the minister will speak to later, it is great that the \$590,000 has been added to the Tourism budget for spending in overseas marketing money, but this is making up for the loss of CanNor money that the department was already receiving. A similar problem will no doubt occur two years from now. We will begin to see an increase in the target markets visiting the territory from Yukon.

It is important to recognize that we do not have the budget to compete on the same level that many other provincial jurisdictions have and that being creative with our limited resources is an important part to this. To date, the efforts with *The Amazing Race Canada* — they have done that. An increase in the budget would help our marketing efforts maintain competitiveness in a world where we increasingly move away from traditional print advertising.

We have all seen the fantastic Newfoundland and Labrador television ads. A permanent increase in the tourism marketing budget would allow for Yukon to also showcase the beautiful scenery and the rich cultural resources that we have here. Another prong of this strategy is that it can help Yukon weather bad economic forecasts. In 2009, when most of the country saw a downturn in tourism visitation, Newfoundland

saw continued growth — primarily associated with their continued aggressive approach to television marketing.

Yukon has an industry that is affected by market pricing. Insulating tourism would be a huge advantage to our economy. There are a number of great businesses, groups and NGOs that help create a strong industry in the Yukon. Our cultural sector, specifically, should be noted — all the museums, First Nation cultural centres, theatre groups — that all tell the Yukon stories. A long-term increase in marketing budget will allow us to better showcase these special places to the rest of the world.

I want to acknowledge some of the great news that has sprung up recently that would benefit greatly from increased marketing money. We have had two culinary festivals in the last two years, a big part of which is the innovation of the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon. It is also great to see Yukon's fantastic food getting the much-needed attention that they so much deserve.

I would also like to pay a compliment for the innovation and creativity of the organizers of the first-ever Yukon Beer Festival. I had the privilege to take part as a celebrity bartender this year. I was accused of over-pouring — I don't know if they'll have me back again next year. It was a wonderful festival and it was a lot of fun to participate in. Hopefully we will be seeing some of these micro-brewers show up at the liquor store here in town.

This summer, we also saw the first-ever YukomiCon, an event that I would never have dreamed that would have happened in the Yukon, when I first came here. May it live long and prosper.

Yukon has also had a number of very special and unique events that represent our great spirit — classic festivals like the Dawson City Music Festival, of course, and the Adäka Cultural Festival. We have also had important winter festivals, such as the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous and Yukon Quest, which help bolster tourism effects outside of the primary summer season. These events are great because they encourage the community and would not be possible without the hard work put in by volunteers.

I know that we are running low on time here, so I am going to keep my comments brief and I will get right to my conclusion.

The tourism industry continues to be a gem in our economy, absolutely, and it remains the largest private sector employer in the territory. It is important that the government helps the many businesses that survive off tourism dollars by continuing to bolster the tourism marketing dollars. A two-year campaign will only begin to scratch the surface. Now, if the plan is to wait and see results based upon the two years of funding — well, I think this is a little bit short-sighted. We won't be able to see the results of the funding by the time that this money has dried up.

If we want to be serious about getting into the television marketing game, longer-term planning will be needed.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for the time here today, and I look forward to hearing from other MLAs on this important conversation.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member opposite for bringing this motion forward. The member opposite really has no idea of just how proud I am to talk about Yukon's tourism marketing initiatives. Given the tremendous amount of good news that we have to share, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this motion and other motions that we've debated on the floor of this Legislature.

By way of background, I would like to talk a little bit about some of our marketing efforts and the results of those marketing efforts to date. I think we need to ask ourselves what the evidence shows. The year 2013 was a record-breaking year for border crossings and border-crossing statistics, with an eight-percent increase in the number of private vehicles and motorcoaches crossing the border into Yukon. The stats show a seven-percent increase in the number of visitors from the United States and a 17-percent increase in Canadians as well as an eight-percent increase in the overseas markets.

Year-to-date in 2014 — and the period that we're looking at is January to September — Yukon's tourism industry continues to benefit from a three-percent increase in total arrivals and a 21-percent increase — 21-percent increase — in international arrivals at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport.

Dawson City has also benefited from a 21-percent increase in the number of combined travellers entering through the Little Gold border crossing and via international arrivals at the Dawson City airport, thanks to Holland America's 2014 tour programs, in partnership with Air North, Yukon's airline. I hope to talk a little bit more about Air North in a few minutes.

In 2012, it was estimated that tourism generated approximately \$200 million in gross revenue for Yukon businesses. Last year, in 2013, that estimate was adjusted and it was expected that tourism generated approximately \$250 million in gross revenue for Yukon businesses. Thirty-nine percent of the total revenues of the accommodation and food service sector is attributable to tourism and more than four percent of Yukon's GDP is attributable to tourism. From January to September of 2014, overseas visitation grew by nine percent and air arrivals at Erik Nielsen International Airport grew by three percent.

Whitehorse is the smallest city in North America with direct flights to Germany. Condor brought over 4,000 visitors to Yukon in 2014, contributing \$8 million to \$10 million to our Yukon economy. Once tourists are here, we offer additional marketing support by making information available in our visitor information centres. As you know, Mr. Speaker, we have six in Yukon communities that provide travel information and visitor services to over 209,584 visitors, through until the end of August of 2014.

Many visitors come for our culture. To that end, Yukon government provides \$1.5 million in funding support to 12 museums, seven First Nation cultural or heritage centres and one umbrella organization.

In comparison, in 2002, when the Yukon Party took government after a failed Liberal attempt at government,

museums were receiving about \$175,000 per year in funding. It's interesting to see that the Liberal leader voted against the museums funding of \$1.5 million in the spring budget. It's disappointing to see the Liberal leader stand on his feet in this Assembly, pleading for more money — or an extension of money — for domestic marketing, but when we continue to make strategic investments in marketing, he votes against it at budget time. In fact, the Member for Klondike — the Liberal leader — even votes against highway maintenance that our tourists need to travel through our territory.

As you're aware, the Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre, which is owned and operated by the department, is Canada's only museum dedicated to telling the story of our ice age past. Yukon government and the Beringia Interpretive Centre, in partnership with the Yukon Arts Centre, celebrated the arrival of an ice age mammals travelling exhibition. The unique collaboration with national museums has been seen by nearly one million people across North America.

Just yesterday, we announced that The Old Log Church and Rectory in Whitehorse was officially designated a Yukon historic site. The designation helps to protect and promote Yukon's unique heritage. I look forward to spring, when the weather is a little nicer and we can get together with our partners from the city and really have a true celebration for The Old Log Church and Rectory.

As you will recall, last spring, the Watson Lake Sign Post Forest received official historic site designation under the territory's *Historic Resources Act*. The Watson Lake Sign Post Forest was nominated for designation by the Watson Lake Historical Society. The nomination was evaluated and recommended for designation by the Heritage Resources Board and supported by the Department of Tourism and Culture.

The *A.J. Goddard* shipwreck was commemorated as a Yukon historic site in a plaque-unveiling ceremony at Lake Laberge in August of 2013. The existing marketing dollars and the Yukon Now initiative will drive more visitors to sites such as The Old Log Church, the Watson Lake Sign Post Forest and perhaps, for the adventuresome, a dive to see the *A.J. Goddard* shipwreck.

The Yukon government has installed interpretive signage panels at over 180 sites on scenic routes and points of interest throughout our territory. The department co-owns and co-manages three historic sites with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Selkirk First Nation. Nine locations across Yukon have been designated and protected as territorial historic sites under the *Historic Resources Act*.

I found it particularly interesting that the staff at Yukon Archives provided service to 1,500 researchers and retrieved over 7,500 archival records last year alone.

The work that is being done at Archives is fascinating and I would encourage my colleagues, if you haven't done so already, to spend some time at Archives learning about our history and our culture.

My colleagues on this side of the House will recall that last February a Tourism Yukon delegation attended Canada Corroboree, Canada's premier travel trade event held in

Australia each year. The delegation signed cooperative marketing agreements. We discussed marketing opportunities with Australia travel trade and we met with the Consulate General of Canada.

Australia is Yukon's second largest overseas market. I had the pleasure of conducting several media interviews with Australian media while in Sydney. I can only imagine the reach that those articles would have and the interest in Yukon that they would spark.

Part of the Yukon Now money that we're talking about on the floor of this Legislature this afternoon will be used for both the U.S. market and for the overseas market. However, the bulk of the investment — and I'll talk about it later — will be used for the domestic market here in Canada.

When we were in Australia, I found it particularly interesting to find Holland America's Norwegian cruise ship moored in Sydney Harbour. In fact we boarded the ship to sign a cooperative marketing agreement with Holland America. For those who are not aware, the Norwegian sails the west coast of North America during the summer. You can often see it moored in Skagway. Once fall arrives, that ship offers travelers a 130-day world cruise. I understand the cost of that is about a quarter of a million dollars. It was wonderful to meet the ship and some of its crew and passengers in the Sydney Harbour. We certainly appreciate the good working relationship that we have with Holland America.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall during Winterlude in Ottawa last February Yukon hosted and supported several events to promote Yukon as a travel destination and to introduce Air North's new Ottawa service.

Now we also look at the Asian market. It's another example of collaboration and a strategic approach. The government led a delegation of 15 tourism-related businesses to Vancouver to attend the first-ever Yukon-Japan tourism marketplace last January. In fact it was January 28. Japan is Yukon's fastest growing international market. This market in particular has incredible potential for our territory and it's one that we will continue to work at growing.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall that Yukon hosted the Yukon tourism ministers meetings last September in 2013. The meeting was focused on Canadian tourism competitiveness. In a few minutes, I will provide you a bit of a comparison between Newfoundland, as the member opposite has spoken to, and Yukon. But we're faced with increasing competition, with huge markets like Ontario for example that, dollar for dollar, make it very difficult for a smaller jurisdiction with smaller budgets like ours to have a meaningful impact.

During our meetings we also discussed improving visitor access, marketing and tourism attraction development. I can tell you that my colleagues from across Canada and the federal government are impressed that Yukon is punching well above its weight when it comes to tourism marketing.

Mr. Speaker, you'll recall that Premier Pasloski, 16 Yukon tourism industry representatives and I travelled to Germany and England in the first-ever Premier-led tourism trade delegation from a Canadian province or territory. The Premier's European tourism trade mission resulted in an

accord between Yukon government, Air North and Condor to bring more European travellers to our great territory. The accord supports an air travel agreement that will allow seamless travel from Europe to Air North's entire flight network, providing increased travel options for European tourists and Yukoners.

When I was over in Germany this fall, I don't think I have ever been so surprised in my life, coming home to see the Member for Watson Lake sitting in the airport in Frankfurt.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall the Premier and European partners signed several marketing agreements with German tour operators. The resulting marketing efforts targeted over three million people in German-speaking Europe alone, and I commend the Premier for his leadership on this tourism file.

The Government of Yukon and City of Whitehorse signed a first formal collaboration on tourism marketing promotion and visitor services MOU. The MOU outlines a range of partnership initiatives, including joint work on fam tours, sharing of tourism inquiries and joint management of the visitor parking passes. I was delighted to share The Old Log Church and Rectory historical designation announcement with the Mayor of Whitehorse.

The Government of Yukon and the State of Alaska renewed an agreement to market both regions as a tourism destination. The joint Yukon and Alaska cooperative marketing partnership began in 1989, delivering Canadian and American advertising campaigns to increase highway travel and promote summer adventure experiences in Alaska and Yukon. If I am not mistaken, I understand that this agreement is one of the longest standing tourism agreements between a U.S. state and a Canadian territory or province.

The Member for Klondike will recall that Yukon was designated by *Lonely Planet* as a top 10 must-visit travel destination for 2013. Subsequent global media coverage generated tremendous exposure for Yukon and expanded awareness of Yukon as a premiere outdoor travel destination. We will all recall that the Member for Klondike wrote *Lonely Planet*, basically pleading that they may be mistaken.

I want to mention some of the other initiatives we have in support of marketing Yukon to visitors already in Yukon. Improvements to the Whitehorse visitor information centre include a brand new relevant painting of the entire centre, updated equipment to improve the audio-visual experience in the theatre, new hanging banners, wall-mounted televisions to present Tourism Yukon photos and videos — it also has iPads connected to wi-fi so visitors coming in who want to book tours in Klondike or in Haines Junction or in Old Crow or Watson Lake can do so, right from the visitor information centre.

Mr. Speaker, to further develop Yukon's shoulder tourism season, and in response to requests from European tour operators, the season for visitor information centres and key campgrounds has been extended for the tourism shoulder seasons. The visitor information centres in Beaver Creek, Carcross, Dawson City, Haines Junction, Watson Lake and at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport will now be open from May 1 to September 30. The change allows

Yukoners to visit Yukon campgrounds into the fall and aligns visitor services with industry and transportation schedules. I have to thank the Minister of Environment for his collaborative work on this file and being able to unveil the extended season of both the campgrounds and the visitor information centres all at once.

I could go on all day about our productive partnerships with First Nations, but let me mention two that relate to marketing information services in our territory. The Yukon government entered into a two-year lease with the Carcross Tagish Management Corporation on behalf of the Carcross-Tagish Limited Partnership and Northern Vision Development Limited Partnership to provide visitor services in Carcross. That opened last year, as you are well aware.

A celebration of the grand opening of the Da Ku Cultural Centre took place in Haines Junction on June 1, 2013, with representatives from governments of Canada, Yukon, and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, or CAFN, all in attendance. The Department of Tourism and Culture contributed \$1.4 million through long-term lease agreements.

You are also well aware of the First Nation tourism and cultural organization that is working in partnership with the Adäka Cultural Festival. I don't know if you have had a chance to attend the Adäka festival, but it is very clear, when you are at that festival, that people are so very proud of their culture and so very proud of showcasing their culture to Yukoners and to visitors alike. We continue to support the Adäka festival and look forward to the 2015 season, which I believe will be held in June, if I'm not mistaken.

Participating in tourism open houses in the Whitehorse, Kluane, Dawson and Watson Lake regions has certainly helped to identify new opportunities for tourism growth and to really work together with communities to adapt to changes to tour patterns across our territory.

Tourism Yukon's annual open house brings together businesses, tourism operators and cultural organizations, and front-line staff, and they do this every fall. The event includes information sessions on funding opportunities, new trends and marketing, and one-on-one meetings with Tourism branch staff. I have attended all of these open houses and have been very pleased with the dialogue that I have had with Yukon stakeholders who are providing the tourism product in the territory that will directly benefit from the increased marketing through CanNor, which we announced just a few months ago. I was very pleased to announce that funding increase with our MP, Ryan Leef.

I would also like to mention a little bit about what some people refer to as MICE tourism, which is meetings, incentives, conferences and events. This is put on through the Yukon Convention Bureau. I understand that they are having their annual red carpet tour on November 26. I'm looking forward to perhaps even participating in the tour. We always are pleasantly surprised by the good work at the Yukon Convention Bureau.

We also recently introduced a new Canadian event fund, which was announced in March of 2013. Three organizations have accessed this —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Point of order

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

Mr. Silver: Although we all very much enjoy the Minister of Tourism reading his briefing notes in this Legislative Assembly, we've heard it many times already this session. I'm going to go with Standing Order 19(b)(i): "speaks to matters other than the question under discussion".

If the minister could wrap up his comments and get back to the motion, that would be great. Thanks.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: There is no point of order. The motion in front of us speaks to Tourism and Culture, and I believe that is what the minister is addressing.

Minister of Tourism and Culture, please.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: As I was mentioning to the members on this side and that side of the Legislature, the Yukon Convention Bureau is conducting their red carpet tour on November 26. Anyone who is interested in participating, I would encourage them to contact the Convention Bureau.

Before the member opposite stood, I was talking about the new Canadian fund that was announced in March of 2013. We do know that three organizations have accessed the funds to host cultural events that really help promote multiculturalism and diversity in the territory. It is this multiculturalism and diversity that tourists coming to the territory are really, I guess, acquiring a taste for. Certainly I know, when I have spent time in Germany in a number of different markets, the Germans certainly appreciate First Nation culture and art forms that they see when they do visit here. In fact, I believe it was Keith Wolfe Smarch who joined us at the Hanover Zoo in 2012, and he had been commissioned to make two small carvings to present to the zoo when we were over there. I know that both Keith and his wife, Donna, were so very proud to see their product in a market other than Yukon — or Canada, for that matter.

The Yukon government and the visual arts and craft sector partnered to develop a visual arts and craft strategy to grow and expand this industry. I didn't realize that this industry was so vibrant in Yukon, prior to becoming minister, but it's something that, just last week, we saw a number of individuals at the craft fair up at the Canada Games Centre, selling and displaying their art forms. You will know, Mr. Speaker, that every year, through the Department of Tourism and Culture, we promote the "shop local" campaign, and that's something that all members in this Legislature should really pay attention to when they're shopping for Christmas or other holidays or birthdays — that they're purchasing gifts that are made locally here by local Yukoners.

An exhibition called *YT in 3D*, highlighting 3D historical photographs from Yukon Archives using contemporary digital technology, opened at the Hougen Heritage Gallery in Arts

Underground. This exhibit was a collaboration between Yukon Archives and the Friends of Yukon Archives Society.

I know I have been down to Arts Underground a number of times, and quite often — speaking about shopping locally — we see tourists coming off the street and going down to the gallery and having the ability to purchase locally created gifts to take home to wherever they might be from.

Supported by a \$200,000 contribution from the department, 80 Yukon performing, visual, literary, culinary, and fashion arts were showcased at Northern Scene, a 10-day festival in Ottawa featuring established and emerging artists from the north.

The department also provides \$345,000 annually to the Northern Cultural Expressions Society in funding to support its carving program that helps emerging artists develop the artistic, social and business skills required for personal success. I have had a number of opportunities to visit Northern Cultural Expressions, and there is another perfect example of people being very proud of the products that they are making for both Yukoners and visitors alike.

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

Yukon has been targeting the United Kingdom market for several years now. This is a secondary market for Yukon, and it represents the third-largest overseas market with 4,176 visitors crossing our border in 2013. I found it very interesting — as I have had the opportunity to travel in the U.K. speaking to tour operators, and also travel to Australia speaking to tour operators — that those two jurisdictions specifically are very competitive with one another. When the U.K. found out that it was the third-largest overseas market — that Australia had just passed it — I think that challenged them to perhaps increase visitation from that jurisdiction to Yukon — so an interesting bit.

Tourism from the United Kingdom contributes approximately \$3 million annually to Yukon's economy through direct spending. Emerging markets include France as well as Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, collectively referred to as Benelux. Together these markets account for over 2,000 visitors to Yukon each year and provide further growth opportunities for our industry.

Part of our success in Europe is the strong international connections that Yukon enjoys for European travellers. Whether it with Condor on their direct flight, non-stop weekly charter flight, or through connections provided by Air North, Yukon's Airline, or Air Canada or WestJet via our gateway cities in southern Canada — that would be Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton — Yukon is easier to get to from Europe than ever before. I know the Member for Whitehorse Centre may not have known that fact, but now she has that information.

The European market contributes significantly to Yukon's overall visitation. In 2013, 17,870 European travellers visited Yukon, representing a three-percent increase in visitation over the previous year.

This fall, I led a successful tourism trade mission to Europe that resulted in three new cooperative marketing agreements with German tourism operators and its new ties with the Netherlands market.

I met with many leading tour operators at a function hosted by the Canadian Ambassador where I heard directly about the potential Yukon holds as a travel destination for the Dutch. Now, here is a fact for you, Mr. Speaker: German and British travellers contributed \$12.3 million to the Yukon economy in 2013 through direct, out-of-pocket expenditures.

I will be leading a mission of tourism businesses to Japan from February 22 to about February 27, 2015. This will be followed by meetings in China during the first week of March. The objective of the Asia mission is to increase Japanese visitors to Yukon and to explore opportunities for both group and independent travel from China.

What the Member for Whitehorse Centre may not know is that this mission will demonstrate our commitment and our support for Japanese and Chinese tour operators and facilitate long-term investment in Yukon's tourism industry from these markets. China is the fastest growing international market for Canada, growing 30 percent so far in 2014. China is now Canada's third-largest overseas market behind the United Kingdom and France.

Of course, the U.S. is our largest visitor market with more than 230,000 visitors in 2013, representing 67 percent of Yukon's total visitors and a seven-percent increase overall in 2012. Through August 2014, the U.S. visitation is down slightly — about four percent — due in large part to travel interruptions on the south Klondike Highway and issues with the Skagway dock.

Yukon invests more than \$500,000 annually in marketing the U.S. through consumer trade and media relation channels. In 2014 and 2015, an additional \$50,000 a year will be invested in U.S. marketing through Yukon Now.

Yukon's investments and consumer marketing in the U.S. are conducted in partnership with the State of Alaska, leveraging high awareness of the Alaska tourism brand in the U.S. Yukon leverages the Alaska tourism brand in all of its consumer and trade marketing initiatives in the United States. The \$177,000 joint Yukon-Alaska program is a core component of Yukon's U.S. consumer marketing strategy delivered in partnership with the State of Alaska.

Yukon invests \$122,000 in the Tourism North marketing program, which is a joint initiative with Alaska, B.C. and Alberta that targets highway travellers. Yukon conducts trade marketing activities with the U.S. tour operators including the \$50,000 cooperative marketing program each year with Holland America Line.

Yukon attends key trade marketplaces in the U.S., including the United States Tour Operators Association, or USTOA, and the National Tour Association, NTA,

marketplaces to maintain and grow U.S.-based tour operator listings of Yukon products and experiences.

Yukon participates in Canada Media Marketplace and the Alaska Media Road Show to recruit high-profile U.S. travel writers to our territory. It's with these travel writers that the department markets very strategically, because we know that when we're setting up agreements with these travel writers or bringing them on fam tours, we have an understanding of their marketing base, or their reach per se.

There is one other item I would like to mention here, and that's the Yukon government and the support that it provided to *The Amazing Race Canada* with its 2014 episode in Yukon. The impact of the show was significant in raising profile of Destination: Yukon. We had our Twitter handle, which was @TravelYukon, receive the most mention of any tourism organization, and the Yukon episode was the second-most tweeted in season 2. That was in the summer 2014. We're grateful for our relationship with *The Amazing Race*. We now know that they've been to Yukon twice. The first time was kind of a pan-territorial approach where the contestants stopped in Nunavut and Northwest Territories as well as Yukon. We were very fortunate to have an exclusive relationship with *The Amazing Race Canada* where Yukon was featured by itself.

Our government utilizes cooperative marketing initiatives to attract investment from its travel trade partners, Yukon tourism operators, tourism organizations and other stakeholders that increase its marketing reach and its impact.

Each year Yukon government attracts more than \$1.8 million in private sector investment through cooperative marketing initiatives as private sector partners match government's contributions.

The tourism cooperative marketing fund provides \$700,000 in matching funds to Yukon's industry each year in support of their marketing investments, which is fully subscribed to every year.

Tourism Yukon develops cooperative marketing initiatives in four areas: travel trade marketing, partnership marketing, support for Yukon marketing organizations and, lastly, tourism cooperative marketing projects.

Cooperative marketing investments in 2013-2014 totalled more than \$1.8 million and Tourism Yukon expects it to attract a similar level of investment in the 2014-15 calendar year.

\$534,000 is budgeted in 2014-15 for travel trade marketing with tour operators and tour wholesalers in Canada, the United States and overseas. Travel trade initiatives promote Yukon products and experiences through advertising campaigns, sales initiatives, promotions and public relations events. The 2014-15 partnership marketing budget of \$611,000 includes agreements with the Wilderness Tourism Association of Yukon for \$264,000, the Yukon Convention Bureau for \$200,000 — it's YCB that puts on that MICE and the red carpet tour that I was speaking to earlier as well as the Canadian Tourism Commission.

The cooperative marketing fund provides 50-percent funding to marketing by Yukon operators, businesses and

partners. A diverse range of applicants have received funding, including Air North, Yukon's airline, and the Klondike Visitors Association. As of September 30, 2014 — and this might surprise you, Mr. Speaker — the tourism cooperative marketing fund — or TCMF, as it's more commonly referred to — has received 93 applications for attendance at consumer and trade shows and for marketing activities, totalling \$661,000. The Department of Tourism and Culture received an additional \$186,000 from a revote, making this fiscal year's TCMF allocation \$876,000. Over the past three years, the tourism cooperative marketing fund program has been fully subscribed to, but each year, after all the recipients and reports have been received, the fund has actually reported a free balance of between \$20,000 and \$70,000. Every dollar provided by the tourism cooperative marketing fund is matched dollar-by-dollar from industry applicants for marketing initiatives.

In the Yukon Now marketing initiative, one of the requests from the Tourism Industry Association of Yukon and the Yukon Chamber of Commerce included a use-of-television component. Tourism Yukon has made investments in television advertising since the late 1990s. These investments have included leveraging and integrating Yukon TV commercials through partnership initiatives with television networks. It has also included marketing and partnership with Northwest Territories and Nunavut, supported by the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency or CanNor. Commercials associated with hosting of TV programs include *Canada AM*, *Gold Rush*, and several overseas productions. It has also included the development and airing of commercials integrated with the hosting of *The Amazing Race Canada* and, through the Yukon Now marketing program, the development and airing of direct purpose-shot Yukon TV commercials.

Given the high cost of TV advertising, the approach Tourism Yukon has taken has been to leverage partnerships to create a strategic, effective and affordable presence in the television market. Generally this is accompanied by developing a marketing campaign in partnership with a media partner.

Value is provided through contests, hosting TV programs — for example, *Canada AM* — and contributing to the development of broadcast content to appeal to existing audiences and to attract new visitors. Tourism Yukon has partnered with Global TV, CTV and TSN in this manner.

In 2007, Yukon, Nunavut and N.W.T. — as I mentioned earlier — were successful in securing four-year funding from CanNor in support of a domestic marketing campaign that included TV as a core component. We are always grateful to have these types of relationships with our northern partners. Working as a consortium with the support of CanNor made TV marketing possible and delivered a good return on investment in terms of raising awareness of Canada and Canada's north as a travel destination. This campaign resulted in TV commercials launched in advance of and during Yukon's hosting of the 2007 Canada Winter Games. Now, subsequent to the 2007 games, the pan-north partners

continued the TV marketing effort — again with the support of CanNor — that leveraged the 2010 Olympics as the campaign anchor.

In 2011 — and I know the Member for Whitehorse Centre will find this interesting — the pan-north partners received \$3.4 million from CanNor in support of a four-year marketing program that again focused on that TV and digital broadcast. A key activity in the pan-north marketing program in 2013 was investing in the first-ever *The Amazing Race Canada*, with each northern jurisdiction hosting an episode.

I can hear the Member for Whitehorse Centre heckling; I will carry on with my remarks regardless. The pan-north TV commercials were produced by CTV and were fully integrated into *The Amazing Race Canada*. In fact, Jon Montgomery, the show's host, was a celebrity in the pan-north commercials.

In 2014, Tourism Yukon went it alone and was the exclusive investor for hosting of *The Amazing Race Canada* 2014, and 3.18 million people saw the Yukon episode of *The Amazing Race Canada*. Our commercials reached over 8.65 million people during that season.

Also in 2014, as part of the 2014 Destination: Yukon summer campaign, Yukoners saw Yukon commercials placed on Global, HGTV, History, Showcase, National Geographic Canada and National Geographic Wild domestic channels during Yukon-themed shows like *Yukon Gold* and *Dr. Oakley, Yukon Vet*.

The recently announced \$3.6-million Yukon Now program includes a significant investment in the development and airing of new Yukon TV commercials over the next two years. This will be the first investment of its kind by Tourism Yukon. More than \$1 million has been committed to produce a series of winter and summer television commercials, with a further \$1 million plus to be invested in the purchase of media to air the commercials.

The Member for Klondike made a reference to Newfoundland's campaign. That campaign was actually called "Find Yourself Here" marketing campaign. The new Newfoundland tourism marketing campaign was launched in 2006 with a budget of \$6 million per year. This was subsequently increased to \$13 million per year before being reduced to \$9 million for the 2013-14 calendar year. As of early 2013, Newfoundland had spent a total of \$94 million on their campaign. Yukon is much smaller than Newfoundland, yet Yukon compares favourably with Newfoundland on a number of tourism-related metrics. At 526,000, Newfoundland's population is over 14 times that of Yukon, and the Newfoundland government's annual budget is roughly six times greater than Yukon's. However, when it comes to tourism marketing expenditures, Newfoundland's tourism marketing budget in 2014-15 is \$3.4 million, 1.7 times larger than Yukon's marketing budget of \$7.6 million. So, in terms of visitation, Yukon again holds up well.

Newfoundland had 497,933 visitors in 2013, compared to Yukon's 442,200. The source of that is the Yukon visitor tracking program estimated total visitation from June 12 to May 13. Yukon Now is a joint Yukon-Canada investment of \$3.6 million over two years to increase our marketing efforts

and draw more visitors from Canada and from around the world. The largest share of the investment will be made in the domestic market, as I indicated earlier, which has experienced significant growth in the past four years and continues to show potential for incremental growth. The budget will break down as follows: 86 percent of the program will target the Canadian market; 11 percent will focus on the overseas market; and three percent will focus on the U.S. market. This new marketing initiative will involve an integrated approach utilizing many marketing tools, including new Yukon television commercials to be broadcast strategically in the domestic market.

We look forward to working with our partners in government and in the tourism industry to maximize opportunities for a prosperous future for all Yukoners.

Tourism Yukon has partnered with the federal CanNor program to make the largest ever new investment in tourism marketing in Yukon government's history with this \$3.6-million Yukon Now marketing program. This investment responds to calls from industry for additional marketing expenditures. As well, the findings of Tourism Yukon's marketing program assessment support increased investment in the domestic market.

The Yukon Now program will incorporate strategic marketing activities in Canada, the U.S. and key overseas target markets that have demonstrated great potential for growth. The program includes new investments in television commercials. It is also includes an initiative targeting the French-speaking market in Quebec, a public relations project in Vancouver, trade missions and events in Germany and Japan, an industry forum in Yukon on the Chinese market, and pre- and post-campaign awareness research.

Yukon Now will provide new opportunities for Yukon and for Yukon tourism operators. The new television and on-line footage produced as part of Yukon Now program will be used to create a new show for the Whitehorse visitor information centre.

Mr. Speaker, you might be asking yourself, why are we marketing? The Yukon government uses two key surveys to assess the economic impact of tourism in Yukon. The Yukon visitor tracking program, conducted by the Department of Tourism and Culture and the Yukon business survey conducted by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics — The Yukon visitor tracking program provides detailed information on visitors to Yukon, including volume, trip characteristics, travel behaviours and expenditure information. The 2012 Yukon visitor tracking program estimates that annual expenditures by visitors to Yukon are about \$180.5 million. The Yukon business survey provides information on Yukon businesses, including revenue levels, employee hiring, expected growth and so on. Now the 2013 Yukon business survey indicated that Yukon businesses attributed approximately \$250 million of their gross revenue in 2012 to tourism and that the tourism gross domestic product accounted for 4.3 percent.

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

began implementing major visitor studies in 1987. These major visitor studies provide the base for demand-side estimates of visitor volume and spending in Yukon because they survey visitors directly. Surveys like the Yukon Bureau of Statistics' Yukon business survey provide the base for supply-side estimates of revenue attributable to tourism because they survey Yukon businesses that sell products and services to our visitors.

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

I have often thought about the role of mining in Yukon's tourism industry and I hear the members opposite pay lip service to mining, but it seems pretty clear that they view resource extraction as an archaic and irrelevant career choice. I believe that it is possible for mining and tourism to complement each other as they do in other jurisdictions.

Yukon's tourism sector has benefited from mining in many, many ways. When I talk to tourists, many of them tell me about their desire to visit places associated with the Klondike Gold Rush, including a number of sites in and around Dawson City.

Two weeks ago, the members opposite brought forward a motion on a UNESCO World Heritage Site — a site that is defined by the Klondike Gold Rush. The Member for Klondike has questioned me in the past about efforts to ensure that Dredge No. 4 remained open to visitors.

I know the Member for Klondike is from the east coast of Canada. That is a long way away from Yukon, but he should know by now that the dredge is a mining tool — a massive, impressive and amazing monument for ingenious ways to move, mill and process incredible volumes of dirt in the pursuit of gold. Without mining, we wouldn't have Dredge No. 4. Without tourism, we wouldn't be able to create public sector opportunities for tours of that dredge. It was this Yukon Party government that had the confidence in the public sector to step up to the plate when Parks Canada was scaling back tours. The Liberal leader didn't have the confidence in the good people of his own riding to take on that task.

I want to acknowledge the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon and the Yukon Chamber of Commerce for making a solid business case for this additional funding. This collaboration is just one example of the importance of our strong working relationships with our tourism partners and the business community. One of the things that TIAY and the Yukon chamber called for was an increased focus on television marketing in the domestic market, and that will be one of the key takeaways from the new marketing campaign, called Yukon Now.

The marketing program strives to put Yukon on the map like never before. As details are unveiled to the public — as they were at the Tourism open house — I am confident that you and other Yukoners will share in my enthusiasm and my excitement for this new direction. Yukon Now is both exciting and promising, but there is more that must be done to ensure the future sustainability of Yukon's tourism industry.

I applaud the discussions started by industry on Destination —

Speaker: Order please. The time being 5:30 p.m., this House now stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m., Monday, November 24, 2014.

Debate on Motion No. 729 accordingly adjourned

The House adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

The following Sessional Papers were tabled on November 19, 2014:

33-1- 131

Yukon Arts Centre 2013/14 Annual Report (including Jim Robb's Yukon) (Nixon)

33-1-132

Yukon Teachers Labour Relations Board Annual Report 2013-14 (Dixon)

33-1-133

Yukon Public Service Labour Relations Board Annual Report 2013-2014 (Dixon)

33-1- 134

Yukon Environment Act Final Audit Report Fiscal Year 2012/13 (Dixon)

The following document was filed on November 19, 2014:

33-1-94

Yukon Geographical Places Names Board Annual Report 2013-2014 (Nixon)