



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 174

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HANSARD

Monday, November 24, 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
Monday, November 24, 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 Canadian Tourism Awards finalists

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I rise on behalf of the Legislative Assembly today to pay tribute to the Yukon finalists of the Canadian Tourism Awards presented by the Tourism Industry Association of Canada. The Canadian Tourism Awards recognize the best tourism products, services and experiences in Canada and commend success, leadership and innovation in Canada's tourism industry. I'm proud that Yukon is represented with four finalists that demonstrate these traits and accomplishments: Holland America Line in Dawson City; the Dakhká Khwáan Dancers; Jill Pangman and her company Sila Sojourns; and the Pan North Consortium.

These four finalists represent a cross-section of excellence in Yukon's tourism sectors — whether a small or large business, cultural performance group or a team dedicated to promoting this region. Each represents Yukon with pride.

Holland America Line in Dawson is nominated for the Brewster Travel Canada Innovator of the Year Award. As many Yukoners know, Holland America brings economic benefits to the territory through visitor spending and employment for Yukoners, as well as marketing and business support. The company operations contribute between \$50- and \$60 million annually to our Yukon economy, helping us to continue building tourism as a sustainable industry.

Holland America is also the largest tourism operator in the territory and is among the largest private sector employers. Recently, changes to Holland America's Yukon tours now see jet service in the summer months into Dawson from Fairbanks in partnership with Air North. The Yukon government continues to work with Holland America as the business continues to grow and increases tourism revenues to our territory.

Along with our tourism operators, it is also vital for the tourism destinations to have something unique to offer visitors and to have a strong connection to heritage, culture and the arts. The Dakhká Khwáan Dancers are finalists for the national cultural tourism award presented by the federal-provincial-territorial culture heritage and tourism initiative.

The Dakhká Khwáan Dancers continue to build the public's awareness of the rich First Nation culture in the territory. This group has grown over the years to include 25 members representing three Yukon First Nations: Carcross-

Tagish, Kwanlin Dun and the Teslin Tlingit Council. These dancers connect with their audience with their Inland Tlingit ancestry through traditional singing, dancing and drumming.

Of course, when we talk about a tourism industry, that also means promoting sustainable activities, which is exactly what Jill Pangman and her company, Sila Sojourns, are recognized for achieving with the Transat sustainable tourism award. They aim to minimize the impact on wild areas that it travels to, while providing unique activities to visitors, whether by water or land, in summer or in winter. Ms. Pangman's passion for Yukon's natural areas, combined with her decades of experience as a wilderness guide, come through in her company's visitor offerings.

Finally, the pan-northern marketing campaign Look Up North brought the three territories together to create a northern brand that would appeal to a full range of visitors.

In 2010, the group launched Canada's Northern House, which was set up during the Winter Olympics and captured the attention of visitors from within Canada and elsewhere around the world. This project is nominated for the Fairmount Hotels and Resorts marketing campaign of the year award. The joint marketing campaigns and the pan-north consortium demonstrate our good working relationship across the north, which unifies us and helps us to build a stronger tourism brand.

All of these finalists demonstrate the dedication and professionalism that makes Yukon's tourism industry a robust industry that contributes to the social and economic fabric of Yukon. I would like to congratulate all of them on their nominations for these tourism awards and thank them for representing Yukon so very well.

As finalists for these awards, they have already done Yukon very proud, but I wish each of them the best of luck when the award winners are announced in Ottawa this Wednesday, November 26.

In recognition of National Child Day and Universal Children's Day

Hon. Mr. Graham: This month we celebrated National Child Day and I want to ask all colleagues in the House today to join me in celebrating children.

Originally established in 1993, the aim of National Child Day is to promote awareness of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. This convention was historical because it was the first time that children were recognized as rights-holders in an international treaty. This marked the transition from addressing children's immediate needs through charity alone to galvanizing the movement toward advocacy that would bring about systemic change for the realization of children's rights.

The UN convention spells out the basic rights to which every child is entitled, no matter where they live or what they do — rights that are based on basic principles that a child's best interest should be the first consideration in any action that affects him or her; that all children have the right to life, survival and development; that all children have the right to

participate; and that all rights belong to all children. These basic principles inform children's rights to special protection, to special education and care, to play and rest, to a voice and to health.

Here in Yukon, we believe that government has a role to play in supporting parents and families in their efforts to raise children in a safe and secure environment. We do this in many ways. We provide childcare subsidies for parents who must work and need to leave their children in care. To ensure that care is of good quality, we provide subsidies for licensed care and we fund many other childcare initiatives. We fund Food for Learning to support nutrition programs in schools throughout the Yukon to ensure that no child has to go to class hungry. We support the Imagination Library so that all children under five develop literacy skills and a love of learning. We recently announced the expansion of our healthy families support program to three Yukon rural communities.

We remain focused on ways to improve the health and well-being of our children and youth. We will continue our efforts, not simply because we understand that children are the future of the Yukon, but because they deserve to be safe, fed, educated and happy. Children deserve the best efforts of everyone at all times. I would also like to take the opportunity, if I may, to congratulate the Child Development Centre on its 35th anniversary. The Child Development Centre also plays an important role in supporting children and families in the Yukon. We are very fortunate to have this centre and its services available to so many. I can personally attest to that. On Thursday morning, I was at an arts and crafts day at the Child Development Centre and then spent an hour on my hands and knees, playing with a variety of children, learning as I went. I can attest to the services available there at the Child Development Centre.

It has been a real pleasure for me to witness this organization growing from a handful of families — from a small trailer in Riverdale — to now being an established Yukon-wide service helping children in every community. I think, Mr. Speaker, we have you to thank for some portion of that as well, as you spent many years with the Child Development Centre and we appreciate your efforts as well.

Ms. Stick: I rise on behalf of the NDP Official Opposition. I want to start with this quote: "The one thing all children have in common is their rights. Every child has the right to survive and thrive, to be educated, to be free from violence and abuse, to participate and to be heard." That was a quote by the U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

Mr. Speaker, November 20 was Universal Children's Day. Nearly 25 years ago, the world made a promise to children that we would do everything in our power to protect and promote their rights to survive and thrive, to learn and grow, to make their voices heard and to reach their full potential. Yet old challenges have combined with new problems to deprive many children in our world of their rights and the benefits of development. Ongoing conflicts in the world have placed more children in harm's way — many have

died, many have been rendered homeless without education, and, in too many instances, orphaned with no families.

It was also 25 years ago today that the Canadian Parliament unanimously passed a motion by then NDP leader Ed Broadbent to eliminate child poverty in Canada by the year 2000. Unfortunately, we're not close.

I tie these two together, Mr. Speaker, because the child in poverty in Canada, the child in war-torn countries, the child in refugee camps — all are having their rights promised to them by the UN *Convention on the Rights of the Child* compromised. Too many are hungry, homeless and not receiving the education they need and deserve. To bring it closer to home, it is estimated that 22.7 percent of Yukon children were identified as being food-insecure. The Yukon Food for Learning Association reported serving 16,385 servings between the 27 schools, or 5,000 students in the Yukon.

We have the food bank providing food to families — and these are families with children — numbers that include children and it impacts their rights to survive and thrive. Protecting the rights of the child, eliminating poverty — these are some things that all governments should be concerned about and striving toward. Over and over we hear of the consequences of social determinants and downstream health outcomes. What that means is that the more we do to support, to feed, to house and to educate children from birth, the greater positive benefits in terms of overall health, mental health, education and employment and children's rights.

We can do better and we must do better to recognize the rights of the child and recognize that these rights include all children in our community, our country and around the world.

Mr. Silver: I rise on behalf of the Liberal Party to also pay tribute to National Child Day, which takes place on November 20 of each year.

National Child Day is a day to recognize and to celebrate the rights of children in Canada. The day marks the anniversary of the United Nations *Declaration of the Rights of the Child*, signed on November 20, 1959. As the Minister of Health and Social Services pointed out, this year also marks the 25th anniversary of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, 1989. Canada ratified that agreement in 1991, further recognizing our country's commitment to human rights.

The United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* is an important milestone in human rights. The convention recognizes that children have political, civil, economic, health and cultural rights. Currently there are 194 countries that have ratified the agreement and it is bound by international law. In conclusion, the Government of Canada does have a number of resources available at www.childday.gc.ca for parents to use in order to help teach their children that they do have rights under the law, just like adults.

In recognition of National Housing Day

Ms. White: I rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP Official Opposition to recognize the 22nd of November as National

Housing Day. In the dictionary, “home” is defined as a house, apartment or other shelter that is the usual residence of a person, family or household. It is the place in which one’s domestic affections are centred.

Outside the dictionary pages, it is much harder to define “home”. We hope that home is a place of safety and security, a place where we are free to lower our defences and just be. It is critical when we discuss the issue of housing that we recognize housing as a human right. Today, from coast to coast to coast, there are hundreds of thousands of Canadians who are homeless and millions more who are living in inadequate and unaffordable housing. These numbers represent faces in every community across this country.

Homelessness in Canada continues to remain at crisis levels with very few changes to this reality in sight. Our continued failure to respond to this crisis is not only in violation of our international commitments, including the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, it also violates our own *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* — specifically section 7, which guarantees the right of life, liberty and security of person. How is it possible that in a country as wealthy as Canada, we remain the only major industrialized country without a national housing strategy?

Last Friday, a new housing project was unveiled on the front step of this very building. It is a village made of cardboard boxes. This project mirrored efforts across the country to raise the profile of our continued local and national housing crisis. These cardboard houses were constructed to raise awareness, shed light and encourage a local dialogue on housing issues. Winter is here once again and Yukoners are still facing difficult housing choices.

There is hope that all levels of government will diligently work to improve accessibility to housing, and that together, we can work on the development of a national housing strategy that will see that there is a home for everyone.

We look forward to the day when homelessness is a thing of the past.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I rise today to pay tribute to Canada’s National Housing Day. A profound amount of work is being undertaken to improve the housing situation in all parts of Canada, with provincial and territorial housing agencies working cooperatively with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and other community partners in addressing needs across the housing continuum.

Yukon Housing Corporation plays a key role in providing affordable social housing for low-income Yukoners and seniors who wish to live independently. The Yukon government has a good working relationship with the federal government and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, through which we have been able to create new social housing projects that address some of Yukon’s housing issues.

Last July, Yukon entered into a new investment in affordable housing agreement that will see a combined investment of some \$16 million over the next five years. For those households whose needs cannot be met in the

marketplace, governments, community organizations, non-profit and cooperative groups and the private sector are working together to provide affordable housing solutions.

With the financial support of Canada and the Yukon governments, the social housing projects completed in recent years have contributed greatly to providing lower-income Yukoners and independent seniors with affordable, safe and comfortable places to live across the territory.

Looking back into recent history, federal funding through Canada’s economic action plan in the amount of \$51,290,000 was announced in May 2009, and through the addition of Yukon’s \$2,186,000 contribution, the total economic stimulus program saw \$53,477,000 in investments across the Yukon.

Federal investments are made to assist low-income households and people with distinct housing needs, and assistance is provided across a broad continuum of housing, from temporary shelter assistance to transitional and supportive housing to help people live more independently, to assisted housing for low-income houses. Beginning in 2009, the Yukon Housing Corporation enhanced and improved its social housing stock and 133 new social housing units were constructed since that time, as well as a further 10 units that were added in special needs housing, which is specifically the children’s receiving home.

We also worked with Canada to find a solution for the housing needs of Options for Independence and their clientele’s accommodation and, of course, through investment in Betty’s Haven, which created second-stage housing for women fleeing abusive situations.

Just last week, we officially opened the new 34-unit Alexander Street seniors residence, and Yukon Housing Corporation now has a total of 652 safe, comfortable and affordable social housing units throughout the territory, with more under construction. A new 48-unit seniors residence is being constructed in Whitehorse right now, as well as a new 16-unit seniors facility in the Village of Mayo.

Nearly every Yukon community had new additions or improvements made to their social housing stock in recent years and, in many cases, the usable life of the existing housing units was greatly extended so that the housing inventory will remain viable in the community for years to come.

Over 350 social housing units throughout Yukon were repaired and upgraded using Canada’s economic action plan funding. Our partnership with Canada on these housing projects demonstrated how success can be achieved by working together to improve the housing situation. In recent years, over \$100 million has been invested throughout the Yukon under Yukon Housing Corporation in building new seniors and social housing units. Successful housing development approaches can become best practices for others to emulate in their local areas and some can go on to become models that can be applied in other areas across the world.

Building on this unprecedented level of investment by the territorial government and the federal government, we are continuing to work with partners through the housing action plan, which has engaged NGOs, other levels of government

and various stakeholders to work together to find solutions to address the existing housing challenges and build on the good work that has been done in recent years.

Through this diligent work that is ongoing by levels of government, advocacy groups, charitable organizations and the board of Yukon Housing Corporation, we are continuing to work to find housing solutions that help Yukoners find safe, comfortable and affordable solutions to their particular housing needs.

Mr. Silver: I rise on behalf of the Liberal Party to pay tribute to National Housing Day, which takes place on November 22 of each year.

The date was chosen to commemorate the 1998 declaration by the mayors of Canadian major cities to declare homelessness a national disaster and call on the federal and provincial governments to take action. Homelessness is as much a problem in the Yukon as it is in these major centres like Vancouver and Toronto.

Whitehorse has over 100 homeless people, many of whom rely on the Salvation Army for meals and for shelter. It is suspected that in Canada, as many as 300,000 Canadians are visibly homeless and as many as 900,000 are members of the hidden homeless community. Unfortunately, there are a number of causes that make it such a challenging problem for governments to tackle and, too often, homelessness is a result of mental illness.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the hard work of Habitat for Humanity Yukon in helping to provide a hand up to Yukon families. This week, they will be holding a dedication ceremony for their new families, and also celebrating their 10th anniversary in the Yukon.

Speaker: Introduction of visitors.

Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to undertake a tourism trade mission to Asia in order to realize the significant potential of Asian markets to Yukon's tourism industry and facilitate partnerships between government and industry that will benefit Yukon's tourism industry.

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

THAT this House mark the 25th anniversary of the unanimous resolution of the federal House of Commons to eliminate poverty among Canadian children by the year 2000 by committing to eliminating poverty among Yukon children.

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

THAT this House urge the Government of Yukon to:

(1) consider the findings of the report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on solitary confinement, and its harmful effects;

(2) invite the federal Office of the Correctional Investigator to audit Whitehorse Correctional Centre, including a review of the use of solitary confinement at WCC;

(3) assess the impact of the use of solitary confinement on the physical and mental health of people in custody at WCC; and

(4) provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the investigations.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to work in collaboration with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation government to provide support to the community of Old Crow to ensure that affordable and healthy food is available to residents during the construction of the new food co-op.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to explore a community contribution company model similar to what is available in British Columbia, to:

(1) bridge the gap between for-profit businesses and not-for-profit sector;

(2) encourage private investment into social enterprise; and

(3) reduce demand for government contribution agreements.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to explain how holding a sod-turning event before an election campaign does not qualify as an election promise.

Speaker: Is there a statement by a minister?

This then brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Child poverty elimination

Ms. Hanson: As we have noted, today marks the 25th anniversary of unanimous support by all members of Parliament for a motion by then NDP Leader Ed Broadbent to eliminate child poverty by the year 2000. Twenty-five years later, it is disturbing to note that one in seven Canadian children live in poverty and, worse still, that this rate climbs to four in ten for aboriginal children.

Research has shown that the national child benefit supplement lowers child poverty rates but here in Yukon, this benefit is clawed back from families who rely on social assistance. Instead of safeguarding low-income families at

risk, this government is putting more pressure on low-income families.

Will the Premier, as Finance minister, eliminate the clawback of the national child benefit, a clawback that deepens income inequality and child poverty for families relying on social assistance?

Hon. Mr. Graham: This is one of the issues that we are looking at currently in the Department of Health and Social Services, and we'll soon be bringing forward a proposal to the government to address this issue.

But I think that there are other things that have to be acknowledged here in the Yukon — that we have taken serious steps to address the issue of children living in poverty. We have introduced the Yukon child tax benefit, which is \$57.50 a month per child if a family's income is less than \$30,000. In fact, if the family's income is over \$30,000, they are still eligible for a portion of that tax benefit. That is handled through the federal government's Canada child tax benefit as well.

We also have made strides with the children's drug and optical program to ensure that children in low-income families also have those services available to them to ensure that some additional health needs are provided. We are making progress in the territory on a daily basis.

Ms. Hanson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, but the clawback remains. Eradicating child poverty and the social exclusion that comes with poverty requires targeting the root causes of poverty and income inequality. To do this, we must be able to track our progress in order to focus resources and improve performance. In 2010, this government outlined a social inclusion and poverty reduction indicator framework for the well-being of Yukoners, but it is a framework in name only. No data has been collected or tracked to gauge what, if any, progress has been made on reducing child poverty. Governments measure and report on everything, from jobs to bison. Surely we can agree that reducing the number of Yukon children living in poverty is worthy of the same focused attention.

Will the minister finally put some meat on the bones of his social inclusion and poverty reduction strategy and report on key indicators of child poverty, including affordable housing, food security and high-quality, affordable childcare?

Hon. Mr. Graham: As I have indicated earlier in this session or perhaps the last session, part of the work done in the social inclusion policy was to set benchmarks. Once those benchmarks are all set — and we are in the process of doing that right now — we will then provide a report on how the Yukon as a whole has done in meeting those benchmarks in the longer term. Information received during the preparation of the plan was that these benchmarks should not be really looked at for at least three to five years.

Given those parameters, I can answer the member opposite in a very positive way. We are in the process of setting those benchmarks and we will be reporting on those benchmarks in the longer term. I must say also that, through the wellness plan for Yukon's children and family, we have already set out three pathways for achieving wellness and

preventing illnesses — those who are getting a good start in life, raising children who flourish — and healthy living for all. We are rolling those things out. We have made that an integral part of planning for this government's future.

Ms. Hanson: Child poverty is not inevitable. It is the end result of government policy decisions made — or not made — over time. This government does know this. One objective of its social inclusion and poverty reduction strategy is to: "Provide supports for families with children to break the cycle of poverty."

But now the minister is telling us that, four years later, he is still setting benchmarks. This strategy does not have an implementation plan to show how it is going to achieve their objectives. Other Canadian jurisdictions have implemented poverty reduction strategies through legislation and dedicated funding. For the sake of our children, it is time for Yukon to take action, not just talk about it.

So will this government fulfill its commitment to break the cycle of poverty — child poverty — by actively implementing its social inclusion and poverty reduction strategy and will it set clear, measurable timelines and targets?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I want to thank the Minister of Health and Social Services for answering the questions of the member opposite. This government continues to invest across the board, essentially in all departments, to address this very important topic. Certainly within the Department of Education, with the new blended learning that is occurring — it started in Watson Lake and now is essentially the talk of the whole country, which is eager to learn from what we are doing here — and some of the exciting things that we are doing partnering with First Nations, such as the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, as part of their self-government agreement. As their partner in education, certainly we have talked — and this month is financial literacy — ensuring that there's a focus on children understanding financial literacy, which will help them throughout their lives and, essentially, help all our economy.

We also invest not only in early stages, but for young adults through the mobile trades training trailer. What I'm talking about is that this government is also focused on the economy. This government is focused on creating jobs, creating wealth and prosperity for Yukoners — that in itself will help to eliminate some of the issues that have been identified by the member opposite, and we will continue to ensure that our focus is on Yukon families.

Question re: Yukon nominee program

Ms. White: The *Whitehorse Star* reported last Friday about recurring problems with an employer in the nominee program. We have copies of letters an employer sent to its employees, requiring them to speak to the media and write a letter to local newspapers about their experience with that employer.

There were other requirements outlined in the letter that the employee would have to fulfill for continued support in the nominee program from that employer. These kinds of

requests are against the policies of the nominee program and against basic workers' rights.

What measures have been taken to address this specific situation?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: The Yukon nominee program is but one of many different programs in support of Yukoners and in support of the labour market conditions, as we know them today. I know that in Advanced Education we take care to ensure integrity and to protect the integrity of the nominee program and all its programs. Each of our staff is trained to verify information and to ensure that all applications adhere to policy.

Every individual employer and employee, as well as the Department of Education, is compelled to be able to sign a tripartite agreement with the respective government and all parties, which outlines every party's rights and obligations under that particular program — again, the roles and responsibilities.

So without speaking to specific individual cases, which I am not able to do on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, I can say that we do ensure the integrity of the program. We will undertake investigations, when required, and we will continue to work with all parties, whether that be Immigration Canada, the RCMP or any other party.

Ms. White: Yukon nominee employees are among the most vulnerable, as their access to permanent residency is directly linked to their employer. Even in cases where an employer wrongfully terminates a nominee employee, the worker must restart the two-year process from the very beginning with a new employer.

In this context, sitting back and waiting for a nominee worker to complain is just not good enough.

Will the minister commit to taking immediate measures to ensure nominee employee rights are respected, or will the minister leave it up to these vulnerable workers to stand up for their own rights?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: As I just mentioned, the Department of Education, on behalf of the Government of Canada, takes care to protect the integrity of the nominee program. We ensure that any and all areas that require investigation are investigated with credence.

As I mentioned before, we have implemented measures beyond the federal requirements and beyond those that are currently in place with provinces and territories — which again speaks to the tripartite agreement with the Yukon government as well as the nominees themselves or the temporary foreign workers, and, of course, when it comes to the employers themselves — which requires all of those individuals to go through their respective roles, responsibilities and obligations under those respective programs.

This is but one program that is delivered by Advanced Education in support of Yukon's labour market. It is to fulfill a gap when, in fact, Canadians are not able to provide that measure. It comprises about less than one percent of our overall labour market force in any given year, and any and all cases that require investigations are carried out accordingly.

Ms. White: This one program is responsible for the health and well-being of nominee employers. Upon completion of their work term under the Yukon nominee program, these workers rightfully expect to gain Canadian residency. There have been documented abuses in the past of some nominees by their employers. Of course, there are only a few bad apples, but they have given a bad name to the whole program.

The nominee program helps employers find the labour force that they need and gives workers a path to Canadian residency, but the power imbalance between employer and employee in this situation requires government action to protect the employees.

How does government make sure that a nominee is not enduring abuse as they work hard to become permanent residents of Canada?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: As I just mentioned, in among the many measures that are in place and are delivered by the Department of Education which speak to the tripartite agreement that is signed off — that is certainly in the hands of the employer, the employee and the Department of Education. Again, that goes through the specific roles and responsibilities of every respective party when it comes to the nominee program.

Parties are invited to submit any concerns, any questions or any ideas throughout the period of employment and can do so either by picking up the phone or by issuing them electronically. Any and all concerns are reviewed. They are certainly followed up on by individual staff persons. Our staff continue to be available at any time to answer those questions, to provide clarity or to provide information to approved employers and nominees at any time.

If there is any wrongdoing or any alleged wrongdoing, those cases will be specifically investigated and directed accordingly. It could be directed to within the Department of Education. It could be directed to Immigration Canada, which oversees work permit and also issues overseas work student visas or it could be issued to the RCMP. We take these matters very seriously and will continue to issue them with integrity.

Speaker: The member's time has elapsed.

Question re: Ketz River mine project

Mr. Silver: Earlier this summer, a company named Veris Gold filed for bankruptcy protection. A subsidiary of Veris Gold owns the Ketz River mine project near Ross River. On October 3, the company issued a news release saying that it would be cooperating with the Yukon government to address certain maintenance and remedial work required at the Ketz River project. This news release was not announced by this government.

The work includes maintenance work on access road bridges and will be funded from a \$3-million security fund that the company had established for reclamation. It appears that the government is using the reclamation fund to pay for maintenance at this mine site. Can the minister explain to us why?

Hon. Mr. Kent: There were a number of steps that were taken by Compliance Monitoring and Inspections branch with respect to the Ketzia mine, and accessing the security that the member opposite mentioned was of course one of the last steps that we took. He is indeed correct — there was slightly over \$3 million in that fund that was accessed in October of this year. We've retained the services of a consulting firm to manage the project. It is more than just simple maintenance, as the member opposite alluded to in his initial question. There are a number of aspects of that project that require this and again we are using a consulting firm to manage the project so that we can bring that site back into compliance.

Mr. Silver: The government's decision to spend reclamation dollars on the road and bridge maintenance begs the question: Who will be paying for the actual reclamation?

The October 3 news release goes on to say that the Government of Yukon will undertake the contracting of the required work. Can the minister tell Yukoners if Veris is in fact still owning the company and also how much of the \$3 million will be spent?

Hon. Mr. Kent: These dollars are being utilized to bring the property back into compliance. As mentioned, there is work on the access road and bridges. There is also work with respect to the tailing facility on-site. As mentioned, the Yukon government was named as the beneficiary of the commercial letter of credit in the amount of \$3,087,600.

While we are not managing the project, we have enlisted the services of a consulting firm to manage the project. The contractor has been instructed to demonstrate best efforts to employ qualified local individuals and businesses wherever possible, and there are a number of tight controls within that contract with the consultant to ensure that it doesn't go over the amount of money that we have for the project itself.

Mr. Silver: So the minister says that the reclamation money is being used to bring this project into compliance. This situation raises a couple of questions. I think the government is setting a precedent when it is using money intended for reclamation instead on upgrading the Ketzia mine and bridges. If the government wants to do that, they should maybe find money from Highways and Public Works instead of out of the reclamation bond. That is money that's actually set aside to be used when a mine is permanently closed.

What is the status of this property? Is it closed temporarily or, now that the owner has gone bankrupt, will it be closed permanently? Is there even a water licence in place to do some of the work that the minister has outlined? Finally, is \$3 million sufficient to clean up this site?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Again, as I mentioned, we've accessed the security bond to assist us in bringing the site back into compliance. As mentioned, we've retained the services of a local consultant to do so. There were a number of steps, as I mentioned, that led up to this point. Compliance Monitoring and Inspections branch worked with the company to try to bring it back into compliance.

Again, the company still owns the project. We have no interest in owning the project. We just want to make sure that we safeguard the environment and human health and safety,

so that's what we're doing by accessing these funds to bring that property back into compliance, not only with respect to the road and the bridges in there, but also water treatment, the tailings facilities — those types of issues, as well — that have the potential to have long-term environmental effects.

Again, that's what we're doing with the Ketzia River mine. We have consultants and people on-site right now working.

Question re: Contract registry

Ms. Stick: In the Health and Social Services budget debate earlier in this sitting, I asked a number of questions with regard to physician cost increases. I noted current contracts in place with the department that are available on the Yukon public contract registry. Last week and again this morning, I returned to the public contract registry to verify some earlier information. Shockingly, 104 contracts, totalling over \$8.2 million in awarded funding, have been removed from the government's contract registry.

The contract registry is an essential component of government accountability and transparency. Can the minister explain why 104 contracts, totalling over \$8.2 million, have been removed from the Yukon public contract registry?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I'm good — I admit it — but I'm not that good. I have no idea why 104 contracts, totalling \$8.2 million, were removed from the website, but I will endeavour to find out and return to the Legislature with an answer.

Ms. Stick: I don't know and I'll get back to you is not good enough. This is \$8.2 million out of one government department — one.

The government's public contract registry is about being accountable. This is particularly important: most of the 104 contracts removed were sole sourced. The contracts have been removed and cannot be found, but they were not random. Specifically, they were contracts for doctors' visits to the communities and specialists' visits that have disappeared. Mr. Speaker, either this government cancelled \$8.2 million in health contracts, or they believe Yukoners do not have the right to know who received government contracts.

Why would this government remove contracts for all community visits by doctors and most of the contracts for specialists from the Yukon public contract registry?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I am certain that the member opposite doesn't think through these questions when she asks them.

If I could possibly know what happened to 104 contracts totalling \$8.2 million in a budget that is nearing \$350 million, I believe, where physicians' fees in the territory in total amount to approximately \$35 million — how could I possibly be expected to know what is being taken on and off of a government registry on a day-to-day basis?

I will get back to the member in due course with this information.

Ms. Stick: It is just not good enough. There were obvious patterns, when looking at these contracts. For example, one contract was awarded to a medical clinic for rental space of over \$300,000. That was removed and I cannot

retrieve that contract. Similarly, another contract — same clinic, same services — for \$28,000 remains.

Yukoners know that this government does not have a good track record when it comes to transparency and accountability, but removing information from the public contract is out of the ordinary, even for them. Will the minister show a commitment to open and accountable government and commit to correcting the contract registry so Yukoners can know where their money is being spent?

Hon. Mr. Graham: What we have here is a conspiracy theory imagined by the member opposite somewhere.

As soon as she mentioned a couple of these items, I'm sure that we have absolutely nothing to hide. I know that when we lease space in the territory, it's for a very good reason, such as —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Graham: The member opposite obviously knows more about the Health and Social Services budget than I do, or at least she thinks she does.

It is for very clear reasons, such as the women's clinic that was recently established. It is the clinic for homeless people and people with difficulty accessing medical services in the Yukon. I'm sure that is what it will turn out to be, but I know the conspiracy theory will continue in the member's mind for months to come.

Question re: Affordable housing

Ms. White: As winter sets in and the temperature drops, it is important that we have a real conversation about precarious housing in the Yukon. At about this time last year, I asked the minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation about the number of homeless or precariously housed people in the Yukon, and he either couldn't or wouldn't answer my question. Last year, there were about 50 Yukoners being lodged in hotels at nearly \$1,000 a month for the entire winter. Not only is this a bad fit for tenants, it doesn't make fiscal sense.

A year has passed. How many tenants is the government housing in local hotels and at what cost?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I will have to get back to the member on the cost. I know that during the winter months, we have at times housed between 40 and 80 people in local hotels. I don't have a number as of this date, because it changes from month to month, but I will get back to the member opposite with respect to an exact number. As for the cost of those spaces, many times what happens is that the people living in those hotels receive funding from social assistance to pay for their hotel rooms. I will endeavour to bring back as much information as I possibly can.

Ms. White: I thank the minister for his answer and his promise to bring forward those numbers.

Most hotel rooms don't have kitchens. Having to buy meals every day without access to basic cooking resources is not food security, and it is actually far more expensive for those living under these conditions. The waiting list for affordable housing is growing, and the turnover is slow. People start to notice when affordable housing units sit empty

for months on end because they are waiting on renovations by this government before they can take on a new tenant.

How many Yukoners are on the waiting list for the 652 units the minister mentioned in his tribute, and how many of those units are unoccupied because they are awaiting renovations?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: What I would remind the member is that Yukon Housing Corporation is a corporation that operates under a governing board of directors. As minister responsible, I am not involved in the day-to-day operations. I don't assess clients. I don't determine who gets housing units. I do have confidence in the staff who do that good work. I would again remind the member of the fact that if units are left vacant and there are people on the waiting list, staff endeavour to ensure that those units are only vacant for as long as they need to be to enable whatever repairs are required after a previous tenant has left. In fact, they do an excellent job. I remind the member that the NDP likes to be very preachy on this subject, but in fact it is the Yukon Party that has done more to invest in social housing than any previous government.

Ms. White: I always appreciate the minister's reminders. Let me remind him that tenants in hotel rooms without kitchens and social housing units without tenants just do not make any sense. We have seen what this government does when it's faced with an affordable housing crisis. It drags its heels on spending federal money earmarked since 2006. It promises new units and then cancels a project, not just once, but twice. Meanwhile, social housing units are sitting empty because the government isn't making the renovations a priority so they can accommodate new tenants. There continues to be an affordable housing crisis in the territory and this government is sleeping at the wheel.

How can Yukoners trust this government to provide affordable housing for Yukoners in need when they keep relying on hotel rooms to deal with social housing needs?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I know we hear a lot of very impassioned rhetoric from the member, but I would encourage the member to actually look at the facts. We have taken — again, since 2007 — over \$100 million in investments across this territory, including \$53

I would remind the member that we are continuing to invest in housing. A 48-unit seniors complex is being built as we speak, building on the recent 34-unit construction of 207 Alexander Street. There is investment in the Mayo sixplex that is being built right now and seniors units that have been built in Yukon communities — something the NDP never did when in office. We have again put more investment in social housing than the NDP. We just aren't nearly as preachy about it but we actually put our money where our mouth is.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

Commissioner: Please be seated.

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

Clerk: *Domestic Water Well Program Amendments Act; Court Security Act.*

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

Before I leave here today, I just want to remind all members of the House of an extremely important event taking place on Wednesday evening and that's the Commissioner's Youth Showcase concert. It is Wednesday evening from 6:30 p.m. to about 7:30 p.m. There are about a dozen young people who are going to perform that evening at the Old Fire Hall.

I am really pleased to say that we had over 100 young, talented Yukoners perform at the various events that I have hosted over the past four years. The scope of the talent is incredible. If you haven't been to see some of these young kids perform, I urge you to come out on Wednesday night and watch the performances. I look forward to seeing some of you there.

Commissioner leaves the Chamber

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

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chair (Ms. McLeod): I will now call Committee of the Whole to order. The matter before the committee is Vote 8, Department of Justice, in Bill No. 15, *Second Appropriation Act 2014-15*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

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

Chair: The matter before the Committee is Vote 8, Department of Justice, in Bill No. 15, *Second Appropriation Act, 2014-15*.

Department of Justice

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I rise today to speak to the Department of Justice 2014-15 supplementary budget no. 1, but before we get into some more of the debate, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for the support of the department officials back at the Department of Justice who are assisting and listening to the debate today, as well as my deputy minister, Tom Ullyett, and acting director of Finance, Jeston Innes, for joining and providing support to me on the floor of the Legislature today.

This supplementary budget continues the work presented in earlier budgets and funds important projects that are improving our justice programs and services. We remain steadfast in our commitment to provide an accessible, high-quality and cost-effective justice system in the territory. We also continue to work collaboratively with both governmental and non-governmental partners to make our communities safer. Members will see that the budget reflects this.

The supplementary budget before us today outlines funding that the department is using to grow and diversify programs and services in order to meet the unique needs of Yukoners navigating the justice system, as well as to modernize our operations and upgrade our infrastructure and pay for compensation, training and workspace needs.

The department remains committed to provide services for victims of crime. In 2013-14 alone, Victim Services provided support for more than 1,000 clients. A victim or a witness of crime often has many questions and concerns: Am I safe? Where do I go for help? Do I have to lay a charge? What comes next?

Victims of crime have the right to have their views considered at all stages of the justice process, and therefore, Victim Services works to make sure that the victim's voice is heard. Victim Services helps victims in time of crisis with counselling and support. They help victims understand their rights and options within the criminal justice system and how they can participate in the court process.

Victim Services helps clients develop safety plans, apply for protective court orders and prepare victim impact statements. They help clients apply for practical emergency support for things like cellphones and accommodation, and they refer them to other agencies as needed.

This work, which has been guided from 2009-14 by the *Victims of Crime Strategy* — now in the evaluation phase — is very important because we know that persons affected by crime all have a unique experience and they all have different needs. The needs of individuals, families and communities

vary, and Victim Services is helping victims navigate the justice system and connect them to the right service providers. Victim Services works collaboratively with community organizations, First Nations, transition homes, the RCMP and other health and justice system partners to facilitate the integration of services so they are tailored to the needs of the victim or the witness of crime.

A good example of this is project Lynx, which is a new partnership model for coordinating support services for children and youth victims or witnesses of crime. This model ensures that these support services are culturally and developmentally suitable and protects clients from additional traumas that could be caused by their experience of having to go through the justice system.

In this supplementary budget before you today, an increase of \$10,000 has been allocated to Victim Services' budget in order to grow the services available to our neighbours and communities of Good Hope Lake, Lower Post and Atlin, B.C.

The funding is 100-percent recoverable from the Government of British Columbia under an MOU with the Ministry of Justice and it will be used for services and supports for victims of spousal assault, sexual assault, homicide and other crimes.

This relationship with B.C. is important, as B.C. provides unlimited access for all Yukoners to VictimLINK, which is a toll-free, 24/7 information support and crisis line which can connect Yukon victims to local services, such as Kaushee's crisis line, or refer them to Victim Services.

This budget also designates \$8,000 for office renovations at the Watson Lake Victim Services office. These renovations are accommodating an additional full-time victim services worker in Watson Lake and creating a space separate from the clients of offender supervision services or adult probation.

As part of Yukon's partnership agreement with the federal government, the department continues to work with the RCMP to deliver policing in our great territory. Yukoners place a high priority on living safe and living in a secure society. They look to government, to the RCMP and to organizations at all levels to develop programs and policies that reduce crime, and when crime does happen, that effective and efficient investigations ensue.

The policing priorities for 2014-15 were developed with community input via the Police Council and they focus on: preventing and decreasing the victimization of children and youth; improving the response to sexualized assault and family violence; identifying and addressing with the public and service providers community safety issues; building and fostering constructive, respectful relationships with First Nations; and improving the police response to vulnerable populations.

To jointly manage policing infrastructure and service throughout the territory, the department has made a one-time increase of \$220,000 for RCMP needs. Firstly, this includes an additional \$20,000 to cover RCMP salary increases. RCMP salaries were capped at 1.5 percent annually, from 2011 to 2014, as part of the deficit reduction action plan affecting the

federal public service. However, the RCMP recently received a two-percent pay increase, retroactive to January 1 of this year.

Secondly, this includes \$177,000 to improve the mobile radio system, which is this year's allocation — as part of the Highways and Public Works' four-year plan — to update the needed infrastructure in and around Whitehorse.

Thirdly, \$23,000 has been assigned to increase the budget for the renewal of the biological casework agreement with Public Safety Canada and the RCMP. This funding is for the national DNA labs and biological casework analysis. As partners, the department and the RCMP are delivering innovative and responsive services.

A good example of this collaboration is the opening of the arrest processing unit this spring. The secure 24-hour support centre is ensuring the highest standard of care and protection for all persons taken into the custody of the RCMP, including those who are acutely intoxicated. The arrest processing unit — as I have mentioned before — is an outcome from the *Sharing Common Ground* recommendations.

I would like to recognize the achievements of those involved with the implementation of the *Sharing Common Ground* recommendations including, but not limited to, the Northern Institute of Social Justice, Kwanlin Dun First Nation, the women's coalition and the Department of Justice team — who recently received the Premier's Award of Excellence. This work collectively transformed our relationships with Yukon's police force and I thank all of those involved for their contributions. I look forward to hearing about the projects that will continue as a result of this project.

The demolition of the old Whitehorse Correctional Centre has been completed. Members will remember that studies indicated that tearing down the building was more beneficial and economical than trying to refurbish it. During the demolition work, it became apparent to contractors that more work was needed to remove toxic materials, such as asbestos and lead paint, and to remediate the site. Therefore, this supplementary budget notes a \$270,000 increase for the additional costs to remove and dispose of these toxic materials.

I would like to take an opportunity to provide a couple more updates. I recently attended the Justice federal-provincial-territorial ministers meetings and was pleased to talk about the progress of Yukon's FASD prevalence study and to hear that ministers across our country are in support of more research that helps us better understand FASD issues. Assessments are underway at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre and the study team is working diligently on executing the study's mandate to collect data that will help us understand the prevalence of FASD, mental health and substance abuse problems in Yukon corrections population. We are confident that this research will help us learn more about ways to improve access to justice for individuals with FASD in and out of the corrections system.

I would also like to report that a new funding model has been reached with Yukon Legal Services Society, Yukon's legal aid provider. The department worked with the society this summer to create a model that will ensure legal aid operating costs are fully funded. The department will proactively forecast and address budget needs with the society on an ongoing basis instead of providing one-time funding increases as we have done in the past. We will be working with the society to draw down on any existing accumulated legal aid funding surpluses and then we'll identify required contribution levels, as agreed upon, to meet the legal aid annual operational budget.

The new model will be more responsive to demonstrated costs and will alleviate the pressures of operations. This new arrangement will go a long way to provide low-income, vulnerable — Yukoners who might be considered disadvantaged — with access to quality legal aid services and will increase financial stability for the society itself.

The department continues to work to integrate new technology and systems that will modernize our business practices. The changeover to the justice enterprise information network — otherwise known as JEIN — is advancing. This system, as I've highlighted before, is a software database system that will ensure we are meeting Justice's administrative, informational and management needs for the storage and retrieval of court records. This is a big project and, like many projects of this nature, the team has encountered some delays.

The required business analysis work has been more challenging than anticipated, and it must be completed before moving to the system's development stage of the project. This budget notes an additional \$69,000 for the ongoing work on this JEIN system development.

Other budget items for court technology or court facility improvement include \$90,000, which is 100-percent recoverable from Canada, to administer increased video conferencing capabilities. Video conferencing has been shown to be an effective mechanism to allow victims and witnesses of crime to provide testimony from outside the courtroom. Using video technology is one way to reduce travel costs associated with appearances, but it's also a way to help protect victims of crime from additional trauma that can be caused by being in the courtroom with the accused.

As well, \$10,000 has been designated for courtroom sound system upgrades. This work is making sure that the technical requirements for the digital audio recording system are met and that the PA system's microphones and speakers are compatible and optimized; \$30,000 will be used to improve jury room soundproofing; and \$50,000 has been assigned to replace the inmate holding cell door at the law courts here in Whitehorse.

The department is making good progress on the land titles modernization project. Analysis to appraise current land titles system processes and business requirements is now underway. This budget designates \$200,000 for this business requirements analysis, which will enable the Land Titles

Office to later adopt best practices for digitizing documents and using electronic filing platforms and computer systems.

I am very pleased to share that legislative drafting to update the *Land Titles Act* and the *Condominium Act* is also advancing. Amendments to the respective acts will create a more reliable and client-centered land titles registry and system, and it will create contemporary provisions for condominium development and management.

The government has accepted the 2013 Judicial Compensation Commission — which is the JCC — recommendations. Therefore, the supplementary budget includes the salary increases of the territorial court judges and the justices of the peace. A one-time expenditure in the amount of \$212,000 covers the retroactive payments to April 1, 2013 and ongoing salary increases in 2014-15. A one-time increase of \$200,000 funds the judiciary pension plan adjustments. Other budget items include \$32,000 to enhance the aboriginal courtworker program. The funds will be used to train workers in First Nation communities and intergovernmental agencies about the new national data reporting requirements and *Gladue* processes. These funds are 100-percent recoverable from Canada.

The Government of Yukon is committed to providing a healthy and safe workplace for its employees. As such, this budget identifies funds that have been used to replace the fire-alarm system and for the installation of a new closed-circuit television and panic alarm system.

In closing, I would like to thank and recognize all of the Department of Justice employees for their commitment and for their dedication to delivering our justice programs and our justice services throughout our incredible territory. I would now be happy to answer any questions about the supplementary budget from the members opposite.

Ms. Moorcroft: I would also like to welcome the officials — those who are here in the Legislature with the minister and also those who are tuned in on the radio, who will no doubt be providing answers as I go through the questions I have.

The minister did provide a lot of information in his opening remarks, and I tried to get it down in writing next to the questions that I have for him, but there may be a couple of areas where I ask him to go back and read into the record comments that he has already made.

I want to start out with thanking the minister for making progress on the new funding agreement with the Legal Services Society. The minister indicated that the new model will be better, and we will certainly be keeping an eye on that.

I wanted to ask about witness travel costs, which is one of the items in the O&M expenditures in Court Services in the supplementary budget. This year, the Government of Yukon signed a memorandum of understanding with the federal government for an additional \$92,000 in funding for covering the costs of witness travel and also 50 percent of the salary for a witness coordinator. The federal government used to cover 100 percent of the cost for this program, as I understand it, and now are only covering 50 percent of the cost — although we have certainly heard both the federal government and the

Yukon government speak about the importance of supporting Victim Services.

The minister in his opening remarks referred to the factor that the Victim Services branch has been able to serve over 1,000 clients and helped them navigate the system. There is also the witness coordinator, who works out of the federal public prosecutor's office.

Could the minister tell us what contact the Yukon government had with their federal counterpart regarding this funding scheme where we have now seen the recoverable amount drop from 100 percent to 50 percent?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I thank the member opposite for her questions. The member opposite made questions to some of the witness costs in court operations and I know we will get to some of those costs when we are in line-by-line debate. Currently, there is a half-time FTE budgeted to provide witness administration. There has been an increased demand relating to the use of video conferencing to eliminate the need for witnesses to travel, and for victim witnesses to provide testimony from a location outside the court room. Demand has necessitated the use of this half-time FTE to 1.0 FTE for the witness administration duties. An unfunded auxiliary-on-call FTE has been engaged to complete the other required workload for this position.

The increase of \$92,000 will fund the additional FTE resources required to facilitate the increased use of video conferencing for witnesses and victim witnesses, as well as to fund 50 percent of expenses toward the court technologist to maintain, set up and test equipment, and to troubleshoot technological issues as they arise. I can note that all those funds are recoverable from Canada.

As far as the relationship that the member opposite asked about, we have a relationship — a memorandum of agreement — with the federal government for funding. That memorandum extends to July 2015. Currently, what we are working on with the federal government are negotiations to extend that MOA.

Ms. Moorcroft: That leaves me with the question unanswered of whether the Yukon Minister of Justice attempted to persuade his federal counterpart to continue to cover 100 percent of those costs of the witness coordinator position.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Those negotiations would certainly happen through the department. It hasn't reached the ministerial level yet.

Ms. Moorcroft: During the minister's opening remarks, toward the end he made a reference to some recoverable funding and to *Gladue* reports. I would like to ask the minister if he could repeat that because I missed what he said.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I was making reference to: "Other budget items include \$32,000 to enhance the aboriginal courtworker program. The funds will be used to train workers in First Nation communities and intergovernmental agencies about the new national data reporting requirements and *Gladue* processes. These funds are 100-percent recoverable from Canada."

Ms. Moorcroft: I would like to thank the minister for that.

I have a question relating to policing in communities. The Government of Yukon sets out priorities for the RCMP and recently the parties signed a new 20-year agreement.

This also involves the Government of Canada. But the RCMP still do not have a permanent presence in Burwash. We've heard reports of RCMP response times taking more than two hours for very serious calls. We all recognize the importance of the RCMP and ensuring community safety. The government puts the RCMP in a difficult position when they have to be dispatched from over 120 kilometres away. I'm sure there is a very thorough test to determine whether or not a community deserves a full-time RCMP presence.

What factors does the government take into account to determine whether or not Burwash Landing deserves a full-time police presence? What criteria did the community not meet? If there is no necessity for a police presence in the winter, why is there summertime police presence? Are road infractions caused by increased tourist traffic the only policing problem that afflicts the community of Burwash Landing?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: In 2007-08, the Chief of Kluane First Nation expressed concerns that the lack of a local police presence was problematic, particularly in the summer when there is increased highway traffic and increased outside influence on the community due to the presence of highway construction crews. Kluane First Nation also expressed concern about the slow police response time when an officer has to travel from either Haines Junction or down from Beaver Creek to attend to community policing needs.

In the summer of 2008, RCMP M Division initiated a pilot project to provide retired officers through the RCMP reserve program to focus on policing needs in the Burwash Landing area. The pilot project was staffed by three different retired RCMP members, who each committed to serve as reservists in Yukon for short periods of time. The reservists were obtained through a cooperative agreement or arrangement with the RCMP E Division out of British Columbia. The project has continued each year since 2008 and typically provides two to three months of coverage to the community during the summer months.

During the last two legislative sessions, members opposite have raised concerns over the lack of policing presence in Burwash Landing. As of December 2013, the population of Burwash was 104. The community of Burwash Landing is, as I've mentioned, policed from the Haines Junction detachment, with additional support from the Beaver Creek detachment during the summer. Burwash Landing receives additional support through the RCMP reservist program. As I've mentioned, these reservists are fully trained regular, and perhaps retired, police officers.

I've also mentioned that, since 2008, the Department of Justice has funded the RCMP reservist in Burwash to address the heightened policing needs of the community in those summer months.

The Kluane First Nation, RCMP and the Department of Justice arrived at this solution, based on the community's

policing needs, including an assessment of when calls for service are at their peak. Community members reported that the presence of the RCMP resulted in a reduction of speeding tickets along the highway, as well as drinking and driving.

On another note, Madam Chair, on average, there are approximately 50 calls for service per year from Burwash. The majority of these calls occur during the summer months and they are usually related to impaired driving.

Also, while it is recognized that each community in Yukon has different policing needs, a detachment in all locations certainly isn't something that can be supported. Many small communities across Canada do not have a permanent police presence and receive police services via a hub detachment similar to the RCMP detachment in Haines Junction. I know — in speaking with the Minister of Justice from Nunavut in particular — some of their fly-in communities don't have a police presence so if there is a serious incident, the RCMP from one community would have to fly into the other community to address those issues.

Our officials are open to engaging the RCMP, Kluane First Nation and Burwash Landing in a dialogue on the policing needs of that community but I am happy to see that there has been progress over the last number of years. We do take the policing needs of that community very seriously and we'll continue to have faith in the RCMP to address those very needs.

Ms. Moorcroft: The minister has indicated that Burwash Landing is too small for a police presence full-time but after speaking with the Kluane First Nation and working with the RCMP, the police — supported by the government — are now using an RCMP reservist program. The minister also indicated that there are approximately 50 calls a year, mostly in the summer.

I would like to ask the minister if he can explain — and perhaps I just missed this detail in his answer — when is the RCMP reservist program available? Is that year-round? Is that weekdays only? Does it apply on weekends? How much uptake is there for the use of that program?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: As I had indicated, there are approximately 50 calls per year from the Burwash Landing area. The majority of those calls occur during the summer months and they are usually related to impaired driving. The reservist program was built around the policing needs of that community so it's available in the summer months.

Ms. Moorcroft: I was really pleased to see the Yukon Coroners Service brochure that the minister tabled in this Legislature earlier in the sitting. We also really appreciate the fact that the Coroners Service is now posting the judgments of inquiry, so it's on-line. It's great to see that openness and transparency. I understand the independence of the coroner, but I want to ask whether departments report back to the coroner or whether a coroner can ask for updates from departments on recommendations the coroner has made in judgments of inquiry or in a coroner's inquest.

I also want to ask why there is no mention of coroner's inquests in the flowchart or the brochure. We have seen two coroner's inquests being held this year. Has the government

decided that they will no longer allow any coroner's inquests, or are inquests no longer considered a priority because of their expense? Was there political direction to not include the coroner's inquest on the pamphlet? Can the minister say what the justification was for leaving it off?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: First I want to thank our chief coroner for Yukon for independently preparing the pamphlet I tabled in the House. I had a good meeting with the chief coroner and was able to get a better sense of the good work that the chief coroner and the community coroners do for our communities on a regular basis.

We know that, following the meeting and following me attending the coroners' conference — and the great deal that I've learned since then — we learned that the pay they were receiving wasn't reflective of the work that they perhaps were doing, especially when we did a cross-jurisdictional review. So we had committed just recently to increasing their rate of pay from \$150 per call — this is community coroners — to \$300 per call. We included an on-call component of that for Whitehorse coroners who were placed on an on-call basis for the chief coroner of \$75. Prior to that, there was no remuneration unless there was a call or an incident. So it was important that we did a review in this area.

The member opposite was asking about recommendations that are made by the coroner from certain investigations — for example, a coroner's jury on an inquest. The coroner's job is to inform agencies and wouldn't necessarily have jurisdiction to follow up on those recommendations — to inform agencies of the recommendations. As I indicated, the coroner doesn't have the jurisdiction or the power to enforce those recommendations. I should say, while I'm on my feet in this Legislative Assembly, that I am grateful for the opportunity of having a good productive meeting and tour with the chief coroner and sitting in on the coroners conference. I learned a great deal and I have a new respect for the work that they do for Yukoners. It is certainly not something that most of us would embark on doing. So for those who are involved — the chief coroner and acting chief coroners and community coroners — thank you on behalf of this government for the good work that you do in our territory.

Ms. Moorcroft: Before I move on to the *Coroners Act* regulations and the payment of the acting chief coroner that was part of that, which were good changes — I do want to come to that in a moment — I want to return to the question about following up on the recommendations that are made after a coroner's judgment of inquiry or a coroner's inquest.

The minister just indicated that the coroner's responsibility is to inform agencies, but there is no power to enforce. Sometimes the recommendations apply to a department of the Government of Yukon. For instance, there have been recommendations to Health and Social Services, to the Hospital Corporation and to other departments and agencies for which the Government of Yukon is responsible.

Does the minister have an interest in establishing a power to enforce those recommendations or looking at ways of making sure that the recommendations that are made are in fact implemented and followed up on?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I thank the member opposite for her question. The simple answer is: Of those recommendations that are provided by a jury at an inquest or an inquiry, the agencies that are involved in those recommendations — or the agencies that those recommendations are directed toward — would be responsible for acting on any of those recommendations, if any, at the time that the recommendations are brought forward.

Ms. Moorcroft: I want to move on to the *Coroners Act* regulations. I also would like to thank the chief coroner and all the coroners who provide services throughout the Yukon. No person should be expected to work on-call 24 hours a day for 365 days a year, so there is absolutely a need for there to be acting chief coroners, so that the person in that position doesn't have unrealistic workloads.

The new *Coroners Act* regulations provide for remuneration for coroners and chief coroners and there are some good changes. I am glad to see that there is an on-call payment now available and increases to the payment schedules for coroners will make that remuneration a bit more current than the payment schedule found in the previous regulations. But the department was unable to pay two chief coroners who were appointed in May of 2013 for well over a year. The failure to pay an acting chief coroner for months on end — over a year — does raise a concern about the independence and the impartiality of the office. It took far too long to deal with the problem.

It is also curious that the government stopped corresponding with my constituent about non-payment after I sent a letter to the minister asking about the payment delay on his behalf. I hope that is not a government policy to send a message that people will be punished for speaking to opposition MLAs.

According to the *Financial Administration Act*, ministers are responsible for the management of the financial affairs of their departments under the general direction of the Minister of Finance and Management Board. The minister's officials are responsible for ensuring that departmental activities and expenditures meet legislative, executive, central agency and departmental requirements for financial planning, control and accountability. These requirements are expressed through legislation, regulations, directives, goals, objectives, policies and procedures. They include ensuring that budgets and expenditures are monitored, commitments are recorded and monthly financial reports are reviewed to determine whether transactions have been correctly recorded and activities are proceeding according to operational plans.

Now, I know that, in the past, acting chief coroners were paid, and I fail to understand why the Yukon government took more than a year to figure out a way to issue payment for acting chief coroners. Is the minister not concerned about the extensive delay?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: For the member opposite, I can tell her that this minister is not responsible for bringing HR issues onto the floor of this Legislature. Having said that, I also could add that the Member for Copperbelt South was the

Justice minister for four years and didn't act on this matter either.

On a move-forward basis, the individuals who had acted on behalf of the chief coroner have been paid. With the new regulations — the changes that we have made here on a move-forward basis — anyone acting for the chief coroner will be remunerated according to the regulations of the on-call and the callout.

As far as the member opposite asking if I take it seriously — I take it very seriously, and I think I have proven that. We have put our money where our mouth is and ensured that our coroners — the chief coroner, on-call coroners and community coroners — all feel supported. I think that is important when we are looking at issues such as retention.

I think that answers the member opposite's question.

Ms. Moorcroft: I can assure the minister that acting chief coroners were paid in the past and that the government had the ability to provide payment to acting chief coroners and took some time to do it.

I would like to move on to the *Coroners Act*. We have identified a couple of issues just in the discussion this afternoon to do with, for instance, the power to enforce fulfilling recommendations that may be made in a coroner's inquest. I have been asking this minister now for three years about updating the *Coroners Act*. I would like to ask the minister if he has given direction to his officials — now that they have done some amendments to the regulations — whether they are going to also look at updating the *Coroners Act*.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Changes to the coroner regulations were approved on November 20, 2014. Those are the changes that the member and I had been previously discussing. Before I go on any further, I would like to extend a real heartfelt thanks to my caucus colleagues — Cabinet colleagues — for supporting me as minister to move in a direction where we provide even more support to our coroners in the territory.

Changes to the regulation modernized how coroners are compensated. It improved the ability of the chief coroner to procure services and updated the language to modern legal terminology. All the functions, duties and responsibilities of Yukon Coroners Service related to ensuring that no death in Yukon is overlooked, concealed or ignored continue to be performed.

Since the *Coroners Act* was first established in 1958, four amendments have been made, with the last one in 1994. Yukon Coroners Service boasts the ability to provide coroner services to each and every community, either through a community-based coroner or through Whitehorse, where most of the incidents would occur.

Yukon Coroners Service has modernized the way in which information about investigations, inquests and recommendations are communicated to the public. Yukon Coroners Service is among the leading jurisdictions in Canada to publicly post judgments of inquiry. The increased level of information available to the public is just one way the Yukon Coroners Service is modernizing the transparency and accessibility of the work of the Coroners Service.

Yukon coroners receive training and development that includes monthly training sessions by teleconference, on-scene mentoring in Yukon with B.C. Coroners Service, full-day refresher courses, presentations by outside agencies and officials and an annual Yukon training seminar in Whitehorse, which I had the pleasure of attending just a few short weeks ago.

Yukon Coroners Service actively worked on recruiting coroners who have high-level appropriate skills and building a service that is representative of our communities and demographics.

I know for one, the Coroners Service has just created a travel bag to take to scenes. It has reflective vests, gloves and helmets and all the tools that they need on the side of the road. This is something fairly new within the last little while to the community coroners but it's such an important tool for them to have as they do their good work.

Yukon Coroners Service continues to provide coroner service to all Yukon communities in a manner that ensures that no death, as I mentioned, in Yukon is overlooked, concealed or ignored.

The act, as I had mentioned, was first implemented in 1958. It may be old, but the common law keeps evolving and we follow those changes in coroner's laws. Although we might have an older act, it still serves a purpose and it enables the coroners in Whitehorse and in Yukon communities to do the good work that they do on a daily basis.

Ms. Moorcroft: The Yukon Coroners Service can only modernize to the extent provided for in an outdated act and the Yukon is one of a few jurisdictions that have not looked at its legislation and introduced a bill to be more current. I will just continue to ask the minister to look at that.

I want to move on to the fetal alcohol spectrum disorder prevalence study at Whitehorse Correctional Centre. This government has committed to conducting an FASD prevalence study in the correctional system. The principal investigator was hired in June of 2012 to develop the research methodology. I'm aware that the participation is voluntary.

I would like to ask the minister if the study is now complete. How many inmates participated in the study? How many assessments were done? There was a contract awarded in August of this year for \$50,000 for FASD prevalence study post-study coordinator services. What work is currently being done and what work will be done post-study? Has there been and will there be any education materials developed for correctional officers? Has the minister worked with his colleague in Health and Social Services on a plan for social services support systems to keep people with FASD out of the correctional system?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Again, I thank the member opposite for her question. FASD has certainly remained on the federal, provincial and territorial justice ministers' meetings over the last number of years — in fact, the three years that I've been to those meetings, which I think included four meetings altogether. There's a keen interest from all jurisdictions across Canada on this file, and they're looking for the analysis, in a sense, from this prevalence study.

I know Alberta also did — I don't want to say that it was a similar study, but they did a study — so I'm interested to find out how their study is going. I have to thank the team we've put together. The Department of Justice certainly did a great job at putting the right team together for the job. It has been something that has been ongoing for the department over the last number of years.

After an extensive application process, the University of British Columbia granted the research team ethics approval to begin data collection in early 2014. This past spring, a preliminary pilot project, involving a small number of adult offenders, was launched at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre and the offender supervision services office in Whitehorse. The pilot project allowed the research team to evaluate study procedures and protocols, as well as to identify areas for improvement before the official launch.

The official launch took place early this summer, and the project is now fully underway. Currently the research team remains focused on completing FASD assessments, data collection and day-to-day operation of the project. Once this is completed, the focus will return to data input and analysis by the University of B.C. The final research report is expected to be completed in 2016.

Now this process for assessing adults with FASD requires a team of clinical professionals to administer multiple interviews, as well as medical exams and neuro-psychological tests. Regardless of meeting the criteria for an FASD diagnosis or not, each participant receives a personalized report that will explain their cognitive strengths and their cognitive challenges. The report will also provide recommendations to help each of the participants.

The research team will meet with the participants and work with them to help them understand what their results mean. This report is owned by the participant — I think that is key — and they decide whether they are to share that report or not. Each report will be written in such a way as to help inform service providers of where intervention should focus for that individual. After each assessment is complete, participants will be given the opportunity to meet with a post-study coordinator. The post-study coordinator will work with the participants to connect them with Yukon services that may be able to assist that individual. It will be up to each participant whether or not they wish to follow up on these services.

While we are talking about the prevalence study, I know that the Minister of Health and Social Services and his team have been fully aware and are participants in this procedure. I want to thank him for his support on the prevalence study. I certainly thank all my government caucus colleagues and Cabinet colleagues for their support as well.

Ms. Moorcroft: I would like to thank the minister for that answer. He indicated that in early 2014, the preliminary pilot project was launched and there was some data collection.

Can the minister tell the House how many assessments were completed during the preliminary pilot project? Then I will come back to some of the other unanswered questions.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: For the member opposite and for my caucus colleagues, we were hoping to have upward of 150 participants in the FASD prevalence study. From what I understand, to date we have had somewhere between 20 and 30 participants participate in the prevalence study. The prevalence study continues to be ongoing, so we hope that more individuals — because this is a voluntary service. We aren't going into the correctional facility or the Community Wellness Court and demanding that people take part in this. It is voluntary — just fewer volunteers are coming forward than we had initially anticipated.

Ms. Moorcroft: I thank the minister for that. The minister indicated that the post-study coordinator, which was a contract I had asked about, would be someone who would work with participants who had already taken part in an evaluation. Does the minister anticipate that that post-study coordinator would start working with participants before they come out of the Correctional Centre? Perhaps he could say a bit more about that.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The post-study coordinator will provide those recommendations to the volunteers once the study is completed.

Ms. Moorcroft: So there wouldn't be any services available to the participants who had had an assessment until after the entire project is complete in 2016. Is that what the minister is indicating?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Madam Chair, as you well know, there are plenty of services for individuals with FASD, whether they are in the correctional facility or whether they are individuals living in our community. Those services remain in place, but we need to get through, in this certain circumstance — it doesn't mean that individuals participating in the FASD prevalence study have no services. There are ongoing services, primarily, I would say, through the Department of Health and Social Services and contract positions in the correctional facility, whether it is a psychiatrist, a psychologist, the doctor, the nurse, counselling services and so on. Those services remain; we have never taken those away. But it will be interesting to see, once this prevalence study has been completed, what additional supports or services might come from the study itself.

Ms. Moorcroft: The question I had for the minister was: What work would be done as a result of a \$50,000 contract that was awarded in August and presumably for services through to March of 2015 during the current budget year? The minister said that that post-study coordinator would work with the participants. If they are not working with participants until after the study is completed in 2016, then I would be interested to know what kind of work is covered for that \$50,000 contract.

Moving on to Ryan Leef's FASD bill, the Member of Parliament had said he wanted concrete action for the community, but this bill has been referred to the justice committee and is unlikely to pass in both Parliament and Senate before the next election is called. Has the minister supported the MP's proposed amendments based on the Canadian Bar Association's resolutions about amending the

Criminal Code of Canada to take FASD into account in the sentencing provisions of the act? Has the minister provided any suggestions to the Member of Parliament about what the government's action plan should be to deal with health, social services and other needs of persons with the disability of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder who often end up in conflict with the law?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Before I get into the member's question, I just want to be clear that the post-study coordinator position that we had hired to provide the support during the FASD prevalence study — in fact, they will provide recommendations after the report is done — but they can also provide recommendations while they are doing the work — so now until 2016. I am glad to be able to let everyone know who might be interested in that.

As members of this House are aware, on April 30 of this year, the Yukon Legislative Assembly passed a unanimous motion encouraging the federal government to support Bill C-583 in principle so that it can go to committee for further review and further analysis. When I spoke to the motion, I pointed out that, while Bill C-583 is a good starting point to generate discussion, there was a strong need for greater review of the proposed criminal law reforms, including the need for consultation with provinces and territories and, really, experts who work in this field.

I also indicated that some of the proposed amendments presented significant implications for the provinces and territories, as well as for individuals who live with FASD. While the bill was withdrawn, we are very supportive of the fact that this subject will receive a broad-spectrum review and analysis through the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. This process will allow for the input from a good cross-section of subject experts and the development of recommendations for moving forward. In Yukon, we have been working very hard, as members opposite will know, on the issue of this government's overall response to FASD and, in particular, how we treat persons with FASD when they are offenders, and we will continue to do that good work. We very much look forward to the final report of the committee.

Yukon's leadership role in this area, which I have spoken to a number of times in this Legislature, began with a national conference that Yukon hosted with Justice Canada in September 2008, entitled "The Path to Justice: Access to Justice for Individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder". Officials from the department have been continually working on how to address FASD and the challenges it presents from a policy and program perspective, both internally and collaboratively. The issue remains a priority item for the federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for justice and public safety. This gives us an opportunity to work with our counterparts across the country to develop the most effective responses. The Yukon will continue to bring forward FASD as an access-to-justice issue to the federal, provincial and territorial ministers, as well as deputy ministers and to other agencies, to ensure that work continues on a national level.

The department is working on the development and implementation of the prevalence study of FASD and mental health and substance use issues in the Yukon adult corrections population. We committed over \$600,000 to fund this work so we can have a full understanding of the impact of FASD on the correctional system. This study is a significant undertaking. I am so very pleased that this project is moving forward and we look forward to the results of this prevalence study.

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chair: Mr. Istchenko, on a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I just want to welcome a friend of mine, Dallas Schaber, a Canadian Ranger, to the House.

Applause

Ms. Moorcroft: People with FASD coming into conflict with the criminal justice system is a very difficult and a very important access-to-justice issue. It does have significant implications in Yukon, and that's part of what we all discussed in this Legislature when we gave unanimous consent to the motion urging the Government of Canada to move forward. So the FASD bill presented by our Member of Parliament has been referred to committee. It's unlikely that will go anywhere before the next election, but we are certainly pleased to hear the minister say he will continue to raise it at the federal, provincial and territorial levels with his counterparts.

This government has attempted to block the Yukon Human Rights Commission from investigating allegations of human rights abuses at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. I would like to ask the minister if the government is still preventing the Yukon Human Rights Commission from investigating at the jail. How does the minister explain the statement from the Yukon Human Rights Commission lawyer that this government is misreading the section of the act dealing with other bodies being able to investigate human rights abuses? What training do the Investigations and Standards Office staff have on investigating allegations of human rights abuses at the Correctional Centre, since the minister has indicated that's the appropriate way to do that?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The Investigations and Standards Office provides investigations within the correctional facility. The member opposite seems to think that we're blocking the Human Rights Commission from coming into the correctional facility and that's very far from being accurate. The ISO does a great job at providing those investigations, Madam Chair. They are an independent office, created out of the *Corrections Act, 2009* and regulations of 2009, and correctional redevelopment. ISO has unrestricted access to inmates, documents and the Correctional Centre, and can compel corrections staff to answer questions and provide information and evidence.

Since 2010, ISO has made over 80 recommendations to the department and corrections management staff related to policy and procedures, decision-making and practices at the

Whitehorse Correctional Centre. Relative to other provincial jurisdictions, Yukon has a robust system of oversight of corrections in the ISO. B.C. is the only other province that has a similarly mandated office, although the B.C. Investigation and Standards Office does not carry out inspections. The other territories don't have a similar office in place.

I can also note that in 2013, a total of 90 complaints were received and 24 inquiries. As of August 2014, there have been 44 complaints and 15 inquiries. The investigations carried out by ISO have examined a wide range of issues, including access to medical care, use of separate confinement in WCC, conduct of staff as well as food.

Now the key responsibilities of the office, as you well know, are inspections of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre on a periodic basis. The second formal inspection of the Correctional Centre was completed in September. ISO made a number of findings and recommendations, reviews of inmate discipline upon appeal, reviews of complaints made by inmates or those on probation as well as other investigations.

The director of ISO may investigate any matter with respect to the administration of the *Corrections Act, 2009* at the request of me, the deputy minister, the assistant deputy minister or on the director's own motion. Similar to the federal correctional investigator, every time ISO makes a recommendation, corrections management, through the deputy minister, must respond and indicate actions taken to address the main issues. These recommendations provide a framework for ISO to revisit them when conducting similar reviews in the future to ensure that, over time, risks are addressed and corrections practice improves.

With respect to the human rights complaints at the Correctional Centre, the commission's authority to investigate human rights complaints is governed by the *Human Rights Act*. The *Human Rights Act* requires that all complaints first exhaust all other review procedures available to them under other acts. This is the usual approach in any legislated complaint procedure in order to avoid duplication and multiple proceedings. Inmates at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre have access to a complaints process through the ISO, set up under Yukon's *Corrections Act, 2009*, and decisions made by ISO may be judicially reviewed by the Yukon Supreme Court.

The *Corrections Act, 2009* sets up the ISO with the authority to deal with complaints of all kinds by inmates, including charter-based and human-rights-based complaints. Section 20 of the *Human Rights Act* limits the ability of the commission to investigate a complaint when the complainant has not exhausted other complaint procedures available, such as the ISO process under the *Corrections Act, 2009*. This government is committed to supporting the important work undertaken by the Human Rights Commission.

Ms. Moorcroft: The minister put on the record the number of complaints and inquiries for the 2013 calendar year and to August of 2014 at Whitehorse Correctional Centre. I want to go back, though, and ask him two specific questions that I didn't hear him respond to.

What training does the ISO staff have in specifically investigating allegations of human rights abuses and how many of the investigations that have been conducted were investigations into complaints of discrimination and violations of human rights?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Certainly the individuals who are working at ISO would be required, under the Public Service Commission, to have certain qualifications in order to do that good work. Many of them are ex-RCMP officers who have spent years, perhaps, investigating different occurrences. A number of individuals in ISO have just recently gone out for specific training regarding investigations, so that training is ongoing. I have full faith and confidence in that office to provide the investigations that they do on a — I don't want to say a regular basis, but when required to do so.

Ms. Moorcroft: Does the minister have the information available on how many complaints and investigations the ISO has done related to allegations of human rights violations and complaints of discrimination?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: In 2012-13, the Yukon Human Rights Commission received 237 inquiries. Forty-eight were referred to other agencies or organizations, and 25 to the Canadian Human Rights Commission. The remainder received confidential advice on options to solve whatever issues they were working on. As far as data specific to complaints coming out of WCC, I do not have that information at my fingertips, but I can certainly look into it.

Ms. Moorcroft: Hospital patients are also held at Whitehorse Correctional Centre under the auspices of it being designated as a hospital. Our offices have heard complaints from family members and from non-government agencies about the lack of services for people with mental health disabilities — particularly for people who have been housed at Whitehorse Correctional Centre in its designation as a hospital.

On how many occasions since the new facility was opened has WCC been used for a hospital placement? What policies are in effect to deal with hospital, designated prisoners regarding access to medical and mental health services, family visits and day leave?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I don't have the specific number of individuals who the member opposite is looking for, but I can say that it is few and far between. There have been a small numbers of individuals who have been held at WCC for those very reasons.

But, like I said, it is not something that happens often. We have certainly seen some cases in the media lately, although I can't speak to them, but it is not something that happens very often.

Ms. Moorcroft: It may be a small number of individuals, but there seem to be no policies in effect at Whitehorse Correctional Centre in relation to its use as a hospital. What can the minister tell us about individuals from the Review Board who are placed at Whitehorse Correctional Centre because of the lack of support in the community and then they are sent out of the territory? The minister said it was a small number of individuals, but does he know how many

referrals there have been from the Yukon Review Board in addition to people who have been placed at Whitehorse Correctional Centre as a result of criminal charges or investigations?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The decision to place an accused person with a mental disorder, or finding them not criminally responsible — or NCR — at the Correctional Centre is made by the courts, pending a Yukon Review Board hearing. The courts may order the detention of a not criminally responsible — NCR — individual at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre to ensure the safety of the client and the appearance by the client in court while awaiting the Yukon Review Board's decision. The Whitehorse Correctional Centre has health services in place that provide access to a psychiatrist, a psychologist, different types of specialists, counsellors and medical staff if an individual that is being held at the correctional facility requires that type of support.

The Correctional Centre physician and case-management staff also work very closely with community resources, Mental Health Services and the Yukon Review Board to secure services and continuity of care to individuals who have a mental illness. It is also important to note that all Corrections branch staff are provided with training with respect to working with individuals that have mental health issues.

Pursuant to section 672.1 of the *Criminal Code*, on October 25, 1993, the Minister of Health and Social Services of the day ordered that the following facilities be designated as hospitals for the custody, treating, or assessment of an accused with respect to whom an order, disposition or placement is made under the *Criminal Code*. Those are: Whitehorse General Hospital, Mental Health Services, Health Canada and the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. It is important to note that under the *Mental Health Act*, Whitehorse Correctional Centre is not considered a hospital. This means that the Correctional Centre cannot force anyone to take medication.

Yukon Review Board clients have access to the same services, programming and recreational opportunities available to other individuals held at the correctional facility. The Correctional Centre has a dedicated nursing staff, a forensic therapist and contracts with local psychiatrists and family physicians who attend the centre once a week.

Counsellors from Offender Services are at the unit on a weekly basis. Individuals who are found not criminally responsible — or NCR — on account of mental illness, may be remanded to the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. They could be given an absolute or conditional discharge; they could be held in custody in a designated hospital or released to their community on very specific conditions.

Both the Whitehorse General Hospital and Whitehorse Correctional Centre are designated hospitals for the custody, treatment or assessment of an accused for whom an assessment order, disposition or placement decision has been made.

Ms. Moorcroft: This government has denied allegations of overuse of segregation on several occasions. A

letter the minister provided to me indicated that one inmate at Whitehorse Correctional Centre had spent 284 days in segregation over 15 separate occasions during an 806-day period. So the inmate spent a third of his time at Whitehorse Correctional Centre in segregation over a two-and-a-half-year period. I'm just using this case as an example and I am not requesting any specifics on personal numbers, so you don't have to tell me that you can't speak to individual cases.

What I want to ask the minister is: Would he agree that an inmate being in segregation for over a third of the time they're at WCC may qualify as overuse of segregation? Does he think that such an extensive use of segregation may indicate a capacity issue at WCC and that this government is not giving corrections officers the tools they need to safely deal with hard-to-handle inmates? Does the minister recognize that such a high use of solitary confinement can have negative effects on prisoners, thereby making them more unstable and a greater threat to corrections officers and to other inmates?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Under the *Corrections Act, 2009* regulations, the term "separate confinement" is used for offender placements for administrative purposes. We know that there are a number of definitions, such as short term, long term and voluntary. The term "segregation" is used when the offender is confined separately pending a disciplinary hearing, or they are sentenced to segregation by the hearing adjudicators.

Whether we're talking about separate confinement or segregation, it is important to distinguish that from solitary confinement or from isolation, which the member opposite often confuses it with. There's no solitary confinement or isolation used at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. These words are being used too loosely and it's very important to make a very clear distinction.

This is not a matter of semantics; there are very significant differences. Solitary confinement, or isolation, is a practice used in some parts of the world where an inmate is detained for long periods of time, often arbitrarily and often in small cells, with little or no human contact. Offenders separately confined under the *Corrections Act, 2009* regulations are not subjected to those conditions.

Separately confined offenders have access to visitors. They have access to legal representation, elders, programming when it's possible, fresh air for at least one hour, telephone calls, and daily visits by nurses who prepare the health care plans. They can see case managers. There are daily visits by senior management and they are closely monitored by staff.

Before I continue to explain this in greater detail, I would remind any interested member of the Legislature or the public that they can take the virtual tour of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre on-line to see the conditions of separate confinement and review the policies pertaining to it.

There has been a great deal of media attention around the use of separate confinement at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre as well as at correctional facilities across Canada and internationally, for that matter. As members of this House are probably aware, a few inmates have also filed complaints with the Human Rights Commission. The *Human Rights Act*

requires that all complainants first exhaust all other review procedures available to them under other acts. The complaints received by the Human Rights Commission did not follow the internal processes at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre or make contact with the Investigations and Standards Office. During the last legislative sitting, the issue of solitary confinement was raised and a report by the UN special rapporteur was also referenced several times. That UN report examined solitary confinement from an international perspective in response to complaints of arbitrary detentions, indefinite detentions, involuntary disappearances and a context of detention in matters of national security. Such practices occur in states such as Mongolia, Nigeria and Indonesia. The report also focuses on the super-maximum security prisons in the United States of America. The examples provided in the report are extreme situations where isolation as punishment is the norm rather than the exception, and people's human rights and health are placed at risk.

To compare those conditions with the Whitehorse Correctional Centre is irresponsible and it is inflammatory. It calls into question the profession and the professional integrity of the staff who work there, Yukoners who are doing some of the most challenging work there is in our justice system. When the new *Corrections Act, 2009* was being developed, the Department of Justice spent 18 months on extensive consultation in every community, with every First Nation. The draft legislation was reviewed on a line-by-line basis with multiple stakeholders and in this Legislature. At no time was the issue of separate confinement or segregation raised as being an inhuman or archaic practice.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify again what this legislation allows and the protections it provides to inmates under the *Corrections Act, 2009*. There are very strict conditions spelled out in the corrections regulations — specifically under sections 20, 21, 23, 28 and 33 — for the use of separate confinement and segregation.

Section 20, short-term confinement, states that a person in charge may order that an inmate be confined separately from other inmates if there are reasonable grounds that the inmate is endangering themselves or is likely to endanger themselves; if they are endangering another person or likely to endanger another person; if they are jeopardizing the management, operation or security of the Correctional Centre or likely to jeopardize the management, operation or security; if they would be at risk of serious harm or if they are likely to be at risk if not separately confined; also, for medical reasons or if they suffer from a mental illness.

Section 21, longer-term confinement, enables the person in charge to extend the order of short-term confinement if it is determined that the circumstances still exist.

Section 22, voluntary separate confinement, enables the person in charge and the inmate to agree that the inmate be confined separately from other inmates. The inmate may at any time request in writing that the person in charge review the separate confinement. An inmate may also be separately confined involuntarily for periods of time by the person in charge for a variety of reasons.

Section 28, segregation as discipline, is meted out by the independent hearing adjudicators. Segregation is used as a last resort for managing behaviour at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. All separate confinement placements are reviewed by a manager.

The person in charge may order an inmate to be confined in segregation pending the conclusion of a disciplinary hearing for the following reasons, and as I've indicated: whether they are likely to endanger themselves or another person if housed in a cell outside of the segregation unit; if the inmate is likely to jeopardize the management, operation or security of the centre; or if it's necessary to preserve evidence for the disciplinary hearing.

The reasons for separate confinement are given to an inmate in writing within 24 hours of the placement. The inmate has the right to contest this placement to management if they believe the placement is inappropriate or if their circumstances have changed or that an alternate placement could perhaps be considered.

The inmate has access to the ISO, which we have talked about before — an independent body established under the *Corrections Act, 2009* to investigate and make complaints. The *Corrections Act, 2009*, under section 26(1), also establishes a system of independent adjudication to ensure that the rights of inmates are upheld during the disciplinary process.

Section 29 of the regulations, regarding disciplinary hearings, states that disciplinary hearings must be presided over by a hearing adjudicator appointed under section 26(1) of the *Corrections Act, 2009* if the alleged breach is being treated as a serious matter, or a staff member appointed by the person in charge if the alleged breach is being treated as a minor matter.

Section 30 of the regulations involving the conduct of hearings states that a disciplinary hearing must be commenced as soon as practicable and no later than 96 hours from the time of the order to convene a disciplinary hearing.

Hearing adjudicators are selected based on their ability to demonstrate fair, impartial and non-discriminatory decisions, a knowledge of First Nations' culture and issues, critical thinking and problem-solving skills and the ability to make decisions in a stressful environment.

All adjudicators have received training, which includes administrative law, administrative justice, understanding legislation, rules and regulations of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre and the philosophy and principles of corrections.

I am very pleased to be able to report that in September of this year, hearing adjudicators attended the Yukon First Nation history and cultures training offered by the Northern Institute of Social Justice at Yukon College.

Section 33 of the corrections regulation outlines that penalties or corrective measures for breach of rules may be imposed by staff members or hearing adjudicators. If an inmate is found to have breached a rule referred to in subsections 25(2) or 25(3), a staff member may impose the following: a warning or a reprimand; a temporary or

permanent restriction on activities or programs; intermittent confinement in a cell other than a cell in the segregation unit for a period not longer than 192 hours; an assignment of extra duties for a period not longer than 12 hours; or a restorative justice process, which may include restitution of part of or all of the costs to repair the damage done by an offender. As well, there is a requirement to participate with the consent of the inmate in a spiritual or ceremonial process or receive elder's teachings or a requirement to participate in or perform duties under a work program.

Under section 33(3), a hearing adjudicator may impose one or more of the following penalties or corrective measures: forfeiture of earned remission or confinement in a cell in the segregation unit. As soon as practicable after the conclusion of the hearing, written reasons must be given to the inmate for the decision and the penalty or corrective measure imposed.

Section 35 of the regulations, which speaks to the review of a decision, allows the inmate, within seven days of a decision, to request in writing that the director of Investigations and Standards review the decision and the penalty or corrective measure imposed.

The director of Investigations and Standards must complete a review as soon as possible to confirm the decision made and substitute any penalty or corrective measure, rescind the decision made and the penalty or corrective measure and direct that the person in charge change the inmate's record to reflect the rescission, or direct that a new disciplinary hearing be conveyed and presided over by a person appointed by the assistant deputy minister.

The ISO is an independent office created out of the *Corrections Act, 2009* and regulation, as we've talked about. They have unrestricted access to inmates, documents and the Correctional Centre and can compel corrections staff to answer questions and provide information and evidence — I have said that before here.

The Department of Justice has been completely transparent about the use of separate confinement and has provided stats for the last calendar year. What they cannot do is provide information about individuals. They are required, just as any government service, to protect privacy under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Madam Chair, I would like to again repeat some of the figures for 2013. Of 887 admissions to Whitehorse Correctional Centre: 59 people were separately confined for various reasons; 10 were separately confined for medical observation purposes — and this includes people who were involved in self-harming behaviour or detoxing upon admittance; three individuals were placed under separate confinement voluntarily, and 46 individuals were separately confined because of their conduct.

It's also important to note that the majority of inmates are only placed in separate confinement for up to about 72 hours. I would also note that when inmates are separately confined or segregated, case managers work closely with them in an effort to return them to regular living units at their earliest opportunity. Separately confined inmates are seen daily by the nurses and the manager of Corrections.

Senior managers also see these offenders on a regular basis. They are monitored closely and regularly by correctional officers. They have access to elders or other spiritual advisors, mental health or health services when needed, family visits and, when it's safe and feasible to do so, they may be provided with programming.

Offenders may need to be segregated to ensure their personal safety or that of other inmates and staff, but they are not isolated while housed in this manner. The legislation was written to ensure that the rights of inmates subject to this restriction are closely adhered to.

There have been concerns raised in the past that overuse of segregation actually makes the job more difficult for the correctional officers in the long run. To this, I would say that, without knowing the circumstances behind each case or weighing the evidence that is presented to independent adjudicators, it's really impossible to make a claim that separate confinement has been overused.

For example, nearly 25 percent of inmates passing through the federal correctional system spent some time separately confined last year. This compares to five percent of inmates at Whitehorse Correctional Centre. Inmates are involuntarily placed in separate confinement or segregation when they would otherwise present risks to the secure operation of the Correctional Centre, including the staff and other inmates.

The small number of inmates who are separately confined or segregated because of behaviour are not victims of the system — they are victimizers. Madam Chair, allow me to provide some examples of the antisocial and criminal behaviours that were dealt with in this manner — disobeying orders, obstructing officers, threatening and being abusive toward staff, possessing contraband — primarily drugs — inciting or participating in a disturbance, destroying public property and assaulting, threatening and victimizing other inmates.

The Whitehorse Correctional Centre is working within its mandate and in accordance with Yukon legislation. What would make their job nearly impossible would be to curtail separate confinement and segregation as options for dealing with these kinds of inmates and their dangerous behaviours. Without that option, we would have to remove the staff from the living units and return to a setting where the toughest criminals run the unit and victimize their weaker inmates.

Alternatively, the Department of Justice would have to consider reconfiguring and renovating the Correctional Centre to provide protected spaces for staff or adding units that would be subject to controlled movement and contact with other inmates. Without the option of separate confinement, recruitment and retention of staff would be more difficult, if not impossible.

Without the option to segregate violent and disruptive inmates, the Correctional Centre would likely have to engage in more use of force, which would put staff and others significantly more at risk. In fact, there are more safeguards in place under Yukon's legislation than in the majority of jurisdictions across Canada.

Other jurisdictions do not have an independent oversight body, such as the ISO, nor do they have impartial systems of adjudication to hear disciplinary matters. Yukon Corrections has adopted best practices in these matters. I remain confident in Yukon's correctional system. I visit the Correctional Centre frequently and always find that it is clean, well-run, and with a professional team of staff and management who are focused on trying to rehabilitate offenders who want to make a change in their lives. They are doing this through programming, education, counselling, elder visits, spirituality and the provisions of health care, work and recreational activities.

Madam Chair, I am extremely proud of the officials who work at our Correctional Centre, of the quality of service and programs available and of the legislative oversight in place that was developed after extensive consultation with Yukoners and that ensures the safety and security of our staff, other inmates and the facility.

Chair: Before we take another question, would the members like to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

Chair: Committee of the Whole will now come to order, continuing general debate on Vote 8, Department of Justice.

Ms. Moorcroft: I would like to continue with my questioning about the use of segregation for persons with mental health issues. Before I do, though, I just want to respond to some of the points.

The minister was quite indignant about the use of the term "solitary confinement", which, I would point out, the UN special rapporteur's report defined as "... the physical and social isolation of individuals who are confined to their cells for 22 to 24 hours a day" — when used (1) as punishment; (2) during pre-trial detention; (3) is definite or prolonged; and (4) on persons with mental disabilities, can amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and even torture.

The special rapporteur refers to this problematic method of incarceration when someone is being held in a cell for 23 hours a day; yet the minister indicated that people are held in the separate confinement and segregation cells for 23 hours a day.

The special rapporteur went on to deal with persons with disabilities because they are sometimes held in solitary as a substitute for proper medical or psychiatric care. Research has shown that — again I quote: "Prisoners with mental health issues deteriorate dramatically in isolation. The adverse effects of solitary confinement are especially significant for persons with serious mental health problems which are usually characterized by psychotic symptoms and/or significant functional impairments."

We do know that people have been held in separate confinement at the Correctional Centre when they have

medical reasons, as well as disciplinary reasons, and those are referred to by the special rapporteur.

The minister indicated that people held in segregation could visit with elders, but I'm wondering if the minister is able to give us an update on how many elders are currently serving on the elders advisory committee. How many elders visit corrections and how often? Are the elders provided with an honorarium? How much are they paid when they go and visit someone who is at the Correctional Centre — or are they expected to come as volunteers?

I would like to close those particular lines of questions related to the use of segregation, and particularly for persons with mental health issues, by asking the minister if he would give any consideration to inviting the federal Office of the Correctional Investigator to do an audit of WCC, as he has done for Baffin Correctional Centre in Nunavut?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I'm going to reiterate something that I had said earlier, and that's that inmates are involuntarily placed in separate confinement, or segregation, when they would otherwise present risks to the secure operation of the Correctional Centre, including staff and other inmates. A small number of inmates who are separately confined, or segregated, because of their behaviour are not victims of the system — they are victimizers. These are people who have created acts of crime, and they are at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre because they are being held accountable for that crime.

Madam Chair, again, some examples of the antisocial and criminal behaviours that were dealt with, in order to put somebody in separate confinement: disobeying orders, obstructing officers, threatening and being abusive toward staff, possessing contraband, inciting or participating in a disturbance, destroying public property and assaulting, threatening and victimizing other inmates.

As I've said, the Whitehorse Correctional Centre is working within its mandate and in accordance with Yukon's legislation. This government believes in holding offenders accountable. That is no surprise. We also are great advocates of providing services to victims of crime. We know that we've set up the RCMP specialized response unit, and they are doing good work within our community. Services to victims of crime — we know that through the Department of Justice, from individuals who perhaps participated in accessing services a number of years ago in comparison to the present day — they have indicated that it is the difference of night and day. They feel supported and they feel empowered. We will continue down that path to providing those types of services to victims of crime.

There are a variety of different funding programs for victims of crime. We have certainly seen the *Victims of Crime Strategy*. I've identified services to victims of crime throughout the policing priorities that we've set out. I just spoke earlier about the crisis line, the 24-hour service that is available through the Department of Justice and other contractors. We have also talked about project Lynx. I think it's important to let Yukoners know that if a child is a witness to or a victim of crime, this government has stood up to the

plate and provided supports for that child. When I look at separate confinement at the correctional facility and the criteria that is set in place to place somebody in that, I believe that this government is doing what it is mandated to do, and that is holding the offender accountable for their actions.

I have talked previously about mental health services at the correctional facility. We have contract psychologists and a psychiatrist — counsellors who go in on a regular basis and meet with the individuals staying at the correctional facility. There is counselling available to those individuals as well.

Similarly, when an inmate is no longer in the correctional facility and they are placed back out on the streets under a probation order, some — maybe not all, but some — might participate in the Justice Wellness Centre, especially those who have gone through the Community Wellness Court. There is more good work being done in that area for people who have decided to take that route.

The member opposite asked about the elders advisory committee. That committee was formed in 2007, and it is made up of nine elders from several First Nation communities. I can't recall whether we are at full capacity right now with the nine, but it should be in and around that area. They do provide some great work for the correctional facility to the inmates with regard to providing one-one-one counselling with the offenders, participating in ceremonies, such as solstice and smudging, as well as cooking, talking circles and other spiritual services that might be sought. They also are great at teaching offenders and staff about First Nations' culture as well as liaising with offenders, staff and communities. They are certainly an integral part of the correctional facility. I know the staff, as well as the inmates, look forward to their participation. They certainly have a very calming influence when they are in the correctional facility. The management team and the staff would certainly like them to be there as often as possible.

The member opposite asked about an honorarium. The elders are provided with an honorarium of \$40 per hour for their time, plus travel costs. Again, we thank them for their services at the Correctional Centre.

Ms. Moorcroft: I would like to thank the minister for his response.

We know that correctional officers do a very difficult job and we thank them for that. I maintain, though, that we need better tools available for corrections officers and for management rather than separate confinement, particularly when people have mental health issues.

It would seem the minister fails to see as a problem that we have over-incarceration of aboriginal people in the correctional system here in the Yukon and in fact, in all of Canada. I would point out for the minister that people are not offenders until they are convicted of a crime and many of the people who are held at Whitehorse Correctional Centre are in pre-trial detention and some of those are acquitted. It would also seem the minister fails to recognize that many of the people at Whitehorse Correctional Centre may be victims themselves — for example, survivors of residential school or people with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

I want to turn to the arrest processing unit, which is part of the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre facility. This was one of the many, in fact, Yukon Party capital projects that went overbudget, seemed rather poorly planned, and was subjected to numerous change orders. The government roared ahead and it built a concrete floor for the arrest processing unit, complete with electrical and in-floor heating capacity, before they found a need to review the scope and design parameters — I think is how the minister phrased it. Then they had to defer the APU project while they tore out what had already been built.

So now that the arrest processing unit is open, what is the total cost of construction for the APU with the \$330,000 supplementary budget amounts?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Before I answer that question, I need to go back to the separate confinement, because the member opposite clearly doesn't have a grasp of the operations of that facility.

We know that without separate confinement, it would make the correctional officers' jobs nearly impossible. Segregation is an option for dealing with the kinds of inmates that I talked about earlier, where people are disobeying orders, obstructing officers, threatening and being abusive toward staff, being abusive, threatening and assaulting toward other inmates, and destroying property.

Without that option of separate confinement, we would have to remove all the staff from the living units and we would have to return to a setting where the toughest criminals ran the unit. The members opposite need to take that into full consideration. Alternatively, the Department of Justice would have to consider reconfiguring and renovating the entire facility to provide protected spaces for staff and rioting units that would be subject to controlled movement and contacts with the other inmates. Without the option of separate confinement, recruitment and retention of staff would be almost impossible.

The members opposite need to fully understand the operations of the correctional facility and take into consideration the safety and the security of the staff who are working there and the other inmates who are living in that correctional facility. There are more safeguards in place under Yukon's legislation than the majority of jurisdictions across our country.

I'm very, very proud with the work that the management and the staff do at the correctional facility on a daily basis. That's a 24/7 operation, and I can remember times when I'm sitting at home on a holiday — we will call it Christmas for an example — Christmas morning — and sending out on Twitter how much I appreciate the staff being there on Christmas morning away from their families, ensuring that that correctional facility is running smoothly and is running safely. That's one reason why we have that separate confinement in place. It is for individuals who are continually disobeying orders, being abusive or possessing contraband.

The member opposite asked about the arrest processing unit — and here is another clear distinction that the member opposite is clearly not paying attention to what's being done,

especially within the Department of Highways and Public Works. The original estimate on the arrest processing unit was just over \$7 million. The final cost of the arrest processing unit was approximately \$5 million, so I don't know where — perhaps that's NDP math again, but we were clearly not overbudget on that project and I thank the Minister of Highways and Public Works for working with me on that file specifically.

The arrest processing unit, for those who are not aware, replaced the RCMP cells that used to be downtown. We have a new model with medical attention for those who are in need of it. We have staff that is specifically trained to work in that APU and I have to thank them. I don't know what job is the toughest up at the correctional facility, but anyone who puts their name forward to work there ought to be commended by this Legislative Assembly for the work that they are doing with the inmates and those who are being held temporarily in the arrest processing unit.

Ms. Moorcroft: I would remind the minister that the replacement Whitehorse Correctional Centre facility started out with a budget of approximately \$35 million, and six years or more later, the budget for Whitehorse Correctional Centre was well over \$70 million. I would call that overbudget. On top of that, the arrest processing unit is more than \$5 million.

I did want to ask the minister about the demolition of the old Whitehorse Correctional Centre. There is \$70,000 in the supplementary budget for that. The minister indicated in his opening remarks this afternoon that the demolition had been completed and that the hazardous materials to be removed included asbestos and lead paint. He also referred to the expenditure as being, in part, for remediating the site.

Could the minister just give us an update on what remediation is left to be done, the total cost for the demolition project and where that's at?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: To address the comments from the member opposite pertaining to the construction — I guess even we can back up from that to the design of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre — the member is absolutely right. A number of years ago, the initial figure to replace the existing Correctional Centre was around the \$30-million mark. When we took into consideration providing better services and a safer environment and then looking at the correctional redevelopment strategy, we soon learned that the \$30-million construction wasn't going to address our needs. It wasn't going to address the needs of the inmates, and it wasn't going to address the needs of the staff. A number of years passed — which we know that construction costs continue to rise, especially here in the north.

We hear the Member for Whitehorse Centre humming and hawing and blowing off steam over there, but again, here is a project that is run under the Department of Highways and Public Works. I think they did a great job. I think the Department of Justice did a great job at providing a much better service and institution for inmates to be held accountable for their actions — as well as staff to work there. Certainly we look at retention of staff and recruitment. This facility — we have seen a number of — I would only guess an

increase of individuals who are now interested in looking at a career in corrections.

Thanks to the Minister of Highways and Public Works for his good work on this — and his department. Thanks to the Department of Justice and, again, thanks to the Minister of Health and Social Services and his department for providing services and advice on mental health services at the correctional facility.

That just sets the record straight for the members opposite. I know they may be interested in that information.

We know now that the demolition of the old correctional facility has been completed. We do know that the costs came in higher as a result of looking at what needed to be taken down. Once you start peeling away the onion, you find all sorts of things. Due to an additional assessment done by the Department of Highways and Public Works, the initial budget from 2013-14 was reallocated to 2014-15, to a total cost of \$1,425,000 for the demolition. During the summer, asbestos was discovered in the building, and an additional \$270,000 was approved by Management Board to complete that project.

An interesting figure — the original correctional facility was built in 1967, and it was purpose-built for 30 inmates. I think when we moved from the old facility to the new facility, there were around 110 — I want to say — inmates in that existing building.

Ms. Moorcroft: I would like to ask the minister if he is in agreement with having a group home on the compound at the jail, or whether he would support moving the group home downtown, where it would be more appropriate to house people who are group home clients and who have not been convicted of a criminal offence.

I also would like the minister, if he can, to tell us who does the snow clearing for Takhini Haven, which is on the Correctional Centre property. There's flooding into one of the doors where the snow melts. Has the department asked Property Management to fix this? Also, as an interim measure, if the minister is not in support of moving the group home off the jail compound, are they able to take down the fence?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The building that is on the correctional site that was previously used for the women's living unit is now being occupied by Challenge, which is running the group home through the Department of Health and Social Services. I think this question is best directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

As far as the snow clearing, again, we're not operating the building itself, so either the Minister of Health and Social Services or the Minister of Highways and Public Works would be better suited to answer that. I'm sure, now that the question has been asked, they could potentially look into an answer for the members opposite.

Ms. Moorcroft: I would like to ask the minister for an update on the justice information network and the completion of the court registry information system. I know he made some comments during his opening remarks, and I don't recall if he was able to provide detail on when the new court registry information system will be complete and rolled out. That's my

question and I apologize if he has already answered it — could he just give the information again?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The justice enterprise information network — or JEIN, as it is more commonly known — is a software database system for storage and retrieval of court records. The JEIN system is already up and operational for Victim Services and for the Sheriff's department. Right now they are working on the criminal justice component of JEIN. It is a big project. There is a lot of data that needs to be transferred. We expect that that work on the criminal justice component to be ongoing over the next couple of years.

Ms. Moorcroft: I would like to turn to land titles modernization and ask the minister for an update on the land titles modernization project. When does he anticipate people will be able to use electronic filing and have electronic search capabilities for the Land Titles Office? What progress has been made with working with Yukon First Nations on a way to register settlement lands?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I thank the member opposite for that question. There has been a lot of good work that has been done over the last couple of years on the land titles modernization project. We have seen a real solid committee working and meeting with the department over the last year and a half and bringing forward — sharing in the discussions on how we move forward with a project of this size and importance. I have had the opportunity to tour the British Columbia system, as well as the Northwest Territories' system — definitely two very different systems being used in those jurisdictions. We have to find the right fit for Yukon.

There are two aspects to the modernization — first, interim solutions to improve efficiency that are being implemented on an ongoing basis, wherever possible. The department has amended the *Land Titles Act* and *Condominium Act* and made improvements to the current computer software and improved the communication between the Land Titles Office and its stakeholders as it carries out statutory functions. Second to that, a multi-phase modernization project is underway that will transform service levels in the Land Titles Office by introducing the new *Land Titles Act*, streamlining business processes and implementing an efficient computer platform.

We know that when this government took office, shortly thereafter, the turnaround time at the Land Titles Office for a certificate of title was upwards of nine to 12 weeks. This government acted quickly and swiftly and worked with the Land Titles Office and stakeholders and we have brought down the turnaround time — the last I understood was about three to five days. On a rare occasion, it may go a little bit longer, but I certainly thank the staff of the Land Titles Office for their hard work, for their patience and for being able to see down the road when a new system and modernization takes place.

We know that modernization is underway and it will proceed in three phases: there is a scoping phase; a development phase, which is currently underway; and then the final phase, which will implement the modernized system and will depend on the nature of the system that the Government

of Yukon chooses and whether the new office processes will be enabled by moving to a digital system in the Land Titles Office.

Right now we're doing a business requirements study, which looks at the office as a whole. They also talk to stakeholders to determine — and this was actually a recommendation of coming out of the N.W.T. Land Titles Office to do this business requirement study up front so we really had a good solid understanding on what we need and how we need to get there — and that speaks to the digitization project that the member opposite has asked about.

Really until we get the business requirement study completed, we're really not in a position to put timelines — but this certainly a living document. The land titles and the condominium modernizations will be living documents. We will look at bringing in the acts on the floor of the Legislature probably within the next year, but even after we make those amendments there will be continual work that will take place on those two pieces of legislation.

The Yukon government has also advised First Nations that it's open to discussing options for registering category A and category B settlement land in the Land Titles Office in a manner that would preserve aboriginal title on that land. Any option would have to address a First Nation's interest in maintaining aboriginal title on its land and Yukon government's interest in maintaining the integrity of the land titles system. Discussions on options that might meet all interests are certainly ongoing.

We know that the *Umbrella Final Agreement* anticipated that First Nations would establish their own registry for settlement lands. Some First Nations are actually taking part in that. A First Nation land registry would be fully receptive to the specific needs and interests in First Nations and settlement land. The best source of information on a First Nations land registry are those Yukon First Nations involved in setting up their own registries.

Ms. Moorcroft: I believe that the consultant's report on the Land Titles Office that identified shortcomings that needed to be addressed was — it was two years ago that it was presented to the government. The minister just stood and indicated that the process of completing the replacement systems at Land Titles would involve scoping, then developing and then implementation.

So in two years they have done some interim improvements, which is great to hear — and I've heard that the community that uses the Land Titles Office is pleased with that — but that falls into the scoping phase. So now we're in the developing phase and there are funds in the supplementary budget that will help with a business requirement study and then the government will make a decision on what system they bring in, and developing it and implementing it.

How much longer does the minister expect that it will take before a new system can in fact be implemented at the Land Titles Office?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The member opposite clearly doesn't have a full appreciation of how enormous modernizing the land titles project is. We heard both from

B.C. and from the Northwest Territories — and I have had discussions with other jurisdictions like Saskatchewan and other ministers across the country — that land titles modernization is really an ongoing process. To put a timeline on a completion date or to even expect — the member opposite was talking about two years — something of this magnitude to be completed within a two-year period is completely unrealistic. We are not purchasing something from a bubble gum machine and expecting it to work in our territory.

We have an enormous project ahead of us that includes the modernization of the *Condominium Act*, and we will take our time. We will conduct the analysis and the processes that we feel are necessary to delivering to Yukoners a final product that will continue to evolve and that they deserve. There has been a tremendous amount of work over the last two years on this, and to make reference to it not having been fast enough — I do take a little bit of offence. We have certainly spoken to many jurisdictions, including bringing in an inspector to look at the Land Titles Office, which took time. We amended the legislation not long ago, which enabled us to follow up on some of the recommendations that the inspector brought forward and that enabled the office to run more smoothly.

I know that we've replaced the computers. We have given the staff two monitors — this is information coming forward from not only stakeholders, but from the staff themselves. They had older computer systems that they would have to wait 10 or 15 minutes to turn them on in the morning and then they only had one monitor. So they would have to write down information and then type it and then go on to another screen and open it up and type it in there, because they could not copy and paste. Now they have two monitors. They have new systems, which save them a lot of time in the course of their business day.

Business requirements study — the department expects to have a report in the coming months. After that, we will look at starting the digitization of all the records, which in and of itself is an enormous project. That is probably a year and a half or a couple of years to take all of the information in the Land Titles Office and digitize it. When we have a system that will accept that data so that it's ready — there is a lot of work that has been done. There is an enormous amount of work that still needs to be done. The department is tasked with this work and I am confident in the department.

I'm pleased to see it moving forward, as it has been.

Ms. Moorcroft: I have a question about Yukon small business owners' access to contract tenders. One of my constituents bid on a court reporting contract with the Department of Justice and lost the bid, even though it was much lower than the bid that was accepted. Apparently this was because the contract was value-driven, rather than price-driven.

During a meeting with Department of Justice officials reviewing the bid, several inconsistencies with the bid process came to light. The bid was scored on things that were not included in the request for proposal — for example, the absence of a reference letter and security evaluations. There

was no evaluation rubric. The evaluators merely discussed the bid and assigned scores.

This calls into question the ability to reliably replicate the process, which is an essential component of fair procurement practices. So these are Justice procurement policies. What is the Minister of Justice doing to ensure fairness in the department's procurement practices? How can a bid be evaluated based on criteria that were not included in the request for proposal? What is the government doing to ensure that Yukon small business can compete in government RFPs?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I would ask the member opposite to ask the same question to the Minister of Highways and Public Works. I think he's better suited to answer that particular question.

Ms. Moorcroft: I made it clear in my comments before I came to the question that I was asking the Minister of Justice about a contract that was issued by the Department of Justice. There were inconsistencies with the bid process that came to light on that contract. Can the Minister of Justice explain why there was no evaluation rubric as part of evaluating the bid and assigning scores to the proposals?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I look forward to the response from the Minister of Highways and Public Works.

Mr. Silver: Thank you to the representatives from the department for their time here today.

I just have a few more questions after my colleague from Copperbelt South's questioning. I'll start with a question on the Peel lawsuit. Yukon announced in February that it will be hiring a Vancouver legal firm to defend against a lawsuit launched by First Nations over the new plan for the Peel watershed. Can the minister update us on what the legal costs have been for the Peel case to date?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The outside counsel commitments for 2014-15 thus far are approximately \$570,000. In 2013-14, outside counsel costs were approximately \$590,000. In 2012-13, outside counsel costs were approximately \$1.8 million. All Yukon government outside counsel contracts are established through the Legal Services branch, and most of the contracts are cost-recovered from the requesting departments.

The following costs for the 2014-15 year by the department do not include the Legal Services branch budgeted amount for outside counsel so, department by department: Justice, \$40,000; Community Services, \$5,000; Economic Development, \$50,000; Education, \$175,000; Energy, Mines and Resources, \$169,000; Environment, \$49,000; Highways and Public Works, \$43,000; and Public Service Commission, \$39,000. In 2013-14, the costs for outside counsel per department were as follows: Justice, \$73,000; Community Services, \$148,000; Economic Development, \$54,000; Education, \$13,000; Energy, Mines and Resources, \$209,000; Environment, \$1,600; Health and Social Services, \$9,300; Highways and Public Works, \$64,000; Public Service Commission, \$18,000; and Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, \$800. I don't think I need to go back to 2012-13.

By the *Department of Justice Act*, all legal services to government are provided by lawyers acting as agents for the

Attorney General. The Department of Justice Legal Services branch provides a wide array of legal services to the government, both through an in-house legal team and through outside counsel. Outside counsel is retained by Legal Services in consultation with, and sometimes at the request of, a client department. Outside counsel means private bar lawyers hired on contract by the Department of Justice to provide legal services for government. Usually outside counsel is hired to prepare specific opinion or handle a particular court case. Guidelines for retaining outside counsel are laid out in the Department of Justice outside counsel policy, which came into effect on April 1, 2012.

The typical reasons for retaining outside counsel are as follows: the situation is urgent and the requirements of the legal matter exceed Legal Services resources; the matter is of such magnitude that it would not be possible for Legal Services to provide services while continuing to meet the needs of other clients; the work requires expertise not available within Legal Services; the use of a Legal Services lawyer may cause a conflict of interest; perhaps it is more cost-effective to have outside counsel perform the work than Legal Services; representation of the Yukon government is needed in litigation commenced and conducted outside Yukon; and finally, special circumstances exist that require a particular law firm or particular lawyer.

Mr. Silver: I am not sure if the minister understood my question. I am asking specifically about legal costs for the Peel case.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I thank the member opposite for his questions. Particular costs of particular cases or specific cases, I don't have with me on the floor of the Legislature today, but I can certainly look at finding those numbers.

Mr. Silver: Then, just for the record, the minister is going to commit to returning to the Legislature with specifically the legal costs for the Peel watershed case.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: No, that's not what I said. I said I would look into those costs.

Mr. Silver: So we have no commitment from the minister to actually explain to Yukoners how much this legal case is going to cost the taxpayer. I think that's what I'm hearing. If that is what I'm hearing I guess I'll just have to move on.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I don't have the costs at my fingertips right now. I have committed to looking into finding out what those costs are.

Mr. Silver: When the minister finds those numbers is he committing to sharing those numbers with the taxpayers of the Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I have to collect that information — those costs — on specific cases and then that would be a decision that I would take and discuss with my caucus and Cabinet colleagues as to where that information would go. I can't commit to the member opposite on the floor of the Legislative Assembly at this point in time because I don't know what the numbers are as I haven't discussed this issue with my Cabinet and caucus colleagues.

Mr. Silver: It's kind of astounding that we would have to wait so long to get these numbers. Once again, for those people listening out there, this money isn't necessarily the Yukon Party's money. This is taxpayers' money. I hope that the minister is going to do everything in his power to make sure that those numbers can get broken down per lawsuit. I know there are a few of them, but it would be very important for us to know how money this government is spending on legal battles, per case. I implore the minister responsible for Justice to be able to take this bull by the horns — I guess that's a good way of saying it.

I'm going to move on to the Privacy Commissioner's report. This summer, the Privacy Commissioner issued a warning that hidden surveillance in Whitehorse was becoming invasive, specifically at the Yukon law offices. The Privacy Commissioner had released recommended guidelines for use of video surveillance in public buildings and I'm wondering what the government is doing to ensure that these guidelines are met and that individual privacy rights are not being violated.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The member opposite is correct. We have installed a new security system at the courts and the courts building. Those systems are not — or the video at least — has not been activated because we are awaiting a report back from the Privacy Commissioner. At this point in time, we're still waiting for the report.

Mr. Silver: I will move on from that. Again, it was this summer that the Privacy Commissioner issued the warnings and we were hoping to get an update as far as the government ensuring that these guidelines are met. I guess we will wait and see on that one.

I only have one more question for the minister. This is on the arrest processing unit — a couple questions here. I will just ask all three and we will see if we get an answer.

What was the original budget for the arrest processing unit? What is the final cost of the project? I know that this was touched on earlier. Did a company named Barr Ryder do any work on the project? Also, was the contract for the ARU tendered or sole-sourced?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Madam Chair, I need to step back just to provide some clarity on the Privacy Commissioner. So it is Yukon government providing a report to the Privacy Commissioner and that report is a privacy impact assessment, so that is where we are at with that stage and there is more work to continue.

As for the arrest processing unit — in addressing the Member for Copperbelt South earlier, I had indicated that the initial budget for the arrest processing unit was \$7 million and the completion of that project was finished — these are approximate; I don't have the exact, down-to-the-penny — was about \$5 million. We were able to construct a facility that took over from the RCMP cells and one that is providing great service. Staff is very pleased with the service they are providing and the environment that they are providing that in.

As far as a specific company working on that project, I would have to defer that to the Minister of Highways and Public Works, as they were the project manager on that

project. As well as with tendering — I would only presume that that project was out for tender. I don't believe that that project was sole-sourced.

Chair: Does any other member wish to speak in general debate? We will proceed then to line-by-line debate.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Management Services

Management Services underexpenditure in the amount of \$1,000 agreed to

On Court Services

Ms. Moorcroft: I would like to ask the minister if he can provide us with a breakdown for this additional amount in the supplementary budget?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: There was a one-time increase of \$200,000 for the funding of the judiciary pension plan adjustment for the 2014-15 fiscal year pension expense. That was \$200,000. There was a one-time increase of \$212,000 for the funding of an increase in compensation for the Territorial Court Judges and the justice of the peace, as recommended by the Judicial Compensation Commission. Additional funding from Canada, as part of a MOU with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada — under this MOU, the Government of Canada has agreed to pay 50 percent of all Crown witness costs, including travel, and 50 percent of the salary of a witness coordinator. This MOU will remain in effect until July 31, 2015. That's the one we talked about earlier, where I had indicated we were currently under negotiations to expand upon that MOU or to carry it forward.

There's also a transfer of \$45,000 from Court Services' O&M budget — \$15,000 to Management Services' capital budget to purchase office furniture for a new Territorial Court Judge and \$30,000 to capital budget to purchase new video conferencing equipment.

Court Services in the amount of \$459,000 agreed to

On Legal Services

Ms. Moorcroft: I believe this is the amount that the minister referred to in his opening remarks for enhancing the reporting capacity of the aboriginal courtworker program in order to meet a national requirement. I would like to ask the minister to provide a little bit more detail on what training or resources will be provided to courtworkers in relation to *Gladue* reports.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The aboriginal courtworker program increases to enhance the reporting capacity, as the member had indicated. The additional \$32,000 will be used to support training for the six aboriginal courtworker carriers in the territory around a new national data requirements reporting template for the fiscal year of 2014-15. Training, travel to communities and associated costs will assist in supporting collaboration and consultation for the aboriginal courtworkers and justice workers around a new Yukon *Gladue* initiative — as well, working with First Nation communities as well as intergovernmental agencies to support developing *Gladue* processes. As I had indicated before, these funds are 100-percent recoverable from Canada.

Ms. Moorcroft: Will the funding for the Yukon *Gladue* initiative only be available for aboriginal courtworkers or is

there a broader initiative to look at how the use of *Gladue* reports could be incorporated into other parts of the criminal justice system?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The current funding is only for aboriginal courtworkers.

***Legal Services in the amount of \$32,000 agreed to
On Regulatory Services***

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I think it's important to put on the record that this is a one-time increase of \$200,000 for the funding of a business requirement analysis to support the modernization of the land title system here in our wonderful territory.

Ms. Moorcroft: Can the minister tell the House if the contract has already been awarded for the business requirement analysis or whether that work will be done in-house, and how long he anticipates it taking?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Through the Department of Highways and Public Works, there was an RFP process. Last summer — the summer of 2014 — there was a company that was awarded that bid, or the tender, so they will provide the report sometime in the next few months, I would suspect.

Ms. Moorcroft: This \$200,000 increase for funding the business requirement analysis — is that the total cost or is that added to existing contract dollars that are already available?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: That's the total cost of the contract.

Regulatory Services in the amount of \$200,000 agreed to

On Community Justice and Public Safety Division

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I would just like to provide a breakdown on this item — a project funding agreement with the Province of B.C. for \$10,000 to fund victim services to the communities of Good Hope Lake, Lower Post and Atlin, B.C. This is a one-time cost and it's 100-percent recoverable from the Province of B.C. We certainly appreciate the relationship that we have with British Columbia on this file. There's also a one-time increase of \$220,000 for the RCMP, and there's a transfer of \$5,000 from the Community Justice and Public Safety O&M budget to the deputy minister's office O&M budget as a co-sponsor with Northwestel, in order to bring Theo Fleury here to Whitehorse for the Learning to Lead program.

Community Justice and Public Safety Division in the amount of \$225,000 agreed to

On Total of Other Operation and Maintenance

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

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$915,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Management Services

On Office Furniture and Equipment

Office Furniture and Equipment in the amount of \$21,000 agreed to

On Information Technology Equipment and Systems

Information Technology Equipment and Systems in the amount of \$69,000 agreed to

***On Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space
Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space in the amount of \$179,000 agreed to***

On Court Services

On Court Services Furniture and Equipment

Court Services Furniture and Equipment in the amount of \$133,000 agreed to

On Community Justice and Public Safety Division

On Arrest Processing Unit

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I just want to put on the record that this is an increase of \$330,000 to complete the construction of the arrest processing unit, \$286,000 as a revote based on the 2013-14 year-end commitment and \$44,000 as a supplemental funding increase.

Ms. Moorcroft: During general debate, both the Member for Klondike and I had asked a number of questions relating to the arrest processing unit, and the minister indicated that this project was underbudget. Given that the project is underbudget, why is there a need for a \$44,000 supplementary funding increase? Did the department anticipate that the project would continue into the next fiscal year? Perhaps the minister could explain that.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I apologize if I wasn't crystal clear. Initial estimates on the arrest processing unit were around the \$7-million mark. The project, as I had indicated, was completed for around \$5-million mark. I have to hand it off to the Minister of Highways and Public Works and his team who worked very diligently, day in and day out, to ensure that these projects are completed in the manner that they are completed in.

Ms. Moorcroft: The minister has just said that the original estimates were in the \$7-million range, and then those estimates were revised and they were in the \$5-million range, and so that is how he has determined that the project has come in underbudget. However, we do have a supplementary amount before us in this budget.

Can the minister tell the House: What was the final estimated cost for the arrest processing unit before construction began?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The final estimated cost of the arrest processing unit was \$5 million.

Ms. Moorcroft: Does the minister know the exact amount that the construction project will cost, with the \$286,000 revote and the \$44,000 supplementary funding increase that is — this line item?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Again, Madam Chair, it's going to be in the \$5 million range — approximate. I can certainly commit to having a discussion with the Minister of Highways and Public Works to see what the final cost of that construction was.

Arrest Processing Unit in the amount of \$330,000 agreed to

On Old Corrections Centre Demolition

Ms. Moorcroft: I understand this line item includes a \$270,000 increase for the demolition of the old Whitehorse Correctional Centre, to ensure the safe removal of hazardous material. Was there a reason that the officials — whether in

Justice or in Highways and Public Works — weren't aware that there would be a need to remove hazardous materials? It's a fairly large increase.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Once we got into that project, the scope of the work that needed to be done expanded, we were aware of certain areas of the old correctional facility that had asbestos in it. Then we had workers on the site starting to remove and go through the building — perhaps with a finer-toothed comb — and it was then that we identified that there was quite a bit more work than was initially needed.

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

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

Motion agreed to

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

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

Chair's report

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

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

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

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

Motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Written notice was given of the following motion on November 24, 2014:

Motion No. 791

Re: providing Yukoners with the skills necessary to prepare them for jobs, responsible citizenship and life-long learning (Hassard)