



Yukon Legislative Assembly

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HANSARD

Tuesday, December 16, 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
Hon. Brad Cathers	Lake Laberge	Minister responsible for Community Services; Yukon Housing Corporation; Yukon Liquor Corporation; Yukon Lottery Commission Government House Leader
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Hon. Scott Kent	Riverdale North	Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources; Yukon Energy Corporation; Yukon Development Corporation
Hon. Currie Dixon	Copperbelt North	Minister responsible for Economic Development; Environment; Public Service Commission
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Lois Moorcroft	Copperbelt South
Jim Tredger	Mayo-Tatchun
Kate White	Takhini-Kopper King

Liberal Party

Sandy Silver	Leader of the Third Party Klondike
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Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Tuesday, December 16, 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.
 Introduction of visitors.

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Speaker: Under tabling returns and documents, the Chair has for tabling a report from the Chief Electoral Officer of Yukon, entitled *Recommendations for Amendments to the Elections Act*. This report is submitted pursuant to sections 317 and 318 of the *Elections Act*.

Are there any other returns or documents for tabling?
 Are there any reports of committees?
 Are there any petitions to be presented?
 Are there any bills to be introduced?
 Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to:
 (1) implement its good energy residential incentives program using general government revenue; and
 (2) re-commit to using the northern housing trust fund to create new affordable rental and supported housing projects.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to arrange for witnesses from the Yukon Housing Corporation to appear in Committee of the Whole on Thursday, December 18, 2014.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to admit:
 (1) the reconstruction of the tech and trade wing is part of the F.H. Collins replacement project;
 (2) the cost of these changes should be included in the final price tag for replacing F.H. Collins school; and
 (3) the cost of renovating the existing tech and trade wing should have been known before, not after, a decision was made not to include the tech and trade wing in the new school building.

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

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Peel watershed land use plan

Ms. Hanson: The December 2, Yukon Supreme Court decision on the *Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan* said that the government's justification for implementing their unilateral Peel plan "...does not enhance the goal of reconciliation and is inconsistent with the honour and integrity of the Crown." Tonight, hundreds of Yukoners will be gathering at the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre to celebrate the court's recognition of the *Final Recommended Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan* and the democratic process that created it. To date, this government has refused to comment on the court ruling, citing the need to review the decision. Well, Mr. Speaker, they have had two weeks now to carefully consider and accept it.

Will this government do the right thing, respect the decision of the court on the Peel watershed case and respect the views of Yukon First Nation governments, along with thousands of Yukon citizens, and not appeal the decision?

Hon. Mr. Kent: We do have up to 30 days to determine whether or not we are going to appeal this decision. Again, it is a very complicated decision and it could have far-reaching effects, not only on future land use planning exercises in the territory, but also the economic situation in the territory. We have not completed our consideration of the decision that was rendered by Justice Veale. Once we have done that, we will be in a better position to let Yukoners know what our next course of action will be.

Ms. Hanson: It is an open secret that this government plans to appeal the Peel watershed decision. Their misguided ideology would allow nothing else.

According to the Yukon *Court of Appeal Act*, the Yukon does in fact have 30 days from the day after the decision is handed down to appeal. In this case, the Yukon government has until January 2. It appears that this government is going to appeal the decision, even though they must realize how strongly opposed Yukoners are to its unilateral plan. It is also clear that the government is waiting until the middle of a holiday season to appeal the decision, in the hope that the decision will fly under the radar.

Why is this government withholding making an announcement on their decision regarding the Peel?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Again, the decision came down in early December. We do have up to 30 days to decide whether or not to appeal it. That certainly isn't a choice of ours — when the timing lies. Of course, there will be continued deliberation through the holiday season.

We haven't ruled out any option, contrary to what the member opposite is alluding to. This is a very complicated decision and it will have far-reaching effects, as I mentioned, not only on future land use plans and how the government carries out that process, but also on the future economic status of the Yukon. Again, it is something that we need to take the time to consider. We have not made a decision, and when we have made a decision on the best way to proceed, we will be informing Yukoners at that time.

Ms. Hanson: If the government had followed the UFA in the first place, we wouldn't be in this mess.

The minister's non-answers are no surprise. This is a government that uses every possible excuse to avoid being open with and accountable to citizens. We have seen this government time their announcements before to avoid the public eye. What is apparent is that this government is now fighting directly against the interests and the wishes of Yukon citizens, and they are spending Yukoners' money to do it.

A sensible government would look at the Peel decision and realize that they should stop working against Yukon First Nation governments, against Yukon citizens and against the law, and accept the final recommended plan. When will this government recognize that Yukon citizens, Yukon First Nation governments and now the courts have seen the flaws in their unilateral Peel plan, and when will it do the honourable thing and support the *Final Recommended Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan*?

Hon. Mr. Kent: As I have said in my two previous responses, the decision came down from Justice Veale earlier this month. We have up to 30 days to decide whether or not we are going to appeal the decision. There are economic circumstances involved in this decision. There are also circumstances with respect to future land use plans involved in this decision.

The assertions that the Leader of the Official Opposition is making are incorrect. We have not made a decision one way or the other on whether or not we are going to appeal. This is something that is important to all Yukoners. It may come as a surprise to the Leader of the Official Opposition, but there are those Yukoners who want those economic opportunities in the resource extraction industry. We also have to consider what their feelings are when we are making this decision.

Again, Mr. Speaker we have up until January 2, as the member opposite mentioned, and we will make the decision prior to that date.

Question re: Northern housing trust

Ms. White: Yesterday, the government announced that it is implementing an incentive program to improve the energy efficiency of Yukoners' homes. We can all agree that efficient home heating is important, but it doesn't replace the need for affordable rental housing. The government's own commitment was to use the northern housing trust money for affordable rental housing. This raises serious questions about its lack of a plan to tackle the ongoing affordable housing crisis. We all know the government's disappointing track record on affordable rental housing. It cancelled the Lot 262 plan; it cancelled the 75 affordable units planned for Whitehorse; and now — eight years after receiving the northern housing trust funds — it seems like the government is doing its best to look like it's doing something — anything — with the money.

Is the government really telling Yukoners who can't make ends meet because of the high rent that to get help from this government, they just need to buy a house and change the windows?

Hon. Mr. Kent: There are a number of Yukoners out there who are having trouble making ends meet because of the high cost of their monthly utility bills. This is something that we feel — by using only 2.8 percent of the entire funding amount — 2.8 percent of the original \$50 million that was allotted to this program — to assist homeowners in improving the energy efficiency of their homes.

Again, this is something that will not only benefit homeowners, but it will also benefit the environment and it will benefit the economy by providing opportunities for small contractors to go to work — whether it's siding or installing windows. I know that is not important to the members opposite, but again, a small amount of this funding — less than 3 percent — is being used to support homeowners to reduce the costs of their monthly utility bills. We feel that this addresses the affordability for those homeowners and we think it is a great opportunity.

I only have to look in my own riding of Riverdale North, where I have a number of seniors who are trying to stay in their own homes, or young families that are just buying their first home. It is something that is very important to them, I think, and they would obviously disagree with the member opposite — that the costs of their monthly energy bills is something that's affordable — and this is something that we're doing to try to address that.

Ms. White: The story would be so much different if we were talking about using the existing government revenues and not the northern housing trust money. Helping existing homeowners reduce their heating bill is good, but it isn't the same as helping Yukoners who can't even count on a stable roof over their heads, let alone pay their bills.

This government committed to allocate the northern housing trust money to help alleviate the affordable housing crisis, so why have they broken their promise? The Yukon Party government has had eight years to spend this money and if an energy retrofit credit is the best they can offer, the future looks bleak indeed for Yukoners in need of affordable rental housing.

When will the government table a plan to tackle the affordable housing crisis in the Yukon and create the kind of affordable rental housing it had committed to, when it cancelled Lot 262 in Whitehorse projects?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Perhaps we could just take a stroll down memory lane with respect to the northern housing trust money.

Of that \$50 million, initially \$32.5 million was disbursed among Yukon First Nations. Since this government was elected in 2011, \$4.5 million has been allocated to Betty's Haven for transitional housing. We have rural projects in Carmacks and Carcross — almost \$1.4 million invested into affordable rentals in those communities. We have allocated \$3 million to the homeless shelter to the Salvation Army for the development of a homeless shelter; \$300,000 allocated to Habitat for Humanity; and \$1.4 million, announced yesterday, that will be contributed to make household energy bills more affordable.

Perhaps that's not what members opposite believe these dollars should be expended on. I'm sure they will continue to vote against our appropriations in not only this budget, but future budgeting exercises.

We believe this is something that's not only good for the environment by reducing the greenhouse gas emissions, it's good for homeowners by reducing their monthly costs and it's good for the economy by putting small contractors to work doing these retrofits for Yukoners who want to take advantage of these programs.

Ms. White: We know what Yukoners want, and if the government listened, so would they. Yukoners want a long-term affordable housing vision that says what government will do, and then actually does it. Yukoners want stronger rights for our neighbours in mobile home parks. Yukoners want a government that actually addresses the root causes of homelessness and poverty instead of offering piecemeal solutions to the problem.

This government has been sitting on millions of dollars since 2006 that could be helping put roofs over the heads of Yukoners and, after repeated false starts, they are spending part of that money giving existing homeowners — people who have that stable roof — a \$50 rebate on a \$500 window. This government just isn't up to the task when it comes to supporting Yukoners in need of affordable housing.

When will this government get its act together and finally spend the northern housing trust money on affordable rental housing that we so desperately need in the Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Again, this program is designed to reduce the household energy bills for individuals who own their own homes. We can't think of a better way to invest less than three percent of that original funding envelope to assist homeowners to bring their monthly payments down.

I would ask the member opposite to again visit some of the people in my riding, seniors who have lived in their homes and want to stay in their homes, but are having trouble making ends meet and for whom a program like this will help reduce their monthly costs — or those first-time homeowners, young families in my riding, who own their own homes and are having trouble making ends meet because of high monthly energy bills. This program is designed to assist them.

Again, we initially invested \$32.5 million of that \$50-million northern housing trust money with First Nations. We've allowed them to make determinations on what they want to spend that money on. Since this government was elected, almost \$11 million more has been invested in projects such as Betty's Haven, the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, affordable rentals in Carcross and Carmacks, as well as this energy-efficiency initiative.

I know it's not something that the member opposite supports and, of course, taking the moral high ground, I don't expect the Member for Mayo-Tatchun to apply to this program for his microgeneration application either.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this is something that's important to Yukoners, it's important to homeowners and it will help lower monthly energy bills.

Question re: Ministerial travel to 2015 mineral Roundup

Mr. Silver: For a number of years, Yukon night at the mineral Roundup in Vancouver has been the centrepiece of activities for investors who want to do business here in the Yukon. It is a formal part of the conference and has traditionally been held on Monday night.

This year, the program for Roundup lists Yukon night on Sunday before the conference actually even begins, and it says — and I'll quote here: "The following events are organized independently of AMEBC..." The event is on Sunday, is much smaller and it only runs for two hours instead of the traditional three to four hours.

My question is for the Premier: Why is Yukon night not an official part of Roundup anymore?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Yukon night — I'm not sure if the member opposite knows — is organized by the Yukon Chamber of Mines. AMEBC made some changes to their program.

The Yukon Chamber of Mines continues to use Yukon Night as a fundraiser; unfortunately the member opposite is incorrect in assuming that this is government event. It's something that is run by the Yukon Chamber of Mines. Of course, the Premier's reception is the event that the Government of Yukon organizes. That will be held on Monday evening this year, but I would suggest that perhaps the member opposite could attend the Yukon Chamber of Mines open house this evening and ask them why the changes have been made to Yukon Night.

Mr. Silver: I'm sure the minister knows who funds these events.

Mr. Speaker, Yukon night has always been the main focus of Roundup for Yukon investors. We know that the main focus of Roundup for this government is to raise money for the Yukon Party. We know that this night — Yukon night — is not part of the official program for Roundup. We know an abbreviated version of Yukon night will be held on Sunday before the conference actually begins. We know that it will be scheduled to end just as the Yukon Party fundraiser for the party boat, the *Magic Charm*, begins down the street — all very convenient.

Mr. Speaker, B.C. night continues to be held and actually, it has now taken over Yukon's spot on Monday night. Why does this government think that raising money for the Yukon Party is more important than supporting the traditional Yukon night?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Mr. Speaker, again the member opposite seems to be quite confused with who organizes this event. This event is organized by AMEBC. They are the key sponsors of the Roundup — the annual Mineral Exploration Roundup held in Vancouver. Yukon night is something that the Yukon Chamber of Mines has traditionally organized. Absolutely, it used to be — it has traditionally been held on a Monday evening. Organizers of the conference changed that this year and the Yukon Chamber of Mines has decided to hold their event on Sunday evening.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this has nothing to do with the Government of Yukon. The member opposite, I think, in heckling, previously talked about where the funding comes from. This is an important sponsorship opportunity for the Yukon Chamber of Mines and they continue to use that as a sponsorship opportunity, not unlike Geoscience.

I would encourage the member opposite to attend the Yukon Chamber of Mines open house this evening and take that question up with them. The Premier's reception, which is the Yukon government's reception that is held annually at Roundup, will again take place this year on Monday evening. It will be a stand-alone event from B.C. night, obviously. We look forward to getting invites out to all those interested in seeing a strong and prosperous mining industry here in the territory in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Silver: I stand opposed. I figured that the minister had some pull with the chamber.

Yukon night has always been a formal part of the Roundup. Now it isn't even part of the conference and according to the organizing committee website, it is now organized independently.

Now it is ironic that under this government, the largest showcase for Yukon mining is being cut back. The timing of the abbreviated event is also questionable. Its main purpose seems to be to direct people to the Yukon Party fundraiser being held down the street on the *Magic Charm* boat. The mining industry has taken several hits in recent years. There are permitting problems. There is the mess this government has created with the YESAA amendments. The electrical rates are rising. There is a shortage of capital and there is this government's antagonist approach to First Nation governments in the Yukon. Yukon night should be an opportunity to put our best foot forward. Instead, the priority is raising money for the upcoming election for the Yukon Party.

Why did the government give away Yukon Night to British Columbia?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Mr. Speaker, the member opposite did not pay any attention to my previous answers. This is not a government-organized event. The government-organized event at Roundup is the Premier's reception. We'll continue to have that on Monday night.

He continues to heckle off-mic here. I know — he should be embarrassed. He should be embarrassed by that question that he asked. He doesn't understand what Roundup is, who organizes it, who organizes Yukon night. It is really unfortunate that we see a real lack of understanding by the Liberal leader with respect to the resource extraction industry here in the territory.

When I am down at Roundup, I'll be attending with the Premier and a number of other ministers on this side of the House. Regular meetings are scheduled for Monday, Tuesday and into Wednesday. I will be down in Vancouver through Thursday this year, meeting with companies that are active in the Yukon and companies that want to be active in the Yukon — talking to industry, both from the territory and from other parts of Canada and indeed the world about the great

opportunities that exist here in the territory with our extraction industry.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the member opposite to go to the Yukon Chamber of Mines open house this evening and ask them why they moved Yukon night, or why AMEBC decided that Monday was the best night for B.C. It is not a government decision.

Question re: Foster care

Ms. Stick: Children and youth are among the most vulnerable people in our society, but their voices are sometimes missed in government policy. They do have rights to personal safety, health and well-being. This government, however, does not seem to recognize the essential role of foster families in the safety and well-being of children and youth at risk. It is my understanding that there are only about 50 foster family homes in the territory today. Less than five years ago, there were over 100. Because of beds not available in group homes or foster homes, this department has had to resort to placing youth in B&Bs.

Foster families offer children and youth a supportive family, a home and care when it is needed most. Can the minister tell this House why the territory, which once supported nearly twice the number of foster homes, no longer sees this form of care as a priority?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Once again, the member opposite displays her absolute lack of understanding of the situation that currently we find ourselves in.

As I have informed the member opposite on any number of occasions over the last three years, because of agreements that we have with various First Nations as well as memorandums with a few, we have not apprehended and taken into foster care any First Nation children. What we instead do is ensure that the First Nation and the families of those children involved are entirely involved in the system and the child is placed with either family members or extended family members or others in the community, and therefore the number of foster families are not required that we formerly needed.

We also realize that we do need foster families here in the territory, and we are constantly searching for reasonable, credible foster families. We will continue to do that, but we will also continue to work with First Nations and extended families to place children with those.

Ms. Stick: I am confused by that answer. Yes, we need foster homes. Group homes are full. The receiving home is full. There are children who need foster families. They used to advertise for foster families. It was regular in the paper. We don't see that now. Offering stability and the continuity of lifelong relationships are critical to the needs of all Yukon children — not just First Nation children, but all Yukon children — and youth in care.

It has been documented that there is a need for these foster homes. I understand the difficulty of maintaining those and trying to find ones, but if we don't even advertise, how will we find them? Children are left sometimes with social workers being their protectors. In the communities this is a

problem. We have heard where communities do not have permanent social workers.

What has the minister done to ensure that no Yukon community —

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

Hon. Mr. Graham: Once again, I will emphasize the fact that foster families are a large part of the social network here in the territory. We are also in the process of building two new youth facilities here in the City of Whitehorse, and those facilities will be almost double in size. We will have those facilities available for use.

Just because we don't advertise in a newspaper that we need foster care families doesn't mean we are constantly looking for new families to take foster children. The member opposite seems to believe that advertising is going to cure the problem, if there is one, in its entirety, and that is simply not the case.

Question re: Groundwater resources

Mr. Tredger: In EFLO's submission to YESAB regarding the expansion of their Kotaneelee project, they have proposed to stimulate current wells by injecting a large volume of a 15-percent hydrochloric acid solution into the underlying formation. The 15-percent acid solution is pumped into the formation to etch pathways into the rock. This etching dissolves the rock and, much like hydraulic fracturing, exposes large surface areas allowing for a better pathway for the gas to escape. In the oil and gas industry, this practice is known as fracture acidizing or acid fracturing.

Can the minister explain how the proposed acid stimulation is different, or less concerning, than hydraulic fracturing, which is still being considered by the select committee?

Hon. Mr. Kent: I thank the member opposite for what was a very technical question with respect to the activities taking place at EFLO in the Kotaneelee fields in southeast Yukon. It is my understanding that this project proposal is still before the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board. They are still considering it.

As we have seen on the YESAB website — I invite members opposite to go there — they said that this does not involve fracking. I am looking forward to receiving the recommendations from the YESA board, but until such time as those recommendations are received, it is difficult for me to comment any further with respect to this particular project.

We are talking about an existing oil and gas play that has operated in the Yukon for a number of years and, until recently, has had two producing wells down there that have contributed significantly to the Yukon in royalties. I believe the number is over \$45 million in royalties since the Yukon was able to start collecting those royalties. I think those expenditures have been used for important things such as teachers' salaries and paying doctors and others for the services that they provide Yukoners.

Until we get the YESAB recommendations, I don't believe it is prudent for me to comment any further.

Mr. Tredger: YESAB is an advisory body. I am looking for the robust regulations that the Premier has claimed are in place.

Acid fracturing has many of the same characteristics and concerns as hydraulic fracturing — certainly its effect on water and the potential for groundwater contamination. EFLO's project in the Kotaneelee currently only has two groundwater monitoring stations. These are not sufficient to ensure that groundwater contamination will not occur. Furthermore, aquifers in the Kotaneelee have not been mapped and baseline data has not been adequately collected. It is critical that the adequate baseline data and a strong monitoring system be in place.

What regulations does the government have in place to ensure that there is an adequate number of groundwater monitoring wells in relevant proximity to each of the gas wells in the Kotaneelee?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Again, I thank the member opposite for what is a highly technical question. We are awaiting the recommendations from the YESA Board with respect to this project, at which time the decision body will be in the oil and gas branch of the Yukon government — again, an oil and gas branch that, I will remind Yukoners, the Leader of the Official Opposition wondered out loud in this House what exactly they did.

When we were partnering with the British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission — signed an MOU last year — the Leader of the Official Opposition wondered out loud on social media why we were pre-judging the work of the Select Committee Regarding the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing.

Again, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the member opposite's question, we will await the YESAB recommendation, and then the decision body, through the oil and gas branch, will make the appropriate determination to accept, reject or modify the project.

I will remind members that the Leader of the Official Opposition believes the decision bodies, including First Nations, should not have the opportunity to reject or vary any of the YESAB recommendations — essentially handing all of the power for environmental assessment over to employees of the YESA board, mostly residing in these designated offices.

Question re: Water management strategy

Ms. White: The government released its water strategy in June of this year. The strategy does not identify concrete quality and quantity standards for water, nor does it lay out how those would be enforced. Experts agree that comprehensive baseline data collection has to begin years before a project goes ahead to collect and reliable data. This data is essential in assessing what quantities of water can be safely extracted from Yukon's rivers and streams.

How will the Minister of Environment assure Yukoners that Yukon's water will be extracted in a safe and sustainable manner when there are no established quantity standards for water extraction?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is conveniently forgetting a very important part of the regulatory system in Yukon. That is the Yukon Water Board, which issues water licences for any projects that go forward that use the water in the manner that the member is suggesting.

Let me take a moment to discuss a little bit what the water strategy does do. First of all, it establishes a concrete plan for how Yukon will govern its water resources in the years to come. It will see the Yukon government invest \$2.7 million throughout the territory to install a number of new water monitoring wells that will measure both the quality and quantity of Yukon water resources. It establishes a groundwater monitoring program, which, to this date, we have never had.

So the water strategy is a sound plan; it's one that gives us the foundation we need to make the decisions that Yukoners hope are made based on science, and it provides us with the data that we need to tell Yukoners that we are managing our water resources responsibly.

I should note, Mr. Speaker, that all those new deployments of water monitoring stations and the investments we've made have all been voted against by the NDP.

Ms. White: I want to know what's happening in the near future. The government is already receiving requests to use water from Yukon's rivers and streams, and it has shown that it has no mechanism currently in place, not only to protect Yukon's waterways, but to monitor how much water can be safely extracted.

Rivers and streams have a year-round minimum flow rate that must be sustained to ensure the continued health of that river or stream. There is a very real concern that this government will approve extraction requests without knowing what the minimum flow rate is, thereby putting that water system in jeopardy.

For example, Northern Cross (Yukon) is proposing that, without two years of baseline data, it be granted the right to extract a certain volume of water year-round from upper areas of two rivers in the Eagle Plains area. The Yukon's very own Water Board 2013 oil and gas guidelines required at least two consecutive years of baseline data collection to ascertain the minimum extraction threshold.

What scientific data and evidence determines what level of water use is sustainable and, in the case of Northern Cross' proposal, has this evidence been collected for at least two consecutive years?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: The member opposite is wrong when she suggests that a company can simply come in and extract water for industrial purposes without going first to the Water Board. That's simply not true. Of course, the member knows that any industrial activity in the territory that requires the quantity of water she's talking about requires a water licence, and the quantity of water that's extracted from any Yukon water body in the territory is considered by the Water Board when they grant those licences.

Those decisions that are made by the Water Board are based in science. They're based on the best available scientific data that we have — it's data that's built nationally; it comes

from the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment based on national standards in a number of cases.

Again, this gives me an opportunity to highlight some of the fantastic investments that we've made in the Water Resources branch of the Yukon government. The work underway includes the hiring of a new hydrogeologist, who has been hired to formalize and enhance the existing groundwater program. A water monitoring specialist will be hired to formalize the community-based monitoring program. We're installing and upgrading hydrometric stations throughout the territory. We're seeking to add new wells to the groundwater network. We are planning a water forum in February of next year for water managers across the territory, and we're developing a system to track water allocation for licences.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, we're conducting a research study on the Dempster Highway that will help to better understand and adapt to climate change impacts on Yukon's hydrogeological regime. So —

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

Ms. White: It's easy to pass the sole responsibility of water to the Water Board, but this government has obligations set out under the *Umbrella Final Agreement* to ensure that Yukon's rivers and streams meet certain minimum flow thresholds. They also have obligations to Yukon citizens to properly manage the Yukon's water resources.

The fact of the matter is that, without knowing minimum environmental flow, it is impossible to assert a certain quantity or certain percentage of flow of water extraction that is environmentally sustainable.

Does the minister plan to grant companies the right to extract large volumes of water without knowing the minimum environmental flow of the river or stream beforehand?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Again, the member may choose to ignore the *Waters Act* and the regulatory regime we have in place, but that won't make it go away. The Water Board plays a critical role in the issuing of water licences in this territory.

For her to assert that that somehow is not good enough is disappointing and I'll be sure to convey to the Water Board when I talk to them next that the NDP doesn't believe they're doing a very good job. I'll make sure to convey that to them and to reiterate our support for the Water Board and the work that they do.

I should note also that the new hydrometric and water quality monitoring stations that we're deploying throughout the territory were deliberately and strategically chosen to create a comprehensive network that complements the existing sites. That will allow us to make more informed decisions about industrial development that will provide baseline information for industry, which will enable them to meet regulatory requirements more effectively and provide information that could be used for expansion of sectorial needs in the future, such as hydroelectric, municipal, mining and other resource development. All of this, Mr. Speaker, is aimed at better understanding and responding to the effects of climate change that cost our government money, including road washouts and damage to infrastructure. All of those new

investments — the \$2.7 million — and all of those new stations that are deployed throughout the territory are not supported by the NDP. They voted against each and every one of them.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

Notice of opposition private members' business

Ms. Stick: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I would like to identify the order in which the motion standing in the name of the Official Opposition is to be called on Wednesday, December 17, 2014: Motion No. 844, standing in the name of the Member for Riverdale South.

Mr. Silver: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I would like to identify the order in which motions standing in the name of the Third Party are to be called on Wednesday, December 17, 2014: Motion No. 251, standing in the name of the Member for Klondike and also Motion No. 804, standing in the name of the Member for Klondike.

Speaker: We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Motion No. 839

Clerk: Motion No. 839, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Cathers.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Government House Leader:

THAT the reporting deadline for the Select Committee Regarding the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing, established in Motion No. 662 of the First Session of the 33rd Legislative Assembly, be amended by changing said deadline from the 2014 Fall Sitting to January 19, 2015.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I won't be very long in speaking to this motion. This motion is one that comes at the request of the all-party committee reviewing the risks and benefits of hydraulic fracturing who requested that they be given about an additional month to complete their work.

Speaker: Does any other member wish to be heard?
Are you prepared for the question?
Motion No. 839 agreed to

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chair (Ms. McLeod): Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is resuming general debate on Vote 51, Department of Community Services, in Bill No. 15, *Second Appropriation Act, 2014-15*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

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

Chair: The matter before the Committee is resuming general debate on Vote 51, Department of Community Services, in Bill No. 15, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2014-15*.

Department of Community Services — *continued*

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I would like to begin by thanking staff with me here this afternoon to provide support in the House, as well as those back in the department for the good work that they do each and every day on behalf of the government and all Yukon citizens. I would just like to recap briefly for members' reference a few of the highlights of the Department of Community Services supplementary budget since it has been a little bit since we were up in the House previously.

Highlights of the supplementary estimates before us consist of a \$1,738,000 increase in operation and maintenance expenses and an increase of \$703,000 in capital expenses. This will make the department's combined O&M and capital budget for 2014-15, including the supplementary estimate, a total of \$130,303,000.

This represents a significant investment in programs and services that benefit Yukoners and, in fact, covers a wide range of areas that are important to the lives of Yukon citizens — that includes everything from Emergency Medical Services and their dedicated team of paramedics as well as, in the communities, volunteer first responders. It includes the Fire Marshal's Office, which provides support for the volunteer fire departments in rural Yukon communities and in unincorporated Yukon. It includes everything from regulatory services that cover health professions to infrastructure funding, municipal affairs, and running and operating solid-waste facilities and the community water supply in unincorporated Yukon communities.

Community Services continues to work to achieve goals set out in our strategic plan as well as to directly respond to and support the needs of Yukon communities and Yukon citizens. The department is committed to promoting vibrant, healthy and sustainable communities and to providing core

services for Yukon citizens, including emergency services. I also should mention that Emergency Measures Organization falls under the Department of Community Services. In fact, other areas include Building Safety, animal welfare, community operations, Corporate Affairs, Infrastructure Development, Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Property Assessment and Taxation, Public Libraries, and Sport and Recreation. These are just a few of the many areas that are covered by Department of Education of Community Services.

In the area of infrastructure funding, as I may have mentioned earlier, to date over \$73 million in funding has been approved for 185 gas tax projects for municipalities and First Nation initiatives. The new Canada-Yukon gas tax agreement will continue to contribute to healthy Yukon communities and provide sustainable long-term funding over the next decade.

We are pleased that eligible categories have been expanded, and remaining money from the previous fund will be rolled into the new agreement. We are also pleased that the new Building Canada fund provides a 10-year period with over \$256 million contributed through that time period into supporting Yukon projects in Yukon communities.

In a few of the highlights from this past year, I would like to thank staff for the work that has been done in the area of expanding 911, both coming up with the interim solution — while we continue the work with Yukon municipalities and Northwestel as the service provider to implement territory-wide basic 911 service, which is 911 dispatch service, within the next two years. The temporary solution will provide us with the ability to have people in all Yukon communities dial 911 and have the option of connecting to police, fire or ambulance as they need. This is the first time that this type of service has been approved by the CRTC, and it is a transitional measure. We appreciate the support that has been provided to us by the Association of Yukon Communities and Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs in making that application. In fact, their letters in support of this application were part of our application to the CRTC.

In the area of investing in emergency services, some of the highlights of investments from this current calendar year, included in 2014 — we have purchased two new ambulances and are about to have two more arrive. We have also purchased a pumper truck for the Ibex Valley Fire Department. We have purchased and delivered a pumper tanker for the Tagish volunteer fire department and a new pumper as well for Golden Horn and a new fire truck, as well, for west Dawson.

These are just a few of the investments that have been made possible through the increased operations and increased capital budgets for both the Yukon Emergency Medical Services and for the Fire Marshal's Office. Through these increased resources, staff is doing good work in identifying additional investments and equipment that will help our emergency responders in these areas do the very important work that they do and provide the services to Yukon

communities that can save peoples' lives and their homes in times of crisis.

Madam Chair, I would also briefly again, as I mentioned earlier in my remarks, like to thank again both the staff and the volunteers who provide these emergency services for the fact that, in the areas of emergency medical services, fire protection and emergency measures — which includes search and rescue — they are people who stand ready to put on the uniform, take the time and put themselves at risk in some cases to provide emergency services to Yukon citizens, and they are very much appreciated. It is easy perhaps for members and others in Yukon society to forget the fact that an important part of the fabric of the safety net we all depend on is composed of Yukon men and women who — day in and day out, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year — put on uniforms and provide the services that we all depend on.

I would also like to make reference to a few of the other steps that have been taken within the Community Services budget — this supplementary budget — that will allow us to take some additional steps and make capital investments that include \$27,000 for our construction of a modular, moveable fire staging camp for Wildland Fire Management; an estimated \$575,000 for flood and erosion control, including \$500,000 at the Mayo dyke; \$55,000 at Zircon Lane; \$12,000 at the Liard River in the riding of the Member for Watson Lake; and \$8,000 in the Porcupine River.

Also, I would like to note again and recap that the increased budget in the area of Emergency Medical Services for this year is an increase of \$1.2 million.

This will help us provide the services Yukoners need, both within the Whitehorse-based full-time staff of Yukon Emergency Medical Services and in Yukon communities through full-time staff, and our volunteer first responders who are typically trained at the EMR level. Again, all of these people are so very important to each and every one of us and to the Yukon.

In the area of supporting unincorporated Yukon and municipalities, as members may know, we have significantly increased the funding for unincorporated Yukon communities in the area of recreation grants through an increase to the community recreation grants, which is almost doubling the previous amount. I would like to again acknowledge the work of the Member for Kluane in supporting this increased investment in Yukon communities.

Madam Chair, I'll move on to a specific branch of the department in talking about making members aware of some of the services that are provided in the area of Corporate Policy and Consumer Affairs I would like to begin with. This branch plays a key role in enabling creation and registration of businesses and not-for-profit entities as well as the monitoring of the required continuous disclosure filing of lease entities in Yukon. Corporate Affairs helps promote sound business practices, strengthens investor protection and encourages trade and investment in the Yukon. It also ensures that Yukon investors and consumers enjoy similar opportunities and protections to what is enjoyed by citizens and companies in other Canadian jurisdictions.

The branch specifically enables the incorporation of local companies and not-for-profit organizations as well as the registration of out-of-territory businesses and not-for-profit organizations that allow them to operate in the Yukon. I would like to also thank them and acknowledge them for the good work that has been done in the modernization of Yukon's business legislation and legislation pertaining to societies. This has been a very significant project — modernizing legislation that had last been updated in the 1980s — and was a very large undertaking. I thank staff in this branch and within the policy branch of Community Services for their excellent work in this area, as well as the legal drafters in Justice for the good work that they have done.

Corporate registries also protect the public interest by enforcing disclosure requirements that affect different types of entities and that includes both businesses and societies. Corporate Affairs is responsible for administering appropriate legislation in respect to six corporate registries, corporations, businesses, partnerships, societies — which are not-for-profit organizations — cooperative associations and personal property and security. It maintains corporate registries of some 4,438 corporations, 4,169 partnerships and business names, and 398 societies. I believe you're signalling that it's time for me to sit down, but I look forward to further questions and debates with members opposite.

Mr. Barr: I would like to welcome back the officials and again thank them for their hard work and all those in the department. I'm just going to — I have a list of questions.

I'll just start off with the first one here: Can the minister tell us — since the Mountain View Golf Club deal was finalized outside the budgetary planning process — the budget line from which the golf club's \$750,000 was deducted?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: As I've indicated before, that agreement was signed in February 2011. It was also concluded and the money paid directly to the Mountain View Golf Club in the amount of \$250,000, as well as — as was outlined in the agreement — \$500,000 to discharge the mortgage for that golf course.

I would like to again remind members that, while that was a decision made by a previous minister in a previous government, this is just one of the investments that have been made by Yukon in supporting NGOs across the territory, including — I'll draw members' attention to a news release from April 30, 2014, entitled "Whitehorse Food Bank receives funding to purchase its Alexander Street location." It says, "The Food Bank Society of Whitehorse will receive a one-time \$750,000 grant from the Yukon government to assist with the purchase of its current home at 306 Alexander Street."

So those investments that get made are investments made by Yukon in supporting NGOs. As I mentioned in my remarks about Corporate Services, there are 398 registered societies; there are dozens of NGOs that have funding agreements with the Yukon government, some one-time, some ongoing funding agreements. In the area of the Department of Health and Social Services, the last time I checked, there were over

40 NGOs that had funding agreements with the Department of Health and Social Services.

Community Services also funds a number of organizations in the areas of things, including sport and recreation. I would note that this includes funding for organizations, such as the funding that was provided to support Mount Sima — \$198,000 that we provided and announced to the Great Northern Ski Society to ensure that money that they owed to local businesses and creditors was paid and the Yukon businesses were not left at risk because of the financial peril that the society had ended up in. We also provided contributions to the Friends of Mount Sima Society, in the amount of \$70,000 for the first fiscal year, \$50,000 for the next and \$30,000 for the final year of the three-year, one-time agreement.

Since government doesn't typically directly fund this type of facility, it was a one-time agreement. It was one that we discussed with the board of the Friends of Mount Sima Society. Additionally to that, government provided a \$53,000 contribution to purchase the Zaugg groomer, which we then gave to the City of Whitehorse to operate that facility. That, of course, is both in recognition of the important role that Mount Sima plays in the Yukon and the fact that the assets at Mount Sima were purchased through the investment of money by the Government of Yukon, the Government of Canada and the City of Whitehorse.

So in stepping in to protect that investment, it is again one of the examples of contributions made by government to support sport and recreation.

In other areas, as I mentioned, in the Department of Health and Social Services, some of the NGOs that are funded on an ongoing basis include funding that is provided to Kaushee's Place, to the Dawson City Women's Shelter, to Help and Hope in Watson Lake, money that is provided to Many Rivers Counselling in support for things including mental health counselling across the territory, as well as supporting the operation of the Outreach van, which is an area where the Yukon government stepped in after they lost a funding source.

Funding that is provided to the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society Yukon is another area where government stepped in previously, during my time as Minister of Health and Social Services, when the federal government had cut funding for FASSY. Again, in that area, we stepped in with a contribution of — if memory serves — roughly \$200,000 in ongoing support to ensure that they were able to continue to offer those programs.

Moving on to other areas, I would like to tell the members a little bit more information about the Corporate Affairs area of Community Services. As I mentioned, Yukon has some 398 registered societies. The director of the Corporate Affairs branch is the registrar of these corporate registries and represents Yukon as a member of certain national and international organizations. These include the Canadian Association of Corporate Law Administrators and the International Association of Commercial Administrators.

The director, in his capacity of the registrar of societies, also performs an oversight function created by the *Societies Act* and has legislated discretionary authority to investigate complaints and approve bylaws for a society. The branch also provides a wide range of services and information to various stakeholders such as law firms, the public in general, Yukon and other levels of government.

Madam Chair, I would also just like to move on — since the member asked about funding for non-governmental organizations — to talk a little about some of the investments we make in sport and recreation. The Yukon government contributes to a better quality of life for Yukoners through its investment in sport, recreation and active living initiatives. Our continued investments in sport and recreation provide Yukoners with a wide range of opportunities to be active and engage in healthy living. From community recreation to funding that helps support the development of athletes, coaches and officials in their pursuit of sport excellence, Community Services is invested in the quality of life of Yukoners.

Community Services has invested \$250,000 in the 2014-15 budget for implementation of the renewed Yukon active living strategy and will continue to invest this amount annually. Investments are also being made for active living opportunities for all Yukoners — children and youth, adults, seniors and elders.

We are helping communities build capacity, so they can design and lead programs and projects to meet their unique needs. We are also investing in after-school programs to help create opportunities for children and youth that will enhance their sport skills, their well-being and encourage them to take part in healthy activities each and every day. We are also supporting seniors and elders by encouraging them to take part in active living opportunities, such as local friendly competitions as well as competitive sport training. This encourages them to become involved and to hone their skills, helping them to lead healthier and happier lives, regardless of age.

Yukon government is also providing action grants so that non-government organizations, communities and schools can expand active living programs for Yukon's children and youth. We are enhancing leadership training and programs for community leaders that offer after-school programming. We are also providing equipment to deliver active living programs in schools.

In this year's Active Healthy Kids Canada report card, we saw that, while as a government we have been recognized for supporting active living and providing adequate infrastructure and programming, Canadian children still have a long way to go. The Yukon government is committed to working with our partners nationally as well as within the territory to continue to address that concern. We are continuing our commitment to programs like the moving to inclusion program, which funds important Yukon programs like Special Olympics Yukon and their development games, which were held this past weekend and are supported in part through a grant from the moving to inclusion program. Other programs include active start and, as

I mentioned, the Yukon developmental games offered by Special Olympics Yukon.

We are providing funding for the rural healthy eating active living leaders program in rural communities across the territory, as well as supporting the ElderActive Recreation Association of Yukon, which is a group that plays an important role in keeping seniors and elders active, healthy and connected to their communities through ongoing programming and activities.

The Yukon government is also continuing our annual support for Team Canada at the Canada 55+ Games, which occur every second year. I am pleased as well to again congratulate our Canada 55+ Games Team Yukon on another impressive display at the 2014 games, which were held in Alberta. Our Team Yukon seniors brought home 69 medals and were awarded the Sprit of the Games Award once again.

ElderActive Yukon is also dedicated to supporting a large variety of programs and activities for Yukon's population that is 55 and over and they work to build capacity by supporting leadership training in a number of these activities.

The Yukon government believes in the importance of active and healthy living for all Yukoners, and I want to acknowledge the importance of community volunteers and leaders who provide opportunities for kids, youth, adults and seniors to participate.

Early in October of this year, Community Services partnered with the Recreation and Parks Association of Yukon to host the Yukon recreation gathering with participants from recreation organizations, boards and societies from across the Yukon. This gathering was a great opportunity to work together on priorities for territorial initiatives and on national initiatives. By coming together, Yukoners in our recreation community, staff and volunteers were able to strengthen relationships, establish new connections and explore ways to enhance recreation in Yukon communities.

The Yukon government will continue to connect with territorial support organizations to map out our priorities for sport for the next five years and for the next 10 years in conjunction with the new Canadian sport policy.

This work will culminate with a new Yukon sport action plan in 2015, which will guide our direction, our funding and our focus for many years to come for sport across the Yukon.

We continue to invest in community leadership through Yukon sport and recreation groups that bring tremendous benefits to athletes, to coaches, to officials, to recreation enthusiasts and to all Yukoners. In 2013-14, we began a partnership with the departments of Education and Economic Development, as well as F.H. Collins Secondary School and Sport Yukon for the first-ever Yukon sport school and physical literacy project. The sport school had a very successful first year and for the 2014-15 school year, there are 33 students registered in the sport school for the first semester and 20 already registered for the second semester of this school year.

This program gives students in grades 10 to 12 opportunities to train and enhance physical performance to better perform in the sport of their choice. It is based on a

program in British Columbia that has a tremendous success rate. This program gives Yukon students a new way to improve sport and school performance, all during the school day. We are continuing our support of the sport school this year by providing funding for the physical literacy coordinator position at Sport Yukon, which plays an integral role in the programming.

Sport Yukon has been funded again this year to provide programming in the area of physical literacy in rural communities as part of our sport action plan, which is done in conjunction with the Canadian sport policy. Sport Yukon and RPAY will work together in this area, which will provide great benefits to Yukon communities and to schools throughout the Yukon, including in rural Yukon.

Physical literacy community resource kits were developed for use in this program in partnership and with the support of the Yukon Lottery Commission. As I mentioned, the Yukon government, through the Department of Community Services, provided support to the Friends of Sima, whose tremendous effort opened Mount Sima in 2013-14. Through our matching funding agreement, we helped them incentivize and encourage people and businesses to make contributions to Mount Sima. Through that tremendous community support and the good work of the Friends of Sima, Mount Sima had a successful year last year and things are looking promising for this year as well. This facility plays an important role as well as a home to three of our territorial sport governing bodies that provide both recreational and competitive opportunities for many youth in the Yukon. This hill is being supported by business, community and other sport organizations for the benefit of Yukon and as a future hosting destination for both summer and winter sports. It is providing and will continue to provide recreational, health, social and economic benefits for Yukoners.

Yukon community members supported the hill in the winter of 2013-14 by purchasing a record number of season passes — over 900 — which are more than the previous average annual pass sales, which had been around 250. We are proud to be a part of the solution in ensuring the hill opened for the 2013-14 season. We will continue to support them throughout this season and look forward to them having a sustainable future.

This year, the Yukon government is investing \$50,000 in hill operations that will help ensure our athletes have a facility for training in the sports of alpine skiing, snowboarding and freestyle skiing. We will also continue to provide funding in our sport and recreation community in other areas, including \$2.1 million of the \$3.2 million O&M budget for Sport and Recreation branch, which is identified as direct funding to support Yukon's sport and recreation programs, including contributions to umbrella sport and recreation delivery partners, including the following: Special Olympics Yukon, Volunteer Yukon, Sport Yukon, Recreation and Parks Association of Yukon, 29 Yukon sport governing bodies and six Yukon special recreation organizations.

These contributions to these societies include \$67,000 to Volunteer Yukon; \$184,000 to Yukon recreation groups;

\$549,935 for Yukon sport governing bodies; \$127,000 in core funding for Sport Yukon; \$17,500 for the Special Olympics national games; \$25,000 for the Canada 55+ Games; \$25,000 for the 2015 Canadian Masters Curling Championship; \$50,000 for Friends of Mount Sima; \$100,000, which supported the 2014 ISF men's junior world championship, help in Whitehorse this summer; \$150,000 for the Canada Winter Games; \$50,000 for the Western Canada Games; \$90,750 for high-performance athletes, coaches and officials grants; \$50,000 in elite-level athlete funding for five nationally carded Yukon athletes, including Aidan Love, for wheelchair basketball, cyclist Zachary Bell and cross-country skiers Emily Nishikawa, Dahria Beatty and Knute Johnsgaard — and I apologize if I've mispronounced either the first name or last name, or both.

This support assists Yukon athletes in their development as athletes and role models. Emily's rise to the Sochi Olympics in 2014 is the perfect example of the importance of this funding.

Additional funding includes \$145,000 to the Yukon Aboriginal Sport Circle, \$417,000 in Sport for Life funding to enhance athlete and coach development and encourage rural and aboriginal partnerships in support, and \$90,000 for the North American Indigenous Games. We also continue our commitment to ethical and harassment-free sport in the Yukon through annual contributions to the training of coaches, leaders and parents through Respect in Sport programs. This program was initially launched in 2007, and a parents program was launched in 2012. These are effective and informative on-line training resources for coaches, leaders and parents of active children in sports in the Yukon.

Mr. Barr: I would like to maybe rephrase my question and maybe get an answer this time. I was asking the minister if he could tell us — since the Mountain View Golf Club deal was finalized outside the budgetary planning process — the budget line from which the golf club's \$750,000 bailout was deducted and when was that money paid out, prior to October 11? If the minister would care to respond to that, I would really like to know. I am sure the public would like to know.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: As I indicated to the member before, the money to Mountain View Golf Course was a decision made by a previous minister during a previous government. The agreement was signed in February 2011. The money was also paid and transferred to Mountain View Golf Course and to discharge the mortgage in February 2011. That money ultimately came out of, I believe, the land development line item in Community Services. The \$500,000 was paid to discharge the mortgage for the land. The remaining \$250,000 was paid directly to Mountain View Golf Course, and both of those transfers were made in February 2011.

I would also like to inform the member of some other important investments that are made through the Community Services budget. In the year ahead, as we have done in previous years, the Sport and Recreation branch of Community Services will assist communities interested in benefitting from sport and recreation community capacity-building workshops. These workshops are critical to skills

development among sport and recreation organizations, municipal, local and First Nation recreation staff and volunteers, and encouraging the interchange of ideas among them to build a more resilient sport and recreation system across the Yukon.

To increase participation and access to sport in the territory, Yukon and Canada will continue their bilateral sport agreement, which began in 2003. Both governments have committed \$252,000 on an annual basis within the current agreement, which finishes in 2014-15. New bilateral agreements are being discussed beginning in the 2015-16 fiscal year. Together with Canada, Yukon is building a strong foundation for sport that will assist our athletes, coaches and officials to succeed in events like the Arctic Winter Games and the North American Indigenous Games. The agreement will provide coaching and official certification programs and resources for Arctic sports, Dene games, Inuit wrestling, snowshoeing and other traditional sports, and will help develop leaders in our communities, both on and off the field.

In addition to working together to continually improve access to sport and recreation in the Yukon, Community Services is pleased to assist our sport community and athletes by providing funding that directly benefits enthusiasts, athletes, coaches and officials and organizations at the local level. In 2014-15, we have allocated \$110,000 to help with repairs and upgrades to existing recreational facilities in 12 unincorporated communities. As I mentioned, in addition, through an increase of \$400,000 to the community recreation assistance grant for 12 unincorporated facilities, they will see overall the budget for supporting these communities almost double, starting with the 2015-16 fiscal year and carrying forward into future years.

This increase is in response to community concerns regarding the rising cost to deliver recreation programs in rural Yukon — specifically the cost of maintaining and operating recreation infrastructure and retaining staff and program leaders — and, as I have mentioned previously, also through the good work of my colleague, the Member for Klwane, in bringing forward issues brought to him by constituents.

The Yukon government continues to support, through Community Services, Team Yukon's participation in all major games like the Arctic Winter Games, the Canada Games, the Western Canada Summer Games, the Special Olympic games, North American Indigenous Games and the Canada 55+ Games. Our support for Team Yukon provides substantial value, tremendous benefits and inspiration to the participants and organizations involved in these life-changing opportunities. Like the Olympic experience, these events bring our territory and nation together to celebrate sport excellence. Already this year, we saw territorial contingents participating in the 2014 North American Indigenous Games, the 2014 Arctic Winter Games and the 2014 Canada 55+ Games.

The 2014 North American Indigenous Games were in Regina in August, and \$90,000 assisted Team Yukon's participation in these major North American games that

included 5,000 participants from across Canada and the United States. Our team brought home 11 medals from these games and we are very proud of Yukon's young aboriginal athletes.

In the fall of 2013, at the annual sports award night, 29 awards of excellence were presented to athletes who excelled in national and international competitions in the sport of athletics, cross-country skiing, curling, cycling, figure skating, freestyle skiing, orienteering, speed skating, and swimming. Not only did these athletes win medals in these events, but they also inspired each other, communities and Yukoners through their hard work, perseverance, talent and humility.

With our ongoing support for Team Yukon and Yukon sport and recreation programs, we will continue to watch Yukoners excel in their chosen sports and pursuits. Our support for major games and Team Yukon's participation in high-level competition helps contribute to the development of Yukon's athletes, coaches and officials, as well as healthy communities. It was a pleasure to acknowledge that both last year and at the tail end of November at this year's sports awards.

Madam Chair, I would also like to specifically note one of the athletes I mentioned earlier. Emily Nishikawa has just recently achieved a career best at the Switzerland world cup, and if members are looking for more information on that, I believe you'll find it in the on-line story in one of Yukon's papers. I understand that she set a goal of cracking the top 30 and was successful in placing 29th this weekend at the women's 10-kilometre classic at the FIS World Cup in Davos, Switzerland, on Saturday. She has said she's very happy with that race — that getting into the top 30 in the world was a big goal of hers and it feels good to achieve it. In the 10-kilometre race, I understand she finished in the time of 31:2.7, which was only 2:31.9 behind gold medalist, Therese Johaug of Norway. I would just like to congratulate her for that success on behalf of the Yukon government and as the Minister of Community Services and my role as minister responsible for Yukon sport.

Moving to a few other areas in our support for sport and recreation, as I mentioned earlier, we supported Softball Yukon hosting yet another successful world championship in 2014, with the 2014 International Softball Federation's Junior Men's World Championship in Whitehorse. This event was supported with \$150,000 in funding from the Department of Community Services. Yukon government and Softball Yukon are recognized internationally and nationally for our excellence in hosting major competitions, including the 2012 ISF Senior Women's World Championship and the 2008 ISF Junior Men's World Championship. The junior men's championship — as I noted — was a huge success. I had the pleasure, along with the Premier, of being part of the opening ceremonies for this event, and I know that many Yukoners enjoyed the opportunity to watch this world-class athletic competition here in Whitehorse.

I also want to note and to give credit to Yukon's sport communities and volunteers, for not only their success in hosting it, but to acknowledge the fact that it is quite unusual

— in a community the size of Whitehorse and in a community the size of the Yukon — to be so successful in hosting and having the opportunity to host national events such as this — and, of course, the 2007 Canada Winter Games. The fact that Yukon has not only hosted it, but gained a reputation for doing so successfully, is one that Yukon's sport community should be very proud of.

In the area of the Arctic Winter Games, as well, the Yukon has an excellent reputation within the pan-northern jurisdictions for hosting successful and enjoyable Arctic Winter Games and for being a great host of the Arctic Winter Games when they are here.

We remain committed to working with our colleagues from across the north to ensure maximum participation in a 2016 Arctic Winter Games in Greenland. The sports that were excluded due to a lack of facilities will be included in an alternate event that Yukon has agreed to host, and we thank Sport Yukon, as well, for their key role in our ability to do so. This is the result of work done both within our sporting community and a series of meetings, phone calls and discussions with the governments of the other permanent partners in the Arctic Winter Games that I did, and I would also like to acknowledge the work of my predecessor as Minister of Community Services, the Member for Whitehorse West, for her work on this file. Without that work, we would not have seen the success that we have. I would also like to acknowledge and sincerely thank officials who worked on this with other governments at a departmental level for their excellent work in this area. Again, this is in direct response to requests that we heard from Yukon citizens, athletes, parents of athletes, and Yukon's sport community who were very concerned by the exclusion of sports from the 2015 Greenland games, and we are very pleased that we have been able to do this work with other governments, including Alaska, Alberta, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, and as well with Greenland, although they do not have athletes who participate in these sports.

We appreciate their support for and recognition of the importance of us hosting this alternate event, and they have been very gracious in doing so. We are still confirming some of the details and hope to have more information shortly, but this fall, following that successful work with other levels of governments, we were able to — through a letter signed by me to all of the partner governments — invite them formally to send athletes to participate in the alternate event in 2016.

I am also pleased to talk a little more about Community Services' ongoing support for Special Olympics Yukon. I would also like to acknowledge the success not only of individual athletes in Special Olympics Yukon, but it was notable how many awards were received by Special Olympic participants at this year's sport awards in recognition of their successes, both in Yukon and at the national games.

Special Olympics Yukon provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Special Olympics programs for children and for adults. It works to provide opportunities for its athletes to develop physical fitness, enhance athletic skills and improve self-confidence,

while developing a positive self-image. In 2014-15, Community Services is providing \$66,955 to support Special Olympics Yukon, which includes an annual increase to continue our support of the Development Games in Yukon that were held this past weekend and to support athletes attending national games in the winter and the summer. It was our pleasure to participate in the opening ceremony for the Development Games and see how truly excited and energetic participants and their coaches, volunteers and family members were about this great opportunity for participants in Special Olympics Yukon to continue to have these opportunities to develop new skills and to compete in a very collegial manner aimed at having fun, becoming more active and assisting with their ability to develop their own abilities.

We are also proud to support the Special Olympics ambassador's program in which selected athletes are empowered by learning what it takes to be an ambassador for Special Olympics Yukon. Ambassadors learn appropriate dress and conduct along with how to write, prepare and deliver speeches that promote Special Olympics at various public events.

We have had many of these athletes involved in press conferences, sport and recreation workshops and events. Their skills and confidence in delivering very passionate messages and information are truly remarkable.

The contribution of Special Olympics Yukon to Yukon athletics began in 1978 and has been growing ever since, thanks to very strong community and volunteer support. Today Special Olympics Yukon boasts close to 100 athletes across the Yukon and makes a genuine difference in many people's lives.

Dozens of volunteer sport coaches — over 70, in fact — help support Special Olympics Yukon athletes achieve their sport goals. In July 2014, Team Yukon shattered personal bests and brought home 14 medals from the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in Vancouver, B.C. We are also very happy to hear that, for the first time in over 30 years, Yukon will be represented on Team Canada at the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles, California. We wish Darby McIntyre the best of luck as he will compete in track and field events.

I am proud of the Government of Yukon's support for Special Olympics Yukon and would also like to thank staff at the Sport and Recreation branch for the work that they do both in their professional capacities and as volunteers in supporting Special Olympics Yukon.

I would also like to talk a little bit about the work that our Public Libraries branch does across the territory. It supports 15 community libraries, including Whitehorse, located throughout Yukon. These facilities are much more than access points for information. With statistics indicating reduced demand for traditional reference and research resources as patrons independently research on-line, they show increases in other very important areas. As I am sure you will recall, it is not so many years ago that the Internet was something that very few people had access to. I remember vividly — however many years ago that would be — I don't remember

the year, but I do remember being in the Whitehorse Public Library looking through reference cards and trying to find information and trying to find books on specific subjects. Through the changes in technology, how people access information has also changed dramatically, but it's important to recognize that our libraries and the loan of books and physical materials remain a very important part of ensuring a love of reading in young Yukoners and providing access to reading materials for Yukoners of all ages across the territory.

Circulation of physical materials remains at the heart of libraries, and its use, in fact, continues to expand. In Whitehorse, we estimate that over 155,000 items will be borrowed in 2014-15 and that the communities should reach 30,000 items borrowed this year. Loans of physical materials are now complemented by the use of electronic resources, such as the e-library, which continues to rise in popularity, and an estimated 7,000 publications will be borrowed electronically in 2014-15. The e-library is very successful, with some 2,000 e-books and audiobooks available for downloading. New titles, both in English and en français, are added to the collection each year. Since its launch in 2011, over 1,100 individual users have borrowed items from the collection more than 15,000 times.

Libraries play an important social role in our communities and foster connections between people. Programs for all ages, public meetings rooms and Internet access are just some of the services offered by libraries. Our libraries provide a safe, welcoming and comfortable environment to relax, study, read and play.

Mr. Barr: I would like to thank the minister for the answer that the \$750,000 Mountain View Golf Club money was paid out in February of 2011.

Now that electronic devices are allowed in the House, and it was demonstrated by the minister opposite — I would like to congratulate Emily Nishikawa myself on her milestone. I would imagine the staff of the department is listening to today's budget. Will the minister ask his staff to inform him from which budget line was the golf club's \$750,000 bailout deducted?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: If the member was listening, I actually answered that previously. I told him it was from the Land Development area of the budget and the money was paid in February of 2011, which I think should answer the member's question. He might wish to read the Blues again if he has additional questions in this area.

I would like to talk some more about some additional investments the Yukon government is making through the Department of Community Services, again resuming with informing the member about some of the positive investments made in our libraries branch. Many users connect mobile devices through library wi-fi, which is now available in all locations, except Burwash Landing and Old Crow. The addition of e-books and other new technologies demonstrates the excellent efforts and innovations of Public Libraries staff, and has increased the use of our libraries by providing new ways to engage with communities.

Free 24/7 electronic access ensures Yukoners can find library services wherever and whenever they need them. The bilingual library catalogue provides access to library collections, as well as other resources, such as specialized on-line databases. The collections include French language materials, particularly in Whitehorse Public Library. Interlibrary loans and on-line services expand the collections by providing access to materials located elsewhere.

Resources for people with specific needs, such as those unable to read regular print, are increasingly available. These include: DVDs, often with multi-language options; on-line resources, including searchable databases; e-books, with customization of fonts and other features; and large-print and audio books for those with visual impairments.

Yukon Public Libraries continues to forge partnerships with other libraries to provide patrons with the most innovative resources. Along with an expansion in electronic services, in-person visits to libraries have increased over the years. Public Libraries staff coordinate highly successful library programs, including the Yukon Writers' Festival, which takes place each year in April, Canadian Library Month and Yukon Library Week in October, Yukon writers roundtables to promote interaction between local and aspiring authors, summer reading programs for children and teens, preschool story times and other programs for young children, author readings and workshops in the communities, as well as in Whitehorse.

These many enhancements to library services ensure that community libraries continue to enrich culture, provide opportunities for all people, regardless of income and circumstance, and connect Yukoners to each other and to the broader world.

Mr. Barr: I have a question about the sewage lagoon in Burwash — if the minister is aware, number three lagoon has drained. Can he give us an update as to what's happening to that lagoon? I know they are filling that with water. When should that be completed? Can he confirm that there are no environmental concerns?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: My understanding is there was a valve problem that caused the issue that the member is asking about and it has been repaired. Steps are being taken to bring that facility back into operation, which should be happening very shortly. I don't have more precise information than that, but again, I understand that it was a valve issue that caused the problem, staff has taken steps to repair it and that they informed the regulators. To the best of my understanding, there shouldn't be any major issues with that. Steps are being taken to address the problem that occurred and we look forward to that facility getting back into full operation.

Mr. Barr: While we are on sewage lagoons, there are a couple more. I know that the sewage lagoon in Ross River — it has been ongoing to actually find a site and to proceed with the issues that have been going on there for the last couple of years. Can the minister update us with what is going on with that sewage lagoon? Also, while he's asking, the sewage lagoon in Carcross had issues. How that is proceeding? I know there has been work moving forward on

that one and I'm interested in when that should be completed — or if it has by now? I do know that Ross River is also a situation that is unresolved.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Discussions with the Ross River Dena Council and with the residents of the community of Ross River are ongoing right now. In fact, staff hosted a meeting with Ross River just this past week to discuss the design of the new facility and my understanding is that those discussions are ongoing, with construction slated to begin in summer 2015. After engaging with the RRDC and residents of Ross River — again, as I mentioned — their staff met with them, presented them with the information and heard some feedback, and my understanding is that there is additional community discussion and discussion with the First Nation that is intended to occur before a design is finalized. As I mentioned, construction is then planned for 2015.

Community Services staff have been working with regulators and hired a consultant to design this new sewage lagoon for the community of Ross River.

In answering the member's question about Carcross, I am just looking for information. I do not think we have that information at our fingertips to answer the member's question. I know, as the member referenced and I recall, as does he, that we have identified money for Carcross in there, but I do not have at my fingertips an update on that. I will endeavour to get more information and provide the member with a response either during Community Services debate on the budget or through a letter after this sitting if I am not able to provide it to him before the close of this sitting.

Mr. Barr: I thank the minister for his response. I also know that there had been meetings with the ongoing issues with the ambulance crew in Haines Junction. Could the minister update us as to what has resulted from the last round, which was, I believe, two weeks ago?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: With Haines Junction emergency medical services, as the member referenced, we did host two days of community discussions, especially with the volunteers in Haines Junction who provide EMS coverage there. There was a working group set up at that time that included both staff from Protective Services in the Yukon EMS division of Protective Services and includes community members — including several members of the Haines Junction ambulance crew. It includes as well the Department of Health and Social Services.

The objective of the working group is to work together on additional steps to be taken in Haines Junction to further support the provision of volunteer Yukon EMS coverage in that community in recognition of the increasing challenges that that specific community has been seeing in providing consistent EMS services in the community of Haines Junction. There is not too much in the way of specific items that I can inform the member of at this time, beyond noting that I understand the discussions were very positive and that there is a genuine interest by all involved in coming up with workable, reasonable and practical solutions to help improve coverage in Haines Junction. I would like to thank staff of Community Services for their good work in this area. I would like to thank

as well the volunteers in the community who are participating in this working group and thank the staff of Health and Social Services for their participation as well in this working group.

Mr. Barr: As I understand it, there's a working group struck to proceed with solutions. Is there a timeline that was given to come up with the solutions so that — I know this has been going on for some time now. When can we expect a resolve with the situation in Haines Junction?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: The answer to the member's question is that the working group is focused on, first of all, coming up with workable solutions as soon as is possible in this area, but I think it's fair to say that the main sense of urgency from the community and from citizens there is recognizing that summer has been the most challenging time for them in providing coverage and trying to come up with solutions in place to address prior to the summer of 2015. But what I should note for the member is that this is not something that has been focused extensively on — setting up an overly formal process or one that has MOUs or agreed timelines, et cetera, before the process starts. This is more of a practical working group involving people who are important to be at the table in coming up with these solutions, and the focus is outcome-based rather than process-based. That includes that, if there are solutions that are identified soon and can be implemented soon, then we may be able to take some steps sooner and others may take a little more time, depending on what those options are.

The simple answer for the member's question is that, no, this isn't as much focused on a report by a certain date as an effort to come up with solutions as soon as we can and to implement any workable solutions also as soon as we can. The main sense of concern around timing is that summer has been a time when Haines Junction has the most challenges, and that is when I think it's fair to say that there's the largest sense of wanting to ensure that the rubber hits the road on new solutions being in place by that time, if not before.

Mr. Barr: I thank the minister for his response.

We'll go back to Ross River for a second, with the burning in the Ross River landfill — I would like an update on that. I know there has been a person now in charge to oversee the landfill in Ross River. However, the burning is still periodic.

Is the minister considering a gate that would assist people going in and lighting the waste — when they are there and there is no one in attendance — and assessing whether or not to put a gate up to prohibit further burning? Could the minister update on the contaminated soil — where that was brought to? Could he confirm that it has been removed and where the contaminated soil was brought to and how it was disposed of?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: In answering the member's question, the soil at the Ross River dump — the contaminated soil — is, I understand, being shipped out to a proper disposal facility because we don't have any facilities of the right type to handle that type of material in the Yukon. We are just checking on which facility it is being shipped to, but it is being shipped out of the territory.

With regard to site management, I can tell the member that at Ross River, as well as in other communities, looking at gating them is one of the options that is being considered by Yukon government in managing our solid-waste facilities. It is important to note that Yukon government does operate — I believe it is 18 facilities across the territory in unincorporated Yukon. While the cost of doing that has risen over the years because of the significant change in the solid-waste management that came about as the result of ending open burning, steps are being taken to improve cost management and part of that is having what in other areas is often called baseline data — of understanding on an annual basis what typical volumes are as well as responding to unexpected events or occurrences.

I would like to thank the staff for the work that they do in this area and recognize that it is sometimes a challenging area because people are amazingly passionate about solid waste and staff have to deal with that challenge. I would like to thank them for the good work they do in providing these services to Yukoners. So yes, with the Ross River facility, looking at gating, it is one of the things that is actively being considered now.

I should note that some of the problems that have occurred at the facility that have led to community frustration, such as dumping off of roughly 80 drums and some of the other things that have been deposited on-site — at this point, under the current regulatory framework, the Yukon government doesn't really have the authority to turn people away, unless they're dumping materials they're not allowed to legally dump. So modernizing and looking at our structure to provide increased tools to staff is one of the things that are currently being actively considered.

At the request of the Association of Yukon Communities that we form a solid-waste working group to work with them on our shared responsibilities in this area, we are forming that and will continue to work with them on finding ways to continue to modernize solid-waste management in the territory, and that includes working together on things, including recycling and diversion.

As I mentioned, we're currently in discussions with AYC to renew the mandate of this working group, as we work together to modernize solid-waste systems in the territory. The work of this group follows the 2009 *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan*, which outlined a vision for modern and efficient solid-waste systems in the territory. As part of this, as I've mentioned, we've met our commitment to end the practice of open burning and have transformed all solid-waste facilities to run more modern systems.

But again, in answer to the member's specific question about Ross River being lit on fire on some occasions, that action is one that is not done by Yukon government, and whoever is doing it is not doing so lawfully. So by not having facilities with a gate or an attendant, we can't be there 24 hours a day when we don't have those facilities staffed, and it's hard to prevent some of those steps being taken. Again, that is something that is not being done legally and is not being done by government. It is being done by someone

taking it upon themselves to start the facility on fire. We would really appreciate it if whoever was doing that would stop doing it. It has required calls from the fire department in a few cases to address the Ross River facility.

Again, as I noted, we ourselves are taking additional steps to look at options, including gating the facilities and attendant services and limiting the hours as possible solutions to this. We're also in discussion with the Ross River Dena Council about the possibility of them taking more of a role in the management of facilities — like the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation did through an agreement we reached with them earlier this year, providing that community-level responsibility and control — if they are willing to do so. It's a way that is not only cost effective but, when communities take more responsibility for facilities, they're often in a better position to manage those facilities, rather than the Yukon government trying to do it.

So that community-level response and First Nations in unincorporated communities considering taking on the same types of roles that are performed by incorporated municipalities is one of the things that we're actively discussing with Ross River Dena Council. In the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin's riding, the community of Old Crow, the agreement we concluded with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation appears to be working well so far at helping give the First Nation government more involvement and more responsibility — with support from government to help them address the financial cost of it.

I should also note that unincorporated facilities operated by Community Services provide opportunities for diversion of various forms of waste, including recycling facilities close to larger populations, providing designated drop-off areas for a variety of waste streams. Signage is provided to guide the public to separate the various waste streams for proper disposal or to enable recycling of materials that can be recycled. The list of materials currently being separated at several Yukon government facilities in the Whitehorse periphery includes, for recycling: tires, scrap metal and white metal, propane tanks, electronic waste and common recyclables, such as plastic, paper, cardboard and tin.

I understand that the Ross River soil is being sent to Fort Nelson and that the contract is expected to be out later this month with shipping the soil out expected within a few weeks of the conclusion of that contract.

Moving on to other areas, as has been mentioned earlier, we are working with the Department of Environment that has had the lead — as it is their regulations — in going forward with public consultation on proposed changes to the beverage container regulation and the designated material regulation. The proposed changes to the beverage container regulation would expand the range of containers that are subject to a deposit and would increase the amount of money available to support community recycling depots as well as recycling processors.

These proposed changes were created with the goal of increasing the amount of material recycled in the territory and, as well, through providing an upfront charge for these

materials rather than relying on tipping fees at those facilities that charge them. This is also expected to lead to a reduction of some of the illegal dumping that occurs when people attempt to avoid tipping fees. Again, the consumer still pays the cost, but rather than doing so at the point of disposal, they would do so upfront. Those changes, as I have mentioned, also propose to administer fees for other products, including electrical items and electronics. The fees will provide money to government to administer stewardship programs for recycling and responsible disposal of those items.

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Point of personal privilege

Ms. Stick: Mr. Deputy Chair, I rise on a point of personal privilege to correct a statement I made earlier today under notice of opposition private members' business, I identified Motion No. 844 for debate tomorrow. I should have identified Motion No. 841.

I have notified the other House Leaders of this, and I am now taking this opportunity to notify other members and have this change on the record.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair.

Mr. Barr: I thank the minister for his response. I just want to ask a little bit more about the soil. Where did that soil originate? I'm concerned that it was — was it okay that it was brought to the Ross River landfill? I guess that maybe I ask that because it seems that would conflict with the minister's previous recent statements in his response that certain waste is not allowed to be brought to a place, such as a landfill — like contaminated soil. If he could let me know where it came from, to begin with, and why it was okay to be put there. I do know, as it was put there, it was loosely covered by plastic. It just seems that it wasn't done in a good way from the start.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: What I can tell the member is that the responsibility for things like contaminated soil or any potential pollutants under the *Environment Act*, the principle is polluter pay. The responsibility for not polluting rests with whoever generated or created that contamination or product. Saying that more in layman's terms, or layperson's terms, would be that, if someone, for example, has used oil or antifreeze, after they've made use of it, it's their responsibility not to dump it on the ground or dump it at a facility that isn't equipped to handle it.

There are businesses, including, I believe, KBL and General Waste, that provide waste disposal services for this type of material, which is referred to as special waste. Our understanding is that the contaminated soil at Ross River was the result of someone dropping off a tank with — was it fuel in there?

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Cathers: It was used oil, we believe, in the tank, at Ross River. It was not a secure tank, so it then contaminated the soil. That, by the way, leads to a substantial cleanup cost for Yukon government, which is one of the reasons, in an area with the budget size of community operations, we end up having to ask for additional resources to

deal with this unanticipated problem. These are the kind of things where, when somebody does something like that, which they are not allowed to do and is breaching the *Environment Act* by polluting, the government then needs to respond to it. It's one of those areas where we don't really have much discretion. You need to respond to it in a timely manner and there is a cost to it, and that cost is hard to predict because those types of occurrences are things that can't really be anticipated.

Again, what I will restate to the member is that this is one of the things that is being looked at in the area of solid-waste management, which is taking steps to look at things like gating facilities and limiting hours of operation and taking steps, as well, to look at our policy and regulatory framework to provide us with greater tools and authority to prevent people from dumping off things at facilities that then pose a cost to the taxpayer and that we have to respond to, and that we also get community complaints about, when they see that the facility has become messy or that someone has dumped used oil in the area.

Under the current structure we have, while solid-waste facilities and transfer stations are intended for the communities around them, we don't have adequate tools to prevent people from choosing to travel there from another area and making use of that facility, but when those types of things occur, we often hear concern from the community and from residents there that they don't feel it should have gone to the local facility. That's one of the things we're looking at.

The information the department has given me is that the Ross River contaminated soil was locally generated, though they're not sure by whom. They tell me that it did not come from Carmacks and was unrelated to the disposal from houses that was taken there earlier as a result of the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation completing a demolition project.

With the Carcross lagoon that the member asked about earlier, I do have an answer for him now. They have begun construction of the sludge-drying beds for the Carcross sewage lagoon. Soil is now frozen and work will be finished in the spring. That is, I think, the answer to the question the member asked previously about the Carcross lagoon.

Mr. Barr: I thank the minister for his response.

I would like to return to the question of the Mountain View Golf Club agreement funding. The Minister of Community Services had identified the land area development budget line as a source of the golf club's \$750,000 bailout. Can the minister tell us the fiscal year and the portion of the estimates in which that line is found?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I already answered the question for the member and I would remind the member again that this was a decision made by a previous minister in a previous government. The agreement was signed in February of 2011 and the transfer of funding was concluded in February of 2011. My understanding is that money came out of the budget for that fiscal year, which would have been included in the main estimates that were passed that year.

I would also remind the member of the fact that I would hope he's not suggesting that if he or the NDP, upon taking

office, would not honour agreements with NGOs that have been concluded by a previous government — if indeed they're ever in a position to have that opportunity. Is the member actually saying that the Yukon NDP, had they been given the opportunity to do so, would have reneged on a legal obligation to an NGO or would have attempted to recover funding that had already been transferred?

Madam Chair, I would again remind the member that there's a very long list of NGOs that government supports and as I noted with this specific area, under our current practice, had we made that decision, we would have made an announcement of it, just as we did with the Whitehorse Food Bank, which received funding to purchase its Alexander Street location on April 30, 2014. I would like to read from that press release: "The Food Bank Society of Whitehorse will receive a one-time \$750,000 grant from the Yukon government to assist with the purchase of its current home at 306 Alexander Street.

"The building and lot are currently owned by the Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY). When the AFY decided to sell the property it offered the food bank an opportunity to purchase. The AFY will carry the balance of the mortgage and the food bank will make monthly payments.

"Our government is committed to working in partnership with organizations which have demonstrated their ability to make strong contributions to our community," the Premier said. As members know, since the press release refers to him by name and I'm not allowed to refer to members of this Assembly by name, I'm replacing the name with "the Premier said".

"The Whitehorse Food Bank is an excellent example of this, and we're pleased to support a group with such generous volunteers and tireless staff."

"The food bank's downtown location provides easy access for food bank clients. One of the society's long-term goals is to renovate the building to provide rental space for other non-governmental organizations, and to create space for a community-type centre that would provide services to a similar client group."

"It's evident that the food bank is an important component of social safety and health in Whitehorse." The Minister of Health and Social Services said this, whose name I am not permitted to say in referencing this, and also said: "We hope this funding will enable the food bank to continue its invaluable support and help those who are struggling to meet basic needs."

"This funding is in line with the government's *Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction* strategic plan and supports its newly-released *Wellness Plan for Yukon's Children and Families*, both of which aim to improve food security.

"Since the food bank opened its doors in April 2009, the demand for our services has quadrupled," Whitehorse Food Bank President Stu Mackay said. "Sustainability has been one of the top priorities of the board and staff. This grant goes a long way towards securing sustainability for such an important service supported by the citizens of Yukon, and

we'd like to thank the Yukon government for their contribution."

"Association franco-yukonnais president Angélique Bernard added: "We are proud to have been a partner in this project, and to help the food bank continue its mandate of helping the less fortunate in our community. On behalf of l'AFY, I wish a good continuation with its projects."

"The Food Bank Society of Whitehorse supplies emergency food hampers to more than 1,300 individuals on a monthly basis. Supported by more than 50 volunteers, who donate more than 700 hours per month, the food bank is considered an important part of the fight to alleviate hunger and poverty in Yukon."

So again, Madam Chair, just one of the examples of Yukon NGOs that government contributes to across the territory, and we support them doing their valuable work.

I would also like to mention that Yukon government supports NGOs across this territory in a great many areas and reiterate that, although the members have chosen to attack board members of this particular NGO, in fact the long list of NGOs the government has approved funding for —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Point of order

Chair: Ms. White, on a point of order.

Ms. White: The minister is using abusive or insulting language and likely to create disorder. It is also violent language, so we can either go with 19(i) — or still 19(i).

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I don't think it is in violation of that line in our Standing Orders, either time the member cites it. I was referring to attacks that the members have made on Yukon citizens who serve on NGOs. I believe it is — in my opinion — a dispute between members.

Chair's ruling

Chair: I would say this is a dispute among members.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I would note and reiterate that unlike the NDP, this government supports NGOs across the territory and appreciates private Yukon citizens who participate in those boards and encourages that participation. As I noted, there are nearly 400 societies registered in the Yukon and Yukon non-governmental organizations form a very important part of the fabric of Yukon society. I think that it is interesting that the members are so focused on scoring political points that they have no problem casting aspersions on the reputations of every board member of a particular NGO.

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Point of order

Chair: Ms. White, on a point of order.

Ms. White: Standing Order 19(i).

Chair: Mr. Cathers, on the point of order.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: On the point of order, I don't understand how the member thinks there is a point of order. In my opinion, I believe it is a dispute between members. I am

referring to actions that the members have taken, and I don't believe I have contravened the Standing Orders.

Chair's ruling

Chair: It is the opinion of the Chair that this is a dispute among members; however, I would caution members to temper their comments.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Again, I will just, before moving on to other topics, I would again reiterate to members that I and this government appreciate the many Yukoners across the territory who contribute to the NGOs and societies that are an important part of the Yukon community. I would again note that I think the NDP should think very carefully about what message they want to send to citizens who serve on NGOs through their choice to cast a negative light on board members of certain NGOs.

Like on the many occasions that we see the NDP attacking staff of government departments in this House, they have a focus on scoring political points, but they don't seem to see the connection when the Member for Mayo-Tatchun, the NDP's education critic, stands up on this House as he did this last week, and accuses staff of the Department of Education of taking actions that are illegal. He doesn't seem to realize that he is in fact casting negative aspersions on those professionals. When the Leader of the NDP stood up as she did in this House in response to an Auditor General's report and says on the record that the Department of Health and Social Services staff have no idea what they are doing.

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Point of order

Chair: Ms. White, on a point of order.

Ms. White: Standing Order 19(b): "speaks to a matter other than the question under discussion." The question was about money for the golf course.

Chair: Mr. Cathers, on the point of order.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: On the point of order, I'm responding with information that I believe is relevant to the question asked by the member opposite.

Chair's ruling

Chair: The matter before the Committee is the budget of Community Services in Bill No. 15. As such, no particular question or response is mandated, other than the discussion of the budget.

I would say there is no point of order. This is a discussion — I would ask the member to bring it back to the particular line items.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I will return to discussion more directly related to the Community Services budget, as you have asked, Madam Chair. I would, in concluding my remarks on that topic, note that the NDP needs to realize that, when they put remarks on the public record and when they say things that are recorded in Hansard in this Legislative

Assembly, those comments, though they seem to feel that, because their motivation is to score political points, that they can do that —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Point of order

Chair: Ms. White, on a point of order.

Ms. White: Thank you, Madam Chair — 19(g), imputes false or unavowed motives. We're not trying to score political points. We're trying to bring to light the disagreements we have with the government members and their policies.

Chair's ruling

Chair: It is not a point of order. It is a dispute among members and how you each interpret the facts — your own facts.

Mr. Cathers, please.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Again, before moving back directly to some of the specific items in Community Services budget, I do wish to just briefly conclude, in response to the question the member asked, and note and again remind the member that the statements that members of the NDP, including their leader, make that refer to the actions of Yukon citizens who work in government departments as government employees — the negative characterizations that they repeatedly make about them and that includes the Department of Health and Social Services — I mentioned the Leader of the NDP stating repeatedly in this House that the Department of Health and Social Services staff had no idea what they were doing and the negative aspersions the NDP has cast on the Department of Finance staff and on Public Service Commission and on Department of Energy, Mines and Resources staff, including and especially staff of the oil and gas branch — all of those things are remarks that may be directed at members of the government, but are heard by people whose reputations the members are attacking.

The same applies when the members choose to go after Yukon citizens who sit on boards of non-governmental organizations. I would encourage them to think about it, especially over the Christmas season, and realize that there's more to life than scoring political points. There's a point at which they need to think about how the health care professionals that the Member for Riverdale South and the NDP House Leader have attacked in this House feel about the comments she has made about them and give serious consideration to it. I would urge them to mend the error of their ways.

Madam Chair, in the area of supporting local governance, I would like to talk about some of the work that our staff do in supporting community governments. The Community Affairs branch of Community Services has a total budget of \$873,000 in operation and maintenance. This branch is also responsible for managing \$24.5 million in transfer payments to support

good local governance and the provision of local government services in Yukon communities.

Communities know they can rely on the Community Affairs branch staff for their integrity and their professionalism, which is evident through things, including the successful partnership with the Association of Yukon Communities and work that has been accomplished with municipal governments and local advisory councils. I would also like to note that, when it comes to the role of local advisory councils, after discussion with LACs, we've committed to further discussions and reviewing the role of local advisory councils in considering whether there should be adjustments to reflect the changing needs of the communities they serve.

The success of the "Our Towns, Our Future" project is a perfect example of these continued collaborative relationships. This initiative has led to a new comprehensive municipal grant, a solid-waste findings report, a community development team pilot, the *Municipal Act* review and, most recently, an on-line municipal resource library, hosted within the Community Affairs website.

"Our Towns, Our Future" has been an important tool to direct how Yukon government will continue working together with municipalities to support long-term success. The implementation continues in partnership with the Association of Yukon Communities, with individual municipalities and with First Nations. In municipal grant funding, in 2014-15, the municipal grant program flowed a total of \$18.7 million to Yukon municipalities. This comprehensive municipal grant funding included a historic \$1.4-million increase in the first year to strengthen municipal programs and services and improve the quality of life for all Yukoners.

This is an important step toward ensuring long-term continued municipal viability in the Yukon and clearly demonstrates the government's commitment to and ongoing support for Yukon municipalities.

The new five-year municipal grant program was developed collaboratively with Yukon's municipal partners and represents the territory's renewed investment in local governments to provide programs and services that reflect local priorities and help improve the quality of life for all Yukoners. As part of the new comprehensive municipal grant program, we listened to municipal governments and have followed through on our commitment to exempt the grant from the Yukon government transfer agreement policy so that it can be provided as a single annual lump payment at the beginning of the fiscal year.

This gives municipal governments full access to the grant so they can manage cash flow as needed from the beginning of the year. The comprehensive municipal grant is a significant commitment by the Yukon government in support of municipalities and we have increased unconditional municipal funding from \$12.5 million in 2007 to \$18.1 million in 2014, an unprecedented level of funding for Yukon municipalities.

Funding is allocated using a new simplified formula that accounts for tax base, number of dwellings or properties,

assets and other factors based on principles of fairness, transparency and predictability. I would like to thank the staff of Community Services for their excellent work in bringing about and implementing this new formula, as well as their partnership with Yukon municipalities and discussions with them. I would also like to acknowledge the work of my predecessors, the Minister of Community Services, the Member for Whitehorse West, for her leadership role in bringing about the new comprehensive municipal grant formula, as well as the fact that that formula has been modernized, simplified and will continue to provide certainty and funding going forward to municipalities.

Mr. Barr: I would just briefly respond to the minister's remarks as being inaccurate. I do believe that I spent the better part of the afternoon asking this — repeated the same question, trying to get some response so that there was some transparency from this government. It seems very hard to do — to get straight answers at times.

When the minister kind of answers a question that's specific, we kind of know where to look now. I know he seems to feel he has answered; however, we do have the Blues to look at and hear the response for the better part of the afternoon of non-answers.

I must say that going up to Mountain View myself years ago, volunteering and putting up their flat-screen television one afternoon — it's a nice place. I have worked for NGOs for many years of my life, and I do know that it just seems to me that, rather than this government being transparent, it chooses to focus on that we, on our side of the House, somehow don't appreciate the work of NGOs, which couldn't be further from the truth. We of course recognize that NGOs are really the groups that pick up the slack when government refuses to put into programs that NGOs cover. That has been my experience. They do triple the work — and very important work for people who fall through the gaps. The passion of people in NGOs should not be ever underestimated by anyone, and should not be used by a political ploy by this government to skirt their own inability to be transparent.

However, I would like to move on right now and ask a specific question about the budget that we are here to debate. This one here has to do with the medevac contract that is coming up. It has been brought to our attention that there have been issues around loading bariatric patients into the current aircraft. In the upcoming renegotiations of the medevac contract, will this be looked at?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I am just going to make one brief reference to some of what the member said and move on to other areas of the —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Well, Madam Chair, I just will make a statement for the record. I wish that more Yukoners would come into the House and see the behaviour of the NDP members off-mic. I will leave it at that, and I will note again, just making a comment to the member, that I did explain and answer the question that he had asked. I remind the member that when they make comments referring to citizens or NGOs or to those NGOs and the boards of them, as well as when

they make comments about government departments and the staff who serve in them, that there are real people who hear that and who don't appreciate when the members cast aspersions on our health care system or on staff of the Public Service Commission, oil and gas branch, Department of Finance and so on.

Moving on, in answer to the member's most recent specific question about the ability to load bariatric patients — first of all, the medevac contract is not within the Department of Community Services. It is within the Department of Health and Social Services. We do work closely with the Department of Health and Social Services through Yukon Emergency Medical Services, and our paramedic team, including our critical care paramedics, do work very closely with Health and Social Services and with the contractor who provides the medevac air services — that being Alkan Air. The specific equipment that the member referenced, therefore, is not part of the medevac contract held by Health and Social Services. The member was asking about the ability to lift people, and I was jumping to the fact that we are purchasing a piece of equipment to deal with that. I don't think the member had actually asked that, but the simple answer to the member's question — and I thank him for asking a real question rather than one that is entirely politically motivated.

This situation is being addressed through the purchase of — I believe it is called a bariatric lift. It is one of the things that, through the increased budget that we have provided to Yukon Emergency Medical Services, which allows us to purchase some new equipment — a bariatric lift is one of the pieces of equipment that is in the works right now. I don't have the exact timelines on when that is being done, but it is being dealt with, I believe, within this current fiscal year.

I would like to thank staff both for their work in identifying and responding to this need as well as to thank the paramedics who explained what this piece of equipment does and described it to me during my recent visit to ambulance station number one in Whitehorse, which is the one on-site at Whitehorse General Hospital. They filled me in on that. They also showed me some of the new monitors that had been purchased with the increased funding we have provided. These monitors that measure things, including cardiac activity and oxygen, are significantly lighter than the models they replaced and have reduced the total load that each paramedic crew needs to lift and to carry. That is important because one of the things that does pose a challenge for our paramedics is that the amount they have to lift and move around is pretty significant. It probably goes without saying, but the more weight that someone is lifting, there is a greater risk of an injury as they are moving it and loading it in and out of ambulances and on to planes.

Yes, the bariatric equipment is being purchased to address the problem of overweight patients. It is a bariatric lift, and that will also have an operational benefit in that it will reduce the number of paramedics who have to be involved in lifting someone, especially an overweight patient, on to a medevac plane.

That, I think, answers that question. I just again would like to thank those staff and the staff within Community Services and across government for the good work that they do for Yukoners day in and day out and the excellent service they provide, not just to government, but to all Yukon citizens.

Mr. Barr: I'll move on to a question regarding Mount Lorne. The civic addressing model that was proposed — we've received calls from constituents. I also know, speaking with the LAC, that they have voiced that they feel that the model proposed is too complicated. What is the update in looking at how to come to a model for civic addressing in Mount Lorne that the people and the LAC — is there movement or are there more talks considered in coming together to having a model that is more conducive to what the people living in Mount Lorne would live with and be happy with and that would be functional?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: The Yukon government has been working, through their work with Community Services' staff, with local advisory councils on improving street signage and house numbers in their area. We have been working, starting with all five local advisory councils, to assign street names and house numbers, including the communities of Mount Lorne, Ibex Valley, Tagish, south Klondike and Marsh Lake. There are also other areas, including a number within my riding, that do not have LACs in those areas, so I want to assure those who may be listening there that they have not been forgotten and they will be part of the next steps taken in civic addressing.

The communities of Mount Lorne and Tagish, I believe, have already largely addressed this. Tagish — when I was out there earlier this year to help, along with the Fire Marshal, to deliver officially their new pumper tanker truck, the LAC and the fire department were handing out the house numbers that they had made available. Good steps have been taken. There is more work that needs to be done, but this comes from a time not that long ago — one of the issues that I worked on at the request of constituents was — and it's not that many years ago that we didn't have street signage for a lot of Yukon secondary roads. Roads like Horse Creek Road, Deep Creek Road, Two Mile Road — which is actually within Whitehorse but didn't have a road sign at the time — are ones that had not been named or had signage put up, so that has been positive progress. We do recognize that more needs to be done in the area of civic addressing and are committed to working with rural Yukoners and with the local advisory councils on this.

My understanding is Mount Lorne is progressing well and Ibex Valley is planning on beginning street naming and numbering this winter. My understanding from staff is that most recent discussions with the local advisory council from Mount Lorne — their understanding was that there were a couple members who had some concerns about it but, generally speaking, they seemed to be fairly happy with the model that was proposed. That's our understanding. If that's in any way, shape or form inaccurate, or if there are concerns out there that we're not aware of, I would encourage the Hamlet of Mount Lorne Local Advisory Council to contact

either my department staff of me to make sure that we're aware of their concerns and suggestions. We'll certainly be happy to give consideration to any concerns or suggestions that they may have.

As the Government of Yukon promised, we increased funding for local advisory councils and, in 2014-15, provided \$70,000 to support them in carrying out their important duties for residents in unincorporated communities. Our support for local advisory councils and municipal governments, though, goes far beyond the dollar amounts in the budget. Our dedicated community advisors regularly attend public and council meetings in all eight municipalities and five local advisory areas and are often asked to provide guidance and advice on community issues to municipalities and to local advisory councils.

By visiting communities, our community advisors maintain and develop relationships and embody the value that government is there to help and support communities. Community Affairs also provides two forums annually for the local advisory councils to meet and discuss their individual and collective issues with the Minister of Community Services. These forums include opportunities for the local advisory councils to meet with the minister and with relevant Yukon government departments.

In the areas I mentioned, the support that has been provided through increased funding to comprehensive municipal grant is just another example of government directly investing in supporting Yukon communities. I think that answers the member's question.

Chair: Would members like a brief recess?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

We are resuming general debate in Community Services, Vote 51.

Mr. Barr: I do thank the minister for his response. I know that different areas out at my riding have received stop signs and street signs and we are moving toward civic addressing at Tagish, for example, is very welcome. The people tasked with emergency services are very grateful that there has been progress in this area over the last few years. It will basically end up saving lives, saving homes and saving the time of their responses in emergency situations.

I guess what I was just saying with the Hamlet of Mount Lorne — and I understand from the response that the department and minister are aware that there are some folks who are thinking that civic addressing in that area is maybe too complicated.

I know some are satisfied, and I do know that part of that issue came from the hamlet council itself and that where there's a will there's a way — or however things do resolve.

I'm glad there are ongoing talks and I was basically inquiring as to how things are proceeding there.

I am in touch with the hamlet and wasn't able to get out to the last council meeting and wasn't able to get updated on where things are at today. I know things will move forward and hope they're done and that people are working together in a good way.

I do have another question regarding Marsh Lake. I would like to ask about the proposed new fire hall that came up at the local area plan that constituents brought forward to me, knowing that there is already a fire hall at Judas Creek. What would be the reasoning of considering building a new fire hall that's further toward M'Clintock. Has there been consultation, or how did this come about that there were thoughts around this being entertained? I know I have a map that shows the specific new site and that states "proposed new fire hall". I would just like to get some background information on that — why it's being considered? I know I'll be able to respond to some constituents who have brought that forward to myself.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I would first like to thank the member for acknowledging the additional steps we've taken in working with Yukon EMS, including and especially the rural volunteers he was making reference to, but also throughout the entire program, as I've mentioned before, both within rural Yukon and within our full-time staff.

We've increased our operation and maintenance budget and our capital budget to allow the purchase of new equipment and to help our paramedics and the volunteers in Yukon communities provide the vital service that they do to Yukon communities.

The member is making reference, talking about a new Marsh Lake fire hall. To start with, I haven't actually seen the map the member is referring to, to the best of my recollection. My understanding is I know that the local advisory council and some within the fire department in Marsh Lake have been talking about it and are asking government to take a look at it, largely because of — the rationale behind it is based on making the fire hall more centrally located and in a location they feel would be a better fit for providing that fire response to the community. At this point in time, my understanding is that this is something that has been presented to us.

I don't believe we have made any commitments regarding it, other than to consider it in the context of capital priorities and capital requests and requests from other communities as well. I have personally had this matter raised with me by members of the local advisory council and by the Marsh Lake Fire Department. We are open to considering it. We do also have to consider the other capital pressures we have. As I'm sure the member knows, we have identified fire halls as priorities that we are investing in building — new fire halls — and it has been something that has occurred in Beaver Creek. That facility is on the verge of completion. It is just in its final stages before official transfer of ownership and the contractor is finished with the facility.

We are also advancing a Carcross fire hall project because of the fact that, when we were looking at all of the

buildings within our fire department portfolio — for lack of a better term — that building was one that was identified by the fire marshal and staff as being the one that was highest on the priority list for building a new facility. We are concluding Beaver Creek, identifying the next priority they identified, which was Carcross, and moving forward with a fire hall for Carcross.

We are open to considering requests from other communities. This is something, as we do consultations with communities on the development of the infrastructure plan for the next 10 years, to use the new Building Canada funding agreement. These types of things are the types of issues we can consider, and every community has different priorities.

We understand as well that the community of Tagish — the local advisory council has written to me requesting that we consider an investment in community recreation facilities there in the community. As I indicated in my response to the chair of the Tagish LAC, this is something that we certainly can consider within the context of all of the other requests we received. We will encourage them to bring that up, as we encourage those in Marsh Lake who see a new fire hall as a priority to bring that up during those discussions, and we will certainly consider it.

As I mentioned to members previously, what we used the original Building Canada fund for — the highest priority was given to infrastructure and investments that were necessary for health and safety and for the basic infrastructure that is needed by communities to function. That included significant investment in new water treatment facilities in many Yukon communities. Those changes were necessitated by the change to the national standards around drinking water quality, especially with regard to the reduction of the total level of arsenic that was considered to be acceptable, as well as some other changes in the standards that had previously been acceptable and which under the new standards were not. That led to investments in drinking water projects, including in the communities of Teslin, Faro, Rock Creek, Mendenhall — which is underway now — Deep Creek, Tagish and Teslin.

As well, with the remaining portion of Building Canada, we were putting \$5 million into water treatment in Watson Lake, which actually builds on a previous investment that was done in helping them out with their drinking water wells. I would like to acknowledge and give credit to the Member for Watson Lake for her work in supporting that investment in the Town of Watson Lake.

My summation of listing those investments is that, as with the first Building Canada fund, the highest priority will have to be given to things that are necessary for health and safety, drinking water quality, necessary road infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities and things that are in need of upgrade or replacement, without making any specific commitments to communities.

An example of the type of thing we would look at is — in the community of Dawson City through the partnership with the mayor, council and administration, there have been some needs identified in terms of upgrades to the piped sewage system, and those types of things are the types of issues that

we need to assess and consider. We recognize that every community has different priorities and that each community probably very genuinely sees theirs as being probably the highest priority in the territory, but government makes a very sincere effort to consider and assess the respective needs of Yukon communities for both what they need and what they would like to see.

For example, under Building Canada 1, I can give them some specific numbers — since 2008, more than one-third of all of our infrastructure projects identified under the Building Canada fund have been water related. Yukon government, in partnership with Canada, First Nations, and municipalities, made investments in drinking water and waste-water infrastructure. That includes one that I missed that did receive a new water treatment facility as well. The community of Ross River also received money under Building Canada for a water treatment facility.

We expect that the new Yukon infrastructure plan, after it is updated over the course of the next several months, will help guide investment in drinking water and waste-water priorities under the new Building Canada fund, as well as other projects. Today, Yukon government operates and maintains public drinking water wells in seven communities with new water systems soon to come on-line in Tagish and in Deep Creek.

Like safe drinking water, reliable waste-water infrastructure is also a priority. Replacing or repairing aging infrastructure is costly, but is also very important to help municipalities and incorporated communities ensure public health and protect access to clean water.

Madam Chair, just a few of the examples of the water projects that I referenced include \$2.5 million from Building Canada funding and \$700,000 in additional government funding from the Yukon government, which was provided for a water treatment plant at Army Beach in Marsh Lake. There also is a certified water operator who manages the facilities.

A \$580,000 investment went toward upgrading Champagne and Aishihik First Nations' water treatment facility in the Takhini River subdivision, and \$9 million went to support the Village of Haines Junction in replacing infrastructure through construction of an upgraded water treatment system, piped distribution and a new reservoir and pump system. It provides residents with access to drinking water that meets national standards. A \$376,000 investment was in support of a garage for the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations' water truck and facilities for a water operator to ensure they met new health requirements.

Also, \$1.2 million went to Burwash Landing to develop a new well and provide wellhead protection. In Old Crow, a \$5.3 million water treatment plant was completed and is now providing residents with a reliable source of clean drinking water that meets Canadian drinking water guidelines.

Also, \$1.2 million supported water system upgrades for Rock Creek on the outskirts of Dawson. In Carcross, \$4.3 million was used for a water treatment plant that came into operation in 2013. Also, a \$4.5 million Public Works building in Ross River included a \$1.5 million water treatment system

and also provided new space for the fire truck, which I missed in talking about investments in fire halls previously.

In Carmacks, \$10 million was allocated for two waste-water projects, including \$4.9 million that went toward the sewage treatment facility and \$5.1 million that went to waste-water collection. As I mentioned earlier, Watson Lake's aging drinking water and waste-water infrastructure is being replaced. I mentioned the \$5 million contribution that we announced.

Madam Chair, also a Mendenhall project valued at \$2 million is underway to upgrade the community water supply to meet regulatory requirements as a public fill point. Also, \$250,000 was spent on drilling new wells and work that includes well upgrades, storage tanks filtering systems and, in addition, facilities to house new equipment are planned for 2015.

Teslin's water system was \$4.1 million, including a new pumphouse. Mayo — \$8.2 million was used to upgrade water and sewer systems and roads in the community. Also, \$6.5 million was given to the City of Whitehorse for phase 1 of water and sewer system upgrades in the Marwell area. Faro received \$3.5 million for water and sewer lines and a \$5.1 million pumphouse. Mayo received \$8.2 million for a project to upgrade water and waste-water services. In Teslin, a \$2.5 million project to rehabilitate and replace local waste-water infrastructure is underway and is expected to be completed by fall of next year.

So again, providing sound waste-water infrastructure and upgrading drinking water infrastructure is an important part of what governments collectively need to consider in the territory. We are pleased to have been able to work in partnership with First Nation governments and municipalities to make the investments I mentioned on a number of others.

Again, as I mentioned to the member, we'll certainly consider the priorities of every community, including the ones in his riding, whether those requests and priorities be investments in potential upgrades to fire infrastructure or recreation infrastructure. While I'm in a position to make a commitment beyond considering them at this time, I can tell the member that we do very much appreciate the work of local advisory councils in identifying their needs and priorities and will certainly give those suggestions serious consideration.

Mr. Barr: I appreciate the response from the minister. While we're talking infrastructure and consideration, I can't help but reflect over the years of the Carcross community club and how often it has been brought forward by the community members for — I can't even count the years now. I do know that attending the Christmas dinner — the club was actually only used twice for any kind of an event this year because of the condition, because of the size — the black mould in there. We did have a dinner and not everybody could sit in the same room, because that was one of the things — the size has outgrown the community and so on and so forth.

I would really encourage that if this government is looking at the next 10-year plan with the Building Canada fund, and realizing, I believe, that every community in the territory does have a community club that is functional —

some quite new — that Carcross is probably — or I would say is — the last one on the list, as far as a community club goes.

I would really strongly encourage, if this is the beginning of the next 10-year plan with Building Canada, that finally Carcross will see a community club, as some seniors and elders put it, before they pass on — I know if they have passed on — and their hopes and their efforts in trying to have that come to fruition over the years.

I won't go on too much about that community club. I do understand that there are requests out there — just being out there — and knowing that we use other facilities instead of that club, just to kind of get by from day to day for various meetings. I believe it's long overdue.

The minister was making note of the new fire hall in Carcross. I do know that there has been some talk about possibly having a room attached to that that would have some cooking facilities that would be able to be accessed for some of the local women for quilting — wanting to quilt in there.

I understand that there no longer will be any kind of cooking facility in that room that will be part of the new fire hall, which will also house, I believe, the ambulance and search and rescue, and sort of have a one-stop shop kind of idea, which the community is excited about. They were looking at, I believe, the fire hall for training and such, and that the room could also be utilized for the various volunteer services — that there would be training options in there. If there was long, all-day training, there could be some kitchen facilities in there to accentuate the use of the room.

I would ask the minister if he could confirm that — whether or not that has been withdrawn or if it is back on the table. Also, it was brought to my attention, while I am speaking about infrastructure in Carcross specifically, that the old visitor information centre that has been sitting empty for the last — I guess it's going into the second year now. It's used for a washroom facility in the summer. But I do know there have been some local groups that would like to see if there is a possibility of that empty building being utilized year-round — the front end of it, which is not the washroom — for youth activities. I know that money has been obtained for doing leatherwork and there are other activities being explored — guitar lessons and things like that — by the school. To not let that space just sit empty, there are people who have been inquiring about utilizing that space. Are there options, or would the minister be interested in opening those doors to different uses in the community on a year-round basis?

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Point of order

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

Hon. Mr. Dixon: On a point of order, earlier today the Opposition House Leader rose on a point of personal privilege with regard to the private members' business identified for tomorrow's sitting. Earlier today in the Legislature, the member identified the order and items of business pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3) as being Motion No. 844, standing in the name of the Member for Riverdale South. It is my

understanding that in order to change that, unanimous consent is required, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3. That is the correct procedure for changing that order.

Also, as a point of fact, the member indicated that she had spoken with the House Leaders and that, of course, is not correct. The member did send a written note to the Government House Leader, which he did not have a chance to read because he was on his feet debating his budget. My understanding is that you will convey these comments to the Speaker for his ruling, and I wish to have my comments on this point of order added to that as well — that the comments made by the Member for Riverdale South were inaccurate on a point of procedure and fact.

Chair's statement

Chair: As this matter doesn't relate to the business of Committee of the Whole, it is something that can be brought up when the Speaker resumes the Chair.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: In answer to the questions regarding Carcross fire hall, this budget includes \$393,000 for design of the facility and preliminary site assessment has started. The fire hall itself is in need of replacement but also functions to meet community needs until that new hall is built. There have been discussions regarding the potential for bundling other program areas into that building. The exact design of that building is not yet finalized and can be given some consideration.

Again, it is not finalized. I have not seen the most recent design of that facility, but I know there had been consideration given to including a training room, and, in that facility, my understanding was that staff had felt that we would probably not be able to accommodate everything that some members of the community hoped but would probably be able to address some of it in that facility. There are other fire halls that do include the ability to hold small community events. For example, the Hootalinqua fire hall in my riding has a double sink and a small stove and does have the ability to hold a small event, but the issue may come down to if there's a request for a commercial kitchen, which, to my understanding, is not accommodated in any of our fire halls and might get into issues around the multi-use of those facilities and combining uses that potentially clash with each other — in terms of code, at least.

A note that I have just had sent to me is that a training room is intended to be part of the facility, but there wouldn't be a commercial kitchen as part of that because of the issues I just made reference to.

Again, a design has yet to be finalized. I know the staff are aware of what the community has asked for and are making best efforts to accommodate as much as they can within the limitations of not having conflicting uses of the building or conflicting code issues. They also have to be mindful of the overall budget for the facility and realize that, any time there's a project in any community, there will likely be some who would like to make the facility do even more and would design a facility that meets dreams and hopes, and

we can't always fully accommodate that within the reality that government has to deal with, but we do make a sincere attempt to assess the needs and the wants of communities and their priorities with the things they need and the things they would like to see.

We're focused on ensuring that we're addressing the needs and that, to the extent that we can, we also do respond to those things that are not strictly necessary but are important to people or are important to certain members of the community. The bottom line is that the new Carcross fire hall will, unfortunately, probably not do everything that some had hoped it would, but it will be a new facility. It will provide a room that can — like with the Golden Horn fire hall and Hootalinqua fire hall, which have training room space — there is the ability as well to use that for community meetings.

In the Hootalinqua facility, there have often been fairly large public meetings there that have accommodated several dozen community residents and it has been filled to capacity. The same potential is expected to occur with Carcross, and that facility will expand their ability to have better meeting space.

I do definitely appreciate the concerns about the recreation centre in Carcross. I recall the first time I was in that facility — I think it was back when I was 13 after finishing the mid-distance race that used to be organized there by Stu Purser and others in the area. After finishing that rather late in evening, I went into the facility, and it was certainly in much better shape 24 years ago than it is today. I definitely do appreciate the concerns of the member's constituents and, as I noted, to the extent that we can, we will attempt to address these matters. We do believe that the fire hall will not only provide better facilities and better services for the people of Carcross, but it will have the ability to be used for community meetings, to some extent. The overall space, though, is one that may not be as large as some had hoped it would be, and it may not include quite as much as some had hoped.

Mr. Barr: I thank the minister for his response. I was hoping to also hear if there was some consideration for the visitor information centre that sits empty. It is open in the summertime — only the washroom part is open. There is another room that just sits empty now, and there is some interest in hosting some youth-oriented activities in that space. I am wondering if that is an option — if the minister could provide any information on that.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I apologize to the member. I had intended to respond to that question and then realized there was something else I had not answered and was having a mental blank on that part of his question.

In answer to the member's question about the former visitor information centre, that is a facility that we can look into and pass on his interest to other departments. It is not one that Community Services has a direct involvement with, so I don't have any information about it from staff.

I am really not in a position at this point to comment on the possibility or suitability of doing what he has asked for. I will certainly pass it on to others who might know more about it, and perhaps they can provide him with more information in

response to that, but that is not a Community Services' facility. I am not personally well-acquainted with what the issues are around that building, so I will just have to ask him to raise it with one of my colleagues and we will have to check into who has dealt with that in the past to be able to hopefully get the member a response to the question that he has raised.

Mr. Barr: I guess if the member opposite who would be responsible could send me a note, that would be great. We could have a little talk and maybe get the folks together who are interested in moving forward with that space that sits empty. I know that would make some youngsters very happy in the community and those who have been trying to have some space to get together to do community-minded things, which the club could, would or should have done but is unable to do. As I was saying, the club — it takes a long time even just to heat it up. It is just not conducive to something like that, but we have a perfectly new building sitting empty that would be great to be able to use.

I just have one more question, and I thank the officials from the department for being here. Thanks for their time and their hard work, and I wish them a merry Christmas. I don't know if I'll see you again by then. I know the House is coming to an end this week, and I just thank you and wish all the best and all those in the department for the holiday season.

My question is about an update on the Ross River bridge. I know that work had been started. Were we able to do what was needed to be done before freeze-up this year? I know there was some concern about that. Where is that at, and what are we looking at for the spring? What will be put into place to continue the work on that? I know that there are some very happy people in Ross River regarding the bridge. I actually ran into a few in Teslin at the hand games over the weekend, and they were talking about work that has been done there and it's ongoing. I am very happy to see that the bridge is still there.

Thank you Madam Chair.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: The Yukon government approved a budget of \$1.5 million from Building Canada to stabilize the Ross River bridge. The project's objective is to stabilize the bridge and return it to active service once repair work has been fully completed. This project is being done collaboratively by staff of Community Services and Highways and Public Works. Highways and Public Works is working on beginning the repair work prior to the end of seasonal ferry operation in mid-October. Completed work will preserve the heritage values of the bridge.

My understanding is that there is some additional work they're waiting for on the ice bridge before they're able to undertake that work on the bridge, but the project is progressing along. At this point in time, everything appears to be moving fairly smoothly toward the intended result, but that's the extent of the information I have right now for the member.

Chair: Does any other member wish to speak?
We'll move on to line-by-line.

Mr. Barr: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 51, Department of Community Services, cleared or carried, as required.

Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 51, Department of Community Services, cleared or carried

Chair: Mr. Barr has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 51, Department of Community Services, cleared or carried, as required. Is there unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: Disagreed.

Chair: We do not have unanimous consent. We're going to start with page 3-4.

***On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures
On Protective Services***

Mr. Barr: Could we have a breakdown of that please?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: \$269,000 in this area is for salary of an administrative financial assistant for nine months to support work under the search and rescue northern infrastructure funding project, which is federal funding and fully recoverable. It also includes strategic investment in the rural Yukon EMS volunteer services to support our rural Emergency Medical Services crews. Investments will be made in the area of volunteer and supervisor recruitment, retention and training, equipment, ambulance, communications, facility maintenance and repair, as well as provision of uniforms. Of that line there, that \$269,000, \$40,000 is for the administrative assistant, and the largest portion of that is for those increased investments in Yukon EMS, including in the rural volunteer services area.

***Protective Services in the amount of \$269,000 agreed to
On Community Development***

Mr. Barr: Could I get a breakdown of that, Madam Chair please?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: The \$286,000 in Community Development is for several things: Sport and Recreation, an increase in funding available from Lotteries Yukon for allocation to recreation and supporting groups under the Yukon Recreation Advisory Committee umbrella. I would like to thank the board of the Lottery Commission and the staff for the good work that they do. As members may know, they are set up and are arm's length from government and make those financial decisions around approvals for sport and recreation groups and other funding. I would like to thank the board members for the work that they do in considering the needs of Yukon's sport and recreation and the increased contributions that they've made, including the increased one-time contribution they made this year in celebration of the 40th anniversary of Lotteries Yukon and its proud tradition of reinvesting lotteries' profits into Yukon communities and Yukon sport and recreation areas.

This line item also includes in the area of Community Affairs an increase in the grant-in-lieu of taxes, which is

primarily due to an increase in tax rates for Whitehorse properties — just pardon me a moment — so that \$213,000 in grant-in-lieu of taxes would be funding to non-governmental organizations or, pardon me, it would be providing a grant-in-lieu — correction, sorry that is for Yukon government properties. We are talking about different line items here — so, increasing the grant in lieu of taxes. That would again be Yukon government facilities.

In Community Operations, this also includes funding for the implementation of Community Services' responsibilities under the Yukon water strategy, led by the Department of Environment. I would like to acknowledge and thank the Minister of Environment and his staff for the good work that they have done in this area. The breakdown of that \$286,000 line item is as follows: \$18,000 for Sport and Recreation; \$213,000 for grant-in-lieu of taxes and a \$55,000 increase to assist with the implementation of Community Services' responsibilities under the Yukon water strategy.

I would also like to briefly mention that one of the things that is accomplished that assists the water strategy is through the rural well program and through the new municipal domestic water well program that will be created as a result of Bill No. 80 passing the Legislature earlier this sitting.

One of the requirements, in exchange for Yukoners receiving funding for well projects under that loans program, is that they also have to provide data to assist us in developing a better understanding of groundwater. That is, their well-drilling company has to provide well logs so that we have a better understanding of depth and the information that is compiled by the well driller at that time. That is the important thing — through Community Services, the annual funding that has gone in and the over 240 families that have been assisted through the rural well drilling program — all have provided us information that helps inform and guide the water strategy and is an important part of the contribution by Community Services toward the development of the well strategy.

I just have some additional information specific to the — more clarity on the breakdown of the grant-in-lieu part of this that relates specifically to the athletes village project, which has been developed into 34 units of housing for seniors and for students at the Yukon College campus. That is due to the ending of an agreement that, when it was originally developed for the athletes village purpose, there was an agreement for the city not to charge taxes. We would then have to provide grant in lieu of taxes on that facility. That agreement has ended, and that is what made up most of that increase of the grant-in-lieu of taxes.

Community Development in the amount of \$286,000 agreed to

On Corporate Policy and Consumer Affairs

Mr. Barr: Could I get a breakdown of that line item?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I'm more than happy to provide a breakdown of this line item. That \$1,183,000 increase is primarily made up of funding that was provided to the Klondike Visitors Association for the purchase of new slot machines. As members will know, I had the pleasure of announcing that earlier this year, along with the Klondike

Visitors Association. This investment in new slot machines for Diamond Tooth Gerties replaces antiquated machines that were in this facility. This investment is an important part of accomplishing three things. It helps ensure that Diamond Tooth Gerties continues to be an iconic attraction for Dawson City and assists with being an important part of the tourism product in Dawson City. It also, through a share of the revenues the Yukon government takes for slot machines — as a portion of the slot machine revenue — profit from slot machines is taken by Yukon government in accordance with the concession agreement we have with the Klondike Visitors Association. That revenue is then directly transferred by the Yukon government to the crime prevention and victim services trust fund and, through the annual revenues from our portion of the slot machine revenue at Diamond Tooth Gerties, it leads to typically around \$250,000 in revenue that goes directly to crime prevention and victim services and supports their valuable programming.

So while the Yukon government transfers the money it receives to the crime prevention and victim services trust fund, within a period of four years, we expect to have more money transferred to government to be transferred to the crime prevention and victim services trust fund than the slot machine replacement cost.

The third thing that this accomplishes is that the slot machines are an important part of the sustainability of the Diamond Tooth Gerties operation, and Diamond Tooth Gerties is the most profitable part of the Klondike Visitors Association's suite of programs and they use it to fund other programs and services, including tourism promotion for Dawson City and the Klondike area.

So again, we're very pleased to have been able to make this investment in the community of Dawson City and in investing in the modernization of the slot machines at one of Yukon's iconic tourism facilities, Diamond Tooth Gerties.

That total amount is \$1,105,000. The remaining portion of this line item is \$78,000 for an increase for public education materials and start-up expenses related to the residential tenancy program in that office.

Corporate Policy and Consumer Affairs in the amount of \$1,183,000 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 \$1,738,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Corporate Services

On Information Technology Equipment and Systems

Information Technology Equipment and Systems underexpenditure in the amount of \$29,000 cleared

On Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space

Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space in the amount of \$100,000 agreed to

On Protective Services

On Fire Marshal — Fire Protection

Fire Marshal — Fire Protection in the amount of \$61,000 agreed to

On Fire Management — Fire Management

Fire Management — Fire Management in the amount of \$129,000 agreed to

On Emergency Medical Services — Whitehorse Ambulance Station Replacement

Emergency Medical Services — Whitehorse Ambulance Station Replacement in the amount of \$200,000 agreed to

On Community Development

On Sport and Recreation — Dawson City Recreation Centre

Mr. Barr: Yes, I would like to get a breakdown as to why that's not there.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: This is pursuant to an agreement with Dawson City that we committed — I believe it was \$4 million to repairs — investments into the existing recreation centre. That money remains committed to Dawson City, but this money is being deferred to a future year per the revised estimate of the current year cash flow and workplan supplied by Dawson City. Dawson City is managing this project, although we are working with them on this, so that is simply due to an adjustment in work being done and the timelines for that.

Sport and Recreation — Dawson City Recreation Centre underexpenditure in the amount of \$545,000 cleared

On Sport and Recreation — Ross River Recreation Centre

Sport and Recreation — Ross River Recreation Centre in the amount of \$30,000 agreed to

On Public Libraries — Beaver Creek Library

Mr. Barr: Where did this money come from and could I get a breakdown of that?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: This is a transfer of funds from Education to allow Community Services to explore options for a new library location. The original plan was to house the library in the school basement, but renovation costs proved more costly than had originally been estimated and, as a result, alternative options were explored. Also, the Member for Klwane and I, along with the Premier, in a recent visit to the community of Beaver Creek, discussed this with the community of Beaver Creek and the citizens who attended the public meeting. We're exploring an option that they had suggested at that meeting and, at this point, we expect that we'll be able to do that.

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

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

Motion agreed to

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

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

Chair's report

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

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: Prior to proceeding with adjournment, the Chair will rule on a point of order raised earlier today by the Minister of Economic Development. The Chair realizes that the point of order was raised in Committee of the Whole but pertained to a matter that occurred earlier in the day when the Speaker was in the Chair.

During notice of opposition private members' business, the Official Opposition House Leader identified certain motions for debate tomorrow. Later, during Committee of the Whole, the Official Opposition House Leader rose on a point of personal privilege to inform the House that she had misidentified the Official Opposition motion to be called tomorrow. She informed the Committee that she had spoken to other House Leaders about this change. No member objected to her statement at that time. Later, the Minister of Environment rose on a point of order to contest the statement made by the Official Opposition House Leader under the point of personal privilege. He asserted that the Government House Leader did not agree to the change put forward by the Official Opposition House Leader. He argued that changing the motion identified for debate required unanimous consent, not a statement on a point of personal privilege.

There have been occasions in the past when House Leaders have misidentified motions for debate, corrections have been offered to the House, and unanimous consent was not required. In the past, unanimous consent was only required when the change was brought forward on the day that the motion was to be debated, and I believe that has only happened once.

The intention here of the Official Opposition House Leader was to identify at the earliest possible time the error that she had made to allow people to prepare themselves appropriately for the debate tomorrow. If she had waited and done it tomorrow, then definitely unanimous consent would be required. As she has made the effort and identified that she did speak to the House Leaders, I only assume that, in making her point of privilege, they did in fact agree. I'm seeing that there are heads shaking. I was hoping to avoid this, but I don't see any other options here.

Government House Leader, do you have any statement to be made at this point on this particular point of order please?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: At the time when the Opposition House Leader rose on a point of order, she had sent me a note. I had not responded to that. I was also in debate on my budget in the Department of Community Services. At the time when she made that correction, I thought that she was resuming debate — intending to correct an error and resume with debate on the Opposition motion, which, on the last day opposition private members' motion had precedence, had begun after 5:00 p.m., and I had assumed that it was simply an error in motion number.

The member then rose to identify a different motion standing in the name of a different member. To me, it appears —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Thank you.

Speaker: Opposition House Leader, please.

Ms. Stick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to say that I did send a note over. I realize that the Government House Leader was in debate and I had not had an opportunity prior to that to do that, so I did send the note indicating that I would be standing on the point of personal privilege.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Leader of the Third Party, please.

Mr. Silver: I was informed at the earliest possible convenience by the House Leader for the Official Opposition of the mistake that she made with calling the wrong number. She made a mistake and wanted to rectify that as soon as possible. I don't see the problem in giving her the opportunity to rectify that mistake.

Speaker's statement

Speaker: The Standing Orders provide for the members to identify motions to be brought forward the next day. The Standing Orders don't provide for any errors in statements and give no directions on how to correct an error in statement. I don't believe there was any intent for the opposition members to mislead the House. It was a mistake in her statement.

I'm going to let it stand but I would encourage that, if the members feel that we need to have a way of correcting or dealing with these, they put forward something in the Standing Orders to give the Chair direction on how these things are supposed to be handled.

As I said earlier, if it had been on the day that the motion was being called, it would require unanimous consent. That makes sense. It was not. It was made today and it was made at the earliest possible moment. There were no objections raised at that particular time so I don't see any other way but allowing the member to change the motion number.

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 5:27 p.m.

The following Sessional Paper was tabled on December 16, 2014:

33-1-141

Recommendations for Amendments to the Elections Act, (December 2014), Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Yukon (Speaker Laxton)