



# Yukon Legislative Assembly

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## HANSARD

Thursday, May 21, 2015 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable David Laxton

# YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

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

## CABINET MINISTERS

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

## GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS

### Yukon Party

<b>Darius Elias</b>	Government House Leader Vuntut Gwitchin
<b>Hon. David Laxton</b>	Porter Creek Centre
<b>Patti McLeod</b>	Watson Lake

## OPPOSITION MEMBERS

### New Democratic Party

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

### Liberal Party

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

Clerk of the Assembly	Floyd McCormick
Deputy Clerk	Linda Kolody
Clerk of Committees	Allison Lloyd
Sergeant-at-Arms	Rudy Couture
Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms	Doris McLean
Hansard Administrator	Deana Lemke

**Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Thursday, May 21, 2015 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

**Withdrawal of motions**

**Speaker:** The Chair wishes to inform the House of changes which have been made to the Order Paper.

The following motions have been removed from the Order Paper as the actions requested in the motions have been taken: Motions No. 914, 924 and 939, standing in the name of the Member for Watson Lake; and Motions No. 928, 938 and 945, standing in the name of the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin.

**DAILY ROUTINE**

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

**TRIBUTES**

**In recognition of Craft Year 2015**

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** It is indeed my honour and privilege to be able to rise today on behalf of all members of the Legislative Assembly to pay tribute to Craft Year in Canada.

Craft Year is a nation-wide festival aimed at promoting crafts as a key component of Canadian culture, and to this end, 2015 has been proclaimed Craft Year by our Commissioner of Yukon.

Events celebrating Craft Year 2015 in the Yukon are being organized by the Yukon Art Society. The Yukon Art Society is the local member of the national organization, the Canadian Crafts Federation.

Craft Year celebrates the diversity, creativity and skill of the Canadian artists who contribute to the tradition of craft in Canada. To celebrate Craft Year 2015, Yukoners are joining other provinces and territories to recognize and appreciate the active craft community in Yukon and its place in Canadian culture.

We all very much know that arts and crafts enrich the artistic and cultural lives of all Yukoners. Products made by Yukon craft artists in glass, wood, ceramics, metal, beadwork, textiles and other mediums represent traditions, artistry, innovation, identity and diversity throughout our territory.

As Yukoners, we're able to access locally made crafts through a number of different and various craft shows and fairs throughout the year, such as the 12 Days of Christmas Sale, the annual Spruce Bog, the Fireweed farmers market, the Cranberry Fair and the created-in-the-Yukon program.

Yukon government is very proud of its continued support of the arts sector. That includes many groups dedicated specifically to crafting. Local groups — for example, the Yarn Bomb Yukon group, the Northern Fibres Guild and the Klwane Quilters Guild — continue to be vibrant and active,

and there are so many more. This sector makes an important contribution to community life as well as to our economic diversity. In fact, since 2007, programs administered by the Department of Tourism and Culture have been enhanced — in fact, increased — by over 60 percent.

Major arts organizations across the territory, including the Northern Cultural Expressions Society, the Dawson City Arts Society, the Yukon Arts Centre, and the Old Fire Hall benefit from dedicated operational funding. Additional dollars are also available to individual artists, ensembles, arts organizations and artistic projects through our arts funding programs — programs that meet specific funding needs within the arts community.

Yukon artists and arts events not only enhance the lives of Yukoners, but they also have incredible national and international reach. One example of that particular reach of Yukon arts is the Adäka Cultural Festival, one of the primary initiatives delivered by the Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association. The festival has grown to become a destination event that attracts national media, galleries, collectors, and agencies to meet with Yukon artists and further their careers. The Yukon government is very proud to be able to provide operational funding in support of this association as well as project funding in support of this outstanding festival.

Another great example is the annual Yukon Riverside Arts Festival organized on Discovery Days weekend by the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture in Dawson City. The festival provides an accessible environment along the open-air Riverside Park and a gazebo for community members and visitors to interact directly with the artists and explore their creativity.

Arts organizations and events are growing across all Yukon communities every single day. The Yukon government is very pleased and is committed to providing support and ongoing partnerships with each of these organized events. We are really pleased to be able to support the Yukon Art Society present Arts Up Front, a visual arts festival on the Whitehorse wharf. This event will showcase the work of over 40 visual artists with workshops, demonstrations, children's arts festivities and live music. Another example of an up-and-coming arts festival is the Mayo Arts Festival, which also benefits from funding through the arts operating funds. The list goes on, and those are just but a very few of the examples of the active life occurring in the Yukon.

Every year the Yukon government purchases new acquisitions for the Yukon's permanent art collection. I am really pleased to note that in support of Craft Year 2015, the Friends of the Yukon Permanent Art Collection have focused this year's acquisitions on works of craft. On June 4, the Yukon Arts Centre will open the fine craft exhibition. The exhibition will highlight the traditions of craft-making in the territory and will demonstrate Yukoners' long-standing appreciation of craft through the many works donated and purchased for that collection.

I encourage all Yukoners, including all members, to celebrate and participate in Craft Year by visiting craft events, exhibitions and demonstrations, or by purchasing local crafts,

including those bearing “Created in the Yukon”. This unique symbol helps raise awareness among Yukoners and visitors worldwide of original crafts and arts products made by Yukoners.

In closing, I would like to extend all of our sincere thanks to all those who work to support this important sector in the Yukon. To the talented craft artists themselves, the hard-working craft organizations, the dedicated volunteers and the many small businesses in the Yukon, we should say thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to just point out that we have in the gallery a number of various representatives from the various major arts organizations, artists themselves, collectives and business entities. I just want to point out a few, and my apologies if I miss some of you, but I will do my utmost here.

Starting with the Yukon Art Society, we have a couple of representatives here: Tara Paczkowski, as well as Glenn Piwowar; also representing Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association, we have Shirlee Frost, board member; and Charlene Alexander, representing the Adäka Cultural Festival. We also have here a near and dear friend of mine over the years — and I have known her since Expo ‘86 — who I had the opportunity to work with, Ms. Pearl Keenan, an elder from the Teslin Tlingit Council — welcome, Pearl.

From Yukon Artists at Work, Harreson Tanner and Patrick Royle — all the movers and shakers here — and then we have a number of various artists: Ann Smith; we have Brian Walker; Lena White; David Ashley from Goldsmiths — David, thank you for joining us; Maureen Morris, an artist from Atlin — all the way — welcome; and we have also have with us Mel and Luann Johnson, who I just had the opportunity to meet with and they are opening up a new glass-blowing studio here in the territory so welcome to Mel and Luann as well for joining us. We also have with us Claire Martel from the Fireweed Community Market as well as Archie Wiggins.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you for joining us in the gallery and thank you for your continuing contributions in support of our economy and our quality of life as Yukoners. Thank you.

*Applause*

### **In recognition of Reginald and Geraldine Steers’ 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary**

**Speaker:** Members, I am pleased to present to you today two Yukoners seated in the Speaker’s gallery who I have known for quite a number of years: Reginald Arthur Steers — or Reg — and Geraldine Diane Steers, nee Magdalin — also known as Gerry. Reg and Gerry arrived in Yukon in 1986 and currently reside in Porter Creek Centre where they have lived since 1993. That itself is worth a tribute and having me as their MLA is definitely worth a tribute. But that’s not why they have joined us today. On May 22, 1965, they exchanged wedding vows. Those of us who are slow with our math — that means that tomorrow, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, 2015,

they will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary — quite an achievement and well done.

Reg and Gerry met while attending university in Saskatoon and moved to Whitehorse when Gerry was relocated here by the federal government. Just yesterday, Gerry found out that her sister, Betty, is coming up from Saskatoon and arriving tomorrow afternoon to join them for their celebration — and I’m sure it will be a great and wonderful celebration and richly deserved.

So members, please join me in a warm welcome and congratulations to Reg and Gerry Steers in recognition of their wonderful achievement of 50 years of marriage that only time and devotion can accomplish.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Introduction of visitors.

### **INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I would like to welcome a constituent of mine in Riverdale North as well as a long-time member of the Yukon Housing Corporation board of directors — probably here to celebrate with Reg and Gerry — Mr. Ron McFadyen. Welcome.

*Applause*

**Ms. White:** Just before she sneaks out, I’m really happy to have seen Michele Emslie here today. She has been a massive force of influence in my life and I’ve known her for more than half of it now, so thank you for being here.

*Applause*

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

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motions?

Is there a statement by a minister?

### **Speaker’s statement**

**Speaker:** Before proceeding with today’s Question Period, the Chair would like to make a statement regarding a point of order that was raised yesterday by the Official Opposition House Leader during the closing speech of the minister responsible for the Public Service Commission at second reading of Bill No. 87.

In raising the point of order, the Official Opposition House Leader cited Standing Order 19(d), which says, in part: “A member shall be called to order by the Speaker if that member: ... in the opinion of the Speaker, refers at length to debates of the current Session or reads unnecessarily from Hansard or from any other document ...”

The Official Opposition House Leader argued that the minister had violated Standing Order 19(d) by giving the same speech he had given during his opening speech at second reading of Bill No. 87 on April 16.

In responding to the point of order, the minister said he believed that as mover of the motion for second reading, he could provide comments as he saw fit.

The Chair ruled on the point of order yesterday. However, the Chair believes it would be beneficial to clarify a few matters about closing speeches in debate on a bill or motion.

The second edition of *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, at page 602, says — and I quote: “Any Member who has moved a substantive motion may speak a second time to conclude the debate ... The right of reply allows for the rebuttal of criticisms and arguments directed against a substantive motion, and its effect is to close the debate.”

In other words, the right of reply gives the mover of the motion the opportunity to respond to questions, criticisms, arguments and comments that have arisen after the member’s opening speech during debate on the motion. While it is expected that the mover of the motion might summarize his or her opening remarks, the right of reply is not an opportunity to repeat the member’s opening speech verbatim.

So while the mover of a motion does have some latitude in his or her closing speech, the member must do so within the confines of Standing Orders that refer to, among other things, unnecessarily reading from Hansard or other documents, needless repetition and relevance.

Yesterday was a unique situation in that the closing remarks had only been started when we ran out of time when we were first doing second reading, so the minister was using his time in closing, in my opinion, to reaffirm and re-establish the importance of the bill at that time, having had five weeks in between the opening of second reading and the closing of second reading.

I hope this statement clarifies the situation for members.

We will now proceed to Question Period.

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: Public Service Commissioner appointment

**Ms. Hanson:** Shuffling ministers and deputy ministers is the prerogative of the Premier and the current Premier has indulged in shuffling on so many occasions one wonders what’s happening around the Cabinet table. Most recently the Premier announced the shuffle of deputy heads of the departments of Environment, Executive Council Office, Tourism and Culture — and the Public Service Commissioner.

The *Public Service Act* allows for the appointment of a Public Service Commissioner for up to 10 years. The legislation is explicit — that the commissioner can only be removed with cause, subject to an inquiry. The law is designed to create continuity between elections and beyond elections, and to keep the commissioner, ultimately responsible for the public service, beyond the fray of partisan politics.

Mr. Speaker, why was the law not followed? Why was the commissioner removed and shuffled off before her seven-year term expired?

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** What the member opposite is failing to recognize is that, while that is indeed what the *Public Service Act* says, the Public Service Commissioner may also leave under her own volition, and that is what has happened here in this particular case — where the deputy ministers who were shuffled included the former Public Service Commissioner, who, under her own accord and with her support and consent, agreed to take on a new position. That is fully within the law. That is fully within the purview of all legislation, and nothing was untoward about that.

It is obviously the Premier’s prerogative to shuffle deputy ministers as he sees fit because those deputy ministers do serve at his pleasure.

With regard to the Public Service Commissioner, there is a bit of uniqueness to it but, in this particular case, the action was taken with full support of the former Public Service Commissioner and, as such, was completely appropriate.

**Ms. Hanson:** Deputy ministers do serve at the pleasure of the elected government. They carry out the government’s election promises and are the direct link between the public service, the departments and the minister. The Public Service Commissioner is different. The commissioner is responsible for the public service. The drafters of the *Public Service Act* clearly saw the benefit of giving the commissioner autonomy to act and protection from political interference.

There are a number of positions given autonomy because the job they perform requires that they be seen to be above partisanship — for example, the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Ombudsman, the Conflicts Commissioner, the Child and Youth Advocate, and the Public Service Commissioner. Yet the commissioner was shuffled off to Executive Council, the most political job in town.

Can the Premier explain this move — particularly how this benefits Yukon public servants?

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** As I said, what the *Public Service Act* does not state is that the Public Service Commissioner has to stay in that position forever, even when she wants to move. In this particular case, the former Public Service Commissioner agreed and consented to taking on a new role and, as such, resigned her post as the Public Service Commissioner. That is fully within the law and the *Public Service Act*. Obviously it is the Premier’s prerogative to shuffle deputy ministers as he sees fit. That has occurred on a number of occasions over the past decades.

In this particular case, the most recent shuffle involved the former Public Service Commissioner taking on a very important new role as the deputy minister responsible for the Executive Council Office. It is a very important role and we know that she is more than well-qualified to fill that role. We are very excited about the opportunity she has to take on her new role, and we are also very excited about the new opportunity — and I am particularly excited, as the minister responsible for the Public Service Commission — to see our new Public Service Commissioner come into his role and fill that position with aplomb and skill, as we know that he will.

**Ms. Hanson:** The issue here is not about a particular person. It is about the integrity of the process and the laws that

are in place to ensure the Public Service Commissioner is beyond the fray of partisan politics. By statute, the Public Service Commissioner may be appointed for up to 10 years and, according to the *Public Service Act*, can only be removed with cause, subject to an inquiry.

By statute, the commissioner has an overarching responsibility for all aspects of Yukon's public service. This government did not follow the *Public Service Act* when it removed the last Public Service Commissioner and appointed a new one, apparently without competition. The process is critical to maintaining the integrity of the public service.

Why was the legislative process of appointing and removing the Public Service Commissioner abandoned by this Premier?

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** As I've indicated very clearly, this was not in any way contravening the *Public Service Act*.

I should note, Mr. Speaker, that the Public Service Commissioner is not bound by some blood oath to be in the position forever. They can choose to move on if they wish, and that's not something that contravenes the act. If someone wants to quit or leave or move, they can. In this case, the former Public Service Commissioner agreed to leave her position and take on a new one. Nothing is untoward about that, nothing is inappropriate about that, and nothing was contravening any piece of Yukon legislation.

I need to be very clear with the member opposite that that was completely appropriate, that the Premier exercised his due authority in shuffling deputy ministers who are responsible to him and, with the support and consent of the former Public Service Commissioner, allowed her to take on a new and very important role as the deputy head of the department of the Executive Council Office. We have the utmost confidence in these individuals, both deputy ministers and the new Public Service Commissioner, and we look forward to working with them to achieve the goals of this government to govern the Yukon Territory.

#### **Question re: Corrections programming**

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The 2015 Auditor General's report on the state of corrections in Yukon found that the department was not meeting its obligations under the corrections act to incorporate the cultural heritage and needs of Yukon First Nations into its programs and services. The Auditor General found that, while some First Nation cultural programs are provided to inmates at WCC, none of the department's core rehabilitation programs incorporate First Nation cultural heritage.

Furthermore, the Auditor General found that Corrections had not assessed whether or not the core programs offered are effective in changing behaviour and reducing reoffending for Yukon First Nation individuals. Can the minister explain why there has been no assessment of the core programming to evaluate if the programs even work for First Nation people, who make up the vast majority of offenders in the Yukon correctional system?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I would remind the member that the Auditor General's report is a valuable tool. It's also based

on a review that was done of files going back almost three years now. As I've noted in a number of debates here in this Assembly, the member will recognize that there are areas where the new standard that had been set out, as a result of the correctional reform process, was not yet being met. I would remind the member that, in fact, the standard of programming, including First Nation programming, has been raised significantly higher than it used to be back in her days as Justice minister. We recognize that more work needs to be done and we're committed to doing exactly that.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The minister likes to talk about the high standards his government introduced to the corrections act in 2009, but those standards don't mean a thing when you don't take action to meet them.

In Yukon, over 70 and up to 90 percent of people incarcerated at WCC are of Yukon First Nation ancestry. It is critical to assess whether or not the programming that is designed to rehabilitate, heal and reintegrate people into the community is actually working.

The department said that a lack of capacity was the reason there is no significant First Nation cultural/heritage component in the correctional system. Mr. Speaker, that has to change.

Will the minister commit to meeting the obligations set out in the corrections act and implement a meaningful Yukon First Nation cultural-heritage component to correctional programming to ensure rehabilitation can occur so our communities are safer?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** As I have noted to the member, we recognize that the work done by the Auditor General — the report on the correctional system — identified room for improvement. As I have stated on a number of occasions to the member, some of these gaps were already identified by internal review processes. We recognize that more work needs to be done. The department is committed to taking those steps, and I and this government will support them in that. Again, I do have to remind the member that the standard of programming, including First Nation programming, has been raised significantly higher than what the standard was set at during her time as Justice minister. There were some areas where the new standard was not yet being met, but the Department of Justice and this government are committed to meeting that standard and to doing the additional work that is necessary. Good work is being done by staff within the Department of Justice, including at Whitehorse Correctional Centre, but we do recognize that there is more work that needs to be done.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** First Nations make up 70 to 90 percent of the correctional population and yet we don't even know if our core programs are effective in reducing their rate of reoffending. The corrections act states that the Corrections branch will work with Yukon First Nations to develop and deliver correctional services and programs that incorporate the cultural heritage of Yukon First Nations. I am asking the minister to meet that standard. In its response to the Auditor General's criticism for their lack of First Nation programming, the department cited the fact that there are 14

different Yukon First Nations with cultural distinctions that must be respected.

Since the government accepted the Auditor General's findings, how many of the Yukon's 14 First Nation governments has the Department of Justice met with to develop new programming that incorporates their cultural heritage — how many?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** The member is not recognizing the fact that the work that is done, including through the elders committee at the Correctional Centre — I would remind the member that the new facility itself was designed with a much greater focus on incorporating traditional and cultural practices, including the room that was designed specifically to incorporate First Nation artwork, with input from elders in the design.

We recognize that more work can, should and will be done in this area, but I do have to remind the member that the standard has been raised significantly higher than what it was at during her time as Minister of Justice. There were areas where the new standard was not yet met, but we and staff are committed to meeting them.

I would remind the member that in some areas, such the Community Wellness Court and the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court, the work that is being done by Department of Justice staff and other related departments is not only working well, but is being looked to by other jurisdictions not only in Canada, but internationally because of the success of the excellent new programs that they have implemented in the last several years. Staff deserve to be commended for the excellent work that they are doing, but we recognize that there are a few areas where more work does need to be done to meet the new standard that was set out as a result of correctional reform.

#### **Question re: Whitehorse General Hospital expansion**

**Mr. Silver:** Yesterday the government selected a B.C. company to do the new expansion at the Whitehorse General Hospital. In 2010, the chair of the hospital board told the Legislature that the expansion project would cost — and I quote — “between \$45 million and \$50 million”. At that point it said it would include the laboratory, medical imaging, the emergency room and the ambulance station.

He then appeared in the Legislature in 2013, and the chair said at that time that it had risen to a \$60-million range. According to the announcement yesterday, the cost of the project has now ballooned to \$72 million.

Can the minister explain why the cost of this project has gone up almost 50 percent since it was first announced just four years ago?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, we're very pleased to work with the Hospital Corporation on this expansion. This is something that Yukoners have asked for and they certainly deserve that level of care at the Whitehorse General Hospital.

As with many projects, scopes often change with work that is needed to be done, but we are looking forward to moving forward with the Hospital Corporation's project. We

know that there has been some \$72 million budgeted for this multi-year project. The target completion date is 2017-18, and the Hospital Corporation has told us that the next phase of work is currently on schedule and on budget.

**Mr. Silver:** No mention to the fact that it has ballooned 50 percent since it was first announced.

Yukoners who have long memories will recall that the hospital was built in the 1990s under a Yukon Party government. The controversial decision at that time was to scale back the size of the facility. The chair reflected upon this and he said — and I quote: “When the existing emergency room facility was built, it was too small to handle the needs of the day then and it certainly does not meet the needs today.”

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that we need to expand the emergency room and it is unfortunate that a previous Yukon Party government didn't build for the future growth. The expansion will mean a bigger emergency room but it will mean no new beds — at least not today.

Can the minister confirm that when the building is completed in the fall of 2017, as he mentioned, there will be no new beds?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** It's interesting to hear the comments from the member opposite. The numbers that he's talking about were very early estimates. Certainly scopes of projects do change as they proceed.

Yukon government has approved \$72 million for the expansion of the Whitehorse General Hospital. The target completion date, as I had indicated, for the overall project is 2017-18. We're very excited to be able to provide new services and expanded services at the hospital with this project.

Certainly we would only expect that the member opposite will be not voting in favour of this project, one that many Yukoners certainly look forward to.

**Mr. Silver:** Certainly we can be assured that the minister is not going to answer the question, Mr. Speaker. There's no increase in the scope — laboratory, medical imaging, emergency room and ambulance station. It's the same scope.

We're getting an IOU as well from this government on new beds. Another aspect of the hospital expansion project is relocating the ambulance station from the current site by the hospital to a new building nearby on Hospital Road. This is certainly good news as the existing ambulance station is not in good shape. We know, for example, that the dispatch centre has had to be rewired this year because it was failing. We know the government built a new ambulance station at the top of Two Mile Hill, and the dispatch centre has sat empty since the building opened. I hope that this type of poor planning is not repeated at the new ambulance station that was announced yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, will the new ambulance station have a full EMS dispatch centre in it?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** Really what we need to talk about here is the fact that delivering on this hospital expansion was a platform commitment by this government in our last platform back in 2011. The work, the due diligence, has been done by

the Hospital Corporation. Through that work, there was a change of what the needs are with the scope of that work. That is why we are ready to move ahead.

The good news is that we have money in the bank to build this hospital. What is important to note is that the Leader of the Liberal Party opposed and voted against a hospital in his own riding in Dawson City. We know that he will vote against the hospital here in Whitehorse as well. What we do know is that the Leader of the Liberal Party is opposed to improvements in our health care system.

**Question re: Access to abortion services**

**Ms. Stick:** Reproductive choice, including access to contraception and the choice to have a safe abortion, is a human right protected under international law. Last week, we asked this government about what it was doing to address the barriers facing Yukon women and their families across the territory who cannot access abortion close to home and in a timely manner. Two ministers answered by talking about anything but abortion or access to contraception. This government's deafening silence is a clear indication of the importance they place on this matter.

Can the minister tell Yukon women and their families why this government will not answer a simple question about the right to choose an abortion or access to contraception?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** For women in rural Yukon seeking an abortion, community health nurses can make a referral to a physician in Whitehorse who will confirm the pregnancy, provide some counselling on options and then refer the person to a physician who performs therapeutic abortions. At that point, the patient will see a physician, again have counselling available to them and they will have discussions around birth control, and then they will be sent for an ultrasound. I know the Leader of the Official Opposition finds this funny, but we take this very seriously. Then they will have the procedure.

Follow-up will be provided in the community with the health centre and, where and if possible, for rural Yukon women, all health care professionals make concerted efforts to stack services so that a person coming into Whitehorse on the TA referral doesn't have to wait to return to Whitehorse at a later date.

This government obviously, unlike the Leader of the Official Opposition, takes this matter very seriously and we are committed to working with those individuals.

**Ms. Stick:** The Yukon has one of the highest rates of abortion in this country. For those women in the communities, often it involves more than one trip to Whitehorse to be able to access this service. If this government doesn't understand the link between the access to contraception, unintended pregnancy and abortion, there was a study done in 2014 in the Yukon that investigated this trend — 117 Yukon women completed a survey on access to contraception. Of those, some 40 percent were at high risk of unintended pregnancy and one in four reported an unintended pregnancy in the previous five years.

Mr. Speaker, access to effective, affordable contraception can avert two-thirds of unintended pregnancies. The new

sexual health clinic is a good start, but it is limited by hours of operation and is only in Whitehorse. What will this government do to make affordable, effective contraception —

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

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Certainly access to health care is more than just about seeing a doctor. It is about receiving quality care when needed, by the appropriate provider, in a manner that is sustainable. The last time the member opposite asked this question, I gave that exact answer.

The department continues to work with the Yukon Medical Association to ensure an adequate supply of health care professionals for Yukon. Health and Social Services has a physician recruiter certainly working closely with the Yukon Medical Association.

As I indicated in my first response, for individuals who find themselves in these situations, at that point they'll see a physician. They'll have further counselling available to them if they so choose. They'll have discussions around birth control. They will be sent for an ultrasound and they will then have the procedure. In all efforts we certainly want to minimize the impacts on women's lives.

Locally, abortions are performed up to 12 weeks in Yukon. After 12 weeks, women are sent to B.C. for that procedure. So this government takes access to health care very seriously and will commit to support those individuals who are receiving those services and the professionals who are providing them.

**Ms. Stick:** Provision of health is more than just having a doctor available.

When a government takes sexual and reproductive health seriously, it is clear in their policies, programs and health outcomes. This government does not have a sexual and reproductive health strategy and it does not track access to contraception and abortion. The information that is tracked though is grim. According to the recent numbers in this year's budget, teen pregnancies increased from 13 in 2012 to 22 in 2013.

When will this government commit to a sexual and reproductive health strategy?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** What this government will commit to is access to health care because we know that it's more than seeing just a doctor. We understand that it's about receiving quality care when that care is needed.

As I indicated previously, follow-up for those individuals requiring that level of support will be provided for those in the communities by the health care centres and, where and if possible for rural Yukon women, all health care professionals certainly make concerted efforts to stack the services so that a person coming into Whitehorse on a TA referral doesn't have to wait or return to Whitehorse at a later date.

We certainly thank the professionals working with people who are requiring this level or this type of support and we will continue to make those investments work with women from both rural and Whitehorse within the department who are having these procedures, and certainly we'll continue to commit access to health care for all Yukoners.



**Question re: Northern housing trust**

**Ms. White:** The Yukon Housing Corporation recently announced they would offer Yukon landlords access to rental quality enhancement grants — grants that are designed to sustain the life or enhance the health and safety of a unit or a building. Clearly this is good news for Yukon landlords and it could be good news for tenants unless their rent goes up as a result. Yukoners are wondering if landlords who are able to access the program won't double-dip on profits by accepting the grant and then turning around and increasing the unit's rent level as a result of the improvements.

How is the government going to ensure that the rental quality enhancement grants won't result in higher rents due to publicly funded building improvements?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** Yukon Housing Corporation has taken a few initiatives recently with money from the northern housing trust to enhance housing for a variety of groups or individuals. Yukon Housing Corporation continues to try to provide as much housing as we can for Yukoners.

**Ms. White:** This money represents some of the last northern housing trust money allotted to Yukon and, once it's gone, it's gone. The whole point of the northern housing trust was to increase access to affordable housing, but in offering landlords a one-time improvement grant — whose impact on rent we can control, it's difficult to see how things are going to improve for tenants.

Without any controls, units improved with grant money might see rent go up and tenants may have to move out because they can't afford the increased rent.

How are these grants going to improve access to affordable rental housing in Yukon if the minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation can't ensure that the rent won't increase on units where grants were received?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I don't believe that this government is in support of rent controls at all. I believe that the market will ensure that rents stay competitive for all Yukoners. Yukon Housing Corporation continues to work in many ways to improve housing initiatives for all Yukoners.

**Ms. White:** My question was around what this government was going to do with grant money given to landlords and their responsibility. The rental quality enhancement grant would be more effective and help more Yukoners if it were a low-interest loan that could be reinvested over the long term.

The Yukon Housing Corporation recognizes this reality already by offering homeowners access to the home repair program, which offers a low-interest loan to perform housing upgrades and repairs. It's a great deal, so why not apply the same principle to the \$800,000 allocated to the rental quality enhancement grant?

Mr. Speaker, why is the Yukon Party government choosing low-interest loans when it comes to homeowners, but grants when it comes to landlords?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I think it's important to understand that the NDP has their position and we over here on this side of the House have our position. I think that the Yukon Housing Corporation did a great job in moving forward with

these initiatives. The department and the housing board spoke to many different NGOs and many different organizations. They collaborated in many ways to come up with these programs that we are in the process of moving forward with.

I believe they have done a great job, and I'm more than happy to support it. One of the members of that board is here today, and I have thanked them personally and I will continue to thank them. I think they did a great job and I look forward to moving forward with these programs.

**Question re: Off-road vehicle use**

**Ms. White:** So far, this government has taken the typical Yukon Party approach when it comes to the protection of Yukon's environment from unregulated ORV use — hide behind watered-down consultation while avoiding making the tough decision now. The minister has the ability under the *Lands Act* to protect sensitive zones in the form of the protection areas. The minister can issue a protection order for a period of up to 90 days to protect and manage a sensitive or at-risk area.

With an early start to Yukon's summer, this kind of protection is critical while the consultation is completed. Will the minister commit to issuing a protection order for vulnerable ecological zones while the consultation for the new ORV regulation is ongoing?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** This current consultation with respect to off-road vehicle regulations began the week of April 20. It's a 60-day consultation. It was preceded by a 30-day consultation specifically with First Nations.

We are building on that valuable information that we received from First Nations, and we are looking forward to engaging with the public and off-road vehicle users to work toward developing a solution that works for all Yukoners, whether they are on the side of enhanced conservation or whether they are responsible ORV users. It will come as a surprise, I know, to the members of the New Democratic Party, but there are a number of responsible ORV users out there who enjoy riding their machines and using their machines for such things as subsistence hunting and other aspects. An individual who lives in my riding has a child with accessibility issues and wants to ensure that he can get her out into the wilderness and he needs an ORV to do that.

We are going to listen to Yukoners. We will be coming forward, as I mentioned earlier in debate in this session, this fall with a set of regulations that we believe will balance the needs of those who want to see environmental protection with those who use ORVs responsibly in our wilderness.

**Ms. White:** I wasn't speaking about the responsible ORV users. I was speaking about the environment.

It is clear to me that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is perfectly happy to sit on the sidelines while Yukon's sensitive ecological areas go unprotected for one more season. What surprises me is that, over this entire process, we haven't heard a word from the Minister of Environment. One of the minister's responsibilities under the *Environment Act* is to ensure the wise management of the environment of the Yukon for all Yukoners. Turning a blind

eye to the unregulated use of ORVs in some of Yukon's most sensitive areas is not wise or responsible management. If the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources refuses to take any action, it is the job of the Minister of Environment to show leadership — as the Minister of Health and Social Services likes to say, step up to the plate.

What is the Minister of Environment doing to meet his obligations under the *Environment Act* when it comes to protecting sensitive ecological areas from unregulated, irresponsible ORV use?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** When it comes to this consultation that we are undertaking right now, we have to take into account the aboriginal rights that may be affected when these regulations are brought into force or when we identify areas that require this type of conservation. There are aboriginal rights surrounding fishing, hunting and traditional harvest that we need to take into account, and that is why we are conducting these consultations. It is interesting that the NDP treat consultation much like a shopping cart: they do it at their convenience when it is convenient for them but, when it is not convenient for them, they think we should forge ahead without proper consultation.

When it comes to this, there are a number of Yukoners who are interested in this topic. It will come as a surprise, I'm sure, to the NDP that there are those Yukoners who do responsibly ride ORVs and want to continue to have access to the wilderness. There are those Yukoners who use ORVs to hunt and fish in wilderness areas. We are going to consult with Yukoners on this and we will bring forward a package this fall that balances the needs of environmental protection with the rights of First Nation Yukoners and those Yukoners who responsibly enjoy using off-road vehicles in our territory.

**Ms. White:** Sometimes silence speaks volumes.

Responsible ORV owners don't destroy alpine habitat, nor do they destroy wetlands. This government's refusal to take any action on this issue is simply disappointing. This government has allegedly accepted all of the recommendations of the select committee on ORVs. They recognize them but have yet to follow up on the action. This government put out a vague and inaccessible consultation document for the ORV regulation consultation process. They have refused to even entertain the thought of putting any interim protections in place while they drag their feet in getting regulations in place. Yukoners have made it clear that it is unacceptable that sensitive ecological zones of Yukon are being irreversibly damaged.

It really begs the question: Why is this government refusing to put any protections in place for the environment when it comes to unregulated, irresponsible use of ORVs in the Yukon?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** My fellow colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources spoke so eloquently about this. We're implementing recommendation 14 from the report on the Select Committee on the Safe Operation and Use of Off-road Vehicles. Minor amendments to the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* have been made to support recommendation 14 to enable the regulation to be developed.

Once implemented, new regulations will enable land use administrators to manage off-road vehicle use in the Yukon lands when required.

Tools to manage off-road vehicle use will be applied on a complaint-driven basis or through an area-specific planning process. I'm looking forward to seeing what comes out of the consultation. We hear the members opposite praising the minister for consultation on the Whitehorse corridor and we're consulting here, but no praise for that.

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

We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### GOVERNMENT BILLS

#### Bill No. 85: *Condominium Act, 2015* — Third Reading

**Clerk:** Third reading, Bill No. 85, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Cathers.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I move that Bill No. 85, entitled *Condominium Act, 2015*, be now read a third time and do pass.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 85, entitled *Condominium Act, 2015*, be now read a third time and do pass.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I will not go on at great length here since I've already spoken to this in second reading and during Committee of the Whole. This legislation, just to recap, is replacing legislation that is almost 45 years old. The legislation is intended to modernize the condominium rules, establish condominium development and manage best practices that are more in keeping with the standards established in other jurisdictions across the country, as well as to bring clarity to how condominiums will be developed and regulated, facilitating a stable housing market in Yukon.

In 2014, the department began drafting a new *Condominium Act* following extensive research into modernized condominium legislation that has been introduced in other Canadian jurisdictions. Drafting was supported by Department of Justice staff, the stakeholder advisory committee that supports the development of the overall Land Titles Office modernization project — including this piece of legislation — and also a drafting advisory group was an important part of the process.

The drafting group included representatives from the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors, the Canadian Bar Association Yukon's real property subsection, the Surveyor General's branch of Natural Resources Canada, the City of Whitehorse and the lands branch of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Proposals for new condominium legislation provisions were also posted to the Department of Justice Land Titles Office modernization website for public review and comment and there were two occasions on which there were public

readings to discuss condominium issues and to receive feedback from members of the public who were interested in this matter.

With the benefit of these consultations, the new *Condominium Act* has been drafted with the intention of creating and facilitating the modern development of condominiums with practices that are comparable to other jurisdictions across the country.

With that, I will conclude my remarks and again I thank all who have participated in this very extensive and lengthy process to develop a significant piece of Yukon legislation, modernizing the previous piece which was almost 45 years old.

**Ms. White:** I wish to again offer my congratulations to the Department of Justice, to the minister, to the stakeholders and advisory committees that worked together to bring us the *Condominium Act, 2015*.

You know, in recent years, we've seen both the best and the worst of what can happen in a condominium situation and I think that this act will really bring clarity for all parties involved.

The new act addresses what could be considered the three main aspects of a condominium complex: the development, the purchase of a unit and the operation of a completed complex. The act brings protection to the consumer by clearly defining the rights of the prospective buyers and lays out the responsibilities of the developer when transferring ownership. It lays out the responsibilities of unit owners and of condominium corporations, and the expectations of how these parts all fit together.

The act brings protection to the developers with clear guidelines for phased developments, including rights and responsibilities. It also brings assurances for the lenders of these projects, both from the development standpoint of investors and to the institutions that finance the homeowners themselves.

I think it's important to note that this act is just one piece of a larger puzzle. Industry professionals have told me that it's incredibly important that government looks next toward the *Land Titles Act* and the *Builders Lien Act* because those two pieces are required to really make this act strong.

When all three acts and the modernization of the Land Titles Office have been completed, Yukoners will have comprehensive legislation that will both protect and guide them in their housing choices. I think the really interesting thing with the development of this *Condominium Act, 2015* is the lengths to which government went to involve professionals within the industry. With respect to the consultation and outreach, it was really incredible and I hope that government will use this as a blueprint for further act developments. Thank you very much and this has been a very enlightening process.

**Speaker:** Are you prepared for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** Division.

## Division

**Speaker:** Division has been called.

## Bells

**Speaker:** Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** Agree.

**Mr. Elias:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Agree.

**Ms. McLeod:** Agree.

**Ms. Hanson:** Agree.

**Ms. Stick:** Agree.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Agree.

**Ms. White:** Agree.

**Mr. Barr:** Agree.

**Mr. Silver:** Agree.

**Clerk:** Mr. Speaker, the results are 17 yea, nil nay.

**Speaker:** The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried.  
*Motion for third reading of Bill No. 85 agreed to*

**Speaker:** I declare that Bill No. 85 has passed this House.

**Mr. Elias:** 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 Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, in Bill No. 18, *First Appropriation Act, 2015-16*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

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

**Bill No. 18: First Appropriation Act, 2015-16 — continued**

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee is Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, in Bill No. 18, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2015-16*.

**Yukon Housing Corporation**

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** It's a pleasure to rise today as the minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation. I look forward to spending the afternoon talking about the programs and services that are offered by the corporation and that help people in the territory with housing. I'll be pleased to answer any of the questions that opposition members have today.

Before we begin, I would like to thank Pam Hine, president of the Yukon Housing Corporation, as well as Mark Davey, director of Finance, Systems and Administration, for being here as well. They will help me answer many of the questions.

The Yukon Housing Corporation is focused on helping Yukoners to achieve a better quality of life through housing. In particular, the corporation strives to continually improve housing programs and services that help Yukoners.

The 2015-16 budget supports the corporation's strategic goals to: facilitate access to more attainable and sustainable home ownership in Yukon; support initiatives that increase the availability and affordability of rental accommodation in the Yukon; and develop strategic partnerships with government, non-government organizations and the private sector to improve choices along the housing continuum here in the Yukon. For home ownership, Yukon Housing Corporation offers a range of lending programs, including owner-build mortgages, first mortgages, home repair loans, down payment assistance and other products that help Yukoners.

In 2015-16, Yukon Housing Corporation will be implementing a new home repair program that is even more flexible. The program will continue to offer loans to homeowners to improve the energy efficiency, accessibility and life of their homes. The down payment assistance program continues to be supported by this government. So far we have helped 37 families to access home ownership through the program — 24 percent of whose household income falls within the income thresholds for the social housing program.

We are finding ways to help people who would not otherwise have the opportunity to move into home ownership. The home ownership preparedness and education program will soon be launched, with options for in-person classroom and self-taught sessions. The HOPE program — as this program is called — is a new Yukon Housing Corporation program on maintenance and financial education and was developed with input from local industry representatives, including financial lenders, contractors, the real estate sector and lawyers. The program is designed to prepare first-time home buyers for successful home ownership by ensuring that they have the knowledge they need in preparation for taking a step into home ownership.

In 2015-16, community partnering and lending is being allocated \$1.3 million in O&M funding. In 2014-15, it was \$1.4 million to administer lending, establish community partnerships and industry training and lead the housing action plan. In terms of capital expenditures, the home repair loans program — \$2.5 million has been allocated for home repair loans to assist eligible homeowners to address health and safety issues — structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, accessibility upgrade enhancements, and energy-efficiency upgrades to existing homes.

The combined budget amount for home repair programs is \$2.575 million and consists of the following line amounts: \$2.5 million for home repair; \$50,000 for the home repair and enhancement program; and \$25,000 for energy management loans. In 2015-16, \$125,000 is being allocated for home repair loans programs, which represents estimated future subsidies provided to eligible clients.

Capital expenditures on home ownership include mortgage financing loans — 2015-16, we see \$6 million allotted for mortgage financing loans, which are available to assist eligible residents unable to acquire bank financing to obtain home ownership. The maximum loan amount is \$360,000 with a minimum 2.5-percent down payment. In 2015-16, we also see \$500,000 of this amount designated for the down payment assistance program, which will assist clients eligible for bank mortgages with their down payment.

The home completion loans: we see \$50,000 designated for home completion loans, which are available to assist eligible homeowners in rural Yukon with financing to complete construction of their homes.

There is \$1.1 million allocated for owner-build loans, which are available to provide technical assistance and mortgage financing to eligible Yukon residents to build or manage the construction of their own homes.

There is an estimated \$1.5 million to be recovered from clients of the lending programs for interest charged on outstanding balances through various lending programs.

In terms of rental accommodation, the Housing Corporation has a number of programs and services that support developers, landlords and Yukon households to access rental accommodations. In particular, I am very pleased to announce that the Yukon government is moving forward with the new housing initiatives with funds from the northern housing trust and from the investment in affordable housing agreement with CMHC. We are introducing new initiatives intended to improve the overall quality and accessibility of rental housing in Yukon. In total, \$6.83 of the northern housing trust money has been allocated.

The remaining funds under the northern housing trust are being directed toward new housing improvement initiatives that will: stimulate the development of new rental housing in partnership with municipal governments; enhance the quality and accessibility of existing housing for existing landlords and homeowners; help lower income individuals and working families to better afford private market rentals and increase their options; work in partnership with the City of Whitehorse on a plan to revitalize south Whitehorse at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and

Rogers by supporting the master planning process that will lead to a mix of housing and commercial options; and acknowledge the hard work of Yukoners involved in the development of the housing action plan for Yukon by moving forward with its implementation.

We recognize that housing is a complex system where governments play an important role in addressing gaps and challenges. Rental accommodation is one such challenge. It is estimated that 34 percent of Yukon renters have a core housing need, meaning that they spend 30 percent of their income on housing. Affordability is an ongoing concern for working families and Yukon's most vulnerable populations. The new northern housing trust programs are targeted to reduce these challenges. It is important to point out that the investments are also time-limited and scaled to bring broad-based benefits to Yukon people while also minimizing the potential unintended market consequences that any housing initiatives can bring. Ultimately, the new programs balance the need to help people improve their quality of life while also protecting the interests of those already invested in the private rental market.

Madam Chair, I am pleased to speak to the new initiatives in a bit more detail. The municipal matching rental construction program encourages collaboration between the Yukon government and municipal governments and allocates \$3.5 million for the next two years to increase the supply of rental housing. Through the program, Yukon Housing Corporation is working with the Association of Yukon Communities and each municipal government individually. Investments will complement municipal housing priority aims to increase the supply of private sector rental housing construction. This approach is in line with the Association of Yukon Communities' calls for resources for addressing the territory's housing issues, and we recognize there is a role for all levels of government in finding housing solutions for Yukoners. Through the municipal matching rental construction program, the Yukon government will offer one-time capital grant incentives for eligible projects, helping to stimulate new construction. This will match any municipal program that is in place or will come into place to meet the unique challenges of that particular community.

The housing system requires cooperation from all partners. Municipalities may not be able to provide direct funding grants, but they can support through zoning and development incentives, like those in place within the City of Whitehorse.

The private sector is also a major player. In increasing incentives available through the different levels of government, it will lower the risks associated with participating in housing rental developments. A housing system that supports partners and works toward common goals will be more robust and ultimately benefit citizens who require and provide housing. This is a multi-year commitment, and Yukon Housing Corporation is committed to work closely with municipalities and AYC in partnership to allow for programs that best suit the unique realities across Yukon municipalities.

Madam Chair, this and other new programs are now under development and will be launched in June once the corporation's 2015-16 budget is approved by this Legislature. Other programs that will directly help tenants and landlords alike include the new housing allowances for families, the expansion of the rent supplement program, accessibility enhancement grants for landlords and homeowners, and a rental quality enhancement grant for landlords. The rental housing allowance for families and rent supplement program are examples of demand-side incentives that enable low- and moderate-income tenants to access rental housing on the private market. This not only benefits existing landlords who may have vacant units, but also enables the tenant to more fully participate in the local economy by increasing purchasing power for other essential goods and services not previously afforded.

The rental housing allowance for families aims to help working families with children to better afford private market rental housing, and a monthly subsidy will be provided to eligible clients, enabling better access into private sector rental housing. This program includes \$1 million over four years.

The rent supplement program expansion is for clients eligible for social housing and matches tenants with participating landlords. The program exists in Whitehorse and new money enables the program to be expanded to all Yukon communities. Under the program, Yukon Housing Corporation pays the median market rent directly to the landlord, and the tenant pays the corporation 20 percent of their income. As well, this program includes \$1 million over four years.

By requiring income testing and suitability standards, the rent supplement and housing allowance programs are targeted toward those households in core need. This will minimize the upward pressure on rents across the market. The programs are time-limited and scaled, as I mentioned earlier. These are not meant to be a permanent solution. Over four years, the programs will help more families to access rental housing over the short term.

Landlords are a key part of a healthy housing system, and the new northern housing trust programs acknowledge their needs as well. Accessibility enhancement grants and rental quality enhancement grants will enable landlords to improve the quality of existing units to increase their value for owners and improve quality of life for tenants.

The rental quality enhancement will be available for existing landlords with approved rental units or homeowners who want to create an approved secondary suite. A total of \$800,000 will be available for approved projects over two years — \$400,000 this year and \$400,000 next year. The new *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* requires rental units to meet health and safety and housing standards. This grant will also provide the opportunity to improve the quality and standard of private rental housing.

Accessibility enhancement grants are specifically targeted at improving the accessibility of people's homes and rental units for individuals with physical disabilities. These grants

are available to homeowners and landlords as well. A total of \$800,000 will be available for approved projects over two years — again, \$400,000 for 2015-16 and \$400,000 for 2016-17.

This government has allocated \$250,000 for master planning with the City of Whitehorse for the land parcel at Fifth and Rogers in downtown Whitehorse. Through Energy, Mines and Resources' lead, we look forward to working together with the city, the private sector and other parties to plan for the future developments of this parcel of land and meet a range of housing needs, including a mix of affordable housing and commercial development opportunities near existing services.

This budget also includes \$1.4 million for rural projects chosen out of a request for qualifications and a request for proposals process. With support under the northern housing trust, the Carcross Tagish Management Corporation and the Carmacks Development Corporation are moving forward with projects aimed at increasing the supply of affordable rental housing in Carmacks and Carcross. These construction projects will be a source of employment and skills development for local trades workers. The new housing units will have energy efficient components that are targeted to support low-income Yukoners.

To recap, Madam Chair, this government is allocating the remainder of the northern housing trust, and here's the breakdown for 2015: rural projects, \$1.244 million allocated for rural projects in Carcross and Carmacks; \$1 million for the municipal matching rental construction program, which enables low- and moderate-income families to access rental housing in the private market, with a direct subsidy aimed at reducing the incidences of core need; \$250,000 for the rental housing allowance program, which will meet demand for vacancies in the private market; \$400,000 for the rental quality enhancement program, which will increase the quality of rental stock in the Yukon to meet or exceed rental standards; \$400,000 for the accessibility enhancement program, which will increase the accessibility of housing stock for homeowners and landlords; and \$250,000 has been allocated for increasing the supply of affordable rental housing in the Yukon by enabling private sector partnerships. In addition, Yukon Housing Corporation offers rental rehabilitation loans and rental suite loans for landlords.

With that I will stop, as I believe you're indicating that I'm about out of time. I'll let the members opposite have a chance and I will finish my opening remarks when I have a chance.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for his opening remarks — and possibly the longest he has ever talked in one go in the Legislative Assembly, so congratulations for that.

Good support from your team over there from the Yukon Housing Corporation. I appreciate having them here for, I think, my sixth time or something. Thank you for being here again. As per always, thanks for the work that you do within the corporation. I thank all the people who work within the Yukon Housing Corporation because it's a hard job and

people don't always go to see the people at the Housing Corporation at their best, so I appreciate what they do.

I'm just going to get right into it because I'm not going to talk for 20 minutes.

I asked questions today during Question Period, and now, with the minister's support here, I'm hoping that we can understand this a bit better.

He was just making reference to the rental quality enhancement grants for landlords. One of the concerns raised to us is that if a landlord accesses the rental quality enhancement grant — so it's a publicly funded building improvement. Do we have any way to figure if rents are going to go up in place? Some of the concern has been that, if a landlord of a multi-unit building accesses the maximum amount of \$50,000 and does some retrofits and improvements, the rent may go up in those units. Has the department considered if that may be something that happens? If it is, how are we going to ensure that we're not getting people who are in affordable places right now in a place where they can no longer afford the rent?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** First I'll finish my opening remarks.

In rental rehabilitation loans, \$100,000 has been allocated for rental rehabilitation loans, which are available to assist private sector owners of rental accommodation to upgrade their rental units; \$150,000 has been allocated for rental suite loans, which are available to assist eligible homeowners to build rental suites or upgrade existing rental suites to standards.

The Yukon Housing Corporation provides a number of programs to help those most vulnerable through its social housing programs for seniors and non-seniors, and is part of our commitment to achieving a better quality of life. I am very pleased to reinforce our ongoing commitment. Through targeted investments, we have increased the number of apartments for Yukon seniors in particular, bringing the portfolio to 652 housing units territory-wide.

Included in this budget is \$9.5 million for the completion of a new 48-unit seniors building in downtown Whitehorse. This, together with the new sixplex that is almost finished construction in Mayo, demonstrates that we are investing in new social housing for seniors.

Yukon Housing is also focusing on ways to improve its existing stock for better matching units to needs in communities. For example, two single detached units in Carmacks are being converted into duplex units to match the need for one- and two-bedroom suites. This means that we are helping more people by repurposing older buildings. This is just another way that we are investing in our communities and increasing the quality and quantity of affordable rental housing.

In this budget, we have allocated an additional \$600,000 for the conversion of single detached units into duplexes in other communities. The initiative that we introduced last year and are carrying over into this fiscal year is the investment toward improved accessibility in existing units as well as

health and safety features that are being integrated into our larger apartment buildings.

This budget contains \$250,000 for seniors' social accessibility upgrades; \$150,000 for mechanical upgrades at 600 College Drive; \$65,000 for water and sewer upgrades at Greenwood; and \$200,000 for staircase replacement at the Haines Junction seniors building.

We are investing in our units across Yukon so that seniors have more options to age in their communities. Investments and improvements to existing buildings reduce operating costs over time and ensure greater sustainability of housing into the future. In addition to specific capital upgrades, this budget includes \$1.4 million for capital improvements to existing staff and social housing in Yukon Housing Corporation's portfolio.

In 2015-16, we see \$11.8 million in operation and maintenance that has been allocated for the Housing Operations branch, which will provide tenant relations services and maintenance of housing units. For capital expenditures on social housing, we see \$700,000 has been allocated for renovation and rehabilitation of existing social housing units. In the Whitehorse seniors housing project, we have \$9.5 million for the construction of a 48-unit seniors building.

Investment in affordable housing — \$3.15 million has been allocated for an affordable housing project, which is fully recoverable from the Government of Canada. These projects include: \$250,000 for seniors' accessibility upgrades; \$150,000 for mechanical upgrades at College Drive; \$65,000 for water and sewer upgrades at Greenwood; \$200,000 for the staircase replacement at the Haines Junction seniors complex; \$300,000 for the rehabilitation of out-of-service units; \$600,000 for the conversion of single-family units into duplexes; \$20,000 contribution to the women's shelter; and \$1.565 million for future projects.

Madam Chair, total revenue for 2015-16 — \$5.4 million has been estimated to be recovered from tenants in social housing, rent supplements and staff housing.

Capital expenditures on staff housing include \$700,000 for renovations and rehabilitation of existing staff housing units.

Third party recovery and O&M — \$62,000 has been estimated to be recovered from various third parties: \$20,000 from the City of Whitehorse according to a cost-share agreement on downtown row houses; and \$42,000 from the Women's Directorate for funding to support a program coordinator at the Whitehorse affordable family housing complex.

Former tenant damage recoveries — \$100,000 has been estimated to be recovered from former tenants for costs incurred to repair damage to housing units.

Recoveries from Canada — \$4.2 million has been estimated to be recovered from CMHC under a block funding agreement cost-share rental operating losses under the social housing transfer agreement, which came into effect on October 1, 1998.

Third party capital — \$3.15 million has been estimated to be recovered from CMHC under the investment and affordable housing agreement. Yukon Housing also contributes social housing programs subsidies to other agencies, so \$425,000 has been allocated for social housing programs subsidies provided to Kaushee's Place Housing Society, the Gateway Housing Society and the Whitehorse Housing Co-operative.

An additional \$20,000 has been allocated under the investment and affordable housing to improve access to appropriate and affordable housing for victims of family violence.

Strategic goal number 3 — Yukon Housing action plan brought together non-governmental organizations, Yukon government and the private sector to develop innovative solutions to help address Yukon housing needs into the next decade. I would like to acknowledge the great work of the community advisory committee, as well as the many participants of the working groups' committee. I had the opportunity to meet with the Yukon advisory committee just a few days ago and thanked them personally for all of their hard work. These people have committed and focused on important issues related to housing with services, rental housing and home ownership. I am also pleased that we have \$480,000 allocated for contract dollars to support various aspects of implementation of the housing action plan for Yukoners.

\$240,000 has been allocated to undertake specific research to help identify and quantify housing needs.

The housing action plan intends to meet the following principles: adaptability — to be agile to changes in the economy through innovation and flexibility; inclusivity — emphasis on partnerships and addressing all of the concerns within the Yukon housing continuum; building on strengths and successes, recognizing the positive activities already underway and the very good work that stakeholders have accomplished; accountability, which focuses on actions and item results.

Working group committees have been working, meeting weekly and bi-weekly on three identified action pillars. The first is housing with services, the second is rental housing and the third is home ownership. In August of 2014, Yukon Housing Corporation staff hosted community meetings to gain feedback on the draft actions proposed in the plan. Meetings were hosted in Mayo, Dawson, Carcross, Teslin, Watson Lake, Faro, Carmacks and Haines Junction. Focus group meetings were also held with departments, the Bureau of Statistics and other stakeholders. In October of 2014, stakeholders were brought together for further input into the housing action plan in preparation for final plan review. This housing action plan symposium was a wrap-up of the consultation and the final input was incorporated into the draft plan. The plan will be forwarded for consideration and decisions on its recommendations for implementation.

The outcome of work to date on Yukon Housing Corporation's action plan provides a need to undertake specific research to identify and quantify housing needs. Funding is now available for these research projects to take

place. This will assist the Yukon government in its response to the plan.

These are very important initiatives that the Yukon Housing Corporation will be involved with. The potential outcomes for these initiatives are encouraging — increasing the availability, affordability and accessibility of housing for Yukoners. Other investments through partnering include: the seniors home and yard maintenance program, which has \$55,000; \$70,000 has been allotted for housing industry development; spinoffs of investments in housing — another vital commitment that we made to improve and enhance our economy. The housing industry is a robust and vital component of both local and territorial economies based on job creation multipliers provided by the Department of Economic Development.

We would like to highlight the positive job creation outcomes of this budget. With more than \$11 million in funding for social housing construction and more than \$3 million for upgrades to existing units and maintenance of the housing stock, these investments in housing could translate into almost 100 years of employment as a direct spinoff of investments in housing. Not only does investment stimulate jobs, but it also provides direct support to small contractors. In 2014-15 alone, the Yukon Housing Corporation entered into 172 contracts, worth more than \$6.4 million, with businesses for maintenance and upgrades to social and staff housing. This created jobs, just as the budget before us today will increase jobs.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, this budget demonstrates Yukon Housing Corporation's commitment to help people with housing. It recognizes that housing is a complex challenge and many partners in the delivery of housing have come together to play a role. The role of government does not stop with the announcements of these programs. We will continue to work alongside the partners.

In the meantime, more individuals and families who cannot afford housing today will be able to as a result of these programs. The building of rental units in Yukon municipalities will be more attractive to developers and, if market conditions allow, supply will increase as a result. The budget represents a multi-pronged approach that supports both people seeking rental housing and people supplying rental housing.

It is another step in the right direction and we look forward to more to come through the leadership of the Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors and this government.

**Ms. White:** I just remind the minister that my first question was about the rental quality enhancement grant. The question is: How is the government going to ensure that the rental quality enhancement grants won't result in higher rents due to the publicly funded building improvements?

If we are giving landlords the ability to access grants — it's not money that needs to be repaid — how are we going to ensure that rents will not go up in those units and that it will not harm the tenants who live in them?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I would just like to remind the member opposite that, as I said in Question Period today, we

understand that the NDP have their position and we have our position. One of those positions is on rent controls, and we're not in support of rent controls.

There are a number of factors that could impact the rental market condition, and the rental quality enhancement grant is only a small factor in that. The program will provide \$10,000 per unit for improvements that sustain the life of the asset or improve health and safety. It's hoped that the rental quality enhancement grant will address deficiencies and not focus on cosmetic upgrades.

**Ms. White:** I appreciate that the minister has hopes about what that will affect and I appreciate that we have a difference of opinion when it comes to protection for tenants.

The question about this is different, though. We're talking about publicly funded money. We're talking about money that each of us has paid at a certain point in time. We are talking about government funding, not in the term of loans, which are paid back over a period of time. We're talking about grants. Essentially, we can say it's free money.

So if we are offering landlords free money — up to \$10,000 a unit for a maximum of \$50,000 — how can we ensure that the rental quality enhancement grants will not affect the affordability of those units; that the money that is being given by the Yukon government is not going to affect the cost of those units? In this case, if it's affected, then essentially the Yukon government will have made those no longer affordable to the tenants who are in there. I would suggest that is interfering with the market.

Does the minister have a response to that point of view?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I think every program here could be debated at great length — why didn't you do this, or why didn't you do that, or maybe you could have changed this, or maybe you could have changed that. I'm not saying that everything here is the best way to go forward or it's not the worst way to go forward, but we were given certain parameters to work in. We tried to include as many different walks of life and organizations and everything else that we could incorporate into this, and those people took time out of their lives and they came up with the best way they could think of to move forward with this.

Then I became the minister. I had all of this information, and we had to look at it and incorporate as many things as we could with the amount of dollars we had to cover as broad a spectrum as we could, and so this is what we came up with. I am the first one to agree that it's not going to make everybody happy. I know that. That's a reality. Welcome to my world.

But I believe that we have done as much as we could with the funding that we had and the hard work and commitment from all of those people who helped us come up with this. I've congratulated them before and I'll congratulate them all day long for the hard work that they've done. I think that what we're moving forward with is really a good group of programs. Unfortunately not everybody is going to agree with me, but that's the way it is.

**Ms. White:** I'm not talking about happiness. I'm talking about affordability. I'm not criticizing the people who



may have put this forward. What I'm asking for is the government to defend their decision to do it in a grant form.

We have the home improvement loan, the home repair loan — which I've talked about because it's something that I've accessed. I have a payback of 12 years. It has been fantastic — I have insulation on my 1958 duplex and it makes a big difference — but the point is that we have chosen to give grants to landlords for improvements and we've chosen to give loans to homeowners. Why has the government gone that way?

If we're talking about \$400,000 this year, \$400,000 next year — that's \$800,000. Why did the government not look toward a loan program so the money would come back in and could get reinvested into other home improvements, other rental property improvements? Why was it chosen to give away as a loan — so once the money is gone, it's gone?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I think the member opposite seems to be focused directly on this but she is not understanding that there are other programs or other loans that we do as well. Through EMR we have the energy-efficiency upgrades, and the other thing to remember is that this is \$400,000 a year over two years for landlords as well as homeowners, so it's a time-limited program.

Also, the new *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* will require units to meet health and safety and housing standards, so this grant is designed to bring those units up to standard for the health and safety of renters.

**Ms. White:** I appreciate where the minister is coming from right now. I guess the difference on this side is that I have been standing in the same position talking about the health and safety of tenants since 2011. I appreciate that we are talking about regulations that still haven't come into effect and an act that still hasn't been enacted because we can't without the regulations. My concern is going to go back to the fact that what we are talking about is the ability to possibly affect the rents — and I am not saying it will. I am not saying it will.

My concern is that possibly it will affect the rents of the people who live within the units where a landlord has accessed the rental quality enhancement grant. I am going to flag this now as a concern, and I will promise right now to the minister that the first time someone comes in and says that their rent has gone up after this work was done, I will make an introduction and the conversation will be had.

I am going to flag that I have concerns — that instead of reinvesting this \$800,000 that we are giving away in two years — by having it as a loan program so it gets repaid — that once that money is gone, it is gone — unlike the home repair program where the money gets paid back.

Just before I move on, I will ask if the minister has any comments as to why it was done as a grant, as opposed to a loan.

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I will commit to notifying the housing board of her concerns. I believe they have a meeting on May 28 where they will consider all of the rental quality enhancement grants. The program is expected to be launched

sometime in the mid- to the end-part of June. I will forward those concerns, just to let her know.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that answer.

Still focusing on the rental quality enhancement grants, underneath the eligibility it talks about the applicants. It requires that the applicant be a Yukon resident or a business.

I know a number of properties in the City of Whitehorse, for example, that are owned by people who do not live in the City of Whitehorse. Not only do they not live in the City of Whitehorse, but they have not lived in the City of Whitehorse for a very long time — so they don't live in the Yukon Territory.

Will people who own property here and who have local managers but who benefit from living in another province or territory — will they be able to access this money?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** It is for Yukon residents or businesses. If the person owns a business here and isn't a resident, I guess that probably would qualify, but they have to be the property owner.

**Ms. White:** We have talked a bit about this in the past. Just to catch the minister up — the home repair program is a fantastic program that Yukon Housing offers. It allows a lot of different people in a lot of different walks of life the ability to make those big improvements to their home where self-funding is sometimes an impossibility. Right now that amount is capped off at \$35,000.

I tell people on a regular basis that I am on a 25-year home-improvement project — being the fact that, to make my house, for example, energy-efficient, I had to prioritize what was going to get done. The first thing that made the most sense was making sure that it could hold heat. So the first \$35,000 that I borrowed from the Yukon Housing Corporation went toward insulation and siding, right? By year 13, after I have paid off the 12 years, I am going to make another application to insulate the attic. I'm going to make an application to change the windows, to change the doors and change the furnace system.

Has there been a thought within the Housing Corporation to increase that amount for people who are willing to do the work for the energy retrofits to make it better for the affordability of their home — to make it better for the environmental cost of their home — to help them minimize their footprint? Has the Yukon Housing Corporation considered augmenting that amount from \$35,000 to something higher?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** The member opposite probably should look at EMR. I know they have a program in place for energy efficiencies — for upgrades to your homes. As well, Yukon Housing is in the process of looking at or studying the home repair program and the home ownership program, so one of those will be reviewed this year and one next year. That probably is one of the things that will come up at that time.

**Ms. White:** Just to let the minister know, the EMR program is cash back, so if you invest \$100,000, you can get \$20,000 back and most of us would love to be able to do that.

There are returns on windows and doors for \$50 apiece, but there is not the ability to access money to do the work.

I have talked a lot in the House about mobile home parks and the concerns for people who live there. I have questions around the ability for someone who owns a mobile home to access these improvement loans. An example is that one of the bigger parks in the community — I mean, you're not going to be able to solve this problem that goes way back far, but my hope is that you can help the problem as it stands right now. So this park in its inception made the decision to bury oil tanks because that was what was done at the time — and we're talking about a place that has upwards of 200 pads and each of those pads has a buried oil tank. Those homeowners have been recently given the notification that they're now responsible for the removal costs of those tanks and the changes of the new tanks. I can also speak from personal experience. In looking at replacing an oil tank, they can spend upwards of \$2,500, and that is a lot of money — a lot of times if you're not expecting it. Would someone who owns a mobile home in a mobile home park be able to access the home repair program or another program to help them with the tank removal and replacement?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** The message that I'm getting from officials is that if the mobile home owners do own the mobile home, they should contact Yukon Housing and they will help them with that.

**Ms. White:** I feel like I should broadcast right now to the Housing Corporation that there is the possibility you will be contacted by a whole bunch of people in the near future and maybe there's a role that Yukon Housing can play in a bulk purchase and make it cheaper for the people who are buying them. I'm not sure if that would qualify, but I know that this is a really big concern for the people who live within this mobile home park, especially knowing the volume that's going to be changed.

Under the social housing program, it talks about income testing. I appreciate that and I think that is important. I have concerns. Without getting into too many details, if someone had circumstances in their life that changed so drastically between one month and the next, from being employed to being unemployed — we can talk about health concerns; we can talk about a whole bunch of different things that could put them in that position — it seems to me that, if you're asked to — and I don't think it's a bad thing to have to show how much money you made the previous year, but circumstances change.

How does the Yukon Housing Corporation make sure that they're not unfairly punishing people who found themselves desperate for help, and that's why they're there?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** The Yukon Housing Corporation is more than flexible in situations where someone has an emergency or when something drastic changes in their life. They're very acceptable to having people come in and explain the situation and work with them on that. They're not going to force them to continue to do something that they can't afford due to unforeseen circumstances.

**Ms. White:** I appreciate that very much and I appreciate that flexibility. I guess part of my concern is that I know, at this point, that there has been someone turned away and they're desperate for help.

If someone does make the application and they're turned away for reasons, is there someone within the department who specializes in having those conversations to hash out the situation, as it stands, or what the next steps could be?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** That person is the director of housing operations. I don't have a number for you.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that. I'm sure I can find the number.

Prior to us getting elected in 2011, there was a really interesting press release from February 14, 2011. It was "Yukon Housing Corporation adjusts rentals to help seniors". I've asked about this probably on a yearly basis since I was elected in 2011, because I thought, hot dog, this is a fantastic thing.

I appreciate that we talk about how social housing rent is geared to income and is 25 percent of the total gross monthly household combined income. I do appreciate that. I think one of the concerns we're discovering in the territory, with our aging population and people choosing to stay here, is that we're getting this fantastic population of seniors who are really moving into Yukon Housing Corporation units because they're accessible to seniors — because they're on the same floor, because there's access to elevators, because of all these different reasons — and not necessarily because of the affordability issue. I would suggest, at times, the Yukon Housing Corporation has almost seniors housing and they have social housing. It is how it almost appears on the outside.

For some people, when they're paying 25 percent of their combined income, it is substantially higher, not only than the median rent, but sometimes, in some cases, the incredibly high rent. So there is the fourth paragraph down of this press release from February 14, 2011, titled "Yukon Housing Corporation adjusts rentals to help seniors" it says: "Secondly, although seniors' rent will continue to be calculated at 25 per cent of gross monthly household income, a monthly maximum related to the median rent in Whitehorse or in rural Yukon respectively, depending on location, will be put in place. Implementation of the changes will be gradual, due to training and modifications required to the computer systems. Rents will be adjusted retroactive to April 1, 2011."

Madam Chair, I would like to know the status of this change that was announced in February of 2011.

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** That was before my time too. The overall eligibility for social housing is based on income thresholds set by CMHC. All Yukon Housing Corporation social housing tenants pay 25 percent of their gross income for rent. To be eligible for seniors housing, household income must be under the following income limits: in Whitehorse, for a one-bedroom, your household income limit is \$40,500, a two-bedroom is \$44,500, a three-bedroom is \$48,500, and a four-bedroom is the same. For rural Yukon, the one-bedroom rural income limit is \$54,320, a two-bedroom is \$56,160, a three-bedroom is \$61,360, and a four-bedroom is \$63,500.

**Ms. White:** I just realized that I should actually pay a couple of compliments before I really dig a little bit deeper in, so I will do that because I promised I would try to be nice the first time the minister was up.

I noticed that on the website — because the officials know that I am a stickler for the website. I spend a lot of time on the website just because it is an interesting thing to try to navigate. I think the release of the HOPE program — the home ownership preparedness and education program — is something that we talked about when the down payment program was announced and how it was going to be critically important that people understand the full spectrum of what is required when buying a home. That is incredibly exciting to see, and I see your official will you give you some stuff to talk about.

The other part that I haven't actually had a chance to say at this point on the floor of the House — I didn't actually get to talk about housing last time this was up in the fall. I asked some pretty hard questions of the Housing Corporation about veterans' disability pensions. I have to say that I was blown away when I was told at last year's briefing that veterans' disability pensions would no longer be used in the calculation of social housing.

To be perfectly frank, I was really sad I didn't get the news three months before because my friend Earl, who died in August of last year — that was one of the last things we talked about. He would be so chuffed to know that the fight for the thing that he and his wife, Willa, brought forward had been given the respect and the consideration it was given.

Before I get into the hard questions, I just want to make sure that I thank the Housing Corporation for both those things. The HOPE program is great. It means that people will know what they are getting into because buying a house is an expensive thing. The second is the compliment on the leadership shown by the Housing Corporation in not including the veterans' disability pensions in housing calculations any longer. I will leave it.

Just a question to follow up on that — I'm curious about the numbers right now on wait-lists because social housing is always an issue. I want to know how many seniors are on the wait-list both in Whitehorse and rural communities. I would like to know how many families are on the wait-list both in Whitehorse and rural communities and how many groups of — I'm just going to refer to them as others — so they might not fit within the family units but they may be single people. I'm curious to know what the numbers are for both rural and Whitehorse for those.

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** So we just have seniors versus non-seniors. For seniors we have 49 Yukon-wide and for non-seniors we have 53 on the waiting list.

**Ms. White:** Do we currently have any units that are available or ones that are awaiting repair?

Out of the 49 and the 53, do we have a breakdown of how many are in Whitehorse and how many are rural? Then, I would like to know if we have any units that are empty and available either for seniors housing or other, or any that are on

the list to be repaired, because I know that sometimes takes time.

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** The seniors — three of those are rural. Non-seniors — 14 are rural. For out-of-service units, we currently have two.

**Ms. White:** Can the minister let me know where those two units are and what sort of housing they are?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I can say that one is in Whitehorse and one is in Watson Lake, but I don't have at my fingertips how big each of those houses are or what the status of them is at this point.

**Ms. White:** Last year I spoke quite a bit about Closeleigh Manor and concerns around there. I've used ATIPP to the best of my abilities and I have stacks and stacks of information, but what I really don't know is about the chimney inspection, so I would like to know if the chimney has been inspected at Closeleigh Manor. Who did the chimney inspection? Did they make recommendations? I know it has been lengthened by four feet. Has there been inspection of the chimney liner? What were the findings? What's the integrity of the liner?

I'll just start with that.

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I'll just sort out where we're at.

Yukon Housing has undertaken significant work with Closeleigh Manor, as the member opposite knows. Yukon Housing technical staff have tested various suites for error, ultrafine particle readings, and carbon monoxide levels.

They have: tested various suites' ventilation air supply and CO levels; tested common areas for CO and UP levels; reset the air handler unit number one motor electrical supply frequency; adjusted boiler room appliance combustion air ducting; cleaned all exterior door unit heater filters; changed all ventilation air filters; replaced unserviceable air handler drive belts; replaced various heating zone valves, thermostats, isolation valves, bleeders and cleaned related heater fluid leaks and glycol leaks; inspected and sealed leakage found in the air handling unit's cabinet and air ducting; tested tenants' cooking range for particulate production — no health issues were found there, Madam Chair — replaced individual tenants' cooking ranges, where requested; counselled individual tenants on indoor air quality science and particulate issues; provided tenants with three separate in-house project information and project progress sessions; fielded tenant questions on building concerns and issues; counselled tenants on air quality issues, common causes and solutions; and addressed, or are in the process of addressing, each of the mechanical consultants' ventilation air recommendations.

Staff have: met them, door to door, in annual inspections in 2015 to seek information from tenants about concerns; had a mechanical engineering consultant assess complete system for design performance and conditions; measured air at various locations for ultra-fine particulate levels; provided Yukon Housing with the report of system deficiencies, existing airflows and repair upgrade recommendations; installed upgraded primary ventilation air intake filters, which increased the MERV rating; and they have rebalanced the complete ventilation system of the entire building.

Northern Climate Engineering has performed follow-up indoor fine air particulate testing and has provided Yukon Housing with the testing report that was reported back on March 18. They also have: contracted someone to do a complete duct cleaning of the entire building and a mechanical contractor to relocate the primary ventilation intake location from the side alley to the top of the building on the south side; extended the boiler chimney by four feet complete with proper bracing to meet code requirements. The chimney inspection contractor has inspected the existing boiler chimney for condition and reported that it is all in good condition. The chimney liner has been inspected by both a certified inspector and the Yukon Housing Corporation's on-staff red seal oil burner mechanic, both of whom have deemed this chimney safe to operate.

Yukon Housing Corporation has a contract in place with a local engineering firm — Northern Climate Engineering — for testing so they tested, adjusted and balanced the complete ventilation system. This work was completed January 23, 2015.

They also have a contract for further indoor air quality testing and it has been added to the contract in place with Northern Climate Engineering for the balancing of the air ventilation system, which, as I said, was completed January 23. A third party consultant has been hired to perform further indoor air quality testing, and this testing included all tests recommended by Health Canada for indoor air quality. Yukon Housing is currently reviewing the test results to confirm the details. A tenant wrap-up meeting was held on April 29 and the meeting provided an opportunity to discuss all work that had been completed at Closeleigh Manor in the past year and to relay the results of the latest indoor air quality testing. I believe that was done by Summit Environmental, if memory serves me correctly.

**Ms. White:** On the Yukon Housing website, it comes up to the homepage and it has a list of choices you can make on the left-hand side. One that I think is important — and maybe is missed because of how it's laid out — is the Seriously Simple campaign. I'm curious as to why it's not called "prevent CO poisoning" or "heating and safety information" or something that would give people more of an idea of what they were looking for. "Seriously Simple" is catchy for what the program talks about. My concern is that it might be overlooked because it doesn't sound like the serious program that it is.

It's kind of an interesting question to come on the back end of Closeleigh Manor, because in the time that I have spent at Closeleigh Manor, some of the symptoms that people talk about are very similar to what the Seriously Simple website talks about. Opening up the page, it says: "Yukoners value fresh air, both inside and outside their homes. If you depend on a fuel-burning appliance in your home, make sure your indoor air stays healthy". I think the one concern that has been flagged at Closeleigh Manor is there is still concern that it doesn't feel quite right.

I'll leave Closeleigh Manor for now, but has the minister or the department thought at all about changing the "Seriously

Simple" — the tagline — just so it is easier to find for people who are looking for information about health and safety of their heating appliances?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** Apparently it has been evaluated and it is an accepted tagline. Apparently it's very well-understood, but we're not against having a look at it and seeing if maybe there would be something better.

**Ms. White:** Madam Chair, I appreciate your tenacity down there — far, far away from the moving air, so thank you.

The minister in his opening comments talked about low-income individuals or families and helping them to be better able to afford market rent. When the minister was responding to that, was he talking about one of the rental housing allowances for families?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** Can I ask the member to repeat that question? I'm sorry, I'm not entirely sure that I got it.

**Ms. White:** I don't actually believe that anyone will read Hansard or maybe is listening, but I appreciate it if they are. What they don't know is it's like a sauna in here, and I wish they could really be here to kind of be in the depths with us, because it is warm — it is very warm.

In the minister's opening remarks, he referred to low-income individuals or families and being able to help them better afford rent. I know that with the northern housing trust money, we have the rent supplement enhancement program and the rental housing allowance for families. If I can get the minister to talk a bit more about both those programs, and then I can try to decipher from his opening comments whether it answers the question, which is: Could a single person who is unable to afford market rental rent access one of these programs?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** The rental housing allowance for families is a rental subsidy program aimed to help working families with children to better afford private market rental housing by offering direct rental housing allowances. The program will be targeted to households in core housing need and will be income tested and available to families whose household income is up to 80 percent of the median household income for Yukon.

Depending on the level of need, up to \$600 per month may be available to assist. So the eligibility for the rental housing allowance program requires that applicants must be currently renting in the private market or looking to rent in the private market, be in core need due to affordability, have a minimum of one child under the age of 18 living in the household and must have at least one employed adult in the home. For full and detailed eligibility requirements, they can contact Yukon Housing Corporation for more information.

On the rental supplement enhancement program, it is for social housing-eligible clients and it matches tenants with participating landlords. The program already does exist here in Whitehorse and new money will enable the program to be expanded to all Yukon communities. Under the program, the Yukon Housing Corporation pays the median market rent directly to the landlord and then the tenant pays the

corporation 25 percent of their income. So the landlord-tenant relationship is between the client and private landlord.

The eligibility on this is that the rent supplement program is open to individuals, couples and families who qualify for Yukon Housing Corporation's social housing program. Total household income must fall below the established social housing high-income limits for whichever community they may be in. High-income limits are based upon CMHC's housing standards and top out at \$48,500 here in Whitehorse, and \$63,500 in rural communities, which we went over here a few minutes ago. Once again, if there is any other information needed for people out there, they can contact Yukon Housing Corporation for any other details.

**Ms. White:** When I was in Watson Lake — I don't even know when I was in Watson Lake; sometime earlier this year — I had a chance to tour the seniors facility there. There were concerns that the elevator is designed for chairs, but it is not big enough to fit a stretcher. That means that, if EMS is to be called to the building to respond to an issue — which, as you can imagine, maybe happens more often in a seniors complex than others — it is quite taxing on the EMS professionals. They have to then take the stretcher up and down the stairs. Is the corporation aware of that, and are they making any move to change that?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I don't believe that was in the plan, but we do have an Accessibility Advisory Committee now in place, so that may be something that they come to us with — a master plan for us to look at a future time.

**Ms. White:** In future design in buildings of any other rural seniors complexes, will the Housing Corporation be ensuring that the lift is big enough to fit both a stretcher and at least one EMS professional so that this problem can be averted in future plans?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** As I mentioned earlier, that wasn't anything that had been flagged, but I am sure that is one of the things the Accessibility Advisory Committee will bring up and we will be looking at.

**Ms. White:** That same complex in Watson Lake has also been flagged as having an oil tank that is too small for the winter months. There have been times where, if it hasn't completely run out, it has been very close to running out of fuel. Is the corporation aware of that at all?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I am sure that somebody probably knows that. I hope that the main concern would be that it hasn't run out yet. Being a fuel-oil delivery person in my past life, we tend to notice these types of things, and hopefully everyone would be as diligent as I was in ensuring that some buildings are checked twice a month rather than once a month, especially in cold weather — but duly noted. Thank you.

**Ms. White:** There was a really fantastic article on January 23 of this year in the *Whitehorse Star*. It talks about expanded housing options for people with disabilities. It is interesting because, since this article came out, I have had the opportunity both to meet and spend quite a bit of time with Colette Acheson and the Yukon Association for Community Living. I have gone to some events, and I have been learning a lot about the importance of choice. Under the United Nations

*Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, article 19 is really important in the conversation — as the minister's role in being responsible for housing. It is that: "Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement." I realize that a lot of this will also be a conversation with the Minister of Health and Social Services, and I appreciate that one of the things that will maybe make this more accessible for people is the accessibility enhancement grant. I'm sure it hasn't gone amiss that I haven't asked questions about a grant for accessibility enhancement but I have about rental quality enhancement grants.

My question for the minister is: What is his view on making sure that there are options for people with disabilities to live within the community? Is there a mandate to make sure that, if someone comes through the Housing Corporation with an intellectual or physical disability, they are treated with the same respect as others, and are they given the opportunity to live in Yukon Housing units?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** As I mentioned earlier, we have the Accessibility Advisory Committee now. The Housing Corporation has made it a priority to increase the accessibility of its rental housing and to continually strive to find further ways to improve access and comfort for all tenants. As well, we work closely with the Department of Health and Social Services in this regard to try to accommodate all people, especially in this situation people with handicap or accessibility issues.

**Ms. White:** The Yukon Bureau of Statistics released a Yukon rent survey from October 2007 to October 2014 and I think that it really bears mentioning here that the average rent increase between September 2006 and October 2014 went up by 28 percent but, even more importantly, between March 2011 and October 2014 the increase was by 20 percent. It didn't move much between 2006 and 2011, but between 2011 and 2014 it went up by 20 percent.

Even when we use median rents — and I still question how we calculate those because I know a lot of people who rent and I have yet to meet someone who rents within what's considered a median rent. I know many people who rent above and very few who rent something that's below that.

The cost of living in the territory continues to go up. There was a report released in January 2014, which was the most recent one we have about income and housing and the 2011 national household survey. It says that, in Yukon, 19.7 percent of households are living above what the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation defines as "housing affordability". That is 30 percent of total household income spent on shelter costs. In Yukon, when this was released in January 2014, 19.7 percent of those households were exceeding that. Core housing needs, as the minister mentioned before, continue to go up. I realize that, within the Housing Corporation, the Housing Corporation deals with more concrete things than ideas.

Does the Housing Corporation have any plan to build social housing that's more designed for individuals? I know there is the new seniors complex being built downtown. 207 Alexander opened just last year. Is the Housing Corporation looking at building a different continuum of housing than they have recently, one that is more designed for individuals or couples, as opposed to families or seniors?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I think one of the key things that would deal with an issue such as this is our work with the City of Whitehorse on the master plan design for the Fifth and Rogers property.

As well, the government recognizes that adequate, available and affordable housing is fundamental in building and maintaining strong Yukon communities and families. We are striving to ensure that everyone has shelter, helping homeowners through repair, upgrade and financing programs, and working with our partners in the community to assist vulnerable and at-risk people who require additional services and supports to live independently.

Led by the Yukon Housing Corporation, this government is working with a number of organizations and stakeholders to develop the housing action plan. The housing action plan will be a community-built strategy that addresses housing issues throughout the Yukon. This plan will act as a guide to help all housing partners address actions across the housing continuum toward improving housing in Yukon.

In new housing investments for 2015-16, we have: \$700,000 to rehabilitate a number of social housing units to bring them back into service; \$300,000 to rehabilitate out-of-service units and return them to rental inventory; \$150,000 for mechanical upgrades to 600 College Drive; \$65,000 for the Greenwood seniors facility for plumbing and heating upgrades; \$200,000 to replace the exterior staircase at the Haines Junction seniors residence, but I think that's going to be changed to an inside staircase rather than the exterior staircase; \$250,000 for accessibility upgrades in a number of seniors residences; \$20,000 to assist victims of violence through the women's shelter; \$700,000 for renovations and rehabilitation to staff housing units; \$9.5 million for the completion of the 48-unit seniors residence here in Whitehorse; and \$600,000 for converted single-family homes to duplexes in Carmacks and other communities.

O&M budgets have been increased to approximately \$700,000 per year in order to maintain Yukon Housing Corporation's growing housing inventory. \$1.565 million has been allocated in consideration of affordable housing projects under the investment in affordable housing, and \$1.244 million is for rural projects under the northern housing trust. This includes the Carmacks Development Corporation sixplex and the Carcross-Tagish Management Group's housing project.

**Chair:** Would members like to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole will now come to order. We're resuming general debate on Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation.

**Ms. White:** I don't remember where we were at. I was listening intently to the minister's last response, because I thought, this almost sounds like it could be from one of my documents that I like to reference — the idea of housing first or housing as a human right. I've asked this in Question Period multiple times, as he's my third minister of the Yukon Housing Corporation.

Based on the minister's last question, I just have a really easy one for him: Does the current minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation believe that housing is a human right?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** In my humble opinion, no.

**Ms. White:** The phenomenal thing, Madam Chair, is I have asked that multiple times and I have an answer. I'm looking forward to coming back to that at a later date.

The minister was listing a bunch of money — I am not even sure what list he was talking about — but he talked about \$700,000 to get units back into service. When I previously asked how many were out of commission, I was told two. So I am wondering how \$700,000 to get units back into commission for social housing — how many units is that, if it is not the two that were mentioned, and what kind of things are we talking about with that \$700,000?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I believe that also included upgrades to certain units as well, depending on what kind of condition they are in.

**Ms. White:** One of the first things I learned, once I represented a seniors complex, was the accessibility of bathrooms. With the first Minister of Yukon Housing for the Yukon Party government of 2011, I did a site tour, which was great, along with the Speaker of the Assembly. We went up to 600 College Drive to take a look at the tub inserts that were there. I know that, since then, there has been talk about doing some retrofits for some of the residents there. I mean, congratulations are definitely in order that 207 Alexander Street has some units with zero barriers in the bathrooms.

My question is: What is happening to the bathroom retrofits at 600 College Drive and now in construction of seniors complexes, including the new one downtown? Are we making sure that the shower units specifically are zero-barrier?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** That is one of things that the Accessibility Advisory Committee has definitely been on top of. As well, I believe there is \$250,000 in this year's budget to do bathtub replacements in various seniors complexes throughout the Yukon. I do know that Teslin and Watson Lake have some of that money, as I am sure the Chair will be happy to hear, and some people from my neck of the woods will be happy to hear that as well. It is definitely an issue that we are aware of and definitely an issue that we are working on fixing.

**Ms. White:** In the break that we just had, because I asked a question about the Closeleigh Manor chimney, I got

some answers, which was good. My question is: When was the chimney liner last replaced? I just did a whole bunch of searches and it is about the lifespan of chimneys and chimney liners. Essentially, it says that all steel products, whether in chimney liners or elsewhere, suffer the effects of time and they corrode.

My question is: How old is the chimney liner at Closeleigh Manor? What is the age of the existing chimney and when was it last replaced?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I don't actually have the dates here on when the chimney was last changed, but I can say that it was inspected by both a certified inspector as well as Yukon Housing Corporation's on-staff red seal certified oil burner mechanic and both have deemed that the chimney is safe to operate.

**Ms. White:** Can I ask the minister to endeavour to get me the dates of the replacement — and the age of both the chimney and liner — and send that to me in a letter please?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** Yes, we can certainly do that.

**Ms. White:** Just before the break, we were talking about the new units or whether there were new units on-line for the Yukon Housing Corporation. I think it's really worthwhile to go back in time a bit. I'm sure the other two ministers are really going to dig this.

In 2012, Lot 262 kind of came to a grinding halt. Lot 262, which then got renamed Lot 1367, was this idea that — I'm going to quote out of an article: "The land parcel, known as Lot 262, has been touted by the Yukon Party government as one solution to Whitehorse's housing shortage." The then housing minister "has frequently referred to the project while fending off opposition and criticism during this legislative sitting.

"The Mountainview tender was supposed to give the private sector greater say in the development of land — a responsibility now largely assumed by the government and City of Whitehorse."

Just to remind everybody, this article is in May of 2012.

It started off when the territory wanted to sell the 10-acre lot to the highest bidder, and one of the conditions was that there were going to be 30 affordable units on it. We know that, by May 2012, that was cancelled. That was the first promised 30 units of affordable housing that the Yukon Party cancelled.

Then we can fast-forward to October 2013, and then we have the next minister of housing, who said: "For many Yukoners finding affordable rental housing remains a challenge ... The purpose of this call for qualifications is to identify private sector and non-government organizations that may have solutions to construct and operate affordable housing in the rental market." We know that the request for qualifications went out and then we got some uptake on that. We went even as far as announcing 75 new affordable units in the City of Whitehorse, and then that funding got pulled prior to actually some of the proponents being notified.

Since 2011, that means that the Yukon Party government has cancelled 105 new affordable rental units. Private market rental units in the City of Whitehorse — I asked about what

was being constructed to bring up the housing units and there wasn't a lot on-line. I think it's important to note that housing affordability — and not only that, but housing options — continues to be a problem.

Knowing that the government has cancelled 105 affordable units since 2011, what is the minister responsible for housing's plan to deal with the shortage of rental availability in the territory?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I believe Lot 262 became Lot 1547 — not that that matters.

I also think it is important to understand that this is a government that listened to people's concerns and tried to find a better way of moving forward. That is why we went to NGOs. We went to all of the organizations. We went to seek input from many different groups — many different people — and came up with what we have before us.

As far as the numbers, I don't have them in front of me. I thought I did.

It seemed to me that the municipal matching grant program was anticipated to create 70 new units. I might not be completely correct on that, but that is what my memory tells me. As far as the work at Fifth and Rogers with the master plan with the city, I don't have a number on what kind of numbers we may get increased from that project. I think we are still getting as many units for the same amount of money as we would have either way. I don't think we are losing out on this.

**Ms. White:** I look forward to the time that the Anti-Poverty Coalition has the ear of government like other groups have or when Blood Ties Four Directions has that ability to have the conversations. I know both of those are involved in doing the draft plan for the housing strategy.

In answer to a question during Question Period the other day, the minister referred to NGOs that were receiving funding to help with housing. I wonder if he could talk a bit more about what those NGOs are and what housing they are offering up.

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** The working group committee members consisted of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Association of Yukon Communities, Bank of Montreal, Blood Ties Four Directions, CMHC, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Carcross-Tagish First Nation, Challenge — Disability Resource Group, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, City of Whitehorse, Council of Yukon First Nations, Department of Community Services, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Department of Health and Social Services, Grey Mountain Housing Society, Kobayashi & Zedda Architects Ltd., Kwanlin Dun First Nation, Old Way of Seeing, Options for Independence, RCMP M Division, Scotiabank, Women's Directorate, Yukon Agricultural Association, Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, Yukon Association for Community Living, Yukon Council on Aging, Yukon Council on Disability, the Yukon Real Estate Association and the Yukon Status of Women.

I think we had a fairly broad range of people on that committee to help us get to where we are today.

In terms of transitional housing, transitional housing is short- and medium-term housing. It's provided on a temporary basis. It's often in combination with support services, in order to assist residents with moving toward more stable, independent living. Residents need long-term housing once their temporary stay in transitional housing expires.

YG, through the Women's Directorate, committed a total of \$4.5 million to the construction of a second-stage housing facility here in Whitehorse. Betty's Haven provides 10 units of supportive, secure and affordable transitional housing for 12 to 18 months to women and their children who are fleeing abuse. That opened in August of 2013.

The Yukon government continues to support the Salvation Army's plans for a new facility, which will include a transitional housing component that will provide residents with individualized assistance and support to develop skills for living independently. As well, Madam Chair, Health and Social Services is currently in the process of establishing a transitional housing project for persons with mental health challenges in the former OFI sixplex. This building was provided to Health and Social Services by Yukon Housing Corporation. Yukon Housing Corporation provided funding to OFI to build a 14-unit supported independent living project for adults with FASD, which will be an expansion of their existing complex. This project will be owned, managed and operated by OFI. The project also received capital funding support from CMHC under the affordable housing initiative. Health and Social Services is providing operation and maintenance funding for this project.

The Women's Directorate and Yukon Housing Corporation received funding for a program coordinator, who provides programs and support services to tenants at the Whitehorse affordable family housing complex for single-parent families, in Riverdale. Health and Social Services provides funding for group homes and a range of other housing options for persons with a disability who require additional assistance and support to live independently.

In the fall of 2012, Health and Social Services provided funding to open Takhini Haven, a supportive housing project for persons with a disability who have complex care needs. Takhini Haven is operated by Challenge Community Vocational Alternatives and is located in the former transitional women's living unit facility.

Madam Chair, I think that should answer the member opposite's question.

**Ms. White:** I appreciate the answer and the highlighting of things that have been done with money that has already been spent. I guess what I was looking for was the ongoing help to NGOs. It was an answer the minister gave to housing the other day. I could look it up in Hansard, but I don't think, at this point, that it's necessarily worth going there.

I was wondering if the minister could explain the relationship that he envisions with the municipal government and the Yukon government and the increase in housing.

He has highlighted Fifth Avenue and Rogers and has said things such as Fifth and Rogers is going to be a great plan —

is it Fifth and Rogers? Okay, yes, I am looking forward to seeing that. I know I have heard some buzz in the contracting world, but can he please explain what that relationship with the municipal government and the Yukon government — how he envisions that rental housing will be built and how the funding works for someone who is making the application — whether it's only a match to what the city is able to do in their tax base or how he thinks the municipal matching rental construction program will work.

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** First, with the Fifth and Rogers — we are providing funding to the city to work with the NGOs and all of the affected organizations and groups to come up with a master plan or to help develop that master plan. The city will actually do the rest from there however they see fit to do it or however the group sees fit to do it — whether they put out an RFP suggesting that you have to have X, Y and Z in your RFP. That won't be Yukon Housing per se.

In terms of the municipal grant programs, every community is going to be different. I am sure there will be some communities that maybe won't take advantage of the program and that is their prerogative. This program was created to give all municipalities the opportunity. I know that some municipalities have talked about partnering with the local First Nation to do a combination project. Until we see what the communities bring forward, it is pretty hard for me to say.

We are willing to work with them and try to make whatever program they choose to do — we are willing to try to make it work. We will try to be flexible and understanding of each community's concerns and needs, because as we all know, every community has different issues. I think it is a rather difficult question to answer until we get a little further into the program and see how the municipalities react and what they bring forward.

**Ms. White:** Just to go back to Closeleigh Manor one last time: Did the Yukon Housing Corporation receive a full report from WCB? At the time, there were two Yukon government offices — there was the Commissioner's Office and the Yukon Film & Sound Commission. Has the Yukon Housing Corporation received a WCB report about Closeleigh Manor?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** They did receive one report, but that was quite a long time ago. We are not entirely sure if we ever received a final report from WCB, but we can commit to looking into that and getting back to her with that information.

**Mr. Silver:** I'll start by thanking the members from the department for their time here today. It's much appreciated.

I would like to congratulate the minister on what I believe would have been his first public forum at the AYC AGM in Haines Junction a couple weeks ago. I think he did a great job of explaining some of the new programs and options out there available for folks in the municipalities.

I have a lot of questions here that will seem to be more follow-up types of questions and also more clarification. I'm apologizing in advance for what might seem to be some redundant topics but, again, just to look for some qualifiers.



I will start with something that I don't think we've talked about in the Legislature in a long time — the Korbo Apartments remediation up in Dawson City. I was wondering if the minister can give us an update on the remediation of the Korbo Apartments in Dawson. We've been told that we're waiting to hear back about soil before we can actually use that for any more development and, of course, I would urge the minister to limit his response to the question at hand. He has been developing quite a reputation for his lengthy responses.

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I won't say yes and sit back down.

The remediation at the former Korbo Apartments site is ongoing. Yukon Housing obviously relocated the housing unit off the adjacent property to allow for final remediation at that site, and the remediation work will be ongoing until this fall, pending availability of space for additional contaminated soil in the local land treatment facility.

**Mr. Silver:** It sounds like there's not a lot of update other than that we're still just waiting for the soil to get figured out, I guess.

I'm going to go back to the housing action plan. The housing action plan is something that has been in the works since this government has taken office. I could reference back to a motion from the minister himself before he was a minister, November 2013. Motion No. 510:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to continue to implement the housing and land development commitments outlined in the Yukon Party's 2011 election platform, "Moving Forward Together," by:

(1) developing a housing action plan that builds on strategic investments and addresses the needs of Yukoners for a variety of housing options; and

(2) seeking innovative ways to partner with the private sector, NGOs and other governments to meet the housing needs of Yukoners.

Early in this session I raised the issues of the housing action plan. The minister has told us in previous days in the Legislative Assembly this spring that there is a final draft and the plan is written. I guess the question is: When will it be released? We'll start from there.

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** It's hard to believe that I read that motion into the House and then here I am making it happen. Government does work.

The government looks forward to collaboratively launching the housing action plan with all of the partners and stakeholders. We have allocated \$480,000 over the next two years for the implementation of that action plan.

I believe, as the member opposite knows — I have certainly said it — the plan was brought together by non-government organizations, governments and the private sector to develop innovative solutions to help address Yukon's housing priorities into the next decade.

As I have said in the past, the draft has been finalized now and we look forward to moving forward in the next few weeks and having it in place soon.

**Mr. Silver:** I would like to know which month "soon" is in.

Anyway — we'll move on past that. There is a clarifier that I do want to —

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

**Mr. Silver:** "Soon" is right after "due course" — okay.

There is a clarification that I would like to bring here. The minister did say that one of the holdups was that there was no budget for implementation of the action plan previously in the Legislature, but we do see, under the northern housing trust, \$240,000 for the housing strategy. In the briefing it was explained that this was for — and I quote — "contracting resources to implement the housing action plan".

Is there a contradiction or am I confusing two different statements from the minister?

Also, what I could also ask — just so he can kill two birds with one stone here — is: Can the minister also give us an estimate of the total cost of implementation of the action plan? How much would that cost?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I don't believe that I ever said we didn't have a budget for the implementation. If I did, I apologize. It was certainly not what I meant to say.

As far as cost to implement the plan, I know it's a 10-year plan and the plan is a living document, so it's going to change as we go. I don't think we could ever put a final number on the plan because it's a 10-year plan, so we could be spending money on it for 10 years. I won't put an exact date on the plan and I won't put an exact number on it, either.

**Mr. Silver:** I'll move on then. Let's go to the Vimy heritage housing project. Again, this is something that has been talked about and debated here in the Legislature in previous days, and also today. There is a proposal out for the Vimy Heritage Housing Society. In it, they are looking to build an independent living facility for seniors — as you know, Madam Chair. They have requested seed money and land from the government on this project. What is the government doing to support this project so far? If the minister could give us kind of an update — has a location been found? I'll start there.

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** There have been talks with Vimy. Nothing has been finalized. Nothing has been really even put on paper. We have had meetings with them and asked questions on their plan. Currently, I believe, we are waiting for them to come back with some more information, and we will continue to try to work with them and hopefully see something come to fruition.

**Mr. Silver:** In B.C., the BC Housing corporation has a program called "Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters" — SAFER is the acronym — which helps make rent affordable for B.C. seniors with low to moderate incomes. The Vimy Heritage Housing Society in a statement to the papers from the fall says that the Yukon Housing Corporation offered similar seniors' rental subsidy programs. Can the minister explain how this would work? For example: Would the Vimy project qualify for seniors' rent subsidies?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** One of the programs that we are in the process of initiating is the rent supplement enhancement program, but it is not actually given to the landlord, so it wouldn't be given to Vimy, per se. It would be given to the

tenant. The rent supplement expansion is for social housing eligible clients and matches tenants with participating landlords, as I mentioned earlier. I guess I probably don't need to read that to you again, unless you want me to.

**Mr. Silver:** I will move on to the Salvation Army. In the fall it was announced that \$3 million of the northern housing trust money was allocated to the Salvation Army shelter expansion. In March, it was announced that the new location would be on Fourth and Alexander, and I know we have gone over this as well. Is there some information that the minister can give us as to why this particular location was chosen?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I would ask the member opposite if he could ask the Minister of Health and Social Services that question when Health and Social Services is up for debate. He would probably get a lot better answer as they are the ones with the lead on that project.

**Mr. Silver:** I might have missed my opportunity with Highways and Public Works as well through procurement. I will ask both of those ministers if I get another chance to do so. Maybe that will end the Salvation Army questions.

What I would like to ask the minister — now I have asked this of previous ministers as well — when it comes to the rental programs in rural Yukon, I as a teacher benefitted very well from that system. I think it was at least four years that I was paying the \$600 special teacher rate — or whatever it is — for affordable housing. I tell you, it was excellent. It was one of those other things that, coming from away, you don't have to worry about.

The problem lies in where, at some point for me personally, it was kind of a deterrent for actually getting a mortgage and developing roots in the community. Another aspect that I have noticed, now that I am the MLA for the district, is that we have other folks — outside of professionals like nurses or doctors or teachers, who are allowed to apply for this programming and for this housing — in the private sector who come up to serve a specific purpose in the community and actually have an expertise that is not necessarily founded in that particular community. I believe Northwestel had a great example of a high-ranking position that was going to be in Dawson, and that person couldn't find housing and was wondering if they could apply for this.

To make a long situation short — and I have brought this situation up a few different times — is there an appetite with the new minister to take a look at how we allocate housing to people in rural communities? He had mentioned that every community is different. Every community has different needs and different housing needs and situations.

In terms of pure social housing, would the minister consider taking a look again at how we decide who gets what housing in the rural communities?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** Yes, is the short answer.

The policy is under the Public Service Commission, so if the Public Service Commission gets back up for debate, you can ask that question there.

Yukon Housing administers staff housing, but the GAM policy is currently under review. This is something that we are aware of and are looking at.

**Chair:** Does any other member wish to speak in general debate?

If not, we will proceed with line-by-line debate, starting on page 20-8.

***On Repair and Upgrade***

***On Capital Expenditures***

*On Home Repair Loans/Programs*

*Home Repair Loans/Programs in the amount of \$2,500,000 agreed to*

*On Home Repair Enhancement Loans*

*Home Repair Enhancement Loans in the amount of \$50,000 agreed to*

*On Energy Management Loans*

*Energy Management Loans in the amount of \$25,000 agreed to*

*On Prior Years' Projects*

*Prior Years Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

***Repair and Upgrade Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$2,575,000 agreed to***

**Chair:** We may revisit a previous page but, for now, we're going to carry on with Home Ownership, page 20-9.

***On Home Ownership***

***On Capital Expenditures***

*On Mortgage Financing Loans*

*Mortgage Financing Loans in the amount of \$6,000,000 agreed to*

*On Home Completion Loans*

*Home Completion Loans in the amount of \$50,000 agreed to*

*On Owner Build Loans*

*Owner Build Loans in the amount of \$1,100,000 agreed to*

***Home Ownership Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$7,150,000 agreed to***

***On Community and Industry Partnering***

***On Capital Expenditures***

*On Joint Venture Loans — Rental Rehabilitation*

**Ms. White:** Can I please get an explanation of what Joint Venture Loans — Rental Rehabilitation is please?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** These are loans that are available to assist private sector owners of rental accommodations to upgrade their rental units.

*Joint Venture Loans — Rental Rehabilitation in the amount of \$100,000 agreed to*

*On Rental Suite Loans*

*Rental Suite Loans in the amount of \$150,000 agreed to*

*On Northern Housing Trust — Rural Projects*

*Northern Housing Trust — Rural Projects in the amount of \$1,244,000 agreed to*

*On Northern Housing Trust — Municipal Matching Rental Construction*

*Northern Housing Trust — Municipal Matching Rental Construction in the amount of \$1,000,000 agreed to*

*On Northern Housing Trust — Rental Housing Allowances*

*Northern Housing Trust — Rental Housing Allowances in the amount of \$250,000 agreed to*

*On Northern Housing Trust — Rental Quality Enhancement*

**Ms. White:** Just to recap a previous question, how is the minister going to ensure that the rental quality enhancement grant won't result in higher rents due to the publicly funded building improvements?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I think we've answered this question a couple of times already today but, as I have said before, I will commit to bringing this to the attention of the board as they move forward on finalizing this.

*Northern Housing Trust — Rental Quality Enhancement in the amount of \$400,000 agreed to*

*On Northern Housing Trust — Accessibility Enhancement*

*Northern Housing Trust — Accessibility Enhancement in the amount of \$400,000 agreed to*

*On Northern Housing Trust — Multi-family: 5th and Rogers*

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

#### Point of order

**Chair:** Mr. Silver, on a point of order.

**Mr. Silver:** I just want to clear the record here. Earlier on in debate I said that the minister —

#### Chair's statement

**Chair:** Excuse me — Mr. Silver, a point of order is not the place to clear the record.

**Mr. Silver:** I'm supposed to, at the earliest convenience, allow the House to know of an error — a false statement — that I attributed to the minister.

#### Point of personal privilege

**Chair:** We will hear you on a point of personal privilege.

**Mr. Silver:** On a point of personal privilege: earlier on when I was talking about the housing action plan, I falsely attributed the minister saying that he stated in a Question Period question — it was actually April 27 — that there was no budget for implementation of a housing action strategy, when actually what his response had said was that the budget had not yet been approved. I just wanted to apologize for that statement.

*Northern Housing Trust — Multi-family: 5th and Rogers in the amount of \$250,000 agreed to*

*On Northern Housing Trust — Housing Action Plan*

**Ms. White:** Can I get a breakdown of this line item please?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** The implementation committee will determine how that is going to all roll out.

**Ms. White:** When the minister says it is going to be decided with the implementation committee — how that will

all roll out — is there a specific purpose for that \$240,000 or is it yet to be decided?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** Yes, it is yet to be decided.

*Northern Housing Trust — Housing Action Plan in the amount of \$240,000 agreed to*

*On Prior Years' Projects*

*Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

**Community and Industry Partnering Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$4,034,000 agreed to**

**On Social Housing**

**On Capital Expenditures**

*On Renovation and Rehabilitation Existing Stock*

**Ms. White:** Can I please get a line breakdown of what that will be repairing or rehabilitating?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** \$700,000 has been allocated for renovation and rehabilitation of existing social housing units.

**Ms. White:** Does the minister have a number of how many units that will help work get done or completed on?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I don't have that number at my fingertips, but I can get that for the member opposite.

*Renovation and Rehabilitation Existing Stock in the amount of \$700,000 agreed to*

*On Whitehorse Seniors' Housing Project*

**Ms. White:** Can I get the tentative completion date of this project?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** Let's go with December 31, 2015.

*Whitehorse Seniors' Housing Project in the amount of \$9,500,000 agreed to*

*On Investment in Affordable Housing — Greenwood Water and Sewer Upgrades*

*Investment in Affordable Housing — Greenwood Water and Sewer Upgrades in the amount of \$65,000 agreed to*

*On Investment in Affordable Housing — Senior Accessibility Upgrades*

**Ms. White:** Can I please get a breakdown of what this money will be used for, including how many bathrooms it will renovate?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** Approximately 25 bathrooms but, until the tenders close and we see exact prices, it's impossible to give you an exact number.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that answer. Have those bathrooms already been decided on or is there the ability for a senior to contact Yukon Housing Corporation to let them know that their bathroom is not accessible?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** We're doing the ones we know of first, so Teslin and Watson Lake. Then if there's money left over and people come forward, we're more than willing to do one-offs and replace tubs where necessary.

*Investment in Affordable Housing — Senior Accessibility Upgrades in the amount of \$250,000 agreed to*

*On Investment in Affordable Housing — Rehabilitation of Out-of-Service Units*

**Ms. White:** In the previous debate, we were discussing out-of-service units and I was told there were two. \$300,000 for two units — can the minister please give us more of an idea of what's being done for \$300,000 for two units?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** It is my understanding that we spent \$250,000 on the last one that was done. We have \$300,000 for the two, so hopefully that all works out.

**Ms. White:** What kind of repairs cost \$250,000? What was the condition of the unit prior to those repairs being completed?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** It was a complete retrofit of the entire building.

*Investment in Affordable Housing — Rehabilitation of Out-of-Service Units in the amount of \$300,000 agreed to*

*On Investment in Affordable Housing — Conversion of Single-Family Units to Duplexes*

**Ms. White:** How many single-family units will be converted to duplexes? Where are they? What is the increase in housing units expected?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** Currently, we have one underway in Carmacks. I believe that it is near completion and we are looking at others throughout the Yukon to see if they would be suitable.

**Ms. White:** Is it the expectation that those other units will be converted by the end of this calendar year?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** It would probably be carried on into the next calendar year.

*Investment in Affordable Housing — Conversion of Single-Family Units to Duplexes in the amount of \$600,000 agreed to*

*On Investment in Affordable Housing — Contribution to Women's Shelters*

**Ms. White:** Can I get a breakdown of this line item please?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** There is \$10,000 a year that goes to victims of violence. That will be going to the board for review on May 28 on how to allocate that money.

*Investment in Affordable Housing — Contribution to Women's Shelters in the amount of \$20,000 agreed to*

*On Investment in Affordable Housing — 600 College Drive Mechanical Upgrades*

*Investment in Affordable Housing — 600 College Drive Mechanical Upgrades in the amount of \$150,000 agreed to*

*On Investment in Affordable Housing — Haines Junction Seniors' Complex Staircase Replacement*

*Investment in Affordable Housing — Haines Junction Seniors' Complex Staircase Replacement in the amount of \$200,000 agreed to*

*On Investment in Affordable Housing — Future Projects*

**Ms. White:** Can I please get a line breakdown?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** That will be something that the board will be considering at their May 28 meeting as well. That will fall under investment in affordable housing.

**Ms. White:** Does the minister have any idea what projects are being looked into?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** After the May 28 meeting, the board will come forward to the minister with their recommendations and we will go from there.

**Ms. White:** At the minister's most practicable point after that May 28 meeting, could he share the information and the direction that he is going with the opposition please?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** It has to go through Management Board after that but, when the time comes that I can forward that information, I certainly would, yes.

*Investment in Affordable Housing — Future Projects in the amount of \$1,565,000 agreed to*

*On Prior Years' Projects*

*Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

**Social Housing Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$13,350,000 agreed to**

**On Staff Housing**

**On Capital Expenditures**

*On Renovation and Rehabilitation Existing Stock*

**Ms. White:** Can I please get a breakdown on how many units this will be renovating or rehabilitating?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** I don't have that information with me but we can commit to getting back to the member opposite with that information.

*Renovation and Rehabilitation Existing Stock in the amount of \$700,000 agreed to*

**Staff Housing Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$700,000 agreed to**

**On Central Services**

**On Capital Expenditures**

*On Information Technology Equipment and Systems*

*Information Technology Equipment and Systems in the amount of \$3,000 agreed to*

*On Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space*

*Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space in the amount of \$75,000 agreed to*

**Central Services Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$78,000 agreed to**

**Chair:** You'll notice that all those lines had to do with capital. We are going down to page 20-7 to go through the operation and maintenance line items.

**On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures**

*On Executive*

**Ms. White:** Can I get a staff number breakdown, so the number of full-time staff equivalents?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** As of December 31, 2014, there were 72 permanent employees, and that includes Lotteries Yukon.

*Executive in the amount of \$970,000 agreed to*

*On Corporate Services*

**Ms. White:** Can I also get the FTEs for that department?

**Hon. Mr. Hassard:** The 72 FTEs was for the entire department.

*Corporate Services in the amount of \$5,657,000 agreed to*

*On Housing Operations*

*Housing Operations in the amount of \$11,853,000 agreed to*

*On Community Partnering and Lending*

*Community Partnering and Lending in the amount of \$1,291,000 agreed to*

**Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$19,771,000 agreed to**

**Chair:** Now if you'll turn to page 20-14 — are there any questions regarding revenues?

*On Revenues*

*Revenues cleared*

*On Loans*

*Loans cleared*

*On Government Transfers*

*Government Transfers cleared*

*On Changes in Tangible Capital Assets and Amortization*

*Changes in Tangible Capital Assets and Amortization cleared*

***Yukon Housing Corporation agreed to***

**Chair:** We are going to be moving on now to the Department of Environment.

There will be a five-minute recess for officials.

*Recess*

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

The matter before the Committee is Vote 52, Department of Environment, in Bill No. 18, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2015-16*.

### **Department of Environment**

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I do want to thank Allan Koprowsky, the staff member here with us today. I rise today to set out some of the Department of Environment's plans for our fiscal 2015-16 plans set out in the main estimates documents before us here today.

First, however, I would like to note my appreciation of the good work undertaken by the department staff, day in and day out. They do a wonderful job. Thanks again, Allan.

Whether you are out hunting or enjoying a relaxing weekend in a government campground or marvelling at the Yukon's pristine environment, the Department of Environment staff has a role in making these safe, welcoming activities. This work is often done in collaboration with First Nations, with renewable resources councils and with land claims organizations, such as the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board.

It is important for the department to build and maintain strong and trusted partnerships, because we recognize that stewardship of the environment is improved through strong, effective partnerships. The appropriation the department seeks today is about six percent higher than 2014-15 estimates. Most of the \$2.2-million increase is due to additional remediation and assessment work on sites owned by the Yukon government. I know we'll get into this later.

Operation and maintenance vote — with respect to Vote 1, the department is proposing expenditures totalling \$39.408 million in the fiscal year 2015-16. This is a 15-percent increase over the last year's estimate — or \$5.037 million. Part of this increase is due to increased personnel costs arising from the collective agreement.

Government transfers and amortization expenses have increased slightly as well. I will briefly note the major operation and maintenance changes by area. First, in the general management area, there is a modest decrease of nine percent — or \$380,000. This reflects changes in salary levels for the staff in this area.

Next, in corporate services area, we are seeking a modest increase of eight percent for a total of \$9.267 million. Corporate services include policy, aboriginal relations, communications, information management and technology, client services, finance and human resources functions. Most of the increase is due to funds transferred from the Executive Council Office. We planned to move \$460,000 into our core budget to cover costs incurred carrying out government land claims implementation obligations. Up until now, the Department of Environment recovered these costs from ECO. There was no change in the overall level of funding involved. I would be more than happy to get into this a little bit more when we get into general debate.

An increase of \$120,000 is needed for the Information Management and Technology branch for both a new position and for minor adjustments to personnel costs.

The third area, environmental sustainability, is primarily operation in nature, with a wide range of responsibilities from fish and wildlife management to compliance with the *Wildlife Act*, *Environment Act*, *Animal Health Act* and their regulations. The environmental sustainability division accounts for just over half of the department's O&M expenditures. We're seeking a total of \$22.339 million for 2015-16, a five-percent increase over last year, or just over a million dollars. \$690,000 of this increase is for implementing the government's water strategy and action plan, to help ensure that we have water for nature, water for people. We have established a new hydrologist position and will as well be undertaking community focus initiatives for water quality monitoring. \$77,000 is needed to extend full services to 10 key campgrounds for an additional four weeks each year. These campgrounds were available on May 8 this year, ahead of the traditional Victoria Day weekend opening, and will have full services until September 30. I'm hearing lots of positive feedback on that.

The animal health unit is now responsible for animal protection. This was formerly a function of the Department of Community Services. At the same time, we transferred the household hazardous waste environmental waste programs to Community Services, where it aligns better with solid waste programming. I would note that the comparative information in the budget has been adjusted to reflect the transfer of the budgets for these functions.

No Department of Environment budget presentation would be complete without a mention of bears — \$75,000 is needed for the third and last year of a pilot program to reduce our human-wildlife conflict in the territory. Conservation officers have tried some innovative approaches to increasing public awareness and fostering stewardship. Their Facebook page is very popular and a great learning tool. They support WildWise Yukon, which does community-level outreach. The

conservation officers will be doing more work this year on reducing conflicts, not just with bears, but also with foxes, coyotes and wolves.

Another major undertaking in the environmental sustainability division is the inventory work that takes place every year. The Government of Yukon will invest more than \$1 million in 2015-16 to monitor the health and status of important fish and wildlife populations. The data collected informs decisions for setting sustainable harvest levels. It also provides for baseline information for areas where development may occur.

In the fourth and last area, environmental liabilities and remediation, we are seeking \$7.422 million — a major increase over last year.

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

**Mr. Elias:** I move that the Speaker do now resume the Chair.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Elias 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. 18, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2015-16*, and directed me to report progress.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** I declare the report carried.

**Mr. Elias:** 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. Monday.

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