



# Yukon Legislative Assembly

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## HANSARD

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Nils Clarke

# YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## 2018 Spring Sitting

**SPEAKER — Hon. Nils Clarke, MLA, Riverdale North**  
**DEPUTY SPEAKER and CHAIR OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE — Don Hutton, MLA, Mayo-Tatchun**  
**DEPUTY CHAIR OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE — Ted Adel, MLA, Copperbelt North**

### CABINET MINISTERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PORTFOLIO
<b>Hon. Sandy Silver</b>	Klondike	Premier Minister of the Executive Council Office; Finance
<b>Hon. Ranj Pillai</b>	Porter Creek South	Deputy Premier Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources; Economic Development; Minister responsible for the Yukon Development Corporation and the Yukon Energy Corporation
<b>Hon. Tracy-Anne McPhee</b>	Riverdale South	Government House Leader Minister of Education; Justice
<b>Hon. John Streicker</b>	Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes	Minister of Community Services; Minister responsible for the French Language Services Directorate; Yukon Liquor Corporation and the Yukon Lottery Commission
<b>Hon. Pauline Frost</b>	Vuntut Gwitchin	Minister of Health and Social Services; Environment; Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation
<b>Hon. Richard Mostyn</b>	Whitehorse West	Minister of Highways and Public Works; the Public Service Commission
<b>Hon. Jeanie Dendys</b>	Mountainview	Minister of Tourism and Culture; Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board; Women's Directorate

### GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS

#### Yukon Liberal Party

<b>Ted Adel</b>	Copperbelt North
<b>Paolo Gallina</b>	Porter Creek Centre
<b>Don Hutton</b>	Mayo-Tatchun

### OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

#### Yukon Party

<b>Stacey Hassard</b>	Leader of the Official Opposition Pelly-Nisutlin	<b>Scott Kent</b>	Official Opposition House Leader Copperbelt South
<b>Brad Cathers</b>	Lake Laberge	<b>Patti McLeod</b>	Watson Lake
<b>Wade Istchenko</b>	Kluane	<b>Geraldine Van Bibber</b>	Porter Creek North

### THIRD PARTY

#### New Democratic Party

<b>Liz Hanson</b>	Leader of the Third Party Whitehorse Centre
<b>Kate White</b>	Third Party House Leader Takhini-Kopper King

### LEGISLATIVE STAFF

Clerk of the Assembly	Floyd McCormick
Deputy Clerk	Linda Kolody
Clerk of Committees	Allison Lloyd
Sergeant-at-Arms	Karina Watson
Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms	Harris Cox
Hansard Administrator	Deana Lemke

**Yukon Legislative Assembly**  
**Whitehorse, Yukon**  
**Tuesday, April 24, 2018 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

**In remembrance of those killed and injured in  
 Toronto van attack**

**Speaker:** Prior to proceeding with the Order Paper, the Chair will, on behalf of the House, express our condolences regarding the 10 people killed and 15 persons injured in Toronto yesterday by a person driving a van down the sidewalk on Yonge Street.

It is difficult to imagine how a normal spring day in a peaceful part of the city can so suddenly, without any apparent reason, transform itself into a scene of horrific tragedy for the dead, the injured and their grieving families. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them.

The Chair would also like to acknowledge the presence of mind, skill and courage of metro Toronto police constable Ken Lam who calmly, skillfully and professionally de-escalated the confrontation and was ultimately able to end this horrible incident without the use of deadly force. This restraint in such a tense circumstance is a model for all.

Also, the Chair would like to acknowledge the extraordinary skill and dedication of all emergency personnel who provided tireless support and assistance to all victims in what were, no doubt, unimaginably challenging circumstances.

At this time, I would ask all present to rise for a moment of silence to honour the deceased and injured persons in Toronto.

*Moment of silence observed*

**DAILY ROUTINE**

**Speaker:** We will proceed at this time with the Order Paper.

Introduction of visitors.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I would ask all of my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly to help me in welcoming to the Legislative Assembly, Grand Chief Peter Johnston.

*Applause*

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I would like all Members of the Legislative Assembly to also join me in welcoming Amy Ryder, chair of the Yukon Child Care Board, Maggie Powter, a board member and Sophie Partridge, administrative assistant.

*Applause*

**Mr. Kent:** My wife, Amanda Leslie, has joined us here today to take in the last day — or a portion of the last day of the Spring Sitting.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** She's welcome to stay for the whole afternoon if she wishes.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I would also like to welcome today into the gallery Devon Bailey who is here supporting his better half.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Any further introductions of visitors?  
 That brings us then to tributes.

**TRIBUTES**

**In recognition of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and the final agreements of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Teslin Tlingit Council, First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun and the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation**

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** It's my pleasure to rise today on behalf of the Yukon Liberal Party government to recognize the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and the final agreements of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Teslin Tlingit Council, First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun and the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation.

The *Umbrella Final Agreement* and the first four final agreements were all signed on May 29, 1993, after decades of hard work by many, many visionary leaders and community members. The leaders at the time who signed these historic agreements on behalf of their governments were Tom Siddon as the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, John Ostashek as the Yukon Government Leader, Judy Gingell as the Chair of the Council of Yukon Indians, Paul Birckel as the Chief of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Dave Keenan as the Chief of the Teslin Tlingit Council, Robert Hagar as the Chief of the First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun, and Robert Bruce Jr. as the Chief of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation.

I would like to thank these leaders, their negotiators and officials, and, of course, the elders and community members who were involved in the development of these agreements. It took whole communities and the visionary leadership and hard work of many to bring these agreements forward. In February, we celebrated the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*, the document that paved the way for the signing of the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and the first four final agreements 20 years later.

The path to reaching these agreements was long and there were many challenges along the way. First Nations then — as today — remain steadfast advocates for the needs of their communities and I applaud the strength, the perseverance and the determination of all those who were involved. The signing of these agreements represents a new shared path for our governments and citizens. These agreements are now the

foundation of a more modern and fair approach to governance in Yukon.

The agreements put self-governance powers back into the hands of the First Nation governments who are best able to meet the needs of their communities. These agreements are an incredibly important aspect of reconciliation, shared nation building and strengthened government-to-government relationships. These agreements create a relationship between our governments, and like any relationship, it takes hard work to nurture and to sustain them. There will continue to be challenges, but we are committed to working through these challenges together.

One of the key commitments of this government is to work in collaboration with First Nations to advocate and to advance implementation and realize the spirit and the intent of the final and self-governing agreements.

I believe that we are making progress toward this goal and that Yukoners in all communities are beginning to feel the benefits of collaboration.

Over the past 16 months or so that I have been Premier, I have seen the evidence all around me that collaboration between Yukon government and First Nation governments is growing stronger and stronger. The revitalization of the quarterly Yukon Forum has allowed us to build a solid foundation for our intergovernmental relationships, identify our shared priorities and begin making progress on those priorities. We are working together on our joint priority action plan and have an agreement to hold four Yukon Forums again this year. At the Yukon Forum, we will be discussing our progress on a number of important files, Mr. Speaker.

Through the Yukon Forum, we are re-examining the long-standing issues through new eyes and seeking initiative, innovation and collaborative solutions. I look forward to continuing to work with First Nations to implement these agreements and further bringing forth that vision of *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*.

I encourage Yukoners to learn more about the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and the final and self-governing agreements. They were agreements that were signed for all Yukoners. Take a look at the “Mapping the Way” Facebook page in the month of May, for example, as they will be celebrating and sharing posts related to the anniversaries of these agreements.

Mr. Speaker, Judy Gingell said it very eloquently at her recent talk at Yukon College. She said — and I quote: “We all own these agreements. These agreements belong to the people of the Yukon, so each and every one of us in this room has a duty to bring these agreements forward. These agreements are about partnership, building a relationship. We all live here so we want to make it what is best for the people of the Yukon.”

Mr. Speaker, thank you again to all of the individuals who helped to negotiate these agreements and to those who are working on implementing them today. Mahsi' cho.

*Applause*

**Ms. Van Bibber:** I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to recognize and pay tribute to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Umbrella Final Agreement*.

As settlers moved west across Canada, building railroads and giving land to landed immigrants, Indian reserves were being established to take care of the “Indian problem” and to place them away from farms and settlements that were predominantly European. However, the area known as Rupert’s Land, from which Yukon was carved during the gold rush, was still wild and far away, thought of as not having much value. Things moved too quickly as the stamperders came north, or I’m sure that there would have been reserves as seen Outside. Therefore, we also had no treaties signed in Yukon.

Our people were welcoming and did not fully understand the impacts of the influx of these people. They packed supplies for them, they helped to build boats and shared their clothing and their survival skills. They shared their food and showed them the routes.

Many decades later, when visionary leaders like Elijah Smith said that we must be included and share in the bounty of our territory, it was groundbreaking and innovative. The negotiations that followed the publication of *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow* took place throughout the 1970s and 1980s. These negotiations ultimately led to the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, or the UFA, being signed in 1993, providing a model or a framework on which self-government agreements with each First Nation would be based.

The first four Yukon First Nations to negotiate self-government agreements were the First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and Teslin Tlingit Council — each of the four initial agreements with the Government of Canada, Government of Yukon and the Council for Yukon Indians.

In that historic publication presented to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, there was a list of preliminary economic development proposals received by the Yukon Native Brotherhood in January 1973 from bands and band members. Note the following ideas from their citizens that I found interesting to highlight: ideas from the Old Crow band — a greenhouse and an airplane charter service; from the Mayo band — a coffee shop centre and home construction training ground; from the Teslin band — arts and crafts retail store and a senior citizens home; from the Champagne and Aishihik band — arts and crafts retail store and to fix up the old buildings at Klukshu. We have come a long way from the days where we were led by Indian and Northern Affairs.

It must be spoken of and told to generations to come that we are the lead in settled land claims across Canada, as 11 of our 14 are self-governing and are making huge strides in capacity and nation-building.

We too thank all who championed the enormous changes and who gave years of time and energy to the cause of bettering the lives of Yukon First Nations and Yukoners: the chiefs and councils, the elders, the negotiators, the panels and the people themselves who spent years trying to understand the implications and nuances of how their lives could, or would, change.

As we move forward, we will continue to share these stories of the growth as well as the old ways. One cannot stop

change, so, therefore, we must embrace all that we learn, and just imagine — one can be the change for one's nation.

Mahsi' cho.

*Applause*

**Ms. Hanson:** On behalf of the Yukon New Democratic Party, it is an honour to join in paying tribute to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and the first four final and self-government agreements.

You know, what a difference a quarter of a century makes. Twenty-five years ago, at this time, there were frenetic, behind-the-scenes activities going on in meeting rooms across the Yukon and in Ottawa as officials from the four First Nations, CYI and the federal and territorial governments worked together to pull together the final details of the many documents that comprised the four First Nation final and self-government agreements and the *Umbrella Final Agreement*.

Along with each First Nation final agreement and self-government agreement, there were reams of maps representing the Yukon land retained as various categories of settlement land; there were implementation plans for the UFA for each of the First Nation final and self-government agreements and more — all in triplicate — thousands of pages of complex legal detail.

My notes from the days leading up to the signing ceremony remind me of the exhaustive efforts by legal counsel, mappers, negotiators and officials at all levels of government working to finally pull it all together. Finally, on May 29, 1993 — which dawned as a brisk, sunny day filled with expectation — the big tent that was erected on the CYI grounds with dignitaries who included, as the Premier has noted: the federal minister of the day, Tom Siddon; Judy Gingell, chair of the Council of Yukon First Nations; the late John Ostashek, Yukon government leader; Chief Robert Bruce, Jr., from the Vuntut Gwitchin; the late Chief Robert Hagar, representing the First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun; Chief Keenan, Chief of the Teslin Tlingit Council; and Paul Birckel, Chief of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.

Along with members of the original group of First Nation leaders who had accompanied Elijah Smith to Ottawa in February 1973, elders, members of the Yukon First Nations, communities from across the Yukon and a large crowd of people from the general public were piped to the grounds, accompanied by members of the RCMP in full ceremonial dress. The sense of excitement — of anticipation — was palpable. On a personal note, I was excited to have been given the privilege of signing as a witness to the federal minister on the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations self-government agreement.

Twenty-two years after the initial tabling of the historic *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*, after numerous setbacks in negotiations, the failed ratification of the 1984 agreement and after subsequent changes to federal policy that included recognition and negotiation for the first time in Canada of self-government as an integral part of a land claim

agreement, Yukon First Nations' patience was being rewarded. Yukon First Nations had been clear in *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow* that, as they said, "We want to take part in the development of Yukon and Canada, not stop it, but we can only participate as Indians. We will not sell our heritage for a quick buck or a temporary job.

"With a just settlement of our claims we feel we can participate as equals, and then we will be able to live together as neighbours."

Only a quarter of a century after the signing of the first four agreements, it is amazing to me to realize that today Yukoners take for granted the significant role Yukon First Nation development corporations have played in shaping and growing our economy. Just think of the impact of the decision by Vuntut Gwitchin Development Corporation to seize an opportunity to invest in Air North, which, along with the Yukon government of the day's creation of a small business investment tax credit, allowed other Yukon citizens to invest in what has become one of Canada's most beloved and successful airlines. Members of this House know that this is just one of the many investments made by Yukon First Nation development corporations in Yukon.

Hundreds of Yukon jobs and millions in revenues are generated annually by First Nation-owned businesses, which brings to mind the words of Sam Johnson, who was one of the original 18 delegates with Elijah Smith, who was also — as I have noted before — the former Chief of the Teslin Tlingit Council and — I've noted — the first aboriginal Speaker of a Legislative Assembly in the Commonwealth. Sam said — and I quote: "We want the rest of Yukon to know that we didn't trigger land claims so that we could take over. The real thing was that we wanted to become involved so that our young people, both native and non-native, can all work together..."

Dave Joe, a member of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and one of the Yukon First Nation legal architects and negotiators described the result of the *Umbrella Final Agreement* as a "partnership". It is an attempt, he said, to rationalize how we share lawmaking in Yukon. He went on to say that we can celebrate these agreements that were premised upon partnerships and our common understanding to do good for all people.

Tim Koepke, who served for many years as chief federal negotiator, has said that the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and the final agreements should not be viewed, as we have heard in some places, as a template land-and-cash real estate deal. The *Umbrella Final Agreement* reads, from the first "whereas" clause in the preamble and through to the end, about shedding the past relationships with governments and focusing on building enduring relationships for future success and shared prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, after almost 20 years of immersion in the Yukon negotiation process, my perspective is coloured by the people, the citizens of Canada and Yukon and First Nations, that we collectively were charged with the responsibility for negotiating the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and the final and self-government agreements, and with the realization that we

must focus on what the agreements they negotiated on our collective behalf intended.

The fact is that these negotiations were never easy. There were moments of despair and utter joy. The issues were complex and occasionally profound. As another negotiator put it, the signed agreements crystallized a moment in Yukon's history when Yukon First Nation and non-First Nation citizens joined in a shared vision of a future of Yukon where the institutions of public government would be open and inclusive and would incorporate Yukon First Nation interests and participation directly in governing the territory.

As we celebrate the achievements of so many in communities across Yukon in the difficult years leading up to the signing 25 years ago this May, we also remember the many who are no longer with us: First Nation elders, chiefs, ordinary community members, negotiators for First Nations, Yukon and Canada, who all worked to help create a new future for Yukon, a future that, as Dr. Robert Joseph put it, is grounded in reconciliation — reconciliation that includes anyone with an open heart and an open mind who is willing to look to the future in a new way.

The events of 25 years ago this May 29 provide us a way to belong to this time and place together. Our future and the well-being of all of our children rest with the kind of relationships we build today.

*Applause*

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

### TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I have for tabling a response to Written Question No. 23 regarding land withdrawals and staking bans within Yukon from the Member for Copperbelt South.

I also have for tabling responses to the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources budget debate questions related to rural land development, Millhaven Bay, the Faro mine and class 1 notification from March 20.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I have for tabling a response to questions raised by the Member for Takhini-Kopper King on April 19.

I also have for tabling four Yukon *Child and Family Services Act* annual reports from 2010 to 2013, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16.

I also have for tabling the Yukon Child Care Board annual report for 2016 to 2018, and this is tabled pursuant to section 4(11) of the *Child Care Act*.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I have for tabling a legislative return responding to a request for information during the Public Service Commission budget discussion.

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

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### **Bill No. 300: Act to Amend the Taxpayer Protection Act — Introduction and First Reading**

**Mr. Cathers:** I move that a bill entitled *Act to Amend the Taxpayer Protection Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Member for Lake Laberge that a bill entitled *Act to Amend the Taxpayer Protection Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 300 agreed to*

**Speaker:** Are there any further bills to be introduced?  
Are there any notices of motions?

### NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to consult with the Yukon Ombudsman regarding legislative changes necessary to bring the *Ombudsman Act* in line with best practices elsewhere in Canada, specifically to authorize the Ombudsman to initiate independent investigations.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to follow up on the unanimous consent of the Legislative Assembly to take concrete action on electoral reform by the end of 2018 by immediately appointing a non-partisan commission on electoral reform to:

- (1) engage with Yukoners;
- (2) consider fixed election dates; and
- (3) consider other proposed changes to Yukon's electoral system.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to do a review of highway maintenance practices, including:

- (1) reviewing the resources for each maintenance camp to ensure that they are adequate, including financial resources and necessary training and equipment;
- (2) reviewing and improving maintenance coverage times, including overnight maintenance, to ensure the roads are safe for truck drivers and other travellers;
- (3) ensuring public safety on the highways for emergency vehicles, school buses, long-haul vehicles, tourists and the general public;
- (4) seeking input from front-line employees who maintain our highways; and
- (5) ensuring that there are suitable and sufficient resources to adequately address issues including ice and snow, changing weather patterns, sightline visibility, permafrost

issues, water adjacent to the road, traffic volumes, and BST and pavement degradation.

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

THAT this House urges the Minister of Highways and Public Works to improve the safety and functionality of Takhini River Road by:

(1) immediately taking steps to deal with the current flooding problem, including the fountain of water that has started gushing through the road on April 23, 2018; and

(2) investing in engineering and design work aimed at doing a major upgrade to the roadbed, road service and ditches.

**Speaker:** Are there any further notices of motions?  
Is there a statement by a minister?

This then brings us to Question Period.

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: Children in care

**Ms. McLeod:** Last week, it was revealed that a whistle-blower who raised concerns with the treatment of children in government-run group homes was fired as a result of this. However, the minister claims that the government supports whistle-blowers.

Can the minister explain how firing a whistle-blower for raising concerns about the treatment of children is showing them support?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** The members opposite should know by now that I am not prepared in any way to comment on personnel matters on the floor of this Legislative Assembly. I admire the courage of civil servants and citizens who come forward with complaints about this government. I encourage them to continue to do so. There is whistle-blower legislation in place. It was passed in 2014 in this House. That legislation has the support of this Cabinet and this caucus. We encourage our civil servants — our hard-working professional civil servants — if they have any concerns about gross negligence or problems within the civil service that involve children in care or any number of other issues, to please come forward to your supervisor, to your deputy or to the Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner and announce that you are making a complaint under that act, and you will be protected from reprisal.

**Ms. McLeod:** Now the minister seems to be playing some sort of game of Orwellian double-speak. You can't say that you support whistle-blowers and then stand by while people are pulled aside as part of a witch hunt to find out who the whistle-blowers are so they can be punished.

Will the minister 100 percent commit that no more whistle-blowers will be fired? Simple, Mr. Speaker — yes or no?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I really do appreciate the attention that this issue has been given on the floor of the Legislature over the last couple of weeks. This is an issue that has been ignored by previous governments for years. This is an issue

that we take very seriously, and we are trying to change a culture of fear within the civil service that has existed for many, many, many years.

I have every confidence in the human resource professionals in this government, and I'm committed to changing that legacy of fear, which I spoke of earlier, in the civil service. I have expressed that to this House. I have expressed this to the media on numerous occasions, and I have expressed this to the Yukon Employees' Union.

For years, the Yukon has had a *Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act*. It has not been actively promoted. That is now changing.

I once again commend the employees who have the courage of their convictions to step forward and make applications under this piece of legislation. If they do so in the way that I laid out earlier, they will be protected from reprisal within this government.

### Question re: Affordable housing

**Ms. Van Bibber:** The budget details \$6 million for affordable housing. Last week, I asked the minister to provide a breakdown of how this money will be spent. The minister did provide a list of a number of projects; however, they added up to \$8.2 million. That is a \$2.2-million gap from what the budget estimate is.

Who is correct — the minister or the budget? Is there \$6 million for affordable housing or is there \$8.2 million?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I would like to thank the member opposite for the question with respect to affordable housing and social housing. Looking at the targets in Yukon, we have done amazing work this year, and I would like to look at the accomplishments from Yukon Housing Corporation from December 2016 to February 2018.

Supported housing action plan — the Housing Corporation provided \$180,000 for the Anti-Poverty Coalition to hire a navigator. We supported cooperation with the housing action plan. We worked with Kwanlin Dün. We have also worked with Habitat for Humanity.

We have done significant work over this period of time. The \$6 million allocated in the budget, as indicated — we will provide more details, I'm sure. Today, we are investing \$6 million in social and affordable housing.

As noted by the Premier in his budget statements, we are spending \$40 million to support Yukoners in accessing better resources to provide opportunities to build affordable housing in Yukon and to build a better Yukon for all Yukoners to ensure that we address some, or most, of the housing shortages in the Yukon. We provided some clarity around the budget and certainly more than \$6 million in the budget to address that.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** I don't think that was a very impeccable answer. This budget is very clear. It says that there is \$6 million for affordable housing. However, the minister told us in Committee that there was \$8.2 million. That is a pretty big difference.

Can the minister explain why she wasn't aware of what was in her department's own budget?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I'm fully aware of what is in my budget. I will state again that we have resourced a significant amount of money for Yukoners for affordable housing.

We have also put in our budget this year \$2 million for a partnership-held initiative, and that is to allow individuals in rural Yukon to access resources for affordable housing — social housing, Mr. Speaker.

Plus we have the \$40 million that the Premier had mentioned, and we also have affordable housing extended beyond the \$6 million, which includes \$2.7 million to build Yukon Housing's first Housing First residence.

We have \$2 million launched for the developer build initiative, \$1.19 million to conduct energy retrofits, and another \$1.2 million to fund homeowners who are facing critical home repair needs. We are also spending \$1.2 million to convert social housing. The list goes on, Mr. Speaker.

I could keep going on the list, and the member opposite notes the difference between the \$6 million — \$2 million. We set \$6 million for social and affordable housing. We have significantly more than that in the budget, which I'm very pleased about, and we will continue to advance our partnership with Yukon.

#### **Question re: Children in care**

**Ms. White:** We heard from the minister that the number of children and youth in care has been reduced to about 20 and this, on the surface, looks like it's good news. There are currently six government-run youth group homes and one privately run home that have 34 beds combined, yet the government is planning for a new transitional group home at a cost of over \$1.7 million. This new group home will have a capacity of 10 beds, but no explanation as to who it will serve.

Why is this government spending \$1.7 million on an undefined transitional group home with a newly created management position leading the project when it says its priority is to reduce the number of children and youth in care?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I would be happy to provide a little more clarity on the Wann Road project. As the member would know, we provided much detail in the Legislative Assembly and much media coverage on the 22 Wann Road project.

The initiative around the project was to provide transitional support services for youth who were aging out of the system. We have two group homes downtown that are about to be demolished and incorporated into one facility. So it is a very good cost-saving effort. As well, we are streamlining services for youth who are aging out of the system, which has not historically happened, so better supports to youth as they become independent by creating a new group home that is specialized in transitional support for those youth.

**Ms. White:** I would suggest that there isn't support for youth transitioning out of group homes, but I'll get to that next. While the number of children in group homes is going down, more children are being placed with family members throughout the Yukon. Some of those families are receiving

financial support from the department to cover the cost of having children in their homes and others are not.

We know there are many families who have taken on young family members, but are living in poverty. They are not being provided the supports they require; they do not have access to funds to cover the basic cost of living; they do not have access to social workers or other professionals who could provide supports, such as parenting skills or family counselling. These families are being left in dire circumstances while trying to provide the best for their young family members.

Mr. Speaker, when is this department going to review kinship care and support all families who are struggling to provide a stable home for their young family members?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Let's just look at what the department has done this year — significant work. Historically, we have not seen kinship care. We had over 200 youth in our care. As of a few days ago, we had that reduced down to less than 20. How did that happen? It was by expanding our policies to allow the children to remain with their grandparents. Where did that stem from? That directive came from the communities. They wanted to have the supports in their communities.

As well, we wanted to ensure that we opened up the wellness hubs as quickly as we could to provide those supports in the community where the families can access direct programming and supports to keep the families whole and together in the communities. Recognizing that this is a new initiative, I am most certainly open to feedback so we can make it a better program. It is fairly new. We have just started this process. That has not happened historically, so I'm very pleased with the efforts of this government and the good work of the department.

I applaud them for that. I applaud them for ensuring that we work with the families and work with the First Nations, ensuring that we have social supports in all of our communities.

**Ms. White:** Unfortunately, there are families across the territory living in poverty as they care for family members, but that doesn't seem to be an issue.

So we have seven reviews in eight years of group homes and the care they provide to our children and youth and we have another one underway. We have reports of youth being locked out of group homes in winter. We have whistle-blowers identifying a myriad of concerns — most unwilling to go to their supervisor for fear of retaliation. We have a whistle-blower who was fired and is now taking the government to court. We have the story of an individual transitioning out of care being told that the emergency youth shelter might be their best option for housing and we have families trying to care for and provide a home with no support from government. I could go on, but we're all aware of the problems — yet the only major announcement to date is a new \$1.7-million group home.

How is building a new youth group home going to solve all the problems identified within Family and Children's Services?



**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I would venture to say that the statement just made is absolutely not correct. We have done a lot of great work in Yukon. In fact, we've supported the centre downtown to continue — which, by the way, was set to close this year — two years we've supported that to continue on.

We're working with the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre to continue the supports there. We are working with our communities. We have integrated child support and counselling support in every one of our communities. We have a social worker in every one of our communities and we are working with the families to ensure they have supports.

Yes, we do appreciate and recognize that families are having a difficult time and they have historically. We are working to ensure that families that are challenged — that have some major financial challenges in the communities — we have asked them to come forward and raise their concerns. We are not here to make life difficult. We're here to make life better and that's exactly what we care about. We care about the families, we care about the children and that is correct. We do care about what happens with the families in the Yukon and we will ensure that we do a better job than the former government.

#### **Question re: Airport infrastructure**

**Mr. Hassard:** Last fall, the Minister of Highways and Public Works informed this House that the regulations for the *Public Airports Act* were more important than the act itself. Now, the Engage Yukon website states — and I will quote: “The *Public Airports Act* was passed in November 2017. The second phase of engagement about regulations will open in 2018 and dates and event locations will be posted here once they are known.”

As the minister should know from his botched consultation on the act itself, this industry is particularly busy in the summer so this probably isn't an ideal time for consultation. We are now four months into 2018 and the Liberals appear to be dragging their feet on these regulations. Will the minister begin consultation and tell us who will be consulted and how they will be consulted?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** This afternoon at 12:15 p.m., I met with the Northern Air Transport Association.

There were about 168 delegates there and I laid out our plans for airports in this territory: the fact that we are investing more than \$30 million this year in our airport infrastructure — airport infrastructure has been sorely ignored for many, many years; the fact that we are buying new snow clearing equipment because the stuff that we have inherited is almost ready to break down; the fact that we are investing in a new boarding ramp at the Whitehorse International Airport because the one we have is decrepit and not working properly; and the fact we are investing in our baggage handling equipment at the Whitehorse International Airport because the stuff that we have got there now is on the verge of collapse. Mr. Speaker, we are making these strategic investments — and more besides — because we care about the aviation industry.

When I spoke to them this afternoon — 168 delegates at the convention centre — and told them these things, I was met with thunderous applause and no questions. I am more than happy to talk about this issue all afternoon. It was a great event. I was very happy to meet with them and speak, hear their concerns and actually relay our plans for the future of our airports in making them safer and bigger economic engines for the territory.

**Mr. Hassard:** The minister didn't even try to answer that question, but I guess I should expect a say-nothing answer from the minister when we are not even sure if he knows the difference between the Nares River bridge and the Whitehorse airport.

I will try this again and maybe the minister will actually listen and maybe he will even try to answer the question: When will consultation begin on the airport regulations, who will be consulted on those regulations and how will they be consulted?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** We are investing more than \$30 million in our airports this year. We are actually spending more than \$2 million starting the paving of the Dawson City Airport runway; we are spending \$7 million on a new airports maintenance facility up in Dawson City so their equipment is kept out of the elements and our people have a warm place to work through the winter — that is something that has been long lacking and is now going to be provided. We are doing millions of dollars' worth of work at the Whitehorse International Airport to put in new lighting and make sure the runways are maintained to a proper standard, and we are maintaining our rural airports as well.

We are taking all of the reports — the Dawson functional plan, the 2040 report, the airports study that we did — and we are compiling that right now, pulling the best information. Thank you to the member opposite — the Leader of the Official Opposition — who has taken the time to look at our great engagement website, which is a new initiative that we put out here so that people know what is going on. I am glad he has taken the time to educate himself on this and uses it. I think it is a great service as well.

The fact is that we are going to be going out this summer to talk to the aviation industry so that we can start to get leases in place, leases that we haven't been able to issue in four years because of the botch job of the members opposite. We are doing the good work of this government and we are going to fix the aviation industry and make it better.

#### **Question re: Alsek Renewable Resources Council appointment**

**Mr. Istchenko:** Yesterday, the minister responded to a petition I tabled in the Legislature. The fundamental question asked was for Mr. Trotter to be reappointed to the Alsek Renewable Resources Council. It was signed by 99 people in just a few days. Unfortunately, just as the minister answers questions in the House, she didn't actually respond to the petition. The minister chose not to reappoint him, despite there being no other applications at the time and strong community support for him to be reappointed.

I will ask again: Why did the minister not reappoint Mr. Trotter to the Alsek Renewable Resources Council?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I believe I answered that question yesterday, and the response to the petition stands. We will follow the process as defined under the self-government agreement.

**Mr. Istchenko:** Those from my community who reviewed the Blues yesterday are very disappointed. We understand the process, we know how it works, and so do the 99 people who signed the petition.

Again, my question is: Why did the minister not reappoint Mr. Trotter?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** We will follow the process. I will leave it at that.

**Question re: Firearm legislation — letter opposing Bill C-71**

**Mr. Cathers:** Yukoners are concerned by the federal Liberal government's new firearms legislation, Bill C-71, which targets law-abiding gun owners and provides for what is effectively a backdoor long-gun registry. Bill C-71 does absolutely nothing to address the primary sources of gun violence. It adds red tape for law-abiding gun owners and will waste RCMP time with needless paperwork.

In the same week that the federal government tabled the legislation, the Minister of Justice told this House that she was unaware it was coming. She has confirmed that there was zero consultation with the Yukon government. The Member for Kluane and I both tabled motions opposing Bill C-71, and yesterday, we gave the Premier a letter to the Prime Minister and MP Bagnell, signed by the Leader of the Official Opposition, with a space for the Premier to sign.

Will the Premier join us in standing up for Yukoners by signing this letter opposing Bill C-71?

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** The letter that I was presented by the member opposite speaks to consultation, and we agree that more consultation should happen with Yukoners when it comes to any amendment or any bill from Ottawa, and specifically with Bill C-71 as well.

Mr. Speaker, we all heard in the news members of the public coming out, first with thumbs up, and then afterward, coming out with more questions. Whenever we see members of the public coming out with more questions, we agree that we do need to see more consultation. We know that members of the opposition also spoke to the NDP about adding their name to this as well.

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

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** No? I guess they didn't, according to the Third Party.

I would like to see the Third Party's signature on that letter as well. We're looking at the wording right now, for sure. This does mirror a letter that we spoke of on April 10 in caucus that the Attorney General is penning toward Minister Goodale's office as well.

We're looking at the wording of this letter and we have interest in working with the opposition on this issue.

**Mr. Cathers:** I'm pleased that we at least got a "maybe" from the Premier on this.

Most Yukoners were opposed to the federal long-gun registry when it was in place. This Assembly has twice unanimously supported motions opposing a long-gun registry — the first by the former MLA for Vuntut Gwitchin, and the second one I proposed.

Bill C-71 misses the target completely on dealing with gun violence. It targets law-abiding gun owners and provides effectively for a backdoor long-gun registry. This is an issue that's important to Yukoners. Many hunt to feed their families and to pass on cultural traditions to their children. Target shooting is also important to people who own a handgun or other restricted weapons, and these owners are already very heavily regulated. Adding more red tape for law-abiding gun owners will do nothing to address the real sources of gun violence.

Will the Premier agree to work with us on the wording of the letter and also go further in agreeing to firmly oppose Bill C-71 in its current form — any legislation by the federal government that creates a long-gun registry or backdoor long-gun registry?

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** With backhanded compliments like that, it is sometimes hard to work with the members opposite.

Again, I am a gun owner. We have many hunters on this side of the Legislative Assembly very concerned with federal legislation — absolutely. The member opposite is correct. There have been two other motions in this House.

What we're working with here, just to get the people of Yukon caught up on it — our Attorney General — the content of her letter to Ralph Goodale is very similar about consultation. We want to make sure that Yukoners are consulted with this particular type of legislation.

What we are doing here in Yukon — we have a federal bill that is talking about federal legislation that is focused in on safety. Here in the Yukon, our budget has money for community safety, including historical case units for the RCMP investigation of unsolved homicides. We're focusing here in the Legislative Assembly — the Yukon Liberal government — to commit to continue to work with the RCMP and with community partners to ensure safety in the territory.

We are also continuing to partner with communities and stakeholders to improve mental health and mental wellness supports right across the territory.

That is the good work that we are doing here in the Yukon. We have been looking at the wording of the letter for all parties to sign on to send to Ottawa, which is great work following up from what our Attorney General has already committed to with her commitment here to more consultation on Bill C-71.

**Question re: Coroners Act review**

**Ms. Hanson:** The CBC obtained a copy of December's minutes of a Liberal Cabinet committee on legislative planning. It talks about this government's plans for legislation. We are happy to see that the government is expecting lobbying legislation to come up this fall, as we have already

offered to work with the government over the summer to table a bill to that effect. We look forward to an invitation from the government to participate.

My questions today have to do with other priorities highlighted in the document. An update to the *Coroners Act* is scheduled for this fall. We know the Minister of Justice agrees that it is more than overdue.

Having decided to introduce a new *Coroners Act* this fall, can the minister now confirm that the government has decided to propose a medical model for the coroner's office?

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Some responses to the preamble to that question — members opposite should be able to appreciate why we would not speculate on future legislation based on a leaked document from an anonymous source. Really, the members opposite and their colleagues — when we rely on hearsay and rumour, we have questions with that.

Past questions on carbon pricing have also bordered on that as well — so now, a similar approach with the preamble to the question.

I am not going to make any speculations because speculation causes uncertainty. What I can say is that we do have a full calendar of proposed legislation, and the public service team is working incredibly hard to bring these pieces forward. Any good government maps out a plan for legislative changes. We are not going to speculate on leaked documents.

I will turn it over to my colleague, the Attorney General, to speak specifically of any updates that she may have from her department.

**Ms. Hanson:** With respect, the minister has already indicated that she acknowledges that the Yukon *Coroners Act* is out of step with current practice in other Canadian jurisdictions.

In the current act, a coroner's inquest is only mandatory if a death occurs of a prisoner in the custody of the RCMP. That is very narrow when compared to other provinces and territories. It is not in keeping with other jurisdictions where inquests are mandatory if a person dies in custody, if a child in care dies or if a person dies on the job. These are only a few examples from across the country of mandatory coroners' inquests.

Will any upcoming *Coroners Act* amendments expand the number of circumstances in which a mandatory coroner's inquest takes place?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I very much appreciate the question from the member opposite. The Department of Justice is conducting a thorough review of the existing act and associated regulations. I don't think that is a surprise to anyone. The goal here is to draft an updated *Coroners Act* for the Yukon and have it tabled in the fall, so I guess that sometimes leaked documents might be correct — I don't know what that was.

Here in the Fall Sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the engagement with stakeholders — such as the RCMP, Yukon First Nations, the medical and legal communities, and, of course, the chief coroner, community coroners and the general public — is planned and will occur. It will have to be very soon, and the matter is currently a top priority for the work of

the department. The existing *Coroners Act*, of course, as agreed previously in this House and by many others, is currently outdated. Best practices have exceeded the technological and process advancements in the area of coroners' work, and our legislation must reflect that.

**Ms. Hanson:** I thank the minister for her positive response. I am asking these questions in terms of being able to get a sense of the scope. It is interesting that, in our current act, there is a whole section dedicated to what would happen if a death occurred at a mine site. It is clear who should be notified, who should be on a jury, et cetera. The act is silent on other job site fatalities.

Nowhere in the Yukon *Coroners Act* do we provide for families, communities or the public to ask the chief coroner for a public inquest. In other jurisdictions across Canada this is an integral piece of their legislation. We know that families are often left with little information and many unanswered questions.

Will the minister commit, in doing her consultations, to ensuring that the question about families, public or community requests for coroners' inquests be respected and included in consultation on the new *Coroners Act*?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Yes, that is as plain as I can put it. It is absolutely one of the elements being looked at — in fact, all elements of how an appropriate coroner's service can operate for the benefit of Yukoners is in the scope of this review.

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

We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** 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 (Mr. Hutton):** Order, please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

The matter before the Committee is continuing general debate in Vote 3, Department of Education, in Bill No. 206, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2018-19*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole will recess for 10 minutes.

*Recess*

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

**Bill No. 206: *First Appropriation Act 2018-19* — continued**

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee is continuing general debate in Vote 3, Department of Education, in Bill No. 206, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2018-19*.

**Department of Education — continued**

**Speaker:** Ms. McPhee, you have 17 minutes and 10 seconds, if you need it.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I don't anticipate needing that.

I would like to welcome back Cyndy Dekuyscher, the assistant deputy minister of Operations in the Department of Education. I would also like to take this opportunity to indicate that I have spoken with the other House Leaders this morning, who happen to also be the critics for Education, and appreciate that they will be speaking here today with respect to our intention to move this matter forward.

I would also like to thank all the members of the Legislative Assembly, not only the critics who get to stand and ask the questions, but those who feed questions and issues that they would like to have addressed to their colleagues, and thank them for their thoughtful questions.

I appreciate that, yesterday, there was one question with respect to the Department of Education for which I have not had an opportunity to prepare a legislative return, and I will commit to providing the information about counselling and the other question asked by the Member for Takhini-Kopper King in letter form over the next number of weeks — and any additional questions she has I will be happy to also answer in that format, as we won't be sitting in the near future.

That's what I have to say today. I appreciate very much the department's in-depth work on the budget for the Department of Education, for their briefings to me and to our staff and to the members of the opposition, and their continued work to make sure that this information is in a digestible format and in a format that I think allows us to answer questions well here.

**Ms. White:** Just for the one last time, I welcome the ADM to the Chamber, as this will be the last time she will be visiting us. The next time we see her, she will be outside and, hopefully, she will have a tan from gardening and doing fun things.

I echo the minister's sentiment. The House Leaders had a conversation earlier today and agreed that both the Member for Copperbelt South and I would be submitting written questions. Some of those from my side are going to revolve around the number of apprentices, the supports of apprentices and the number of apprentices in government. The minister doesn't need to write this down; it will come in a letter.

I wanted to know if there has been any training around the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, especially when dealing with the rollout of health curriculum

for younger students, making sure that we are sensitive to our trans students and then clarification on a couple other questions I had.

I thank the minister for the engagement and the assistant deputy minister for her support. I especially want to thank teachers and educational staff because they all helped us to get where we are. I will be sending that in a letter and I look forward to that return.

**Mr. Kent:** Again, as was mentioned, I still do have a number of outstanding questions about this vote, but I will be sending a letter to the minister to talk about them. Most are centred on advanced education and the annual report that the minister tabled yesterday, as well as strategic planning for the department and — I know it goes back to 2009 — the Auditor General's report that was done for the department and if there are any outstanding items that were mentioned in that Auditor General's report back then.

I too would like to thank the ADM for all of her work in support of the current minister and past ministers as well, and wish her well in her retirement.

I think we're prepared to move into line-by-line debate.

**Chair:** Is there any further debate on Vote 3, Department of Education?

Seeing none, we will proceed to line-by-line debate, starting at page 8-6 of the estimates book.

**Mr. Kent:** Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 3, Department of Education, cleared or carried, as required.

**Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 3, Department of Education, cleared or carried**

**Chair:** Mr. Kent has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 3, Department of Education, cleared and carried, as required.

Is unanimous consent granted?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** Unanimous consent has been granted.

***On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures***

***Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$182,864,000 agreed to***

***On Capital Expenditures***

***Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$9,922,000 agreed to***

***Total Expenditures in the amount of \$192,786,000 agreed to***

***Department of Education agreed to***

**Chair:** The matter now before the Committee is Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, in Bill No. 206, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2018-19*.

Committee of the Whole will recess for five minutes.

*Recess*

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

The matter before the Committee is Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, in Bill No. 206, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2018-19*.

**Yukon Housing Corporation — *continued***

**Chair:** Is there any further general debate?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** With me here, I have finance director Luzelle Nagel from Yukon Housing Corporation and Mary Cameron, the ADM of Corporate Services. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

I would like to begin by just taking this moment to thank the officials and also to thank the Yukon Housing Corporation for the great work that they are doing to advance the housing pressures and housing issues in Yukon. I think there is a lot of really great work happening this fiscal year with advance partnerships and looking at addressing implementation of some significant policies and procedures going forward to advance the housing continuum in the Yukon.

I know I have about 20 minutes left, or 19 minutes or so, so I am just going to highlight — and try not to use a lot of the time talking — I will give the member opposite sufficient time, so I will try to cut it down and just highlight some of the initiatives that we are working on.

Of course, I had mentioned before that we are fully committed to the ongoing implementation of the housing action plan for Yukon. That is to look at the housing continuum, and that embraces three fundamental pillars: housing with services, rental accommodation and home ownership.

We also would like to talk a little bit about the distinct pillars — since it integrates and supports specifically designed programs to help individuals and families and to provide supports with appropriate housing.

The budget contains \$2.7 million in funding for Yukon Housing Corporation to construct the Housing First building initiative in downtown Whitehorse. We are continuing to take a one-government approach and are working with Health and Social Services, as well as Community Services, on energy efficiencies and energy builds, and looking at providing service delivery for future tenants using the Housing First model. Recognizing that there are real and serious needs for the housing continuum across the Yukon, we are advancing our supports to rural Yukon and we are also looking at the most vulnerable populations who are obviously in the greatest need.

When it comes to the second pillar of the housing action plan with respect to rental accommodation, we are looking at upgrading our 868 social and staff housing units across the Yukon. That means that there are resources put into the budget for renovation and rehabilitation to keep the housing units up to the national standards, or bring them up to the national standards.

We have units that are in excess of 30 years old, so some resources are being put into that this year to the tune of \$1.4 million to initiate energy retrofits. Projects in rural Yukon with respect to energy efficiencies will obviously cross

over with Community Services and Energy, Mines and Resources as well as Yukon Housing Corporation.

We are proceeding with the seniors complex in Carmacks. The question was asked of us if these units will be energy efficient. That is the objective — to look at fully enhancing the construction to ensure that it meets the highest standard possible.

We have also put in this budget \$1.2 million to enable seniors to remain in their communities and to provide Housing First initiatives. That is to keep the seniors in their homes — and continuing to also look at re-profiling some of our single-family homes in our communities to duplexes. That means providing a bit of upgrading to some of the buildings, increasing our housing portfolio. We also have \$600,000 for social housing conversions, which support aging in place in our communities.

The question with respect to \$6 million in addition to all of the other resources for affordable housing projects — that is in an effort to reduce the social housing wait-list and working on affordable housing projects.

The main estimates provide flexibility in addressing affordable housing needs in the Yukon. I am really pleased to announce that we are looking at improvements across the spectrum of housing needs in Yukon. We have \$5 million through asset management improvements. We are looking at successful implementation of the housing action plan to ensure that we find collaboration and collaborative models in our communities and seek partnerships. In particular, we are working with First Nations, the First Nation development corporations, municipal governments with the municipal matching grant, as well as the private sector.

There are a number of programs within the Yukon Housing Corporation's budget that are designed to maximize our collaboration and partnership opportunities. We have allocated \$1.5 million to the First Nation housing partnership program. That is to be accessed through a grant process — construction of new units, repairs or upgrades. In 2017-18, we have worked with the Kluane First Nation, Little Salmon Carmacks and others through housing initiatives. We are anticipating seeking further partnerships as we move into 2018-19.

We also have \$1.45 million through the Housing Corporation for the affordable rural rental construction program. With respect to the new developer-build loan program, we have allocated \$2 million to that initiative, and that is to provide interim construction financing to small and medium developers so that they can construct modest rental units. The anticipation is that up to eight units will be covered.

We also have the first mortgage loan program, which will see a budget of \$4 million, and that is consistent from previous years. The down payment assistance loan program is set at \$500,000 and the owner-build loan program is \$1.25 million. There is almost \$6 million available to new renters and homeowners. In addition to that, we offer the home repair program, which has a budget of \$1.7 million.

The summation is making sure that we attain the pillars identified for us through the housing action plan through our

partnership with Yukoners. The budget specifically addresses the programs and services to support housing with services, rental accommodation and home ownership.

I am going to give a quick summary on the budgets because we have already gone through that previously, so I will just quickly skim over that. We have, in total, an operation and maintenance expenditure of \$19.5 million which has been allocated in this year's budget, and an additional \$30.8 million for capital outlays to assist Yukoners in their housing needs. We also have total revenue in operation and maintenance recoveries of \$12.5 million. With the operation and maintenance expenditures in 2018-19 of \$1.4 million under executive and corporate services, we have \$3.7 million allocated for Corporate Services division, and obviously that covers Finance, Systems and Administration, Policy and Communications, and Human Resources. Under tenant management, we have \$8.3 million for Housing Operations branch, and \$5 million allocated to Capital Development.

As noted, there is not a lot of change from previous years. There is a reallocation of the budget that looks at our partnership programming and lending programming. We have \$1 million allocated for community partnering in our lending branch. We see an increased fund of \$42,000 in this particular budget for personnel costs for the collective agreement, \$13,000 for computer hardware, and \$100,000 to co-chair federal-provincial-territorial meetings — and that is cost-recoverable.

We have decreased funds of \$100,000 from concessionary loans for Habitat for Humanity, and there is \$92,000 for long-term debt reaching maturity.

In the budget, we have repairs and upgrades for the home repair loans programming of \$1.7 million, and that is the \$50,000 allocated for repairs to existing homes. There is \$100,000 that has been allocated for a partial subsidy for home repairs, and \$600,000 has been allocated for forgivable home repair loans.

With regard to home ownership through the first mortgage program, we still have \$4 million in the budget, which we have seen historically.

For the down payment assistance loan, we have \$500,000 allocated for down payments to assist eligible clients with their down payment on their homes.

I'm just going to quickly skim over the community partnership in lending component of the budget. It's a municipal matching grant that remains consistent which was set to expire last year, but we are continuing to support that in years to come. That's going forward in partnership with municipalities in the Yukon. It's an incentive to increase the quality of supported rental housing units or apartments in rural Yukon.

We are continuing with the developer build loan, which is a new initiative, and we are also investing in affordable housing with \$4.5 million, which has been allocated. I noted earlier that, for rental and secondary suite loans for 2018-19, we have \$525,000 allocated. There is the northern housing trust, which has been allocated for housing projects. There is

\$250,000 for rental housing allowance. This is a time-limited subsidy for low- to moderate-income families to match the demand to vacancies in the private market.

We also have \$240,000 in that budget for rural projects. There are significant resources put aside for renovation and rehabilitation of existing stock and retrofits for energy purposes. There is \$900,000 for the renovation of existing social housing units and \$1.4 million, which is recoverable from Canada, on the low-carbon economy fund. I noted earlier that we are doing some conversions from single-family units to duplexes, and there is \$600,000 in the budget for that project.

We also have \$3.9 million allocated for affordable housing, which is recoverable from CMHC. For a social housing project, there is \$6 million, which has been allocated for additional affordable housing and third-party proposals. Then there is \$2.4 million, which is recoverable from CHMC.

For the renovation retrofit under staff housing, we have put some resources there, as indicated. The majority of our units are very old — in excess of 30 years old, in fact — so we have \$900,000 allocated for existing stock — that's for renovation and rehabilitation of our staff housing units. Then we have \$523,000 allocated for energy retrofits as well, and that's all recoverable from the Government of Canada's low-carbon economy fund.

I'm just going to keep moving on here. A lot of this is cost recovery from Canada. Maybe we'll talk a little bit about the changes with respect to housing investments and developments in the Yukon. We're clearly taking a rights-based approach to housing, which means making availability and affordability of housing a priority. I'm really pleased to confirm that we have been making progress on solutions across the housing spectrum, from homelessness to affordable rental to home ownership for seniors. Our priority is for housing for the vulnerable populations and our ability to work with Yukoners on aging in place, supporting First Nations in partnership, relationship building and capacity building within the communities.

Is the work done? I would say no. We have a lot of work to do to address housing gaps and needs and we have been asked what we are doing to address the social housing wait-list. Well, the wait-list is really driven by changes in our demographics, our growing economy and improved supports for clients. We're taking action to increase availability of affordable housing. We know that our aging population is increasing and so, therefore, we need to look at enhanced programming and supports, and we're doing that in partnership with Health and Social Services with the Housing First initiative, keeping our older adults in their homes and in our communities longer and ensuring that we provide collaborative health care models as well.

We have spent significant resources this year to shift our housing supports. We did that through the Salvation Army Centre of Hope with the transition beds. We have our Safe at Home plan to end homelessness and, of course, the support in developing the by-name lists for homelessness and supporting the point-in-time count. I'm happy to say I did participate in

the point-in-time count last evening and worked with a number of my colleagues in downtown Whitehorse.

We're also supporting and committed to the Challenge Disability Resource Group, which focuses on mixed affordable accommodations and supported living units. That is done in collaboration again with Health and Social Services as a lot of the clients fall under that program area.

Victims of violence partnership funds were provided also to NGO groups so we will continue to work with that group of NGOs. I think we worked really well this year with respect to municipal matching grant construction projects and programming in supporting that going forward and that leads us to our partnership with the Klondike Development Organization and the Da Daghay Development Corporation and the 360° Design Build. We also worked with Chief Isaac Inc. development corporation and we are hoping that we can see some more successes as we go forward with projects like that.

Our direct investment in new units this year will seek more partnerships in our communities and look at some of the key priorities that I have identified and some of the areas where we're seeing the most pressure economically, as well as some of the affordable housing pressures and wait-lists — Dawson City being one — in Mayo and Watson Lake, so we're trying to look at rural Yukon and putting supports around those communities.

We are anticipating that our affordable housing program will make approximately 29 new units available outside Whitehorse this fiscal year and we know that the support with some of the other initiatives will obviously increase the number of affordable housing units across the Yukon, and the developer build program will result in in approximately eight new units.

With our municipal matching grant construction, we have the million dollars set aside and the hope is that we will identify some new units there as well — approximately 35. We also have the developer build loan program for building up to seven rental or secondary suites in the Yukon.

Let me just go back a bit here — the emergency repair program as well — we anticipate repairs of 20 —

**Chair:** Order, please.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for the really thorough recap of what was said on April 16 because I just found it in Hansard and although some of the sections were changed around, it was very close to the 20-minute introduction. I appreciate that, so it has just refuelled my fire.

Does the minister regularly meet with the President of the Housing Corporation?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Yes, on a weekly basis.

**Ms. White:** How often does the minister meet with the board of the Housing Corporation?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I have met with the Housing board, I would say, approximately five times this year and we have another meeting coming up shortly. I worked quite closely with them during the transition and now we have a new chair who we will continue to meet with.

**Ms. White:** In one section, at about 2:29 p.m. this afternoon — I'm never going to get it because I don't have the ability to write like Hansard does — the minister was talking about seniors and elders and their being able to stay in communities — and then she used the term "Housing First". So I just want to clarify that we have the definition of "Housing First" because when the minister talked about communities, she used the term "Housing First" — so, if I can just get a quick definition of "Housing First".

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Let me clarify that when I speak about — maybe I misspoke. When I'm speaking about the "home first" initiative with the seniors and the older adults in rural Yukon, that is the program that provides supports to the seniors to remain in their homes longer — those who have mobility challenges. We have that initiative in the budget to allow for that.

Specifically, we have resources assigned to a Housing First initiative and that is affordable housing for those who are hard to house and that is the allocation for the complex down on, I believe, Fifth and Strickland.

**Ms. White:** I appreciate that clarification. Just to remind the minister that Housing First has a very clearly defined definition. It is not something that we can use to define other things. Housing First is about low-barrier access to housing. It doesn't really talk about affordability — it just talks about the right of housing.

When the minister just referenced the home first program, what part does Yukon Housing have to do with that, since it is under Health and Social Services, as best as I can tell? What part does Yukon Housing have to do with the home first program?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** For clarification, as we proceed with projects, we clearly look at a whole-of-government approach. Health and Social Services really doesn't have resources within its budget. It really needs to work with the Housing Corporation to ensure that the homeowner — who in this case would be an older adult or a senior, as defined, or in our rural Yukon communities, an elder — to remain in their home longer.

We would work with the Housing Corporation to ensure that the older person remains in their home longer, which means we would access the build program or the retrofit funding that's allocated under the Yukon Housing Corporation. There are various sources we can access. We tend to work with the older person to keep them at home longer. That is referred to as an initiative to provide opportunities for the elder to remain in their home longer — so a home first initiative.

**Ms. White:** I appreciate that it's for the retrofitting and renovating of homes to make them more accessible. I have actually helped quite a few people access programs through the Yukon Housing Corporation to make those changes and I will ask more questions about home first when we get to the Health and Social Services debate.

An issue that was front and centre earlier in this Sitting involved the Closeleigh Manor elevator. Mr. Chair, I may not have spoken a lot about Closeleigh Manor in your time in this

Assembly but, since my time in this Assembly, I have talked a lot about Closeleigh Manor. I have talked about concerns around air quality; now we can talk about concerns around carpeting that is becoming a tripping hazard for seniors. We can talk about elevators that go down; we can talk about the challenges of seniors having to go up and down three stories of stairs to get outside. We could talk about icy walkways at back access doors when the elevator doesn't work. We can go on and on and on. I'll start with the elevator at Closeleigh Manor.

If I could get an update on what has been done, what will be done in the future, how we're going to be sure it doesn't go out for anything that would be unacceptable, and I would suggest that unacceptable is when we're paying — actually, I'll ask how much we pay for security to be there.

What is the Closeleigh Manor elevator plan?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** My understanding is that, right now, the elevators are all operational. I wanted to just make note that we, as the Housing Corporation and through numerous departments, have elevators in our facilities. We all have different contracts. Clearly, with the Housing Corporation, we have a separate contract with a firm to provide the supports, and we have committed to working with Highways and Public Works to ensure that we are doing things in a more timely, efficient and cost-effective manner rather than having separate contracts within different departments or within the corporation. We will continue to work with Highways and Public Works to ensure that we don't have long delays with the elevators — we have challenges — and the servicing of the elevators. We will continue to work with Highways and Public Works on that, but at the moment I understand that all of the elevators are operational.

**Ms. White:** That's a relief. For how many days was the elevator out at Closeleigh Manor this last time? For how many days was it not functioning?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I can't answer that question right now, but I would be happy to provide the information back to the member opposite.

**Ms. White:** I also want to know how many security staff are on-site in a 24-hour period.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I am just conferring with my staff here. My understanding is that when the elevator is down, there is always a security officer on-site. Generally speaking, for all of the units there is a security firm that provides supports and, if necessary, the security firm is called when required to come in and address a concern within one of the units. When the elevators are down, it is my understanding is that there is always someone on staff.

**Ms. White:** Just to confirm, there is one security person — one body from the security company — on-site for a 24-hour period.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** That is my understanding.

**Ms. White:** What does that cost a day?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** With respect to the question, it is \$75 per hour, and the security officer is on-site during the time that the elevator is down. We would have to go back and do the calculation to actually give the final number on how much it

cost for that period of time. There is an overall blanket contract for security for all of the facilities. Specifically on this issue, and when they are on-site, it is \$75 per hour.

**Ms. White:** No one is going to accuse me of being a mathlete, but if it is 24 hours a day, does that mean it is \$1,800 per day for the security staff to be on-site when the elevator is down?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** That is correct.

**Ms. White:** A housing representative in the media said that the elevator was first down from December 13 to January 4, and I asked the minister for confirmation of how long the elevator was out this last time. Would she confirm that the elevator was out between December 13 and January 4?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I understand that the information from the member opposite is correct.

**Ms. White:** I am testing my math skills out here right now. I am just doing the rough calculations here, Mr. Chair, because, like I said, math is not my strong suit. If the elevator was out between December 13 and January 4, according to my rough calculations, we are looking at a bill of \$7,200 or so to have security on-site. Can I get confirmation from the minister?

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

**Ms. White:** I am just going to apologize to anyone who has just done that math because that was really, really wrong and I appreciate that you are smiling at me over there.

An elevator being out for 22 days at \$1,800 per day is actually closer to \$40,000. I am just looking for a confirmation from the minister that, for between December 13 and January 4, we are looking at approximately \$39,600 for security.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I am just conferring again. My understanding is that we have an overall contract and the department would have to go back and verify whether or not this is correct. My understanding is that it may be covered under a blanket contract for that period of time. I will certainly verify and bring that number back to the member opposite. I can provide that in writing as well.

**Ms. White:** I would appreciate that, because today is the last day of the House — not that anybody here is counting, especially not me.

During the briefing, one of the questions I asked the officials — having spent quite a bit of time in that building — I asked if they were looking at installing chairlifts in the stairwells — if it was possible. That wouldn't be for regular use. One would hope that the elevator would be functioning but, if the elevator wasn't functioning and even if it was under one stairwell — because, at this point in time, I believe there are two stairwells — there could be a chairlift. Has the corporation looked at installing a chairlift in a Closeleigh Manor stairwell?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** That's a really great question because I know we have had some challenges around access and accessibility, so it's something that the department is looking into with respect to the chairlifts and access, especially for those who have mobility issues.



**Ms. White:** At this point in time, my experience with seniors buildings is that, when elevators go down, it's not just a hindrance — it can actually make life stop. It's one thing to have a security person to help you carry up groceries, but they don't give piggyback rides — and I don't think they should, either — but I also don't think someone should be homebound because they can't get off the third floor.

There have been problems in the past with 600 College Drive, with Closeleigh Manor and with other buildings. It's just something to maybe consider — if we're able to put that into the capital plans and look at chairlifts being installed in stairwells of seniors buildings. Then, at least if something happens, people can get down the stairs.

Another concern that has been highlighted at Closeleigh Manor — understanding, of course, that the building is not new and it has the original carpet in some of those units. Carpet is not just an issue with Closeleigh Manor; it's also an issue in units at 600 College Drive. Is there consideration within the corporation of doing carpet removal? Typically it's Marmoleum that gets installed because it's for high wear, but is the corporation looking at doing carpet removal in units where residents are asking for it to be removed for safety concerns?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The inspections that are done on the units on an annual basis will work with the tenants. As noted in our submission, we have \$900,000 set aside for building retrofits. We would certainly look at this as a key priority area, given some health concerns and, as has been indicated, if there are concerns raised by our tenants, we would want to address them.

**Ms. White:** I know that one case of a carpet issue at 600 College Drive gets raised every time that there's an inspection because it's a tripping hazard for a person with a disability. I have been doing this job since 2011, and the first time I was told about it was in 2012, and here we are in 2018 and they still have carpet. How does the department prioritize that — I wouldn't call it an upgrade, because I think most of us would prefer to have carpet — renovation for safety purposes? How does the corporation prioritize those requests?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** With regard to a facility when we're looking at renovations, it would be done through the annual inspections process, but through capital assets management plan. That would be deemed based on a priority list, but I also noted that, when we're dealing with clients who have health issues or mobility issues and the priority comes forward from Health and Social Services through a transition support model, this is something that we're also taking into consideration in terms of areas of highest priority.

**Ms. White:** What happens if a senior — or any client, really, in any Yukon Housing building — isn't a client of Health and Social Services, but the issue is one around safety, because — like I have said — there are tripping hazards. There is a perfect example right now that I'm sure people are familiar with where the wheelchair won't roll on the carpet. Those are very real issues that people are dealing with. In one case, there is health support, and in one case, there isn't — but how then does it get prioritized within the corporation?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** That is a great point. We do have some clients who are not actually clients of Health and Social Services, but we have — through Yukon Housing Corporation — the tenant relations officers, and they work in conjunction with the capital management team. It is important to note that health and safety is a key priority. I do believe there are issues that have come forward historically and that seems to be some of the units that I have identified that are very old — 30-some years old — and are in major need of an upgrade. This year, we put significant resources in the budget to allow for that to happen, and I'm hoping that we can address some of the points that the member opposite is raising when it comes to health and safety of our facilities and ensuring that all the clients' needs are being taken into consideration.

**Ms. White:** One of the things that I have talked about a lot over time — and both of the officials in the Chamber are going to be familiar with it — is the different requirements between a senior and another client of Yukon Housing. Part of that being — and I'm sure that everyone here has had a conversation with an older person — is that it just takes a bit longer sometimes to get to the point. Sometimes it is brutally honest and it is right to the point, but sometimes it takes a bit longer.

I want to know if there has been any more talk — well, actually, I have been the only one talking about it, so it is probably just me talking about it — about having a tenant relations officer who is specific to seniors' issues. Part of that would be that a senior would be able to call one specific person. Their interactions would always be with the same person or a person filling in that position, but not to multiple people, so that there would be continuity of service. Is there any talk about having a tenant relations officer specific to seniors?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The tenant relations officers within Yukon Housing Corporation are given specific training on various demographic groups and individuals and how to interact appropriately with those groups of individuals. I understand that there are no plans at this time to have one specific tenant relations officer designated for seniors; however, I would like to note that we have a new housing navigator in Whitehorse. The direction was advanced a year and a half ago, and the Housing Corporation met with the Yukon Council on Aging. They indicated at that point in time that they didn't need a housing navigator specifically for seniors, that they would use the existing staff but, if in the future that need arises, we would certainly take that under consideration and ensure that the seniors are given the supports that they need to advocate for them and to raise their concerns to the Housing Corporation.

**Ms. White:** Is the minister referring to the housing navigator with the Anti-Poverty Coalition? My understanding is that the housing navigator works outside of the Yukon Housing Corporation. It is more of a facilitation position between members of the public who are either trying to fill out applications for Yukon Housing Corporation — for example, which is why I would consider that the numbers have increased so much — and having meetings with private

market landlords, et cetera. But a housing navigator is not someone within the department or the Housing Corporation who deals specifically with seniors' issues. I would suggest that they are not the same.

Having the seniors group saying that they didn't need their own housing navigator, I would suggest, is different from seniors saying that they would like to talk to one specific person when they call the Housing Corporation. I will just give the minister some time in case she has any thoughts about that issue.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Again, I am just seeking clarity. The original intent of going out to the seniors group was to look outside the scope of this initiative through the Anti-Poverty Coalition. My understanding was that it had come up in the Legislative Assembly and the direction was to proceed with having a navigator specifically for seniors, and that broadened out the scope to look at a navigator specifically through this process, as I described earlier and as the member opposite highlighted, through the Anti-Poverty Coalition, but the original objective was to provide the specific support for the seniors to help them to look at clearly providing senior tenant relation supports — and that's my understanding from the staff.

**Ms. White:** My understanding is a bit different, having met with the seniors group who was originally approached about being a housing navigator, and their concern was that they didn't have the resources to be a navigator for outside the seniors community — that they did not have those skills and capabilities. That was the conversation that I had with the executive director at the time, who has since moved on, but I appreciate the minister's answer.

Just before I move on to the next question, I do want to take a minute to acknowledge the important work that has been done by housing navigators in the community. We have them through Anti-Poverty Coalition, Blood Ties Four Directions, Skookum Jim's — and I believe there is a fourth, but the minister can fill in the fourth. When people have talked about the increase in the numbers on the social housing wait-list, it hasn't been with the acknowledgement that, for the first time in the history of Yukon Housing Corporation, there has been outside help to fill out applications.

My relationship with housing applications is quite intimate. I have helped senior couples from outside of the City of Whitehorse fill out applications, and it has taken a full eight-hour day. It involves sending them to where they have had their taxes done; it involves banking appointments; it sometimes involves vet appointments; and it involves all of these things.

The housing navigators — what they have done is they have given people the opportunity to be able to have assistance while filling out those applications. Yes, the numbers have increased on the social housing wait-list, but I would suggest that is a far more representative number than what it was before, because in order to be accepted on the social housing wait-list, you had to have a completed application form and, based on my own personal experience

— although they have been simplified a bit — they are still challenging.

I want to make sure that we acknowledge the good work done by the housing navigators. In that same breath, the housing navigator through the Anti-Poverty Coalition is the blanket or umbrella of the housing navigators. They will take issues forward to the Housing Corporation and I do appreciate that is being done. That is important that they have that ability to have those conversations. So it's just a compliment for the Housing Corporation that this has in my mind really helped people in the community, so acknowledgement that it is going really well.

I will give the minister the opportunity to remind me what the fourth organization is and, just again, I want to thank them for making the housing navigator positions available and then of course, for the one that they fund through the Anti-Poverty Coalition having the ability to have conversations directly with the Housing Corporation.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The fourth organization is BYTE and I agree that the new housing navigator is — the objective is to remove the barriers and provide support and easy access to affordable housing. I think that going out last evening for the point-in-time count really brought me to a new perspective on needs and addressing some of the major challenges with respect to access and the process of applying and trying to navigate a complex system without support.

I appreciate that insight and also take under advisement and note the possibility of further supports for seniors as they navigate the system, recognizing that we have an aging demographic and we know through Yukon Bureau of Statistics that our aging population is as such that by 2030 we will see something like 30 percent of our population over the age of 60. We certainly need to be geared up to address the social housing needs in rural Yukon communities as well as mobility and home first initiatives, as well as certainly wanting to make sure that we provide further partnerships with the private sector.

**Ms. White:** Again, my experience with the Housing Corporation has been one that has definitely evolved over time, including when a friend of mine passed within housing and then I got to see it in an entirely different way. I have gone in for applications and I have gone in for support and I have gone in for prior — the accessibility grant and things like that. I have seen the front-end staff. That is just a really hard position and I just want to acknowledge that the people within the Housing Corporation work really hard. They deal with a lot of stuff — I don't think they see people on their best days often. They have people who come in who are stressed and anxious and all sorts of things, so just the acknowledgement that the front-line staff of the Yukon Housing Corporation — and the in-back staff and all the staff — I appreciate the work that they do.

One of the questions I have is: Have the tenant relations positions changed at all? Has the model changed or is it similar to what it was previously?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The title of the tenant relations officer has been changed to social housing coordinator, and the

objective there is for the coordinators to have a broader scope of training to allow them to deal with vulnerable citizens, including victims of violence and dealing with some pretty complex tenant relation issues, as well as to work hand-in-hand with Health and Social Services in trying to build the supports around the clients and supporting more initiatives around the by name list, then looking at working closer with Health and Social Services.

My understanding is the position of the tenant relations officer hasn't evolved significantly, but is providing broader supports to more of a social front.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that answer. I also just hope that those social housing coordinators are getting the support they need. I know that when I worked in kitchens and got frustrated, I could always go to the walk-in freezer to let out some of that frustration, but when you're on the front counter dealing with people in high-stress situations, yelling is not viewed as positive. I just hope they have the supports there that they need to be able to deal with some of that frustration.

I have asked previously — and I know that the minister, when she was up on April 16, mentioned how many units were currently out of rotation for Yukon Housing Corporation, but if she could just remind me of what that number is.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Based on the list from January 31, we have one social housing unit out of commission and then we have 14 staff housing.

**Ms. White:** That number is significantly lower than it has been in the past, so congratulations to the department for that.

I just wanted to know what the service standard was for the Housing Corporation as owner and landlord. What turnaround times are in place to do any necessary maintenance, painting or repairs to a unit to get it back online for occupancy?

First of all, I would put it under the terms — so the building hasn't been destroyed and someone has lived in it. There is a difference between someone living in a unit and someone really living in a unit. So I am looking for the lesser — the regular maintenance that would be required. What is the turnaround time for that to be back online?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** So the turnaround time, I think, really depends on the severity of the damage to the unit. The objective of the Housing Corporation is to try not to leave it beyond 30 days, but to try to have it done within that time frame, but it depends also on the contractors. We know that we bring in the contractors to do the work for us. If there are some minor retrofits that are required, then staff are able to do that, but for the most part, it is independent contractors coming in to do the work. It really depends on the severity of the damage, but the goal is to not drag it out for long periods of time, given the housing pressures we are seeing right now.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for the answer. That makes sense.

At this point in time, is a lot of the work being contracted out or are there people within the Housing Corporation who do it? I say this in terms of some lovely folks who are in, for

example, 600 College Drive, and they will be doing ongoing repairs and, to be perfectly honest, they know most residents on a first-name basis because they are around, getting those things done.

Is some of it contracted out? Is most of it contracted out? Is it all contracted out?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** We have three skilled staff members who provide the supports to address the issues around damage or retrofits on the houses to a certain extent. But for the most part, major damage or major retrofits that require specialized support, we would contract out. Those three staff are situated in Whitehorse and they provide supports for the units in Whitehorse. For our communities in rural Yukon, those retrofits are contracted out. In Whitehorse, we have three full-time staff who address the current turnaround time, which really depends on how quickly they can get that done.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that answer. Since the Assembly sat, we have heard the minister talk about facilitating the moving between Yukon Housing Corporation units. If a resident is in one and would like to move to a different unit — if it about mobility or if it is about preference of location or those kinds of things — can the minister tell me more about the policy around moving between Yukon Housing Corporation units?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The facilitation between the units is done through the tenant relations officer. It really depends on a variety of needs, whether it is mobility — moving from a third floor to a first floor, for example. The department does its utmost to ensure that the supports are there. We have a number of units, so we attempt to provide the supports that are needed in a timely manner, and that is done through the tenant relations officer.

**Ms. White:** Just to confirm, if a client within Yukon Housing was to make a request to move from one unit to a different unit, would that be heard by a tenant relations officer and entertained as a possible thing?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** That's correct.

**Ms. White:** I have written multiple letters in support of multiple seniors looking at relocation between buildings for different reasons — for reasons of safety and security, not liking being downtown, concerns about noise or background noise levels. There are different reasons. In the lease agreement, it actually says that the Housing Corporation can request that a tenant moves and that a tenant has the ability to ask to move within it. One of the concerns that I have around this is — this is just an excerpt from an e-mail that was sent to a tenant who asked for relocation. This is coming from the official from Yukon Housing Corporation. It says, and I am just quoting, "As it was explained to you when we were at the apartment for inspections on November 2, we have a wait-list for seniors and unit 201 will not be utilized for relocation, it will be allocated to someone in need of housing."

This is an example, and that is probably not the most strongly worded section that I pulled out of it. I was always trying to figure out how that would work — how one person moving to an empty unit would hinder someone else's ability to move into the newly vacated unit.

If the minister can explain to me why someone would be told that they would not be considered for relocation, even within the same building, because it could take away from someone else's ability to move into the building.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The point that was raised with regard to the application — it really depends on the applicant. If there is a new request coming in, the priority would be given if there is a medical need for the individual to access a unit — that would clearly bump up on the priority list — or if they have pets, and that means they would then be on the ground floor. Certainly, we would take into consideration applications as the needs arise and as the priorities come forward. So, considering all the requests and given the limited number of units we have, transitioning and moving people around sometimes is very complicated. I appreciate the feedback, and it's something that we would clearly take under consideration as we advance our policies within Yukon Housing Corporation — as well as looking at the retrofits and the renovations that we have addressed to ensure that we have more mobility access for those who might have some health or safety needs. All of the feedback is really great, and I appreciate that and so does the staff. We really want to ensure that we provide supports in a timely fashion and not provide barriers but take down the barriers.

**Ms. White:** I will just happily resend the letters about relocations to the minister in hopes that maybe we can help people find places where they would be happier to live.

I have a question around how many people in communities are currently on wait-lists to access housing within the City of Whitehorse, specifically seniors and specifically for medical issues.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** We don't have that number for you at this moment but I would be happy to provide that. We do have the list of seniors on the wait-list, but not specifically individuals wanting to relocate to Whitehorse.

**Ms. White:** The very specific reason why I ask that question is around one individual family that currently resides in Carmacks. Half of that unit is at Whitehorse General Hospital, and I'm relieved to say that it's not wintertime anymore, so the driving back and forth can happen, but it has been a tough winter. I know that they are on the priority list. I absolutely know that the Housing Corporation is working hard at trying to relocate 50 percent of that unit into town, and I do appreciate it. There are challenges. I totally understand that there are challenges within people's requests — whether they have pets, whether they don't have pets, their space allocation and all of that. I do understand.

Asking about medical relocations — the folks I am speaking about weren't from Carmacks and they didn't have any relationship with Carmacks, but they required housing, so that was a unit that was offered to them. Do those offers happen to other people who are on the wait-list? If they are in desperate need of housing, will they be offered housing in one of the communities?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** My understanding is that the option is available. One example is an older adult who moved from Mayo to Teslin because that was the option that was available

to the individual at the time. The option is there. It's working with the support of Yukon Housing Corporation and the staff there to align them with their needs, wherever that may be, and to give them that option.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that answer. Sometimes it's a workable solution, but it won't always be. It's nice to know that, if someone is really desperate, that is a question they can ask.

I wanted to know what the vacation policy was within Yukon Housing Corporation units and how that is shared with tenants.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** With the specific policy around vacation or the tenant leaving the territory, I don't have that information in front of me. I would be happy to provide that, but my understanding is that the individual clearly needs to notify the Housing Corporation when they are leaving the territory for a period of time to ensure that the unit is monitored. We clearly don't want to run into any challenges, but there is certainly a limit on how long they can be away. I will provide that back because I don't have that in front of me right now.

**Ms. White:** I could understand a limit when we talk about things, for example, like six months less a day when we're talking about health coverage, and it would be weird to have someone within a Yukon Housing unit be gone for that long — out of the territory — but I would suggest that there have been some experiences where tenants have always called the Housing Corporation when going on vacation. Recently, one of my seniors called to say they were going on vacation, and they were told that they had to submit it in writing. That had not been the experience, and they have been in housing since 2007. Then they were told that they would be gone for two days longer than they were allowed to be gone.

It seems that, if we are talking about people using their housing units as home and that this is the place where they live — and my hope is that this is the place where they live as long as possible — putting restrictions on vacation — I mean, obviously taking into account that six months is too long. It's trying to find that balance. I just wanted to know if the policy had changed and whether it has to be in writing or verbal, because the experience previously had been that verbal was enough. When this tenant called, they were told that it had to be submitted in writing. That was a bit of a challenge and a surprise for someone in their 80s. If it has changed, how has that been communicated to all tenants within Yukon Housing apartments?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The general practice of notification is given in writing. With respect to the individual who perhaps had been in the unit for a long period of time and had a different relationship with the tenant relations officer, that would be, I think, a little different. That is my understanding. It really depends on the relationship but, in general practice, there is a policy in effect that requires submissions to be in writing, given the pressure right now on social housing and affordable housing.

We certainly don't want individuals to go away on extended vacation breaks and leave their units vacant or

empty. That is my understanding with respect to restrictions on vacation — but also in writing, or whether it's accepted through verbal submissions. In some circumstances, I understand that the staff who have been there for a long time and have the relationships have provided some leverage and some leeway in their relationship with the seniors in the seniors units.

**Ms. White:** I think my point was just made as to why it would be so fantastic to have a specific person to deal with seniors, but I digress.

On April 3, 2018, the Minister responsible for the Public Service Commission talked about a new approach to staff housing. I think if we were to talk about a new approach to staff housing, that would have to involve the Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation. I just wanted to know if the minister could tell me more about what the new approach to staff housing might be and how it affects the Housing Corporation.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The social and affordable housing rent-geared-to-income, as well as staff housing — the Minister responsible for the Public Service Commission and I are mandated by the Cabinet Committee on Priorities and Planning to look at affordable and social housing versus staff housing. Historically, there have been disparities with respect to how housing is allocated in the Yukon, and we are looking at policies around how housing is subsidized across the territory.

With social housing, we know that it's 25 percent geared-to-income, which is inconsistent, in my view, with the policies. You have staff housing on one side of a duplex and then social housing, rent-geared-to-income — and we're hearing this back from Yukoners. That's what we're looking at. An example is a tenant in a social housing unit in Dawson City going to work in the mine and making a lot of money, or more money, during the period of time from spring to fall. Then you look at how much they're required through this rent-geared-to-income, and then, on the other side of the unit, you have subsidized housing for staff.

That's what we're looking at. I think originally the objective through the policy was to provide recruitment and retention, so how do we keep the staff in the communities? It's clearly time to look at modernizing and updating the policies, ensuring that we address some of the concerns and questions that are brought forward.

That's what we're doing — going back out to look at the policies around staff and social housing. The mandate is for me and the Minister responsible for the Public Service Commission to have a review of that.

**Ms. White:** I can only imagine what job a mine worker would have if they would still qualify for social housing — given the fact that I worked in mines. I would take that as an example used, but I would really hope that we weren't putting people working in mines, even for three months of the year — that would put that number out of whack, based on my own personal experience.

Would the Minister responsible for the Public Service Commission and the Minister of Health and Social Services

— I have been afforded an opportunity that I don't often get, which is a conversation around medicinal cannabis and the importance of allowing it to be consumed within Yukon Housing Corporation units. I would never suggest that a person not be able to take any of their prescribed medications within their housing unit.

I started asking these questions a long time ago, when I had two different ministers — one for Health and Social Services and one for Yukon Housing Corporation — and I do talk to the officials every time I get briefed about medicinal cannabis and the ability to consume it within Yukon Housing Corporation units.

I wanted to know if the minister had any thoughts. One of the suggestions that I made previously is that, if the medicinal cannabis was in smoking form, prescribed users be supplied with a small vapourizer unit from Health and Social Services so that the smoke doesn't affect their neighbours or affect their units — if the minister has any thoughts about medicinal cannabis use within Yukon Housing Corporation units?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Currently, the non-smoking policy would apply, deferring to the staff in terms of what processes they follow now. They would also defer to the residential tenancies office of Community Services; however, I know that we have had some intense discussions around location and where cannabis can be used, and we have taken some approaches with our continuing care facilities.

It is certainly something that the Housing Corporation would look at in the future as we implement the regulations around cannabis.

**Ms. White:** It is really important to note that I am not talking about recreational cannabis; I am talking about medicinal cannabis, which is prescribed by a doctor. The reason why I am highlighting the difference is I don't actually think that people should smoke within Yukon Housing Corporation units. I don't disagree with that statement.

However, if a patient had intense pain and they were using cannabis for pain relief and they found that other forms didn't help them, and what worked was the inhalation of the smoke, one way to limit the exposure of other people is through the use of a tool like a vapourizer. I am not talking about recreational use; I am very much talking about medicinal use. We are talking about prescribed medication from a doctor to a patient for whatever reason.

One of the reasons why I ask this question is, as a person who spends time in buildings, I have been trying to figure out the best way to slip a pamphlet of information underneath the door when there is already so much shame associated with seniors and cannabis. The last thing I want to do is shame someone, because that would not be the intention. It would be to try to facilitate and make it easier for them and make it easier for their neighbours.

We are talking about medicinal cannabis. More often than not, it is used for pain relief; it is prescribed by medical doctors so it is a prescription — no different from heart medication or blood pressure medication or insulin. It is a medicine.

The reason why I am asking is that I would think that, once it becomes legal — and I am not talking about a free-for-all. I fundamentally believe recreational cannabis should be out of Yukon government facilities and in the designated smoking areas, not within housing units, but I am talking about a very specific — that would be medicinal, prescribed by a doctor. One reason why I talk about vaporizers is, having had conversations with people within the field, vaporizers are one way to limit the smell — the odour — for others and also facilitate it because, if it's minus 30, I'm not going to tell someone with multiple sclerosis in a wheelchair that they need to wheel outside to the designated smoking area to consume a prescribed medication, and I don't think that anyone here in the Chamber would suggest that, so I'm asking about medicinal cannabis and not recreational.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I understood the question and I understood the point about the medicinal use of cannabis — my point being that we would look at existing policies and governing through that process, and would take that under advisement, with the cooperation and collaboration with the physician around medicinal use. We would like to also suggest that we would look at that policy as we advance the legalization of cannabis in the Yukon and look at bringing that back to the Housing Corporation and work with the board around the policies and the direction that we're going.

I certainly see that as a possibility in the future, when we have someone who is, as described by the member, in a situation where there is intense pain and there is a requirement for the medicinal use of cannabis. We certainly don't want to eliminate that from the equation, but we want to ensure that, as we work with the physician and work with the Housing Corporation, the policies are aligned with our overall objective to proceed with legalization of cannabis across the board, but residential use as well and impacts and effects on other clients. So we have to make some adjustment for sure but would certainly take that under advisement.

**Ms. White:** I'm just going to put out there that medicinal cannabis is already legal in Canada. We're not talking about recreational. I'm talking about medicinal. There are citizens in Yukon with medicinal prescriptions. There are citizens in Yukon who live in Yukon Housing with medicinal cannabis prescriptions prescribed by a doctor. This affects people today and not people long in the future, and it's a difference between recreational use and medicinal use. I am just going to move on.

When does the Minister responsible for Yukon Housing expect that the ground will be broken for Housing First and when is the estimated completion date for the Housing First project?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** To the point that was made previously, clearly understanding that the medicinal use of cannabis is not allowed in our facilities at the moment because we follow the non-smoking policy rule, as defined. As legalization proceeds and the policies change, I would note that we would certainly take that under advisement, because that is really an essential requirement for the individual, as prescribed by the physician.

With regard to the next question on the Housing First project, the design has been completed and is underway, and my understanding is we are prepared to go out on a request for proposal on the project. That is taking effect very shortly and, by late fall, the anticipation is that the facility will be completed.

**Ms. White:** I look forward to the day that facility opens.

On the website, it talks about rent supplement programs or rent-geared-to-income. With rent-geared-to-income, you are qualified as a social housing client and you go into social housing and there you are.

One of things I wanted to know — and I put it into the motion that talked about looking at the expansion of the rent supplement program — part of that being that, if you can help people to stay in the private market, then there would be fewer people on the list. At this point, I want to know how many people are in that rent supplement program and what the amount is in the budget for that this year.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I wanted to note that, last year, the rent supplement — in total, we had — both are separate, so the social housing agreement was — we have two separate allocated amounts: one was for \$413,556 and the other was \$309,000. The other was with the Da Daghay Development Corporation for just over \$55,000. That is total units into what was 82 last year and the budget — the rent supplement this year — is \$1.408 million, and that is inclusive of the Da Daghay project.

**Ms. White:** Can the minister tell me what budget line items those are? Does it include the rental housing allowance and others? Is it trying to patch together the amount to get us up to \$1.4 million? I would appreciate her direction.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Under tenant management under operation and maintenance, we have \$8,292,000 and, out of that, we have extracted the rent supplement program of \$1.408 million, and that includes the \$437,000 for the Da Daghay project.

**Chair:** Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole will recess for 10 minutes.

*Recess*

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

The matter before the Committee is Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, in Bill No. 206, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2018-19*.

**Ms. White:** Prior to that break, we were just talking about the rent supplement program, and the minister said that it was at \$1.4 million with 82 units that are subsidized. Can the minister tell me more about the rental housing allowances, which is \$250,000 under the capital of Community Partnering and Lending?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The \$250,000 is found under the northern housing trust and it is rental housing allowance. The

\$250,000 is a time-limited subsidy to low- to moderate-income families to match the demand for vacancies and private market.

**Ms. White:** Knowing that it has the title of “northern housing trust”, how many more years will that exist for, or is this the final year?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The northern housing trust is set to expire this year. We are working through our bilateral negotiations with Canada on the Canada housing benefit program, which has allocated in the budget for 2020 \$2 billion. The program is designed for national rent supplements. So that has been identified on a national level and we will now enter into bilateral discussions.

Our priority is certainly to ensure that we don’t stop this very essential support that’s there and that we tie it into ongoing supports in the future. We would certainly like to make sure that we highlight that in our bilateral negotiations with the federal government.

**Ms. White:** On the same page, 20-10 — if you’re in the plastic-bound budget, it’s under the heading Community Partnering and Lending. Under investment in affordable housing, it has Affordable Rental Construction Programs for \$1.45 million. Can the minister tell me more about what the money will allow for?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I don’t have the specific details here, but what we do have is that the \$1.45-million contribution to increase the supply of affordable housing through partnerships with industry — the project currently went out on a call for affordable housing. There is an initiative there with Chief Isaac Inc. and then the 360° project. I will come back in writing to the member opposite with more details on what else was considered under that funding envelope.

**Ms. White:** Does that work out as grants — gifted money — or is it in loans?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** It is a capital grant through a transfer payment agreement.

**Ms. White:** The reason why I ask if it is a loan or a grant is that we have things like the home repair loan program, which is low-interest loans to homeowners who are looking at doing renovations or repairs to their homes. I have talked about it a lot. When I first accessed it in 2012, it was at \$35,000. I talked about how if you really wanted people to do energy retrofits to their homes and they were invested in the home and the projects, it needed to be expanded. It has since gone up to \$50,000. I can tell you that I accessed it again, and that is how I put in my new heating system.

The point is that it is a loan, and I am going to continue to pay into it. The government is not going to lose out on it, and there are lots of people like me. When I see things like the affordable rental construction program and understand that it is a grant, then I have questions about that. For example, regarding the units that are being created with this money, is there an agreement with government that they will be kept as rental housing? When we talk about affordable, affordable according to CMHC is 30 percent of what someone earns. Do we have an agreement signed that says that it will be kept as

affordable rental units? Or is the money gifted to someone making those developments without any strings attached?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The contribution agreement under the investment in affordable housing follows the CMHC requirements and follows the 10-year criteria for 90 to 95 percent of the medium-market rental rate. There are reporting requirements on that for 10 years.

**Ms. White:** Some of the best landlords I know in town view rental housing as a 25-year investment so they build rental construction. There are a couple of them who have actually built quite a bit of rental housing in the City of Whitehorse, but they look at it as a long-term investment. Knowing there is no guarantee after 10 years, I asked the minister what guarantee there is that, after 10 years, they won’t be privatized and, for example, condo-ized and sold to private individuals?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The funding envelope with the investment in affordable housing — the 10-year grant — once it’s discharged, then we don’t really have any recourse, but the new federal initiative is certainly something we would take under advisement, going long term and looking at the policies around that. So I hear the concern and it’s something we would consider as we go ahead and negotiate future funding envelopes with the federal government.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that. I don’t have issues with the concept of subsidizing rental housing, but I do have an issue with the idea of subsidizing rental housing in the short term, knowing that it could be sold off for a profit 10 years down the line. It seems to me that if we’re talking about increasing available housing, especially for the rental market, we would want to make sure that was safe and that was secure.

It’s just in stark contrast to the rental and secondary suite loan, which has an envelope of \$525,000, and that would be for individual homeowners looking to expand on their properties, but I would suggest they would be looking at having that additional housing within their own property for an extended period of time, not just for 10 years.

The reason I highlight the difference between a grant and a loan is just the idea that when you lend the money out, it comes back and it can be recirculated. My concern always with subsidizing the construction of rental housing is that if we don’t have future agreements in place it means that, post-10 years, they can be condo-ized. We have seen affordable housing in the territory that used to be rentals changed into condos. An example is — we could talk about the Sternwheeler in Riverdale and how that happened. It went from rental housing to being condos.

With that, I will leave it for today. I thank the officials who came in because initially we were told that Yukon Housing Corporation wouldn’t happen today, so I’m grateful that you’re here — very much so. Again the questions and criticisms I have are for the direction of government and never for the department itself. I appreciate the work that is done within the department. I appreciate the programs that I have accessed myself. I appreciate the work that they do, as I have been there supporting other people through it. If anyone wants

a tour of the most fantastic wheelchair ramp, we were able to access that money through the accessibility grant money and it has been a life changer for that person.

With that, I thank the minister.

**Chair:** Is there any further general debate on Vote 18?

**Ms. Van Bibber:** I just have one further question, Mr. Chair, before you let the officials go. Thank you; I know you were anxious.

The question is: Why would an application for affordable housing — say, the social housing program subsidy — fail to meet program requirements? What would be some of the reasons that an applicant would be rejected?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** For the social aspect on that, it would be based on the household income level. On the affordable housing program, perhaps one of the requirements for success is a true business model or a business model that could be supported and that would ensure that the project is successful, so that would be one of the barriers — if they're not able to meet that criteria.

**Chair:** Is there any further general debate on Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation?

Seeing none, we will proceed to line-by-line debate starting at page 20-7.

**Ms. White:** Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, cleared or carried, as required.

#### **Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, cleared or carried**

**Chair:** The Member for Takhini-Kopper King, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, has requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, cleared or carried, as required.

Is there unanimous consent?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Unanimous consent has been granted.

*On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures*

*Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$19,478,000 agreed to*

*On Capital Expenditures*

*Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$30,829,000 agreed to*

*Total Expenditures in the amount of \$50,307,000 agreed to*

*Yukon Housing Corporation agreed to*

**Chair:** The matter now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 55, Department of Highways and Public Works, in Bill No. 206, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2018-19*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

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

The matter before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 55, Department of Highways and Public Works, in Bill No. 206, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2018-19*.

#### **Department of Highways and Public Works — continued**

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Apparently, I have 18 minutes, and there is so much good work that I would love to talk about here in the Department of Highways and Public Works. However, we have been waiting for weeks to get back in here. I know the members opposite have questions that they would like answered. I am more than happy to provide that forum to them, so I will sit down and let the members opposite ask some questions at this very late hour on the last day of the Sitting.

**Ms. Hanson:** Over the course of the last few years, in conversations with folks in Old Crow, I am sure the government — and I know they have, because the Minister of Community Services indicated that they had discussed with the community in Old Crow — and the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation in particular — the need for planning and having confirmed plans for an Old Crow winter road. We all know that the last road was in March 2014, and it was the first in 10 years at that time. I can recall being in the community and there were 50 truckloads of goods that were brought up. At that time, the Vuntut Gwitchin and the Yukon government split the \$1.4-million cost. In addition, the First Nation used that road to bring in approximately \$5 million worth of construction materials and other supplies over the period of, I think, three weeks that the road was in place.

Can the minister tell us if there are plans for an Old Crow winter road? As I recall, in terms of being able, as a government, to — and I'm sure in collaboration with the Yukon government — be able to maximize the benefit of a winter road — the preferred plan is to — and keeping in mind that we recognize that there are climatic conditions that may make it difficult and you have to take those into consideration — have a confirmed planning cycle for every three years for an Old Crow winter road. When will that commence? Because we're already into four years, almost five years. It will be five years, if it happens next year, since the last one was in place. How much is anticipated being spent for an Old Crow winter road? Is it an ongoing commitment? Is it cost-shared with the First Nation government?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Just the other day, I was talking to my colleague, the MLA for Old Crow, about the winter road to her community. We have had some conversations over the past year about this.

It is true that it is a cost-shared arrangement that we have had with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. The last time we provided funding, it was \$750,000 toward that road. The development corporation worked with a contractor to build the



road. Highways and Public Works had very little role in that execution. We knew that it was going on but, as far as design work and implementation, it was really left up to the development corporation and the contractor working together as they put in half of the funding.

There are projects going forward in Old Crow. There are plans for a health centre and other things, and the Minister of Health and Social Services and I are working together to coordinate how we're going to get goods and services into Old Crow.

At the moment, the First Nation is considering a winter road to the community. From where I'm sitting, as Minister of Highways and Public Works, Old Crow is a community that we have responsibilities to as well. I think that, going forward, we have to plan these projects so we get the most goods into it with the least amount of money and fuss. We have to work with the Vuntut Gwitchin to make sure that they are getting service to their community like any other. They deserve to be served by Highways and Public Works and have access to get some of the needed building supplies and equipment into their community. I'm working with my colleague to make sure that we plan and execute these winter roads in a way that is both economically viable and fair to the community.

**Ms. Hanson:** I thank the minister — I think that is encouraging. What I was asking the minister for was a commitment that this would be a planned approach. What we have heard from the government is that they take a planned approach to these things. They make long-term capital plans. They make long-term plans on a number of matters — that is what I have heard, and so I am looking for evidence of that.

If we're talking about a government-to-government relationship between the Yukon government, as the minister just aptly described his work and responsibilities as Minister for Highways and Public Works vis-à-vis the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, the community of Old Crow — the only access to it — I mean I remember the days, Mr. Speaker, when we flew things in by Herc. We're not doing that anymore. I don't think there are that many available to the Government of Yukon to do that — at least at a reasonable cost, bringing them in from Russia. Actually, they have used those in the past too.

But that is less viable than planning with another level of government on a regularized schedule so that both governments can make reasonable planning forecasts and budgeting to be able to achieve objectives. If the Vuntut Gwitchin government and the Government of Yukon have plans that we have heard — for example, building a joint nursing station or other joint government-funded operations — then you would think you would want to collaborate on ensuring that those supplies can be brought up there.

Also, at the same time, I'm sure that the First Nation is looking for opportunities to further economic development in the community and accessing that road — that limited time frame — to bring up necessary supplies for their long-term or their cyclical forecasting.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** In my earlier answer, I was talking about the coordination, collaboration and work that I'm

undertaking with my colleague, the Minister of Health and Social Services, who happens to be the MLA for Old Crow.

On the issue of planning, in our five-year capital plan, we have laid out a health centre for Old Crow in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 budget cycles. That gives us a target with which to start to coordinate and plan the execution of an ice road and the delivery of goods to Old Crow. We are trying to be more methodical about this. We are trying to put some more rigour into this.

The five-year capital plan that we have tabled this session does identify a health centre for Old Crow, which is one of the major projects planned for that community. I am sure, in our conversations with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation — their development corporation — there will be other things that they will want to coordinate and plan, and I am more than happy to accommodate that. The five-year capital plan that we did table for the first time in this House does provide some of the guidance for these things going forward.

**Ms. Hanson:** I thank the minister for that answer. We will look forward in the next budget to some more declarative information with respect to the Old Crow ice road. I realize with a budget of \$255 million that some questions can seem rather minor to the minister, but I will ask them. There are three that I will ask, given the time.

One is a question that I have asked in prior years — and it is a matter of highway safety and safety of travellers — and that is the repeated request for a light at Stewart Crossing — a highway light or street light. We have seen robberies that have occurred over the last year. I don't know how many times this party has requested of the previous government and this government last year the simple act of putting in a highway light standard there to provide that safety feature for travellers and for the business there.

The second question is the question that we have asked previously. Again, it may seem minor, but it is important in terms of safety. That is the battery backup with respect to fire alarms in public buildings that Highways and Public Works is responsible for. In the past, the battery-operated fire lights in all government buildings have failed. We tried to ascertain exactly what the government has done to ensure that those are there and that there is some fail-safe method.

The last one is that, in previous sessions of this Legislative Assembly, we had brought forward concerns about the Takhini River bridge. We brought them forward initially after being contacted by truck drivers over safety concerns about the approach to that bridge. We all know that there was a very serious accident there a number of years ago, but the approach hasn't changed and the safety concerns remain.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I do appreciate the time, and the members opposite are bringing forward several questions at once, and I understand why. I will do my best to answer questions in a timely fashion so that we can get through as many as we can.

There were three questions in that last one. Light standards at Stewart Crossing — I have spoken to my officials and they are prepared to look again at Stewart and see what the lighting requirements are up there. Lighting is an issue, I

have learned, in virtually every single community in the territory, in terms of flashing lights and crosswalk lights and the rest of it, but Stewart Crossing is one that we will add to the list and go up and have a look and see what the lighting requirements are and what the cost is and whether we can actually accommodate that request.

The battery backup — so schools — École Émilie Tremblay had a code repair and repairs have been going on in that school. We're doing reviews of all of our property and we now have a schedule and a methodical approach to this that we have put into place to make sure that our buildings are looked at and maintained on a schedule. You can imagine — the government has, I believe, more than a \$1 billion worth of property. We haven't been able to systematically go through that. The systems are now being put in place so we can now move through it methodically and make sure that things are up to speed. That work is in progress. I can't promise to the member opposite that work will be done by the end of the year, but we will be going through these things and making the needed upgrades in a methodical — and we will do the triage necessary to do them in a methodical fashion and get any problems dealt with on these critical — fire alarms are critical, and we will get that work done.

Takhini River bridge: we have actually taken a look at the load limits for larger trucks. We are now restricting loads — we're restricting trucks carrying large loads from travelling across those bridges — like the Takhini River bridge — between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. and between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to try to eliminate and reduce the conflict at the peak hours of traffic on those bridges. We have taken that step this year and we are going to see how that goes.

As far as assessing the approach to the Takhini River bridge, the department officials have looked at it and it is within the acceptable parameters but, of course, there are many in the community who think otherwise, and we have taken the step right now to restrict those large trucks to those hours to try to eliminate the conflict on those approaches and those narrow bridges.

**Ms. Hanson:** I can just hear the former MLA from Mayo-Tatchun cheering and I am sure the current MLA from Mayo-Tatchun would cheer to think that — and I would urge the minister and his officials not to go out between now and September to do that site visit to determine the need for a light. Perhaps we would best wait until it is dark.

I have one last question. I did say the other ones were — but I have noted in the past and again, in this year's Public Accounts, Highways and Public Works shares the honours with Community Services for year over year having increased environmental liabilities. As the minister responsible, I understand you are not necessarily going to clean it up; you are going to say to the Minister of Environment to clean it up, but as the minister responsible, what is the minister doing to ensure that year over year new highway work camps — new Highways and Public Works sites — are not significantly increasing the environmental liability of this government, emanating from work being done under the guise of this department? I may be incorrect, but I think it is around

\$11 million this past year that is attributed to Highways and Public Works.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Late last fall, I travelled up to Old Crow with my colleague, the MLA for Old Crow. While touring that community, I was treated to the amount of environmental damage, pollution and spilled oil left in that community. They were monitoring sites throughout the town. I can't remember how many sites exactly, but there were an awful lot them, including the grader station up there.

This is a tale told throughout the territory. We see it at Carmacks, where we are about to start the construction of a new grader station in that community this summer. That new grader station will be built to a standard that mitigates some of the pollution that we have seen over the last 30 or 40 years on sites where we have a grader station. That tale is told again and again. It's told in Whitehorse; it's told in Carmacks; it's told in Teslin and, I would hasten to add, Watson Lake. Across the territory, wherever we put our highway camps, there has been a legacy of pollution that we have inherited. We used our sites as dumping grounds and we are going to have to deal with that every time we go in to fix a site, like we are doing at F.H. Collins right now — mitigating those sites and working together with Environment and Education at the F.H. Collins site, trying to remediate that spill and others. It is expensive and difficult to assess. It takes time, it slows things down and it's very expensive.

We are doing that. Your point was about what we are doing to mitigate it in the future. We have an environmental coordinator working with the department now trying to coordinate with Environment on assessments and problems we are seeing. We are much more aware of these things, because the cost of cleaning up — an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. If we are clean from the beginning and if we make sure our sites are maintained and if we do this with a little thoughtfulness, then the downstream or future costs —

**Chair:** Order, please.

#### **Termination of Sitting as per Standing Order 76(1)**

**Chair:** The time has reached 5:00 p.m. on this, the 30<sup>th</sup> Sitting day of the 2018 Spring Sitting.

Standing Order 76(1) states: "On the sitting day that the Assembly has reached the maximum number of sitting days allocated for that Sitting pursuant to Standing Order 75, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole, if the Assembly is in Committee of the Whole at the time, shall interrupt proceedings at 5:00 p.m. and, with respect to each Government Bill before Committee that the Government House Leader directs to be called, shall:

"(a) put the question on any amendment then before the Committee;

"(b) put the question, without debate or amendment, on a motion moved by a Minister that the bill, including all clauses, schedules, title and preamble, be deemed to be read and carried;

"(c) put the question on a motion moved by a Minister that the bill be reported to the Assembly; and

“(d) when all bills have been dealt with, recall the Speaker to the Chair to report on the proceedings of the Committee.”

It is the duty of the Chair to now conduct the business of Committee of the Whole in the manner directed by Standing Order 76(1). The Chair will now ask the Government House Leader to indicate which government bills now before Committee of the Whole should be called.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Mr. Chair, the government directs that Bill No. 206, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2018-19*, the only government bill before Committee of the Whole, be called at this time.

**Bill No. 206: *First Appropriation Act 2018-19* — continued**

**Chair:** The Committee will now deal with Bill No. 206, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2018-19*.

The Chair will now recognize Mr. Silver, as the sponsor of Bill No. 206, for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Mr. Chair, I move that all clauses, schedules and the title of Bill No. 206, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2018-19*, be deemed to be read and carried.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Silver that all clauses, schedules and the title of Bill No. 206, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2018-19*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Count.

**Count**

**Chair:** A count has been called.

*Bells*

**Chair:** All those in favour please rise.

*Members rise*

**Chair:** All those opposed please rise.

*Members rise*

**Chair:** The results are nine yea, eight nay.

*Motion agreed to*

**On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures**

**Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$1,191,905,000 agreed to**

**On Capital Expenditures**

**Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$280,143,000 agreed to**

**Total Expenditures in the amount of \$1,472,048,000 agreed to**

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to*

*Schedules A and B agreed to*

*Title agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Mr. Chair, I move that you report Bill No. 206, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2018-19*, without amendment.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Silver that the Chair report Bill No. 206, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2018-19*, without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

**Chair:** As all government bills identified by the Government House Leader have now been decided upon, it is my duty to report to the House.

*Speaker resumes the Chair*

**Termination of Sitting as per Standing Order 76(2)**

**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**

**Mr. Hutton:** Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 206, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2018-19*, and directed me to report the bill without amendment.

**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.

Standing Order 76(2)(d) states, “On the sitting day that the Assembly has reached the maximum number of sitting days allocated for that Sitting pursuant to Standing Order 75, the Speaker of the Assembly, when recalled to the Chair after the House has been in the Committee of the Whole, shall:

“(d) with respect to each Government Bill standing on the Order Paper for Third Reading and designated to be called by the Government House Leader;

“(i) receive a motion for Third Reading and passage of the bill, and

“(ii) put the question, without debate or amendment, on that motion.”

I shall, therefore, ask the Government House Leader to indicate which government bills now standing on the Order Paper for Third Reading should be called.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** The government directs that Bill No. 206, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2018-19* — the only government bill standing on the Order Paper for third reading — be called for third reading at this time.

**GOVERNMENT BILLS**

**Bill No. 206: *First Appropriation Act 2018-19* — Third Reading**

**Clerk:** Third reading, Bill No. 206, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Silver.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I move that Bill No. 206, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2018-19*, be now read a third time and do pass.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 206, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2018-19*, be now read a third time and do pass. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question to the House. Are you agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Division.

### Division

**Speaker:** Division has been called.

### Bells

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

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Agree.

**Mr. Gallina:** Agree.

**Mr. Adel:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** Agree.

**Mr. Hutton:** Agree.

**Mr. Hassard:** Disagree.

**Mr. Kent:** Disagree.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** Disagree.

**Mr. Cathers:** Disagree.

**Ms. McLeod:** Disagree.

**Mr. Istchenko:** Disagree.

**Ms. Hanson:** Disagree.

**Ms. White:** Disagree.

**Clerk:** Mr. Speaker, the results are 10 yea, eight nay.

**Speaker:** The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried.  
*Motion for third reading of Bill No. 206 agreed to*

**Speaker:** I declare that Bill No. 206 has passed this House.

*Applause*

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

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

### ASSENT TO BILLS

**Commissioner:** Please be seated.

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

**Clerk:** *Cannabis Control and Regulation Act; Technical Amendments Act, 2018; Gender Diversity and Related Amendments Act; First Appropriation Act 2018-19.*

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

I would like to thank each member of this Legislative Assembly for the hard work that you have put in this session. It is my hope that over the spring and summer, you are able to enjoy some fine weather and spend some quality time with your families. In the eternal words of Semisonic's *Closing Time*: "You don't have to go home but you can't stay here."

Have a nice break.

*Applause*

*Commissioner leaves the Chamber*

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

Before I adjourn the Spring Sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, I would like to extend my thanks, on behalf of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Chair of Committee of the Whole and on behalf of all MLAs to Clerk Floyd McCormick, Deputy Clerk Linda Kolody, Acting Clerk of Committees Sarah Edwards, Director of Administration, Finance and Systems Helen Fitzsimmons, Operations Manager Brenda McCain-Armour, our administrative assistant Lyndsey Amundson, all of the Yukon Legislative Assembly Office staff, as well as Sergeant-at-Arms Karina Watson and Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms Harris Cox, who all provide invaluable support to all MLAs and their staff in order for all of us to continue to do the important work that we are sent here to do on behalf of all Yukoners.

As well, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the skilled team at Hansard for their timely and accurate service, which somehow magically — and for our purposes, accurately — appears in the Blues every morning.

Thank you very much.

I would also note at this time that Sarah Edwards, our Acting Clerk of Committees, will be pursuing an exciting new opportunity at the Yukon Hospital Corporation and we wish her all the best. I would like to personally thank her for her hard work and much-appreciated support over the past 16 months of my time at the Yukon Legislative Assembly Office.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Finally, and in keeping with Madam Commissioner's comments, I wish Members of the Legislative Assembly all the best for the spring and summer. Safe travels as you recharge your batteries and return to your respective ridings to connect with your loved ones, extended family and friends, and with your constituents.

Thank you very much.

Now, you want the collective hall pass to be able to leave.

As the House has now reached the maximum number of Sitting days permitted for the Spring Sitting and the House has completed consideration of all designated legislation, it is the duty of the Chair to declare that this House now stands adjourned.

*The House adjourned at 5:20 p.m.*

**The following sessional paper was tabled April 24, 2018:**

34-2-62

*Yukon Child Care Board Annual Report — April 1, 2016-March 31, 2018* (Frost)

**The following legislative returns were tabled April 24, 2018:**

34-2-134

Response to Written Question No. 23 re: land withdrawals and staking bans within Yukon (Pillai)

34-2-135

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Mr. Kent, related to general debate on Vote 53, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, in Bill No. 206, *First Appropriation Act 2018-19* (Pillai)

34-2-136

Response to oral question from Ms. White re: bear management (Frost)

34-2-137

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Mr. Hassard, related to general debate on Vote 10, Public Service Commission, in Bill No. 206, *First Appropriation Act 2018-19* (Mostyn)

**The following documents were filed April 24, 2018:**

34-2-53

*Yukon Child and Family Services Act 2010-2013 Annual Report — A New Direction in Child Welfare* (Frost)

34-2-54

*Yukon Family and Children's Services 2013/14 Annual Report* (Frost)

34-2-55

*Yukon Family and Children's Services — Child and Family Services Act — 2014/15 Annual Report* (Frost)

34-2-56

*Yukon Family and Children's Services 2015/16 Annual Report* (Frost)