



# Yukon Legislative Assembly

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Number 30

3<sup>rd</sup> Session

34<sup>th</sup> Legislature

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## HANSARD

Wednesday, November 27, 2019 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Nils Clarke

# YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## 2019 Fall 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>Kate White</b>	Leader of the Third Party Third Party House Leader Takhini-Kopper King
<b>Liz Hanson</b>	Whitehorse Centre

### LEGISLATIVE STAFF

Clerk of the Assembly	Dan Cable
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**  
**Wednesday, November 27, 2019 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

**Withdrawal of motions**

**Speaker:** The Chair wishes to inform the House that Motion No. 128, notice of which was given yesterday by the Leader of the Third Party, was not placed on today's Notice Paper as it is outdated. Motion No. 129, notice of which was given yesterday by the Leader of the Third Party, was not placed on today's Notice Paper, as it is similar to Motion No. 4, which was adopted by the House on October 30, 2019.

**DAILY ROUTINE**

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

Introduction of visitors.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I would ask my colleagues to please join me in welcoming Garbage Truck Santa, Wayne Henderson, Stephanie Pozzo, and Phil Willoughby, the general manager of Inland Kenworth, to the House this afternoon.

*Applause*

**Ms. White:** Also, for the same tribute, we have Jennifer Byram from Pelly Construction. Thank you so much for being here and representing you and your father.

*Applause*

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I would ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Nicholas O'Carroll and Jeremy Beebe. They are Whitehorse firefighters and are here today representing the Whitehorse Firefighters Charitable Society. I would also like to welcome Val Royle — she is the deputy minister of the Women's Directorate — visiting us here today.

*Applause*

**Mr. Kent:** I would like members to join me in welcoming Ed and Donna Isaak, who — as many will know — used to run the Taku bar here in Whitehorse and started the Adopt a Family program, which was the forerunner to the Share the Spirit campaign.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** I would like to welcome Maxwell Harvey, Yukon's Chief Electoral Officer, to the Assembly. He is here to witness the tabling of the Chief Electoral Officer's report to the Legislative Assembly.

*Applause*

**Mr. Hassard:** A gentleman here today — I know he has been here many times and introduced, but I will ask all members to join me one more time in welcoming Mr. Jonas Smith.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Are there any further introductions of visitors? Tributes.

**TRIBUTES**

**In recognition of Garbage Truck Santa**

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege to honour the legend that is Garbage Truck Santa. I would wager that there are few who have brought such joy to so many Yukoners over the years — someone whose selfless journey year after year captures the essence of Christmas. So, I ask those of you listening out there to lean in a bit closer because I am going to tell a story this afternoon.

It was the Christmas of 1996, back when the long winter nights were cold and the snow, deep and feathery. That year, there was a sick young boy who couldn't play outside or take part in Christmas festivities. He could not, in fact, meet Santa — until something magical happened.

A loud squeal was heard near the front of the house. The boy's parents sprang from the couch and flew like a flash to open the curtains and throw up the sash to see what was the matter. Headlights on the crest of the fresh fallen snow gave the lustre of midday to objects below. The boy stood at the window of his Porter Creek home pointing at something. "It's Santa," cried the boy. "It's Santa in a big truck." To everyone's delight, a mighty garbage truck bedecked with lights and antlers was turning from Larch Street onto Oak Street. Somehow Santa knew — he knew that this sick boy in the window needed the Christmas spirit.

To this day, the parents have no idea why that truck stopped on Oak Street in front of the house that morning, but it did. Garbage Truck Santa stepped out of his truck, lively and quick, and walked up to the knee-high windows, passing a candy cane through the open glass and delivering a hearty "Ho-ho-ho! Merry Christmas!"

The sick two-year-old had not smiled in days, but he clutched the candy cane in his wee hands and, with a grin from ear to ear, yelled, "Bye, Santa!" Santa paused, looked back, and waved. The boy turned to his parents. "That is the best Santa. He has a big truck."

Mr. Speaker, that little boy is now 25 years old. He's my eldest son.

Over the last 28 years, such stories are Garbage Truck Santa Wayne Henderson's legacy. He's brought wonder and joy to Yukoners young and old.

I'm proud to say Mr. Henderson is one of my constituents. His legacy matters. We know this because Yukoners support traditions that they hold dear, and recently they rallied to help Mr. Henderson. His garbage truck's transmission broke, possibly ending Garbage Truck Santa's rounds. A GoFundMe was established and within a couple of weeks Yukoners

volunteered time and substantial money to save this wonderful Christmas tradition.

Mr. Speaker, 28 years ago, Mr. Henderson took it upon himself to don a red suit and a white beard and to decorate a truck while working for the city simply to bring a smile to people's faces. He did something unique and has delivered joy year after year — something we should all strive for.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Wayne Henderson — Garbage Truck Santa — and all his elves, especially his son Ryan and Ryan's fiancée, Jordan Kasprzak.

On behalf of the Liberal government, long may he exclaim, as he drives out of sight, "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

*Applause*

**Ms. White:** What a lovely thing to stand on behalf of — so fantastic.

I rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP and the Yukon Party to celebrate a true symbol of the holiday season in the north — Garbage Truck Santa. For 28 years, Wayne Henderson has been a herald of the holiday season. His brightly lit garbage truck has been causing smiles and head-turns on Whitehorse streets. But just like every super hero, Garbage Truck Santa has an origin story.

Wayne has been working for the City of Whitehorse for over 30 years, and way back in the very early 1990s, every Thursday on his regular route, Wayne would meet a little guy at the curb when he was doing the garbage pickup. This little human loved the garbage truck and loved Wayne. Instead of ignoring the little guy and seeing him as an obstacle, our super hero would let him help by pushing the buttons. In 1991, after a regular Thursday pickup, Wayne went back to the shop and asked his manager if he could decorate the truck with a couple of sets of lights, and then he went out and bought himself a Santa suit from the SAAN store. Imagine the delight that first Thursday, after the legend of Garbage Truck Santa was born.

All but one year since that first Christmas, Garbage Truck Santa has been making his rounds, delivering smiles, ho-ho-hos and holiday cheer. In the last four days before the school holiday break, Garbage Truck Santa will visit 10 schools, 20 daycares, and seniors facilities all over town. He and his trusty steed, Rudolph, will hand out over 3,000 candy canes to those both young and old.

When the city truck that he used to use needed to be retired and he missed a holiday season, Wayne thought that his run as Garbage Truck Santa was over. You know, Mr. Speaker, every good Santa has the support of a team of elves, and our Santa is no different. Tina Woodland, from Whitehorse Motors, approached him with an idea. If she could find a truck, would the legend live on? Of course, it would. We all know the answer.

So, for six years, Santa borrowed a garbage truck from Maggie Holt at the Takhini Mobile Home Park, and all was running smoothly until this spring when the truck's transmission stopped running so smoothly. Maggie called Wayne, and a plan was hatched. She would gift him the truck for \$1. So, now Garbage Truck Santa had a rig without a

transmission, so what is a Santa to do? Another elf or two stepped up with a solution. Jordan and Ryan sent out a public call for help, and help they got.

Then more elves appeared, Mr. Speaker. Keith Byram and his daughter Jennifer from Pelly Construction wanted the legend to live on, so they gifted Santa and Rudolph a transmission.

Wayne and his son, Ryan, were ready to roll up their sleeves and do the work themselves when Phil Willoughby and the crew at Inland Kenworth stepped forward. They had the space, the skill, and a love of the legend, so the transmission was installed.

Not to be missed, Yukon College came forward to install the inverter and do the inspection. Now the lights will continue to twinkle with the flip of a switch.

Whitehorse Motors opens their shop every year for the decorating blitz that's required to adorn Rudolph's sides. The shop is a festive place as those who were once kids enchanted by Garbage Truck Santa take over the task of sleigh masters as they install over 6,000 lights.

Elves come in all shapes and sizes, so holiday cheer to Canadian Tire, which supplies the lights, and festive wishes to Independent Grocer, Superstore, and Save-On-Foods for equipping Santa and Rudolph with candy canes.

One last holiday hurrah — a thank you to Wayne for sharing his love of the holidays with the community for the last 28 years.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't matter how old you are — everyone loves Santa. If you are lucky enough to live in Whitehorse, then you know — 'tis the season when you first glimpse the Garbage Truck Santa out on the roads. Thank you very much.

*Applause*

### **In recognition of the Share the Spirit and the Bare Essentials campaigns**

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the Yukon Liberal government to pay tribute to two wonderful charitable campaigns that take place as we approach the holiday season here in the Yukon: Share the Spirit and the Bare Essentials campaigns.

Share the Spirit began many years ago as Adopt a Family and has grown now to become geographically the largest Christmas support program in Canada. Our territory is large, and Share the Spirit reaches into every corner in the most generous way.

The Whitehorse Firefighters Charitable Society works closely with Santa Claus to make deliveries to Yukon children and families who need it most during this holiday season — for many in the past and into the future. The goal this year will be to provide gifts and food baskets to help up to 380 families across the territory.

Yukoners who want to sponsor a family can do so by going online at Share the Spirit Yukon 2019. It's very easy to find. They will be provided with a wish list of children if they sign up — children who are in need around the territory.

Privacy is a key part of the program, so children are identified by their age and their gender, and you can choose as many or as few as you can help. Yukoners can also make monetary donations or volunteer to work as an elf to wrap and help deliver gifts.

Thank you so much to Whitehorse Toyota and the Mason family for generously donating the old Toyota building again this year at 6<sup>th</sup> and Main as “elf central” during December.

The Bare Essentials campaign is held every year around the holidays to collect donations of essential personal items for transition homes around the Yukon Territory. The reality of experiencing violence, gender-based or otherwise, is very complex, and there are barriers to reporting and accessing the supports that a person might need. Those who access the transition homes are typically leaving in an emergency situation due to violence. They may not have the time or the resources to get the items that they need to bring with them.

The transition homes use products donated from this campaign for the rest of the year and throughout the year. The products that are needed are personal hygiene products and products for children like toothbrushes and toothpaste, socks and underwear, hair brushes, feminine hygiene products, deodorants, disposable diapers, soap, shampoo, and baby formula.

This campaign began many years ago through the Canadian Bar Association, Yukon branch, which was part of it. At that time, it was part of a national campaign. It was later taken over by the Yukon government, Women’s Directorate. Government departments across the territory have donation boxes available until November 29, and they have been out for several weeks now. Staff give generously each and every year, and so do individuals who visit those departments. All donations are welcome.

Volunteers then collect and distribute the items to the four transition homes throughout the territory. Donations go to Kaushee’s Place here in Whitehorse, to the Majedi Safe Home in Ross River, to the Help and Hope for Families home in Watson Lake, and to the women’s shelter in Dawson City.

I would like to take the opportunity, on behalf of my colleagues, to thank our Yukon transition homes for the work that they do every day. They make Yukon a safer and a better place.

I would also like to thank Yukoners at this time who give generously and who volunteer their time, because they truly know, at this time of year and all year, that it’s the little things that make a difference.

*Applause*

**Ms. Van Bibber:** I am pleased to rise today on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition and the Third Party, the NPD, to pay tribute to two wonderful Yukon Christmas traditions: the Share the Spirit and the Bare Essentials campaigns. Each of these groups provide Yukoners an easy, wonderful way to give and help families in need during the holiday season and beyond.

Going back to the start, 1997, it all began with an idea launched by Ed and Donna Isaak, who operated and managed

the Discovery Bar in the old Taku Hotel. The idea was to start a campaign to raise \$3,500 to bring Christmas to seven families. The name: Adopt a Family. They raised funds by soliciting businesses and holding events in the bar. Soon, Catholic schools in Whitehorse, local bank branches, and more schools became involved. The campaign was so successful that, in 2004, the campaign was taken on by the Whitehorse Kinsmen and then later the Kinettes who ran the campaign for 15 years under Share the Spirit.

Today, the Whitehorse Firefighters Charitable Society is entering its fourth season bringing Christmas joy and fun to many families, and they have proven to be a force to be reckoned with. Not only are toys and gifts delivered, but food hampers and, not forgotten, all the fixings for a wonderful Christmas dinner. Yukoners willing to help can drop off new, unwrapped gifts to the old Toyota building on 6<sup>th</sup> and Main.

Also, thank you to the Mason family and Whitehorse Toyota for donating this facility as “elf central”.

Visit the Whitehorse Firefighters Charitable Society’s website — [afterthefireisout.com](http://afterthefireisout.com) — to find out other ways you can help out in the community during this holiday season and beyond.

Special thanks to the Whitehorse Firefighters Charitable Society, as well as everyone who shares the spirit through donations and volunteering.

I also want to thank those who contribute year after year to the Bare Essentials campaign. Basic items, toiletries, diapers, formula, and much more are collected for women and children who find themselves in emergency housing due to abuse or unsafe home conditions. Our sincere thanks to the Women’s Directorate staff for their role in organizing this important event each year and to all the staff who organize donations within their respective departments.

For Share the Spirit, it’s all hands on deck to get things ready and get everything delivered before the big day, so if you are able to donate some time for this cause, now is the time to step forward. Even a little goes a long way — a few dollars, one gift, or a few hours. As to helping, I leave you with a quote by that wonderful author, Dr. Seuss: “If you never did, you should. These things are fun, and fun is good.”

*Applause*

## **TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS**

**Speaker:** Pursuant to sections 317 and 318 of the *Elections Act*, the Chair has for tabling the Chief Electoral Officer’s report to the Legislative Assembly.

In addition, the Chair has for tabling a legislative return in response to Written Question No. 1, tabled by the Member for Klwane.

Are there any other returns or documents for tabling?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I have for tabling a legislative return in response to a question asked on November 7, 2019, by the Member for Klwane.

I also have a legislative return in response to a question asked on November 21, 2019, by the Member for Copperbelt South.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I have for tabling a legislative return responding to a motion for the production of papers put forward by the Member for Whitehorse Centre.

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** I have for tabling today the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues annual report for 2018-19, as required under section 15 of the *Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues Act*.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I have a legislative return in response to a question asked by the Member for Watson Lake on November 25, 2019, regarding nursing at the Watson Lake hospital.

Further, I have a legislative return in response to questions asked by the Member for Kluane on November 18, 2019, pertaining to moose surveys.

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

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motions?

## NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to work with Northwestel to reinstall the conduit on the Ross River footbridge in order to restore phone service to residents on the far side of the Pelly River.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to ensure that all \$5 million in upgrades to the Mayo aerodrome that were committed to in the budget are completed.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to explain why \$3.85 million of the money that was to be invested in the Mayo aerodrome this summer was reallocated.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to tell Yukoners why the Nares River bridge project came in \$2.5 million overbudget.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Highways and Public Works to provide details, including cost to taxpayers, of planned expropriations of private property associated with the changes to the Alaska Highway near the Hillcrest subdivision.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to work with the City of Whitehorse to implement their bicycle network

plan that will connect the southern part of the city to Robert Service Way via a separate trail along the Alaska Highway.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Highways and Public Works to include the following safety improvements for the Alaska Highway in the 2020-21 budget:

(1) a northbound acceleration lane from Alusru Way; and

(2) improved signage and turning lanes near Yukon Yamaha that make it safe for Standard Bus Lines to access their property.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to work with First Nations, the Klondike Placer Miners' Association, and other stakeholders to eliminate permitting delays related to wetlands in the Indian River area.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to provide the total budget for the Yukon mineral development strategy, including but not limited to fees for panel members, fees for the facilitator, travel costs, website costs, and any transfers to the Council of Yukon First Nations.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Education to honour the following commitments made at the March 5, 2019, Selkirk Elementary School Council meeting:

(1) to only have one French immersion kindergarten class at the school in the 2020-21 school year;

(2) to maintain Selkirk Elementary School as a dual-track school; and

(3) to address safety concerns raised on Selkirk Street, including improvements to lighting, surfacing, and sidewalks as well as improved links from the new parking lot to the school.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT the Minister of Education immediately inform the Selkirk Elementary School Council about the plans for a portable classroom at their school.

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to use its 2020-21 capital budget to improve safety on the Alaska Highway in front of Porter Creek Super A by adding a turning lane and a slip lane.

I also give notice of the following motion for the production of papers:

THAT this House do issue an order for the return of all costs, including staffing costs, related to the logo and website changes, including a breakdown by department.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to ensure that all capital project tenders and contracts are released prior to March 31, 2020.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to release details around occupancy and staffing for the recently opened Housing First facility in downtown Whitehorse.

I also give notice of the following motion for the production of papers:

THAT this House do issue an order for the return of all documentation related to all costs associated with the purchase, renovation, inspections, and permitting of the government's group home at 22 Wann Road.

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to improve highway safety at the intersection of the Mayo Road and the Alaska Highway by ensuring that its 2020-21 capital budget includes funding for the project that was supposed to begin construction in the 2018 construction season, including widening two kilometres of the Alaska Highway, lengthening the turning lane, and adding a through lane.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to recognize that serious safety issues, including aggressive driving, are due in part to the lack of passing lanes on the long section of highway between Vista Road and the top of Two Mile Hill by using its 2020-21 capital budget to reinstate the four lanes on the Mayo Road in the Hidden Valley/MacPherson area.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to use its 2020-21 capital budget to improve the safety and functionality of Takhini River Road by:

- (1) investing in engineering and design work aimed at doing a major upgrade to the roadbed, road surface, and ditches; and
- (2) providing funding to begin a major upgrade to the roadbed, road surface, and ditches of Takhini River Road.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Education to recognize that not everyone in the Yukon has access to high-speed Internet by ensuring that all Yukon parents who choose to home-school their children continue to have paper-based options for teaching their children instead of forcing them to use the Internet.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to work with Humane Society Yukon to ensure that the Mae Bachur Animal Shelter is able to continue to operate.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Premier in his capacity as Minister of Finance to recognize the importance of providing proper funding to the Yukon Hospital Corporation by taking actions, including:

(1) convening Management Board to deal with the outstanding financial decision on millions of dollars of the hospital's core funding for the current fiscal year, which witnesses from the Yukon Hospital Corporation informed the Assembly of on Thursday, November 21;

(2) recognize that a witness from the Yukon Hospital Corporation told the Legislative Assembly, "We had set a budget early in the year, and we are, right now, looking at making sure that core funding has been established in its entirety" by approving that financial request at Management Board;

(3) recognize that the Yukon Hospital Corporation CEO told us that they are also waiting for funding for the current year for the new orthopaedic program that they have established by approving that financial request at Management Board; and

(4) in future, ensure that the Yukon Hospital Corporation is never again forced to wait until eight months into a fiscal year to have its core funding approved by the Yukon government.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to ensure that all mental health hubs are fully staffed and that services are available to Yukoners who require them.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to develop an effective plan to recruit and retain nurses for Yukon hospitals, public health centres, community health centres, and continuing care facilities.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to work with the Yukon Hospital Corporation and provide them with the necessary resources to reduce wait times for Yukoners needing the care of visiting specialists.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to include increases to medical travel assistance to Yukoners in the 2020-21 budget.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Health and Social Services to advise what new services the Yukon government is going to provide to rural Yukoners in our community hospitals.

I also give notice of the following motion for the production of papers:

THAT this House do issue an order for the return of all documentation related to the operation and maintenance costs of the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter since the government took control.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to address the current shortage of psychiatrists in the territory and to ensure that Yukoners do not have to check themselves into the hospital in order to receive their prescriptions.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Health and Social Services to investigate outstanding accounts payable and wages owed by Many Rivers to vendors and former employees and report back their findings to this House during the 2020 Spring Sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Finally, I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Canada to make medical cannabis tax exempt.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Canada to respect the importance of protecting the rights of law-abiding firearms owners, including hunters and target shooters, while going after the criminal misuse of firearms by taking the following actions:

- (1) ensuring that police have appropriate resources to target organized crime and criminal acts involving firearms; and
- (2) respecting the right of law-abiding firearms owners to keep property they lawfully acquired.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Education to recognize the needs of Yukon families in rural Yukon by ensuring that parents who home-school their children are properly consulted before any changes are made that affect curriculum, including the availability of paper-based textbooks and lessons.

I also give notice of the following motion for the production of papers:

THAT this House do issue an order for the return of documents showing the full cost of Yukon Energy Corporation's planning, engineering, and consultation on the proposed 20-megawatt thermal generation facility that was cancelled by the Liberal government.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to include the construction of turning lanes into Takhini and Mendenhall subdivisions in the 2020-21 budget.

I also give notice of the following motion for the production of papers:

THAT this House do issue an order for the return of documentation related to all costs associated with the rental, shipping, operation, maintenance, and use of diesel generation units in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to include the construction of the new Kluane Lake School in Burwash Landing in the 2020-21 budget.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to initiate consultations with the St. Elias Seniors Society, the Village of Haines Junction, and the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations on the construction of phase 2 of seniors housing in Haines Junction.

Last but not least, I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House recognizes and thanks those Canadian soldiers on active duty who will not be home for Christmas.

**Ms. White:** I rise to give notice of the following motion for the production of papers:

THAT this House do issue an order for the return of an update on the Government of Yukon's draft regulations on the protection and management of sensitive areas from off-road vehicle use, as stated in Motion No. 272 on March 13, 2019.

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

THAT the Members' Services Board consider the creation of a seniors advocate as an officer of the Legislative Assembly and report to the Legislative Assembly by the 2020 Spring Sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT, pursuant to the July 2019 PricewaterhouseCoopers review of matters related to security for mine reclamation and closure, this House urges the Yukon government to implement a plan to limit public liability by:

- (1) identifying measures to be taken by the Yukon government to amend the current legislation and policy framework to require a risk-benefit assessment based on the financial documents of the company and the life of the mine plan prior to the licence being granted;
- (2) mandating inspectors to identify and report on risks other than direct environmental risks; and
- (3) establishing a clear communications protocol concerning which issues should be escalated to senior management, including the manner by which issues should be escalated.



I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to work with the Child Development Centre to develop programs and funding options necessary to facilitate the provision of therapeutic services for Yukon children and their families on a year-round basis.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I give notice of the following motion that we had hoped would come before this House:

THAT a Yukon Legislative Assembly select committee on electoral reform be established;

THAT the membership of the committee be comprised of three MLAs from the government caucus selected by the Premier, two MLAs from the Official Opposition caucus selected by the Leader of the Official Opposition, and one MLA from the Third Party caucus selected by the Leader of the Third Party;

THAT the leaders of the parties represented in the Legislative Assembly confirm the names from their respective caucuses by December 9, 2019;

THAT the Premier shall select the committee's convener from the membership of the committee;

THAT the chair shall be elected by the committee from the members of the committee;

THAT the chair of the committee has one vote on each matter before the committee;

THAT the committee conduct public hearings for the purpose of receiving the views and opinions of Yukon residents on the following:

(1) whether the first-past-the-post voting system should be replaced;

(2) how a referendum would be put in place to give effect to any recommendations made by the committee; and

(3) such other matters pertaining to electoral reform as the committee determines to be appropriate.

THAT the committee have the power to call for persons, papers, and records and to sit during intersessional periods;

THAT, during the drafting of the final report, the committee should conduct its business in a consensus decision-making manner to the greatest extent possible, and when unanimity is not achieved, the report will show the differing views of the committee members;

THAT the committee report to the Legislative Assembly on its findings from public hearings and any recommendations that it might have on matters covered in those public hearings, no later than the 2020 Fall Sitting of the Legislative Assembly;

THAT, if the House is not sitting at such time as the committee is prepared to present its report, the committee chair shall transmit the committee's report to the Speaker, who shall transmit the report to all Members of the Legislative Assembly and then, not more than one day later, release the report to the public; and

THAT the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly shall be responsible for providing the necessary support services to the committee.

**Speaker:** Are there any further notices of motions?

Is there a statement by a minister?

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Housing action plan

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Mr. Speaker, our Liberal government is committed to making strategic investments that build healthy, vibrant, sustainable communities. This includes our work to address the housing pressures that Yukoners are facing following years of inaction and lack of planning. As the Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation, I have been tasked with increasing affordable housing options across the territory, including making effective use of federal funding to support housing.

In 2017, we were pleased to see Canada's first national housing strategy announced. In March of this year, we signed our Yukon-Canada bilateral agreement under the *National Housing Strategy*, which will provide stable funding for housing in the Yukon for the next decade and will allow us to respond to Yukon's needs across the housing continuum.

I am pleased to inform Yukoners that the Yukon Housing Corporation and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation have developed a three-year action plan under the *National Housing Strategy*, an essential step in securing funding under our bilateral agreement with the Government of Canada. The three-year action plan outlines a coordinated approach for the Government of Yukon and partners to make effective use of over \$11 million in federal funding to achieve the goals of the housing action plan for Yukon and the Safe at Home community-based action plan to end and prevent homelessness.

We developed a three-year action plan with input from our partners to make sure that we captured the key goals and actions of these existing plans and can meet the distinct needs of different communities. A key priority is to lift our Yukoners out of housing needs with housing options that are adequate, affordable, and suitable.

This funding will support the completion of the new Housing First residence in Whitehorse. This unprecedented project will provide permanent housing to persons who are experiencing homelessness, and it marks a major shift in the way Yukon provides housing and supports to those in acute need.

Funding will also go toward the mixed-use, mixed-income housing project that is currently being designed for downtown Whitehorse. This innovative project will enable social diversity while supporting better social outcomes for our clients. With up to 48 units, this project at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Jeckell Street will help meet housing needs in Whitehorse. Funding will also support a new 10-unit housing complex in Old Crow. This community housing project will be a first for Old Crow and will include a spectrum of housing options from affordable rental units for community members who wish to live independently to those who wish to age in place.

This three-year action plan will help us to improve access to housing options across the territory to better meet the needs of Yukoners. We will increase the number of affordable homes in Yukon in part by partnering with local developers and

enhancing the corporation's rent supplement program. We will address housing adequacy and suitability by repairing and renovating our community housing units and supporting First Nation governments and Yukon homeowners to repair the homes they own.

We will continue working with our federal partners at the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation toward a diverse and abundant housing option that increases the health and stability of all individuals in communities so that everyone has a safe and affordable place to call home.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** Thank you for the opportunity to respond today. I do think that the minister did forget some important context, which is the social and senior housing wait-list that has skyrocketed under her watch. The wait-list for social and senior housing had 105 people in 2016. This spring, it had grown to 270. Perhaps the minister could provide an update on those numbers when she gets up to respond.

It is important to note that the minister has been slow to act on these issues, and this has contributed to a housing market where the average price for a home is completely unaffordable for a first-time homebuyer. I do appreciate the minister also re-announcing a number of initiatives that she has already announced and re-announced in this House — for example, the Housing First project. We have discussed how the minister mismanaged this project, went overbudget, and was late. I know that the minister did the ribbon-cutting a few weeks ago, but can she confirm if residents have moved in or not? If not, when will they move in?

The minister also dedicated a good section of her ministerial statement to the mixed-use, mixed-income housing project. The minister previously delivered a ministerial statement on this project on March 14 of this year. At the same time, I asked a number of questions and the minister was not able to answer them. Since it has been eight months, I am hoping that she will be able to answer those questions today.

As we mentioned at the time, the government had earmarked \$18 million for this housing project. At the time, we asked her whether any analysis had been done to suggest that this was the most effective way to spend \$18 million in addressing housing needs in Whitehorse. The earlier ministerial statement said that the work on this 4<sup>th</sup> and Jeckell project will not start until sometime next year, so last March, the minister announced a project that won't start for another year. She is re-announcing that project in November and it seems like it won't start until sometime — who knows — in the future. Is there an update today on when construction will begin? Has design work begun? Has there been any money spent on it yet? Have consultations taken place? Has anything changed on this project since March when the minister was unable to provide details?

On the topic of the Vimy housing project, the government has been noticeably silent. The project could potentially address some of our housing issues. Is this no longer a priority for this government? I hope the minister can give an update on this.

With respect to the budget, the spring budget earmarked \$19 million for residential lot development; \$4 million was for

rural and the remainder for Whitehorse. Can the minister tell us how many lots have been developed as a result of this investment and break it down by rural and city?

The budget also announced \$3.6 million for a housing initiatives fund to — quote: “Help Yukoners create new rental housing options”.

Can the minister tell us if she has any data to suggest that funding has been successful at meeting its goal? How many projects has this funded? How many have been committed to so far?

**Ms. White:** Like I mentioned in my tribute to National Housing Day last week, I've stood in this Chamber more times than I can count speaking to the issue of housing. It's the last day of the Sitting and like many, I'm feeling a cynicism of press releases without action.

We saw this very thing with the press announcement from this Liberal government in December of 2017 of the creation of the sexual assault prevention team promised to be up and running by the spring of 2018. Here we are at the end of 2019, and no sexual assault response team is in place.

I appreciate all the points that the minister has made, but it's not the first time Yukon has heard a minister wax poetic about their vision for housing in the Yukon. Who can argue with more housing units, an expanded rent supplement program, or housing in our northernmost community? Certainly not the NDP.

I guess we, like others, will need to wait additional years to see this vision come to life. The Yukon NDP will be paying close attention to be sure that these are more than just words or press releases and that this government follows through on their commitments. Ever the optimist, Mr. Speaker, I'm hopeful that they do.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I would like to thank the members opposite for their comments. I would like to also just say that we are working hard and we have addressed a lot of the housing pressures across the Yukon — housing pressures that we are facing in rural Yukon communities.

Some of the comments with respect to — I can respond to some of that through my ministerial statement. I want to just right off the hop say that, from 2013 to 2017, the former government spent \$24 million on lot development. This year alone, we spent \$30 million. That's an indication that we are working toward meeting the needs of Yukoners.

The previous government sat on federal funding for years before cancelling a \$13-million affordable housing project that would have helped Yukoners in need and now we're playing catch-up. The decision was widely criticized as demonstrating incompetence and indifference on the housing file, not to mention the unnecessary uncertainty it created for the local contracting community. We are providing certainty, Mr. Speaker. We are providing consistency in terms of working with our communities.

The good news for Yukoners is that they elected a government in 2016 that is committed to increasing the number of options across the housing continuum. The three-year action

plan we are discussing today will support Yukon's first Housing First residence, providing 16 units. That's a process that we want to ensure that we can model in other communities where we have significant pressures — say, for example, like Watson Lake, where we see significant pressures. Maybe, just maybe, we can look at that in the future if that's a need of the community. Those are discussions we are continuing to have with our community.

When we look at support, when we look at new supported initiatives that look at mixed use and mixed income and we look at creating the 48-unit facility — we had significant discussions with the aging population to talk about seniors, opportunities for seniors housing to stay at home longer and continued supports. The project that we're looking at in Old Crow — it has never been supported historically. Not once has there been resources put into the community. There are other communities that have not been supported, and we will ensure that we continue to support our communities.

Over the past two years, our investment in housing programs committed to housing development supported over 400 units. That's 61 units of housing with services, 216 new, repaired, or renovated affordable housing homes, 14 home ownership options, and over 200 homes across the housing continuum through the housing initiative fund.

We talked a bit earlier. There were some questions with respect to the sexual assault response team, which is significant. Why is that, Mr. Speaker? We want to ensure that every person is given a home, a safe place —

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

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Exactly — so we are working on that. The Minister of Justice highlighted all of the successes and all of the good work that has been done by the departments. We are proud to be working together with our communities to increase the number of options across the housing continuum. We are working together to build healthy, vibrant, and sustainable communities across the territory, and we will ensure that we provide supports to communities across the Yukon that require the supports — when they need it, where they need it, and with their involvement.

**Speaker:** This then brings us to Question Period.

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: Dawson City Airport

**Mr. Hassard:** In a September 23, 2019, press release from the Liberal government, they claim that the construction of the Dawson City Airport maintenance facility cost only \$7.7 million. However, the Official Opposition has obtained the financial documents associated with paying the contractor, dated June 11, showing that the actual costs were over \$8 million. That's \$300,000 over what they claimed was spent. So, why did the Liberal government mislead Yukoners about the true cost?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Our government is making strategic investments in safe, efficient aviation systems for Yukoners. This spring, we paved the runway at the Dawson City Airport and built a new maintenance facility. We have also invested in

the develop of a new south apron to address congestion issues on the north apron on the airport. Together, these investments are going to help enhance economic opportunities in Dawson City and the surrounding region.

Mr. Speaker, I'm absolutely elated with the work of the Department of Highways and Public Works in executing on this project in a very short period of time. I will say, Mr. Speaker, that our investments in our aviation community are bearing real results. We're seeing an expansion in our air carriers. We're seeing more routes opening up to Yukoners. It is working, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

**Mr. Hassard:** Even before the Liberals' misleading claim in their September press release, they awarded the original contract for the Dawson City Airport maintenance facility at \$7.4 million. As I mentioned, the final construction cost came in at over \$8 million. That's actually \$600,000 more than the contract that was awarded.

Why did the project go so significantly overbudget?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I'm happy to be talking about the Dawson City runway paving this afternoon on the last day of the legislative Sitting this time. This is an investment that this government promised at the beginning of our election. We actually delivered on that promise. We now have a paved runway in the Klondike. That's something that had been long talked about, but never delivered.

This government stepped up. We built a heated maintenance facility in Dawson City. It's a tremendous asset to the community. It's a tremendous asset to the territory in terms of its aviation community.

The investments that this government is making in our aviation infrastructure are bearing real fruit. We're seeing Air North flying to more destinations. We're seeing more flights into Whitehorse than we have ever seen before. We are seeing flights now into Dawson. We have seen jets that can now land in Dawson without fear of having gravel damage.

Mr. Speaker, the investment that this government is making in our aviation community is bearing real fruit. We just certified another airport in Mayo. Again, this is more development on this aviation file. Our airports are safer, they are better run, and they are bearing real fruit in the aviation community, which is seeing a lot of expansion.

**Mr. Hassard:** Unfortunately, the questions that I am asking the minister are about dollars and cents on the maintenance facility. He doesn't appear to be interested in answering those questions. But if you go to the Yukon government contract registry, you will see that there is actually a significant amount of additional expenditures related to the construction of the new airport maintenance facility. In fact, there was approximately \$320,000 extra spent on planning and design of this project. That brings the total cost of this maintenance facility up to \$8.3 million.

What is interesting about this additional design work is that the project was a design/build. So, why would the government give over \$300,000 to one company to do design work associated with this project and then give out an \$8-million design/build contract to another company for the exact same project?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** What we are talking about this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, is the completion of projects that we promised. We are actually talking about successes that we are seeing in the Klondike region and across the territory. I am happy to talk about those things.

We promised that we would pave the Dawson City runway. Part of paving the Dawson City runway was to make sure we had a heated maintenance facility. This government built the heated maintenance facility and delivered on that promise to the residents of Dawson. In speaking to the highways and maintenance staff in Dawson, they are elated to finally have a place where they can work out of the weather and actually maintain the expensive equipment that we have in the Klondike area. That is actually going to bring down the cost of maintaining our infrastructure — our equipment — into the future, Mr. Speaker.

What we have this afternoon is talk about promises made and promises delivered. This Liberal government promised to pave the Dawson City runway. We paved that Dawson City runway in a week. We paved it because we got our procurement done early which allowed our contractors to get up there on time and actually pave that runway. We also built a heated maintenance facility that is now maintaining that paved runway, Mr. Speaker. Now, because of that, we have certainty for our air carriers who want to fly jets into the Klondike to actually deliver on the tourism industry.

#### **Question re: Robert Service School**

**Mr. Kent:** On August 10, the Liberal government notified the Robert Service School community in Dawson City that they discovered mould in the portables at the school and, as a result, they would have to be shut down. At the time, the government was criticized for waiting until so close to the start of the school year to notify parents, teachers, and students, as this would have a negative impact on the programs run from those portables.

On August 22, the Liberal government told CBC news that the shutdown was communicated to the community as soon as the mould was discovered. However, the Official Opposition has obtained documents that show that the Liberal government became aware of the mould issues on June 10, a full two months before they communicated these issues to the community.

Why did the Liberal government mislead Yukoners on this important issue?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I'm happy to talk about how we're procuring portables for our schools across the territory. Highways and Public Works is issuing tenders for the purchase of five modular classrooms for Yukon schools. Tenders for the supply and delivery of two modular classrooms were issued earlier this year, and a third will be issued this winter. Tenders for two more modular classrooms are anticipated to be posted in 2020. The portables are being procured for the following schools — we have tenders for Golden Horn and Selkirk, and we're evaluating whether to renovate or replace the Robert Service School portables. In the meantime, the existing portables remain closed to students.

**Mr. Kent:** Hopefully, the minister is able to find the right briefing note while I ask this next question. These documents show that the Liberal government knew about the mould issues in the Robert Service School portables since June 10, yet they did not notify parents, teachers, and students for two months, waiting until a week and a half before school started, forcing everyone to scramble to come up with plans for the programming offered in those buildings.

In these documents, there's a report dated July 2, entitled — and I quote: "Mould Impacted Materials Assessment" for Robert Service School portable. According to this report, after they tested the air quality in the portables, levels of some types of fungus were 335 percent higher than they were outdoors, yet the Liberal government sat on this information. We know that they didn't inform the community when they discovered the mould on June 10, but why didn't the Liberal government inform the community immediately upon receiving this concerning report?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I'm happy to talk about the importance of maintaining safe facilities for our students in the Yukon. Providing Yukon students with safe, comfortable spaces to learn remains a priority for our government.

During an assessment, mould was found in the portable classrooms at Robert Service School. We evaluated whether to renovate the portables at Robert Service School or replace them altogether. In the meantime, the portables will remain closed to students.

As my honourable colleague can confirm, Education has found a space within the school to accommodate students who are displaced. We're planning to have the work done in time for the 2021 school year.

**Mr. Kent:** On May 25, 2017, the Official Opposition first called on the Liberal government to replace the old portables at Robert Service School with new or additional ones. Instead of listening, the Liberals plugged their ears. Then, two years later, they found mould in the portables, sat on the information for two months, and then only gave parents a heads-up 11 days before school started. This stubbornness and poor planning by the Liberals meant the loss of learning spaces in the portables for this school year.

A contributing factor to this is the fact that the Liberals have not lived up to their campaign promise to get all the seasonally dependent projects out by March of each year. If they had, then this mould could have been caught earlier and this work could have been dealt with prior to the beginning of the school year. But, Mr. Speaker, now we are where we are.

I'm wondering if the minister can provide an update on the cost to repair or replace the portables. Will that work be completed for next school year?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** The member opposite is still on his question rotation. He heard the answer that I gave to the first question, and now he is asking for that answer to be repeated. I'm not going to do that, Mr. Speaker.

I will say, though, that providing Yukon students with safe, comfortable spaces to learn remains a priority for our government. The school is being used; the portables aren't. We have the students learning in the school, and next year, as I said

earlier in my first response, we're looking at finding a replacement for these portables so that the school can continue to provide the excellent education that students and parents in the Klondike have come to depend on.

**Question re: Social inclusion and poverty reduction**

**Ms. White:** Let's talk about poverty. Consider for moment that, instead of being a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I'm a Yukoner employed in the accommodation and food services industry. According to the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, I make a hair over \$2,000 a month. I got lucky, and my apartment only costs \$1,000 a month, including heat and hot water. I spend \$300 a month on food and another \$300 a month on my car insurance and gas. I spend another \$150 on Internet and my phone bill, and so that leaves me \$250 a month left over for everything else.

Because I'm precariously employed, I don't have any health insurance, and one day, my teeth start to hurt. I put it off as long as possible before finally going to the dentist, who tells me that I need a \$3,000 root canal and a crown. At my current pace, it would take me a full year to save the money needed for the procedure.

Mr. Speaker, what essential part of my monthly budget does the government suggest that I cut to get the dental care that I urgently need?

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** I appreciate the question from the member opposite. Earlier this year, I tabled the document entitled *Living Wage in Whitehorse, Yukon: 2019*. I would like to thank the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition for completing this annual report and presenting it to us.

I won't be able to answer the question directly as it is posed, but I will be able to discuss ways in which we have been working to address Yukoners who have a lower income. There are a suite of ways — whether it is through Health and Social Services and the programs that they provide, whether it is through Education, or whether it is through our Finance department. Within my department, one of the areas that we work on is reviewing the minimum wage. I presented the Yukon living wage report to the Employment Standards Board as well as the economic analysis that I promised last year, and I look forward to their deliberation and coming back to us.

What I can say is that last year we raised minimum wage by over \$1 — it went up to \$12.71 — and we reduced the gap between a living wage and a minimum wage.

**Ms. White:** Mr. Speaker, I want to continue to talk about poverty — with the lived experience of the Yukon food service worker.

In 2018, I got lucky. According to the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, my average monthly income increased by \$240. This unexpected windfall is great, and I start thinking that I should save to buy a home, but while reading the news, I see that the average price of a house in Whitehorse has increased by \$44,000 in the same period that my wage has gone up by \$240 a month. On average, the cost of a house has increased 15 times more than my raise. At the same time as housing is becoming increasingly unaffordable for me, the Yukon government is

developing and selling lots above the cost of development, meaning that the Government of Yukon, which is supposed to act in the best interests of all Yukoners, is contributing to rising housing costs that will make it impossible for me and people like me to ever own a home.

Mr. Speaker, when is this government going to stop selling lots at market value and get out of the business of making housing unachievable for working-class Yukoners?

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** Earlier this year, we released quite a few lots in Whistle Bend. They were all at the development cost charged; none of them were at market value. I am not sure where the member opposite is getting her information.

I am happy to share that the work that we did was to release a range of lots. This set of lots, based on planning from the City of Whitehorse, included quite a few lots that were much more modest in size and therefore much more modestly priced. The average was \$58,000 for those smaller lots. There were also, within there, several multi-family lots, and we will have many units on those lots. That is all about density. That is all about reducing price, and that is working with the City of Whitehorse to try to get lots across the spectrum so that those who don't have the means can get entry into the housing market.

**Ms. White:** Mr. Speaker, as a minimum-wage earner, last spring I saw that this government, when given the opportunity, decided to increase the minimum wage by only \$1.20 per hour because they said that they had to consult with Yukon businesses about how a further increase might impact their bottom line. I realized that this wage increase, like almost all government decisions, was not made with my best interests at heart.

I notice that income inequality and unaffordability are making life increasingly difficult for working-class Yukoners like me. I hear the government pointing out that the economy is doing well and that unemployment is low, but what I see is that those at the top are the ones reaping the benefits of those increases while those of us at the bottom are getting left behind. My wages are barely increasing while the cost of living in Yukon skyrockets.

Mr. Speaker, is it this government's policy to create a permanent class of working-poor Yukoners, or will they finally do the right thing and immediately raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, closing the gap between that and the living wage?

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** Last year, we raised the minimum wage by \$1.20. It was approximately a nine- to 10-percent increase in minimum wage in one year. We did that on the recommendation of the Employment Standards Board. We continue to work with the Employment Standards Board — to ask them for their recommendations — because they set the minimum wage. Well, technically, they give us an order, and we either accept it or reject it. We worked with them over the past year to provide them with more economic analysis and we look forward to what they will recommend for us going forward.

What I want to say is that the living wage today is just about the same as the living wage when I first landed here as a minister. In the meantime, our minimum wage has gone up. Is

it enough? I look forward to talking with the Employment Standards Board.

If I look at that report, there are a suite of ways in which we need to work together on how to address poverty ranging from transit to lot prices and ranging from affordable housing to minimum wage. We'll work on all of them.

**Question re: Alaska Highway corridor upgrades**

**Ms. Van Bibber:** Earlier this Sitting, we asked the government about their plans for expropriation along the Alaska Highway. At the government's open house on November 12, we were told that the government is in negotiations to purchase the Salvation Army's property where the Adult Resource Centre is located. The current plans do not show any planned roads or through roads going through this property, so it would seem strange that the government is looking at this property.

Can the minister confirm that the government is looking at purchasing this property and, if so, for what purpose? Is the government looking at creating a quarry or a gravel pit?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I can tell the member that the government has done extensive assessment and planning work along the Alaska Highway through Whitehorse, and we're focusing on intersection safety improvements and considering all users, from large trucks and personal vehicles to cyclists and pedestrians. We have prioritized segments of the highway for improvements.

Mr. Speaker, we do know that there are some obstructions on the highway right-of-way through the section of highway right in front of Hillcrest. I have asked the department about this. They are currently speaking with the owners of the Airport Chalet, but that's the only site that, I've been told, we are actually working on to obtain to make the highway right-of-way wider.

**Question re: Queen's Printer and Central Stores services**

**Mr. Kent:** The elimination of Central Stores and the gutting of Queen's Printer are other examples of poor management and poor leadership by the Liberals.

This is certainly a case of decision-based evidence-making as the minister fumbles and bumbles his way through this file. We have found out from the private sector that suppliers were invited to a meeting in early November only to be told what the government's plans were. No consultation, no engagement — certainly no being heard. At this meeting, vendors were told that the new model would be to supply, warehouse, and deliver goods Yukon-wide.

For context, Mr. Speaker, there are 200 delivery locations in Whitehorse alone, and there are no minimum orders associated with this.

Can the minister tell us why there was no consultation with vendors prior to this decision being made? What guarantees are in place for local contractors and vendors to be successful in bidding on these jobs?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** We are modernizing our operations, moving to improve procurement, and expanding our digital

workplace and online services. We are moving our government to a data-driven 21<sup>st</sup> century institution from a 19<sup>th</sup> century model. We are striving to be balanced and reasonable and fair in our approach.

I'm not sure how the member opposite — whether he agrees or not with the approach we're taking. I'm not really going to address that right now. I will say that we're working very hard to manage the change within the Department of Highways and Public Works. We know that change is difficult for some of the staff. We're working very hard to make sure that they are accommodated. As I have said before, no employee is losing their job with the Government of Yukon. As a matter of fact, they're retaining their wages and their status within the Yukon government through this transition.

At the end of this, we will have modernized and actually changed the way we procure goods and services within Highways and Public Works for the entire government. We will have saved an awful lot of warehouse space, and we will actually save the government about \$1.6 million.

We're following the collective agreement. We're respecting our employees' jobs and making sure that they have a place to stay, and we are saving the government \$1.6 million. I'm not sure what the member opposite disagrees with. I look forward to finding out.

**Mr. Kent:** For the minister, I'm flagging concerns that were raised by the private sector about the lack of consultation prior to this decision being made. As I mentioned, at the meeting in early November, vendors were told that the new model would be to supply, warehouse, and deliver these goods Yukon-wide.

By the looks of things, the government is just turning over the warehouse and delivery aspects of what was being done through Central Stores to the private sector. Can the minister again tell us why there was no consultation with vendors prior to this decision being made? Can he provide for us one concrete example of cost savings by just turning this over to the private sector?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** As I said, the government is working very hard to modernize and improve the way we procure goods and services and save money. We're doing so in a way that respects the collective agreement and our employees.

Mr. Speaker, this modernization initiative that we undertook was planned out by the Department of Highways and Public Works and the Public Service Commission in detail.

In fact, what the member opposite is suggesting is that we would have gone to the business community and said that this is what we're doing before we made the decision and actually had our employees find out about what we were doing or planning or maybe doing through the business community. We did not take that approach. We wanted to respect our employees, and once we took a decision, we informed the union and worked with them through the whole process. At the end of dealing with the HR issues within the Department of Highways and Public Works in a methodical fashion, we then went to the business community to say, "This is our plan, and this is where we're going."

To have done that the opposite way would have actually undermined any efforts we had and would have actually suggested that we made a decision when we had not. We took a decision and then we acted. That's how we do it; that's how it should be done, and I'm very proud of the way Highways and Public Works is executed.

**Question re: Private venture capital funds**

**Mr. Istchenko:** Earlier this year, the Minister of Economic Development announced that the Yukon government was spending \$2 million to invest in a private venture capital fund based in Montréal. While we see the benefit of investing in venture capital funds rather than picking winners and losers by directly subsidizing businesses, we have some questions about this investment.

What percentage of the \$2 million will actually be invested in the Yukon tech sector?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Taking into consideration that the fund is looking for the opportunity to grow the portfolio of investment, I would say that it will be determined by the opportunities that they see arise in Yukon. If there are many strong companies in that particular space which we're starting to see in the Yukon, that will determine — but you cannot predetermine an outcome of business analysis here in the Legislative Assembly today.

**Mr. Istchenko:** It's not unusual for other government corporations in Canada to invest in private venture capital funds. In fact, the Alberta Enterprise Corporation also invested in Panache Ventures. However, the Alberta Enterprise Corporation takes a much different approach to how they spend their money. For example, they require any venture capital fund that they invest in to provide key deliverables to them. Among other things, those deliverables require that the venture capital fund maintain a permanent presence in Alberta and that the province will benefit from the return on its investment.

Can the minister tell us why he didn't require these types of deliverables from Panache Ventures before giving them \$2 million of taxpayers' dollars?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** The member opposite probably doesn't have all the information, so let me just take that opportunity.

Either through research by caucus staff or through conversation, what would have been good is if the Alberta fund had taken the opportunity as well to let the member opposite know that actually the Yukon negotiated the best terms of all the investment portfolio. Actually, what happened during this process was that Québec as well as the banking community in Alberta went back to seek better benefits in the investment based on the terms that were negotiated by Yukon. Of course, that is mentorship, having the opportunity to have a presence here, having them build capacity with an individual to have an office here in the future, and as well, hosting in the very near future over 60 CEOs from a number of companies. Those are all things that we negotiated and they were the best terms and of course the rest of the country then wanted to use the terms that we had.

**Mr. Istchenko:** Let's re-cap the deal that the minister has negotiated. He is giving away \$2 million of taxpayers'

dollars, and in return, he has no firm commitment that any of the \$2 million will be spent in the Yukon. The Yukon government will receive no direct financial return on this investment and the capital venture fund is not even required to have a permanent presence in the Yukon. These are not outlandish things to ask, Mr. Speaker; in fact, they are exactly what Panache was required to provide in return for the investments from Alberta.

All that the minister can tell us is that, from time to time, staff of the fund will visit the Yukon and provide advice. So, \$2-million worth of advice — does the minister believe that this is a good deal for the Yukon government?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Mr. Speaker, I don't think it is a good deal to send the Member for Kluane in with half of the information and then ask me these questions. That what I don't think is a good deal.

The premise of the question reflects a misunderstanding, so let me just clarify this. First of all, the decision that was made on the investment was made by the seven First Nations — the Da Daghay Development Corporation, Dakwakada Capital Investments, Selkirk Development Corporation, Kluane Dana Shãw, Chu Níikwãn from Kwanlin Dün, and Na-Cho Nyäk Dun — one of the biggest investments ever pulled together in Yukon history with First Nation development corporations.

On top of that, we have a commitment for a minimum investment in Yukon companies. But we believe, based on the success of the companies that we are seeing — such as Proof and Proskida, which just outfitted the Swiss ski team in the last week at the World Cup — companies like this that are starting to roll, that we are getting behind — that is really leading to true diversification — Yukoners getting jobs in this sector, which we hadn't seen previously, and expansion of our economy.

So, once again, many benefits negotiated, and I would like to thank the First Nation groups that came together and their leadership for this. So, once again — a lot of misinformation from across the way. Good investment here is something that all Yukoners should be proud of.

**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):** Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 51, Department of

Community Services, in Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

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

**Bill No. 200: *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20* — continued**

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 51, Department of Community Services, in Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

**Department of Community Services — *continued***

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

Mr. Cathers, you have 11 minutes and 31 seconds remaining.

**Mr. Cathers:** Mr. Chair, when we finished off yesterday, I had asked the minister a number of questions, which I'm hoping he may have answers to today.

Just to refresh his memory, those included: What work is being done around wildfire risk mitigation in and near communities? I encouraged the government to work with First Nations, municipalities, local advisory councils as well as groups including the Yukon Wood Products Association, FireSmart Whitehorse, and of course the private sector as well on coming up with an action plan for targeted harvesting in and near communities of trees with the intent of looking at that through the lens of wildfire risk mitigation.

Also, I had asked him a number of questions regarding emergency medical services and fire services, including with regard to the government's plan released in their climate change and energy strategy to put 6,000 electric vehicles on the road. I had asked him about the risk of high-voltage cables in those vehicles and what steps had been taken in terms of understanding what the risk was and working with the partner agencies to have a clear understanding of what risks might occur as a result of that when it comes to first responders, including EMS, fire, and police, in responding to a motor vehicle accident.

I missed mentioning, and should have, what risks might exist and increased risks to the general public if someone was assisting with a roadside motor vehicle accident. Again, not to be alarmist in that area, but I am simply pointing out that the concept of doing something should not be the only thing that is considered. There should be full consideration of the other impacts of moving toward putting vehicles on the road which do have higher voltage cables in them.

I had also asked the minister to provide a breakdown, which he indicated he would provide later — I'm expecting that I might hear it today or I might receive it in a letter on a

breakdown — by facility of how much money the government is going to lose by implementing tipping fees since the minister acknowledged that they are actually going to be running at a loss at facilities that the Yukon government is operating.

As well, I had noted that it seems strange and disappointing that, when the government committed in its throne speech to expand recycling, just weeks later — practically before the ink is dry on the paper of the new throne speech — the government was actually announcing the shutting down of glass recycling. Of course, they could have chosen to work with the private sector and the company Raven Recycling on a model for diversion credits.

Of course, I also asked the minister, as they are committed to implementing tipping fees, what the government is doing to provide access to composting at the dumps that Community Services runs.

With that brief recap, I will turn it over to the minister and I look forward to hopefully receiving some answers.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** I will try to be brief. I thought I had answered the question about the vehicles. I believe what I said was that electric vehicles are coming whether we have our climate change plan or not. It is going to happen nationally. It will be happening. I think it's a good point, and we will be checking in with the department to see what training is planned or underway.

I thank the member opposite for that question. In the way that the member opposite phrased this notion — saying that we are going to be losing money — I will try yet again today — and I will actually make an appointment to sit down with the member opposite and try to go over it, because somehow I am not helping to further the understanding here. Overall, we currently spend a lot of money. If you like, then, we don't recoup any money, so we are losing money now or it is subsidized for our solid-waste facilities across the territory. By charging a small fee that will make it level for every Yukoner, what we anticipate is that the amount of loss will decrease. On a facility-by-facility basis, it might be a little bit different, so I am going to have to wait to get the numbers and the full analysis for the member opposite. What we are saying is that, by charging a little bit, it will end up overall being better, but that doesn't necessarily mean that, in any facility that we are going to go from that full subsidy and now we are going to be making money. No, we don't think so. We think that there will still be a loss, just a much lower loss than when we didn't charge something. Okay. Again, I think this is going to need a fuller conversation. I have already said and I will say again today — and I said several times yesterday — that we will get the information for the member opposite about the economic analysis on that work.

With respect to glass, we have always been working with both the private sector and the social enterprises like P&M Recycling, like Blue Bin, and like Raven Recycling. It is they who said to us: "No, we are not doing this anymore." We accept that. While it is not something that we wish were the case — and we will continue to look for ways in which to find a local, viable methodology for recycling or reuse of that material — it is not a complete negative for two reasons.



The first one is that glass is an inert material compared to some of the other materials that we deal with like waste oil, like batteries, even like organics, as an example, if they go in the wrong stream. The other reason is that glass as a commodity is not the largest commodity that we try to deal with. Plastics is a larger issue; paper is a larger issue.

I have asked the Solid Waste Advisory Committee to work on all recycling, and with that, I hope that it includes composting. Currently, they are working on solutions, and they will be coming back to me. I look forward to sharing those with this House at some point.

Finally, with respect to the overall strategy, I think the phrase that the member opposite used yesterday was “side burner” and “back burner”. The way I would like to characterize it is “front burner”. As an issue, one of the most critical issues that we are working on in terms of risk is wildfire. We are aggressive around it. We’re working with communities. We have a game plan in place. For example, we’re working with the City of Whitehorse, with the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta’an Kwäch’än Council on a solution here around Whitehorse. We are working in other communities. I think I listed off the four where we’re starting. Again, I’ll just check to make sure, but they were Teslin, Watson Lake, Mayo, and Haines Junction.

On a community-by-community basis, we will work on these resiliency plans. If you think of firesmarting as being right around the neighbourhood, then the next layer out — that first line of protection — is where we’re working. We are working with the Forestry branch. As I have already said, we are working with the Wood Products Association unless the wood is someplace that is inaccessible. We’ll use every technique that we can to reduce that fuel load, but in doing so, we want to be smart about it. We want to take that material, turn it into biomass, turn it into usable energy, and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions at the same time.

**Mr. Cathers:** I think what the minister is missing is — I do understand the words that he’s saying, but without the numbers to back them up, we really do not have the information that we need to understand the actual costs. Without the numbers, we don’t have the numbers.

I’m not going to spend too much more time on that or pointing to the government saying one thing and then doing another on recycling. I’m sure we’re not going to get much further than we already have with the minister. He’s likely to repeat the same rhetoric.

I will ask the minister — the issue of the Mae Bachur Animal Shelter, of course, has come up in the media. I would ask the minister what the government is doing — whether he is working with the Mae Bachur Animal Shelter, or I should say the Humane Society Yukon — to ensure that the government is assisting them on dealing with their challenges and helping them to find a path forward to keep in operation.

The Mae Bachur Animal Shelter — of course, the last financials that they have shared, based on what has been passed on to me, show annual costs of roughly \$455,000 with a contribution from government of just under \$100,000. The contribution actually first began at \$75,000, which was the

result of the then-Minister of Community Services, Glenn Hart, agreeing to part of a request that I had made. I had originally proposed a larger amount of core funding for the animal shelter, but the minister agreed to \$75,000. It began from there and has been increased since that time to just under \$100,000. But for the value of the service that they provide to the community in keeping animals from being in unsafe situations — whether on the street or perhaps not surviving — the value that they provide in allowing animals to be re-homed and adopted is a good one for the community overall.

I would just ask the minister if he could confirm, first of all, whether they are working with Mae Bachur. Secondly, what does that entail? Thirdly, in recognizing that they’re having increasing financial stress and that right now the contribution from government to them is less than 25 percent of their overall revenues, whether the government is considering increasing funding to the Mae Bachur Animal Shelter to ensure that their work is appropriately supported.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** I would just like to begin by thanking the board, the member, and all of those people who work to support the Mae Bachur Animal Shelter and Humane Society Yukon.

Last night at the public meeting, the board had a very open dialogue with members of the public and supporters. My understanding is that they got 16 folks who signed up to help out with the board. I thank them for the work that they are doing. I know that it is important work.

Unfortunately, due to some internal issues that the board had been addressing — I believe that there was a court case and some other issues — they made the decision for a while to try to do their books internally, in-house, and that led to some problems. Then they went out of compliance, so one of the things that we are doing as a government is to try to help them get back into compliance. I know that our Corporate Affairs shop is working with them to guide them to what they need to get back into compliance — to work with their members. As I heard at the meeting last night, their hope is to have a special general meeting in December or early in the new year to do that work.

We have been supporting them financially during this time to get their books back in order, with modest support. I know that the Department of Environment is the main funder for the humane society. I know that, in 2017, the Department of Environment increased their support for the humane society by about 40 percent, so it has increased in recent years — that would have been in 2017 — so that’s good news. We remain open to talking with them about their funding situation.

The other thing that we have offered to do to help them is, as they get a new board and start to address how to ensure that they are sustainable over time — and I think both the Department of Environment and my Department of Community Services have just reached out and said, “Hey, let us help you do some capacity building with your board to make sure that you have your governance models working well for you in place and that you are able to land on your feet.” I had several conversations about that last night. I had a very brief conversation with the Minister of Environment today so far,

just discussing the situation. I have been in correspondence this morning already with folks from the humane society.

I hope that is a reasonable update for the House.

**Mr. Cathers:** While I do have some more questions, in the interest of moving on to other departments, I will wrap up my remarks and just thank the officials here as well as those assisting in the background for their work in assisting the minister and providing answers here this afternoon as well as yesterday. I would just close with a reminder, as always, for officials that, when we disagree with the political leadership on matters that they have made decisions on, we do not wish in any way for that to be taken by the hard-working staff as a reflection on their work in carrying out the directions that they're given.

With that, Mr. Chair, I will conclude my remarks in Community Services and cede the floor to other members.

**Chair:** Is there any further debate on Vote 51, Department of Community Services?

Seeing none, we will proceed to line-by-line debate.

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

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

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

Is there unanimous consent?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

**On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures**

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

**On Capital Expenditures**

**Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$45,300,000 agreed to**

**Total Expenditures in the amount of \$64,300,000 agreed to**

**Department of Community Services agreed to**

**Chair:** The matter now before the Committee is Vote 7, Department of Economic Development, in Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

Would members like 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.

The matter before the Committee is Vote 7, Department of Economic Development, in Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

**Department of Economic Development**

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

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I would like to welcome the officials to the Legislative Assembly today. Supporting me this afternoon will be Deputy Minister Justin Ferbey from the Economic Development department and our director of Finance, Catherine Marangu. I will just start with a few opening words, and then we can move right into questions.

The Department of Economic Development requested a budget increase of \$1.5 million to support a First Nation investment and \$1.5 million for the business incentive program. I will start with the First Nation investment. The Government of Yukon is pleased to support the Yukon First Nation Investment Corporation and their participation in a pan-national, early stage start-up fund. Panache Ventures, launched in March 2018, is raising capital for a private equity capital fund of \$58 million, intending to invest in a portfolio of approximately 100 companies across Canada. The sector focus areas are artificial intelligence, fintech, digital health care, enterprise software, and blockchain.

Yukon First Nation Investment Corporation is investing a total of \$5 million in Panache Ventures. The Government of Yukon will contribute \$2 million to this \$5 million total over the course of two fiscal years. The investment benefits Yukoners because: it delivers training, mentorship, and support for early stage technology start-ups; it develops investment infrastructure here in the Yukon for the technology industry; it opens up technology sector ecosystems to Yukon First Nation investors; and it contributes to the diversification of Yukon's economy.

It is within my mandate to attract new investment to Yukon businesses, develop innovation in the knowledge economy, and strengthen entrepreneurial opportunities for First Nation development corporations.

I am requesting \$1.5 million for our \$2-million commitment. Government support for this investment has the potential to open up new opportunities for Yukon start-ups and change the investment landscape in Yukon.

My second request is for the business incentive program. The program gives rebates to businesses working on eligible Government of Yukon contracts. The rebates are for Yukon hires, youths, apprentices, and adults or Yukon-made goods and services creating opportunities for Yukoners.

This program provides two types of rebates to contractors and manufacturers: (1) Government of Yukon construction contracts and rebates for labour and apprentice costs, youth employment, and Yukon manufacturers whose materials are incorporated into eligible construction projects and (2) goods and services purchased by the Yukon government and rebates to Yukon manufacturers for items produced in Yukon and sold directly to the government.

I'm requesting an increase of \$1.5 million for the business incentive program. This is in response to the high level of

demand for the program. It is oversubscribed for the 2019-20 fiscal year due to the number of government tender projects that are expected to be completed this fiscal year.

Approving these budget increases will allow the Government of Yukon to: (1) make strategic investments that build healthy, vibrant, and sustainable communities; and (2) support a diverse growing economy that provides good jobs for Yukoners in an environmentally responsible way.

With that, Mr. Chair, I will leave it to the opposition for questions.

**Mr. Istchenko:** I thank the minister for his opening remarks. I also do want to welcome the officials who are here today to assist the minister and those who are listening on the phone who always provide a little extra information.

I'll get right into my line of questioning. There are no line items this year for either of the following: the strategic investment and northern economic development — in 2018, it was \$1.29 million — and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency — in 2018, it was \$735,370. Can the minister explain why there is no line item for this, please?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Can I just get the member opposite to repeat the question, please?

**Mr. Istchenko:** When I was looking through the accounts, there is no line item — no dollar amount in the line item for strategic investment and northern economic development in 2019. Also, there is no dollar amount for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency in 2019. But there were numbers in there in 2018. For 2019, there is nothing for those two.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Our understanding is that those line items reflected transfer agreements that originated with the federal government. Because those transfer agreements are no longer in place with the Department of Economic Development, they're not identified here in our accounts today.

**Mr. Istchenko:** Thank you for that. Next question: How much funding this year was dispersed through the regional economic development fund and the strategic industries development fund? How does this compare to the previous years?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Although we're still within this fiscal period, our anticipation — similar to last year — is that both funds would be fully expended — \$800,000 each. I think it's important to note — with our commitment to ensuring there's proper financial capacity for interested and eligible parties within our communities, many of which are serviced through the regional economic development fund — that it was about 24 months ago that we actually doubled the number of dollars available through the regional economic development fund compared to what we had seen in the past.

This fund — we work in partnership with municipal and First Nation governments, businesses, and NGOs to make strategic investments in communities throughout the territory. Our supports help turn plans and ideas from the regional economic development fund into economic activity by providing both advice on project design and financial resources from the regional economic and community development funds.

We supported First Nation governments, development corporations, municipalities, and economic partners with interest in the western Alaska highway corridor by coordinating the St. Elias Corridor Economic Development Conference. The Member for Kluane would know this event well. I think he had an opportunity to speak at it and, as well, was supportive of it. This is something that the member strongly believes in. That is an example of things that we can do through this.

At that particular event, more than 100 delegates met to plan regional economic development initiatives. We supported First Nation economic development officers and land managers as well through Yukon's first Links to Learning conference and trade show, which helped build capacity and share practices. It is also important to note, Mr. Chair, with the regional economic development fund — that was the second year we had seen this type of community-based regional conversation. The previous one was the year before in Watson Lake.

We are also working with municipalities to help create positive long-term impacts on employment and wealth creation. For example, we have provided funding in Dawson City to develop a renewed development incentive policy that will encourage targeted residential development, increase future tax revenue for the city, and create housing options for local business operators with seasonal employees. We are also helping the Town of Watson Lake to implement prioritized community and economic development initiatives focused on governance, land development, land procurement, tourism, and encouraging local economic activity.

We are also supporting organizations and governments to deliver programming that provides long-term sustainable economic and social benefits to Yukon communities. An example of this is that we provided funding to the Dawson Society for Children and Families to build a safe and engaging enhanced outdoor play area for the children attending the Little Blue Daycare in Dawson City.

We are also providing funding to the Kluane First Nation in the member opposite's constituency to develop a community memorial park in recognition of those who have recently been lost and to provide an opportunity for the people of Burwash Landing to heal as a community.

The department — I think that it is important to add that it seeks to foster economic growth throughout the Yukon really by focusing on a number of key areas: business and industry promotion and facilitation; research and innovation; capacity development and growth planning; policy and regulation; and economic infrastructure. These are the activities through the department.

As well, when we look — based on the question opposite about how we have expended or if we have expended the dollars — we're also looking at supporting the development of Yukon businesses and funding projects that create economic benefits and provide economic opportunities to Yukon communities. Also through these funds, we look at projects that provide social benefits and facilitate community involvement and increase social capital or have other long-term benefits and projects that facilitate regional economic development

planning — such as the event in Kluane last year — as well as facilitate organizational capacity development.

Also, we focus on projects that open up new markets or significantly expand existing markets, particularly export markets — also projects that identify and facilitate the development of strategic industries and projects and economic infrastructure and those that facilitate the maximization of secondary benefits from strategic projects. It's also important to increase awareness of investment in strategic industries and in strategic projects.

Some of the other key projects that are good for those, as the member opposite said, who tuned in today just to see some of the good work by the Department of Economic Development and the strong team that is there — in the Village of Carmacks, we spent just over \$11,000 on strategic planning and finance policy development. The strategic plan will provide the Village of Carmacks counsel in managing staff, with a clear mandate that includes its updated vision, mission, and new strategic priorities. The finance policy will also establish accountability, consistency, and compliance measures for its finance departmental operations.

Another great project in the Town of Watson Lake — just about \$50,000 — is the Watson Lake strategic initiatives where we're helping the Town of Watson Lake to implement and prioritize community and economic development initiatives focused on governance, land development, procurement, tourism, and encouraging our local economic activity.

Also, in the member opposite's constituency — not only the conference, but also the St. Elias Chamber of Commerce — we have provided them with just over \$12,000. That is for a regional travel brochure. It's not only bringing people together to share ideas and listen, but also supporting the outcomes of that conference to ensure that they can put their ideas into action.

The regional travel brochure will identify the Kluane region as a tourism destination and promote the opportunities that exist for experiential travel. The primary objectives of this are to increase the length and time visitors stay in the region. The brochure will serve as a marketing tool for private businesses and government service providers, as well as provide an avenue for promoting cultural tourism opportunities.

Just in closing to this question, here in the City of Whitehorse, we also provided just over \$16,000 for a skills gap analysis of the trade sector. The skills gap analysis will analyze the current and future labour demands for specific skills in the trades and identify strategies to attract skilled workers and retain skilled workers. That work was done with the City of Whitehorse. Once again, \$1.6 million through those two funds and last year's budget — again, looking to fully expend that.

Maybe just important for the strategic industries fund — for those who are tuning in today — I'm just happy to talk about a couple of projects there as well — again, major projects approved in the 2019-2020 budget year.

Yukon Mining Alliance — this is for Invest Yukon 2019-2020, so \$87,000 there. Yukon government provided funding to the Yukon Mining Alliance to help with the development of

a set of digital promotional tools for the Yukon's mining industry. That's a great project which gives the opportunity for First Nation governments, lands departments, as well as mining proponents and NGOs that work along with the mining sector to populate a digital platform that really gives people a virtual tour and information opportunity within the Yukon.

So, you could go into a region such as Na-Cho Nyäk Dun — the potential for the First Nation to put in information about their lands department, their self-government agreement, mining protocols, or even how they direct companies to engage at an early stage as they start to do exploration. Then, of course, the companies that are working within that region can populate that information as well and talk a bit about their projects and what they're doing over the next number of years. It's just a really key opportunity with significant visuals that really provides a better story about these particular regions.

It's very cutting edge. It has been done. The team they have worked with — that Yukon Mining Alliance has worked with — has done a bit of work for some other major companies around the world, and this is something that, really in this day and age — and also when you look at a new generation of investors — it's important that you use tools that they're comfortable with. That's something that we were happy to support.

The Pine Heart Farm was \$25,000 for business planning and Yukon government provided them with that to undertake business planning activities related to the development of growing facilities for cannabis in Yukon. Of course, we would like to see organizations or businesses in the Yukon seeing the benefits of that legal market now. Pine Heart seems to want to be the first actors on this and our department was happy to support them.

Also, Yukon Berry Farms — just over \$18,000; that was for prototyping and market research. Yukon government provided to Yukon Berry Farms for recipe development and sample production and test marketing of a variety of haskap wines for export. This of course is some of the early stage work that the Department of Economic Development is doing. Alongside the Agriculture branch — having the responsibility for both of those areas and having the two deputy ministers as well as the teams really work in collaboration — understanding that this agricultural industry not only is going to help us with our own food security, reducing our GHG on supply chain by having food grown here, but also there is a key opportunity for export.

Significant interest has been shown around the haskap portion of our agriculture industry. The haskap sector — Yukon is doing a great job when we look at other regions where there is some of that, whether it be out east or Saskatchewan. We do know and we are focused. We have worked with the federal government and we are patiently waiting to see if we are getting support, but we think there is a real opportunity for research and development — a commercial hub to produce products. We will see how that works out, but it's something we're excited to support and be engaged in.

Hvactech, a well-known Yukon company — we provided \$10,000 for a market analysis related to the demand for biomass

systems in Yukon and Alaska. I know, even this morning — Hvactech just reached out. I'm pretty excited — they have some specialists in town and wanted to meet up and have a coffee and talk about the good work that they see and the opportunities that they see ahead.

Also, Chu Níikwān Development Corporation — we provided about \$7,500 for land development and leasing opportunities for the corporation so they can examine the models for lease structures to incentivize leasing while reducing the risks to landlords or mixed-use development in a subdivision.

I think it's important to congratulate Chu Níikwān Development Corporation. Not only have they moved on some — their first lease on commercial — but they have done some development in downtown Whitehorse. Sometimes we have heard in the Legislative Assembly that we should be working with our First Nation governments on these particular projects. Sometimes people don't have all the information. It's important to understand that the scenario is different with many different First Nations.

Some First Nations have passed an approved lands act — so that's really important to have that in place first, because that becomes the governance mechanism to do that leasing. Other nations do not have that legislation in place. On top of that, some First Nations, such as Kwanlin Dūn, have moved to work with the government.

We're happy to work with them, and we want to support them and congratulate them on their continued success.

I hope that gives a fulsome answer around those particular funds and a sample of some of the good work that the department is doing on this particular topic.

**Mr. Istchenko:** Next question — Dempster fibre. I'm just looking for an update on it. A couple of things I'm looking for — or anything else that the minister might have — would be if the permitting is in place and if our friends — to quote the minister — “across the way in the Northwest Territories” — is their permitting in place? When does construction start?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Sorry for the delay. I wanted to try to see if I could just gather some more detailed information.

I will give all the information that I can — out of respect for the member opposite — but this is, of course, being led by the Department of Highways and Public Works at this particular time. Economic Development negotiated the early agreement with the federal government, as well as the agreement with Northwestel. The department also undertook due diligence concerning both potential routes that were available, whether that be the Skagway route or connecting to the infrastructure that was being built in the Northwest Territories. Once that work was concluded, the department made the final decision to look at the northern route, which we felt was very important.

The reason that I bring this up — some things have played out over the last number of months, and I think that it is important to share those with those who are tuning in because, really, what it does is it solidifies the good work done by the technical team at Economic Development.

I guess what I would like to share is that many people were kind of caught off guard in the sense that there was an announcement for a fibre project. A US company was going into the constituency, actually, of the member opposite, and it was going to connect into an area just around Haines Junction. That was a decision that was made by a US company to build redundancy into the Yukon. Of course, we felt that we had the responsibility in Economic Development to reach out to the company — MCI, I believe, is the acronym — and we had an opportunity to have a discussion with them about the project and how long they had been contemplating the project. These are things that, of course — if they had already been contemplated — we would have potentially taken into consideration in our decision-making before looking at the Dempster.

What we quickly came to learn was that the lines that were being used in Alaska — whether through the northernmost part of Alaska or even through southeast Alaska where you were seeing fibre that was laid on the ocean floor — these cables were becoming — well, put it this way: There was really some concern about the consistency that people could see in the use of those lines.

We contemplated, here in the Yukon, going to Skagway. We even had reports through the Alaskan team that the Skagway line had problems this summer with rupture or tear. That is the same concern, I guess, for the group based out of Anchorage. Their concern was the cost. Purchasing bandwidth on those particular lines was so expensive that they also wanted to have this potential backup or even potentially primary use of the line through the Yukon. Of course, I state that for the Assembly today because, once again, it puts to rest the conversation when it comes to — for us at least — what we felt was the right decision, looking at and verifying all the variables that needed to be contemplated.

Where we are at this particular point — I think I should be able to give a little broader information to the member opposite, so I can provide a legislative return as well. I think that it would be appropriate in this case.

The team at Highways and Public Works — I had a chance to attend a CYFN leadership meeting with them just a few weeks back — with Minister Mostyn. The conversations with the First Nations along the route seemed to be going quite well. There have been broad conversations in all the communities and with all the communities, and that includes the Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and Vuntut Gwitchin and with members of the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

On the permitting process, I would have to look — I apologize, but I am not the primary on the file — to see if that has concluded, but I know that the team at Highways and Public Works is contemplating having the work out this winter and looking at construction in the upcoming construction season.

Of course, it's a very significant project. Having had the opportunity to read through some of those original engineering reports, it is quite daunting when you think about 1,100 water crossings, and then there is some pretty significant technical drilling that will need to be put in place because of the bodies of water in the northern part of the route. It is a total route of

about 777 kilometres. When you take into consideration the Mackenzie Valley, probably we will get caught here and miss a bit. It is quite factual that, when you take that whole fibre loop, it almost is the length going from the north right to the US-Canada border. It's quite significant in total length when you take a look at it.

This is something that is important, because it will connect the entire north.

Just in closing on this, I would say that there has been criticism around the methodical approach that we took. I would stand by that approach, because in both other territories that have built lines — in the Mackenzie, we saw very significant cost overruns — over \$200 million in total capital expenditures. Just lately, there has been a lot of news out of Nunavut, and that has been focused on their line which, I believe, is going from the eastern coast of Canada to Greenland — again, a very significant cost overrun.

I think it's better for me or Minister Mostyn to take the criticism here. That's probably a better outcome, of course — and ensuring, at the same time, that the project is done in a very appropriate way, that the First Nation partners that are there have a chance to see some benefits from this, and that we look at all the opportunities that will come from this fibre line as it moves up the Dempster, as it shores up the satellite — very innovative infrastructure that's in Inuvik and something very important to the Government of the Northwest Territories.

At this point, I think that we're looking good for a build season next year. I think that it will probably be more than one season to complete a project of this magnitude, and I feel that things are moving well — but a commitment from me back to the Member for Klwane for some more details and some timeline information when appropriate.

**Mr. Istchenko:** I look forward to that.

We have spoken at length in this House, I do believe — the Member for Lake Laberge and also my colleague from Watson Lake — about expanding cellular service throughout the Yukon, particularly to the communities with significant populations, including Junction 37, Grizzly Valley, Deep Creek, Fox Lake, Ibex, Mendenhall, and Champagne. We have had this discussion before.

I'm just wondering if the minister has any plans for cellular expansion to these areas and if there is any work being done to this date on expansion.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** We have been in discussions with Northwestel — “We” being the Department of Economic Development — have had meetings with the deputy minister — with me.

There have been some dollars that have been earmarked for all three territories for increased cellular. We have continued to try to champion increased cellular — to be very open — in the constituency of the member opposite as well as the Member for Lake Laberge.

Just so the opposition knows, when we have that opportunity to take their priorities forward, we do. That's what we have been doing. We have also met with Bell Mobility, so we're looking to see if there's an opportunity over the short run to expand into Mendenhall and Champagne, and we are also

looking to see if coverage can become a bit more consistent north of Whitehorse.

**Mr. Istchenko:** I thank the minister for that.

In the 2018-19 budget, there was a transfer under the Yukon business development program to Synergy Industries Incorporated. I believe it was for \$120,000. Can the minister explain this transfer and what this money was being used for?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** This was money that was paid to the previous contractor — I think, a long-time contractor — for the Yukon business development program, and now a different Yukon company has taken over that work. I think that's what it was — it was a transfer payment for a program. I think it was probably a program that the member opposite would remember from his work and previous mandate under the same contractor.

**Mr. Istchenko:** I thank the minister for that. I want to jump back a little bit to my previous question about — I asked about the Dempster fibre, and then the minister gave a little bit more explanation on the diverse fibre line through to Beaver Creek.

I'm of the understanding that — and the minister can correct me if I'm wrong — the American company — the contractor, MCI, or what the minister had said — will only be purchasing excess capacity in that line. Can the minister confirm that?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I can't confirm that. In my role, I have only had one conversation with the CEO from MCI. They talked about redundancy. They talked about the concern that they had for the cost moving out of Alaska. That's all I can share, based on their business model and business plan.

**Mr. Istchenko:** I thank the minister for that.

Another question — and it has been hugely brought to my attention — is the issue with, basically, technology. It has caught up to us. The old systems that we have at some of the old highway lodges don't work anymore through Northwestel.

There is a place, the White River Lodge, that is a great example. They have a beautiful airstrip there. Mining exploration companies work in and out of there. They have a great RV park with a lot of old military vehicles, but they can't accept credit cards most of the time or even get on the Internet. This line is running right by. I'm just wondering if the minister had a conversation with those companies.

Someone else — for example, Klwane First Nation bought the old Buckshot Betty's from way back at Pine Valley. They do their culture camps and a lot of their retreats there now. Everyone is kind of wondering if they can access that. I'm just wondering if the minister has had that conversation yet.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I think we'll endeavour to see what those opportunities are.

In my conversations with some of the stakeholders, it seemed as though there was some increased connectivity being provided in the Burwash Landing area, I believe, and potentially Destruction Bay. Let me make sure that I have the appropriate information.

My sense was that, even during some of this procurement — of course, Klwane development corporation having a big role in doing this work — there was some opportunity. It makes

good sense that, yes, the lodge and anybody on that route would have access to this connectivity.

We will look to get some of those answers for the member opposite.

**Mr. Istchenko:** That's great. I look forward to that.

In March, the Canadian border agents raided the offices of Economic Development. I'm just wondering: What were they investigating? Regarding that investigation, were any files or computers confiscated? What's the status of that now? Is it closed?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Well, that calm questioning took a hard right.

I think that it is an active investigation. What I have come to understand is that it is actually looking at some historical activity that had happened. Maybe the members opposite would know even more than I do, but it is an active investigation at this particular time. I think that, if the opposition wants to reach out to the Canada Border Services Agency — I don't know if they will share anything because it is an active investigation. That is all that I am aware of at this particular time.

**Mr. Istchenko:** I have a few questions here about the new community immigration pilot program. Currently, the pilot project is set to launch in January 2020, so this date is coming up pretty quickly. Basically, is the date still on track, and can the minister say whether there are individuals lined up for placement in these communities?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Mr. Chair, I am just going to give a little bit of information about the program. The member opposite is talking about the program that we are looking at to address labour market issues identified by the Yukon business community. We have signed our letter of intent with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to establish a multi-year immigration pilot program in Yukon.

The Yukon community pilot will be a new stream of the Yukon nominee program, intended to meet labour force challenges and increase retention in Yukon communities where seasonal and part-time employees are needed. This program would give us up to 50 nominees per year who will be eligible through the program to receive work permits, enabling them to work for up to three employers in participating communities on a year-round basis.

As far as I am aware, we are still looking at a launch date of January 2020. Of course, the employers in Dawson City, Watson Lake, and Haines Junction have expressed concerns about the availability of seasonal workers. In working with them — I would like to thank, specifically, Kendell Tricker in Carmacks for her leadership on this.

What happened was that we gathered business leaders throughout the Yukon and let them speak directly to the Canadian federal government and said, "Look, we need to support our business people." Some of these organizations may only have 10 or 15 hours of work available, but if they come together as two or three businesses in a smaller community, they can provide that full-time work. We are seeing more and more interest through the nominee program for individuals to go to our communities and also to stay in Yukon. We are seeing strong retention. People, of course, are appreciating the

opportunity and the quality of life, and they want to work hard, contribute, and be part of our community.

We are pretty excited about this. It is the first of its kind in the country. It was something that we felt there was a huge need for. There will be additional positions available over and above our current allotment through the nominee program. If there are any changes in the timeline, I will make sure that we have an opportunity to discuss that. As well, now that we have a new immigration minister in place, I have already asked my officials to reach out so I have an opportunity to have a discussion with Minister Mendicino. We want to ensure that this stays on track.

**Mr. Istchenko:** With regard to housing, has consideration been given to whether there will be housing available in these communities? Was there a discussion about housing?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** That is an important question, but a broad question. I think that, first and foremost, we will have to see which communities these opportunities go to and what the full uptake is. I know that, in some communities, we have seen individuals, and I have talked to some — I will give an example — in Dawson City where business owners have gone out and purchased housing for their staff, and they have said to me, "Our staff will be provided with housing, and we are not as concerned." Of course, in other communities, it's not quite the same scenario.

I can't speak to that yet. I think we will have to see what the uptake is, and we will see in which communities people are hired. From there, we can have a fuller conversation.

I think it is fair to say that, seeing a bit more housing — market housing and market rentals — available in our communities, probably most of our communities would say that's something that's needed. The private sector in many communities is now starting to see that opportunity and starting to build, and then, of course, the municipalities are working in conjunction using some of the same incentives that we saw first here in Whitehorse, but now in other communities, to build housing to support the increase in population.

**Mr. Istchenko:** Another question I wanted to ask was: Is there criteria for how long an individual must stay in a particular community? Was there a timeline put on that?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I don't believe — I'll check on it — I don't believe that there is. I do believe there's a period of transition that's allotted to the individual so that they can find other opportunities within the Yukon while they're still within that status. I believe that's the criteria at this time. Let me just check with the official to make sure that I have the appropriate answer.

I guess additional information would be that, yes, that transition time is allotted to individuals if they're moving from, say, Carcross to Carmacks and they want to find an opportunity somewhere else. I think the restraints are more around if they are looking for permanent residency. During that process or application process, I believe there is some criteria about ensuring that the individual continues to be with that consistent employer while that process and application are being undertaken.

**Mr. Istchenko:** Thanks for the answer. In his initial response, when I first brought it up, he talked a little bit about the nominee program. Does the minister anticipate that there will be more applications to the nominee program, given that this new pilot program is out and about?

Maybe while the minister is up, he could provide the number of applicants that were approved in the nominee program each year or — actually, for the last five years. Maybe if he doesn't have any, a legislative return would be good. I'm sort of wondering if he figures there will be more uptake in the nominee program with this new pilot program.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** There's definitely a potential for increased numbers through the nominee program. Over the last number of years, 270, I believe — we approved 270 nominees between 2018 and 2019. There were 200 critical impact workers, 44 skilled workers, and 26 through the express entry. Going back — I'll go back about 12 years here — if we look between October 2007 and October 8, 2019, about 1,446 principle applicant nominees were approved. Of those, 1,104 were critical impact workers, 291 were skilled workers, and 41 were Yukon express entry applications. We have an extra 50 opportune positions.

It's important to say — I believe — and this was just being briefed by immigration officials — that I think in 2007, we saw the total allotment of opportunities, positions were met, and then there was a period of time since maybe 2008 that there wasn't. This last year was the first time that we've now seen that number met. To add once again, there's the 270 positions that are allotted by the federal government and now this additional 54 — the communities that have been identified — a bit more opportunity at probably a time when it's well-needed.

**Mr. Istchenko:** Moving on to another subject, is the minister able to provide today the number of applicants to CDF this year since the changes were made to the eligibility criteria and whether there has been an increase over applications prior to these changes? I think I asked this one time before but it's good to ask every year.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I appreciate the opportunity to rise and speak to this question. The applications that the community development fund has received over the last year have been funded in full. It's nice to see that we're not finding applications or more competition and that others are not getting an opportunity to access that money. We are seeing some municipalities, which is good. Even with this additional information that we have put out where First Nation development corporations — we have seen a few, but not a large number. So, at this particular time, we are always continuing to improve and revisit our program, but it seems to be working well, and I'm quite happy.

If the members opposite need anything else — maybe what I will do is — I will make sure that, at the end of the session, I have the community development fund annual report, April 1, 2017 to March 31. So, I'll make sure that I also provide that to the member opposite.

**Mr. Istchenko:** The next question is about the NorthLight innovation hub. How many government offices are currently located at the NorthLight building?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** There is one office that is from the community development corporation, and there are four staff who work out of that particular office.

**Mr. Istchenko:** I'm wondering what the cost to lease that office is, and how long are the leases for?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Let's leave that to — we can have that discussion if we can get through the questions on Economic Development, because next up is the community development corporation, so we can talk about the rent at that point — just because we're in supplementary budget, we have two line items, and we haven't even really discussed those two line items. I'm happy to get into a larger conversation about the community development corporation and its cost, if we have time this afternoon.

**Mr. Istchenko:** I'm confused. The community development corporation?

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

**Mr. Istchenko:** Oh, okay. I thought we had created a new one, and I missed that. That's good.

Okay, another thing that comes with Economic Development is PNWER.

I attended a few PNWERs back in my day, and they are a good place to mingle, learn, chat, and find out what other jurisdictions are doing.

This summer, I believe a press release was put out about Shakwak and conversations about Shakwak. I wonder if the minister can give me a little bit of an update on some of the conversations that were had with the government when they were at PNWER.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Mr. Chair, I apologize to the Assembly. Yes, I was speaking about the Yukon Development Corporation just because it was the last item today here with our supplementary budgets. The member opposite had asked about the rent that Yukon Development Corporation is paying, so I thought it would be appropriate to speak to that particular topic while we spoke about the Yukon Development Corporation.

Concerning PNWER, first of all, the first year that I was in this particular role, I had the opportunity to attend PNWER. We usually, through the summer meetings, always have Economic Development officials in attendance. I know that this last year, one of our MLAs, Paulo Gallina, attended and had some success with having a motion around supporting Shakwak supported in the process there — so we continue to make sure we have representation at PNWER.

Really, what we have tried to do is to look at what is being done from a representation perspective by British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba at PNWER when you are fully engaged in that process — not only at the summer meetings, that but there are quarterly opportunities — and ensuring that we have the opportunity to fully engage in that conversation. Of course, we had PNWER meetings that we hosted here — and it was the first time in about a decade. The members opposite had a chance, I think, to attend some of that.



It was about a year ago. We're happy to host PNWER. We see great value in working with the team there. Topics, of course, such as Shakwak — but also other topics that are important to the region — are key.

We also have been supportive of ensuring that the Arctic caucus is back up and in place. Something that we think is important, there was — about two years ago, the chairmanship was, at that particular time, with Alaska and we had to wait for the House in Juneau to appoint somebody to lead that process.

Once again, congratulations to Mr. Gallina for his work on getting the motion passed. I think it's important that, anytime we can talk about Shakwak, we do. Once again, we will continue to be focused on —

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

### Point of order

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

**Mr. Cathers:** Mr. Chair, I would just ask you to remind the minister that it is out of order to refer to members by their names in this Assembly, as he just did with his reference to the Member for Porter Creek Centre.

### Chair's ruling

**Chair:** Point taken — Mr. Pillai?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Yes, Mr. Chair, absolutely. For some reason, because I am in Committee, I thought I had that opportunity. I am sorry. Yes, it is the Member for Porter Creek Centre.

**Mr. Istchenko:** I will just stick with PNWER for a little bit — or not PNWER so much, but the Shakwak.

I know that there was some economic analysis done in the past on the number of trucks and basically how busy the corridor is through there. The federal government has changed some of their shipping regulations through some of their bills. I am just wondering if it is on the radar to do another analysis to see if there will be an increase to traffic — or a decrease — with some of the new regulations that are coming in.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** There haven't been discussions concerning a new economic analysis of that particular stretch of road. I will speak with department officials to take a look and see if I can track it down — if the member opposite just wants to send me an e-mail and just identify what that particular study was.

Because we are contemplating working with other regions on the electrification of the Alaska Highway, this is something that we will be looking at doing some work on and analysis of what the traffic flows are. We can probably disseminate some of that data and provide it to the member opposite to see what that looks like. I don't know if it is going to be an in-depth discussion around the economic impact.

At this particular time, I think we are all aware of how vital and important that particular stretch of road is and, again, why we think that it is something that we should look to electrify. It is going to be a major route and artery for a long period of time in the economy of northwestern North America. I will make

sure that I share any details that come up concerning more advanced studies on this particular topic.

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

The matter before the Committee is Vote 7, Department of Economic Development, in Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

**Mr. Istchenko:** Prior to the break — I will send a letter to the minister referencing what we were chatting about.

That concludes my questions for the day. I want to thank the staff who are here, and I will turn the floor over to the Third Party.

**Ms. Hanson:** I realize that the two main items in the supplementary estimates for the Department of Economic Development — a couple of comments that the minister made piqued my interest, and I do want to go back on them to confirm, either today or by means of a legislative return from the minister.

In speaking about the pilot project and the nominee program, there had been a question raised by the Member for Kluane regarding expectations with the provision of housing. I can see it if the expectation is that you have a full-time job coming here, but the minister was quite clear in outlining that — there are a couple of questions that I have. He talked about this being very useful for employers who may not have full-time employment to offer a potential nominee, so they would cobble together two or three 15- or 20-hour jobs and thereby create a full-time, or more, job.

What expectations are placed on the employer applicants in terms of ensuring that somebody has a full-time job so that they don't show up — in Carmacks, Dawson, Watson Lake, or someplace — and are left with 15 hours? The reason I ask this is because it has a material impact on somebody's eligibility for nominees.

We have seen situations where nominees come to a community — and we have had situations in this territory where a nominee came to another jurisdiction, and the employer said, "Oops, too bad, so sad — we don't have a job for you" — and that person then was booted back out of the country.

My question is: What requirements are in place to ensure that an employee is not going to be stuck in one of these communities where it's very difficult to find accommodation in the first place, and then, if they're not working full-time, who carries the can on that?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I'll do my best — there are a couple of questions that I might ask for clarification on.

I probably should expand a little bit on the program and some of the criteria just in the sense that it's not just about having the opportunity to have multiple employers. It's also about some business owners who have the opportunity for

multiple roles as well, and they have different activities within their business.

I think it's also important that we continue to do the work that we do on going out and checking on these nominees to ensure that the working conditions and how they are being treated are appropriate and that the worker is respected.

Some of those obligations, of course, for Yukon immigration programs — and some of the safeguards that we have built in to protect the integrity of the program, the employer, and the nominee — so mandatory orientation sessions are provided for recent Yukon nominees and their employers. Yukon nominee program participants sign a tripartite agreement which sets out the rights and responsibilities of the nominee, their employer, and the Yukon government. The Yukon government monitors the agreement with site visits, as well as meetings with the nominee and their employer. Immigration unit staff of course are open for those meetings. I think that it is important that we continue to have those discussions. Our hope — and it is something we can ensure — to communicate back to the officials who are on the front lines of these conversations — is that the employers, especially — as the member opposite said — in some of these smaller communities where there are not as many options are taking into consideration the well-being of the employee and, as part of that holistic approach, understanding that housing is a very important part of that conversation.

I certainly don't want to see anybody in a position to lose an opportunity in an inappropriate way and then be kicked out. I think that the track record over the last number of years, going back, has been good. I think there have probably been some situations that have occurred. In our earlier questions, we did talk about the number of people who, since 2007, have come to Yukon. I think that by far the majority of the stories are good versus stories that are negative.

I know that the member opposite wants me to finish quickly. I will just say that we will take into consideration, of course, during the orientation — ensuring that the employer knows that housing is a very important part of anyone's well-being.

**Ms. Hanson:** I appreciate the minister's answer, but the second part of that was on creating precarious employment situations. We are talking about, as I understand it, a pilot project — 54 people in communities dispersed around the territory.

My question is: What obligation is there before you place a nominee in one of these communities — potentially with an employer who has multiple roles or multiple employers — who may be going 15 hours and 15 hours there, so in fact they are going to have a cumulative total of a full-time job before they are placed in that community?

In order to shorten the discussion — and I know that the minister wants to get on to YDC; I will have one or two questions on the supplementary estimates — but I would like to see what the minister can provide by way of a legislative return on the criteria. I anticipate that this will become a casework kind of situation. We have seen it in the past, so it would be helpful for opposition members to not have to try to

scour through the website in which it is impossible to find anything that gives us any data that would help someone in a situation if they are asking questions.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Mr. Chair, I will just once again repeat that the Yukon nominee program — no, I will do my best to answer this question.

There is a tripartite agreement that sets out the rights and responsibilities of the nominee, their employer, and the Yukon government. That is the framework that we use to ensure that the employees are treated appropriately. I am sure that we can get a copy of the documentation; that is not a problem. We can be very transparent with the member opposite to provide that. That is what is key.

I think it's important that, this year, there was an announcement early on about our ability to work more efficiently with the government of the Philippines. Through that process — the Department of Economic Development's work on how they treat and safeguard the nominees here in the Yukon — we have been asked to provide that as a template for the rest of the country, so I think there's a good policy framework in place. We always want to make sure that people are treated correctly and appropriately. This week, we had two different consular generals here, one from Indonesia and one from India. In conversations that I was witness to, people who had come through the nominee program spoke to the consular general. What they spoke about was how Whitehorse was an incredibly welcoming community. They had good experiences around the nominee program, so I believe — whether it is through the work that we have been done or the previous government has done on this file — that it is a good framework and we take into consideration the rights of those who are here as nominees.

**Ms. Hanson:** What I didn't hear in the minister's response — he simply says the rights of the workers, but the question was quite specific.

It's nice to talk about rights. Do those rights include the right to not be exploited — the right to know that, if you're going to be accepted as a nominee or given a nominee position — a position which is then broken into several employment statuses or employment states within a community — that you will have a full-time job?

I'm really looking to see where in the documentation I will be able to see that a nominee on this pilot project is not necessarily by — in some cases, we know that immigrants to this country, including nominees, work more than one job. That's a choice. But it's a different thing to be in a situation where you are going on a pilot project to a smaller community where there may not be as many opportunities and you're going there because the design of the program is to facilitate multiple employment opportunities to get a cumulative total of a full-time job. I was looking to get some assurances that the design of the program will ensure that somebody has that full-time number of hours — the full-time equivalent, I guess — that kind of parlance.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Mr. Chair, every time that we work with our nominee program — the values that are the foundation of this are to ensure that the individuals, whoever they may be,

are treated appropriately and that their rights — so, that question I think pertained to, “Let’s ensure that they’re not exploited.” Well, if you’re exploiting somebody, I don’t believe you’re ensuring that their rights are upheld. So, I have committed to ensuring that the documentation that is the foundation of the tripartite agreement is provided to the member opposite.

We will continue, through our process of site visits, to ensure that the individuals who are in this program — it is a pilot program, so it gives us an opportunity to ensure that the structure of the program — whether it be multiple roles, multiple employees, or multiple employers — that this turns into a good situation for individuals, all the while, understanding that the tripartite agreement is something that is signed by the Yukon government — we have a responsibility — as well as the other two stakeholders in this.

Once again, just for — I think there have been just some comments made, so it’s important to put on the record that Yukon’s immigration programs — they are federal programs which the Yukon government administers in partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. The federal *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* defines federal immigration programs, including the Yukon nominee program, as an agreement between Yukon and the federal government defining the administration of these programs. So, it’s very important to talk about the fact or share that the policy is anchored in the refugee protection act.

Yukon government has a limited scope to review federal programs, but we continuously work with IRCC to ensure that Yukon is maximizing existing programs to explore future opportunities. That’s what we’ve tried to do here. This is about giving individuals opportunities in the Yukon; it’s about meeting the needs of our employers to ensure that we have vibrant and sustainable communities. It also is about ensuring that we respect the federal protection act as well as the framework that we have which of course has grown out of that and to ensure that a pilot program — which we think is quite innovative and based in respect — is something that works. So, we are going to monitor how it transpires. If there are places to improve, we’ll focus on improving.

Let’s start the program before we come up with the many potential problems that have not occurred yet. Once again, I think the majority of nominees that come to the territory have had a positive experience. I’m not saying that’s for everybody, but I think far and over the majority of people — and that’s what I hear when I talk to people who have used this particular program — the actual individuals who have gone through the program.

**Ms. Hanson:** I won’t belabour the point. The minister is talking about two different things. He’s talking about the existing nominee program and he’s talking about a pilot project which is, in his words, innovative and different because it’s going to provide multiple employers for these nominees in these communities. I’ll leave it there.

We’ll look forward to receiving that. I do think that, when we set up new innovative community pilot projects, the criteria that we establish to guide how it’s implemented will give us a

really good basis then for assessing how effective it is and to guide those who are charged with monitoring how respectfully and how fairly those nominees are being treated. We have every expectation that employers will do that. We want to make sure that it’s built into the design because it’s kind of hard to come afterwards and say, “Geez, we missed that. We didn’t think that might occur.” That’s why we have the ability to anticipate and design into the framework for what could be a very innovative program.

The minister has brought forward a supplementary budget of \$1,500,000 for the Yukon business incentive program. What I have heard so far is that this \$1.5 million is in response to the high level of activity and in response to a number of government projects tendered.

I have some very simple and straightforward questions for the minister with respect to the business incentive program. In the main estimates for this year, there was \$1,062,000 that was forecast for the business incentive program. Now we are being asked to approve an additional — more than doubling it with the \$1.5 million.

On the website, it simply says that the business incentive program gives rebates to businesses working on eligible Government of Yukon contracts. What are the eligible government contracts, and what eligible Yukon government contracts more than doubled the estimates for this program this year?

If the minister could give a descriptive listing or an actual listing of the government’s eligible contracts — what makes an eligible Yukon government contract? What makes a contract eligible for this business incentive rebate? Also, some information as to the more than doubling of the amount spent in there — not just simply that it is a hot economy; that is not what I am looking for. I am looking for actual economic information.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** The business incentive program supports businesses bidding on Yukon government tenders, enabling government investments to support local economic activity and diversification. The program encourages the use of locally manufactured materials, products, and increases in training opportunities.

The year to date has seen significant uptake in the program, indicating that Yukon contractors are securing government contracts and that Yukon tradespeople, apprentices, and goods are benefiting.

It is about the fact that contracts are going out, that there are big capital budgets, but also that the people who are winning those capital budgets are tending to be Yukon-based companies.

Recognizing the significant benefit — we have the City of Whitehorse municipal operations building. The Government of Yukon granted inclusion under the bid as well. The Department of Economic Development has had discussions — just to talk about some of the framework — and I have been at some of those and our department has — with the Yukon Contractors Association regarding options to update the program. We have looked at other jurisdictions such as Northwest Territories, and these were things that we reviewed during the negotiation of

the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement* when we identified certain exceptions.

Anyway, I will leave that. I'm going to get into, as the member opposite said, some of the economic information.

A number of contractors have had the opportunity. In the fiscal year to date, \$979,383 has been paid out, which translates to about 100 percent of our budget. A further \$3,681 has been committed. The department is currently processing five additional rebates, with an estimated cost of \$387,000.

The program has supported the hiring of 170 Yukon employees this fiscal year, including over 20 apprentices. We anticipate that contractors will be coming forward for the following eligible projects: the City of Whitehorse building, which was estimated to have a remaining BIP cost of about \$303,926; the Housing First project, which we had estimated a remaining BIP cost of about \$90,283; the produce and stockpile aggregates that are out there for other contracts — and so some local companies also have the opportunity through that stream and are qualified — that's about \$80,676; the francophone secondary school has an estimated BIP impact of potentially \$245,475; the Carmacks grader station replacement has an estimated BIP cost of \$163,700; and the Dawson runway and paving and asphalt patching on Front Street have a BIP cost of potentially \$249,642.

All total of the accrual and the anticipated request that we're looking for — the total would be about \$2.5 million. This is good news in the sense that it's Yukon companies that are accessing these programs. I think that the Minister of Highways and Public Works and the Minister of Community Services, with the Minister of Finance, have done an exceptional job of getting some of the most capital out in the history of Yukon. Because of that — the other good part of the story — Yukon companies are getting a chance to do that work.

Yukon government contracts — again, just to clarify: rebates for labour, apprentice costs, youth employment, and Yukon manufacturing whose materials are incorporated into eligible contracts — those are the companies that have an opportunity. Some of the major projects for 2019-20 — more of that economic information that has been requested. The Whistle Bend continuing care facility total cost was about \$122,921,251 out of that work. The general contractor was PCL. It wasn't a Yukon company, but luckily we saw a labour rebate, so Arcrite Northern had \$244,111 for the labour rebate. The apprentice rebate for Arcrite was \$210,949, and the youth rebate for Arcrite Northern was \$5,037. Supply and delivery of concrete, and roadside barrier was \$997,000. The supplier, Territorial Contracting, also got a goods rebate of \$169,575. There were six bridges that came to about \$1,184,000, and the supplier, Klondike Welding, had a goods rebate of \$209,589. As well, to produce and stockpile various aggregates on Highway No. 1 and Highway No. 2 — the total project was \$3,227,035. Nuway Crushing had a labour rebate of \$17,243 on that particular project.

I hope that gives the member a good idea. Some of the projects that are there, once again — there have been some significant projects, and those projects have increased. Until people go through the tendering process and you see who they

are — and if they are a local company, then you see the economic impact for the community, but also if they are on budget. It's just to state that, in the partnership with the City of Whitehorse, the comments that were made after a local company, Ketz Construction, won that contract and had said that, if the business incentive program partnership was not in place with the municipality, they wouldn't have been able to win that contract. We think it's important to keep Yukon companies growing and succeeding, and as you see here, there are many Yukoners continuing to work here in the Yukon.

**Ms. Hanson:** I thank the minister for that response. The New Democratic Party obviously does support the business incentive program. We established it as a government many years ago, so we recognize its importance to local businesses and to trying to attract bids from local businesses and ensure that we are using that money to develop the skilled labour force that we need going forward.

The minister talked about — and there are, as I recall and as he just described — the made-in-Yukon — and there is the labour component. In particular, the aspect that I am interested in are those aspects that look at apprenticeships — and then the material — like the aggregate and that. Are there different percentages applied in terms of determining what the rebate will be?

I'm not asking him to go into what the mathematical calculation is here, but I would be interested in — as part of the legislative return that he is going to provide, as he indicated, to the opposition parties — if he could include that kind of program detail for the opposition as well.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Just to clarify, we'll move to get some of the criteria and potentially those percentages that are identified in the data or in the framework. That's one of the commitments that we made.

As well, just to go back, I just want to make sure that, just on the record, the other information that was requested by, I believe, the New Democratic Party was around the trilateral agreement that would be associated with the pilot project over and above the current framework that's in place with the nominee program — understanding that it is still part of our nominee program. It's just an extension of the nominee program. I didn't mean to cause any confusion.

**Ms. Hanson:** So, in the O&M section of the Economic Development supplementary budget — the \$1.5 million, a portion of which will be spent, as the minister indicated, in part this fiscal year and in part next fiscal year, with the majority in this fiscal year.

Can the minister provide to the Legislative Assembly the economic analysis that was done with respect to making this investment of \$1.5 million into Panache — the Yukon portion of it?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Part of the work that was undertaken by the department was to do due diligence — first of all, on the specific investment. I understand the question is about — it's about due diligence, but it's about economic impact as well.

One of the things that we can do is to go through this. If there's any proprietary information concerning specific items, we would look to remove that, but we looked first in the

department to find somebody who had a very strong track record of doing this type of work to ensure that the investment was an appropriate investment or the entity was a good entity to invest in.

The other part of that is — part of why we felt that this was important — and I know that the member opposite would be very well aware from professional work undertaken previous to being an MLA — we did believe that this investment in the First Nation investment corporation did clearly sit within just the key items of chapter 22 in the *Umbrella Final Agreement*. When we think about — item 1 was “... to provide Yukon Indian people with opportunities to participate in the Yukon economy; to develop economic self-reliance...” as well as “... to ensure that Yukon Indian People obtain economic benefits that flow directly from the... Agreements.”

I would stand behind the fact that providing the funds to seven First Nation development corporations — bringing them together — and now what has happened of course because of that is that group of development corporations is now working together to look at other opportunities. There are probably other opportunities outside of working with Economic Development, but now they're in a position — whether it's going to be real estate development, whether it's going to be working with the government on other items — there's some key pieces.

I would say that it's yet to be determined — the total impact of that investment. We know that there are projected returns. We know that the due diligence that was undertaken — we feel it is good and strong due diligence. When you take into consideration the potential return for the development corporations and the fact that the money, in many cases, of course flows back to Yukon — and that was what we felt was important. There was a long period of time where many of the corporations and trusts would invest in other jurisdictions and we felt that it's good that those investments were here.

We can endeavour to grab that work that was done with due diligence. Inevitably, the final decision of investment was with seven development corporations that have very strong capacity and great leadership. We think, after listening to the tech sector over and over again talking about the fact that they needed to have venture capital money available here — we can go back down history lane probably at the same time as the member opposite touched on. The business incentive program was put in place. There was also a time when governments made decisions on investments. Upon going back and looking through all of the decisions that were made with the Yukon Development Corporation and those investments and taking a look at what the returns or the losses were — significant — we can talk about that, maybe in the springtime here. I felt that, in the role of this responsibility, it's better to provide the First Nation development corporations — which essentially are the private sector — with an opportunity to make the decisions on these investments — not that it would be made within government.

That's the route that we took. I stand behind that decision. We think the return on investment that's projected, which is very significant, is money that will go back into the Yukon and into the communities and, at the same time, will meet the

demands of what we heard from our digital community where they said that either there's going to be money available here or companies will end up going to other jurisdictions — where a company from Toronto or a company from Vancouver will come in and provide those venture capital funds — and once that comes into place, the companies will then, at some point, be required or requested to move closer to where the home of the fund is.

I hope that provides some information to the member opposite and I look forward to probably what is our last question today.

**Ms. Hanson:** The reason I asked the question is because of the \$2 million that's a Yukon government contribution. When I look at — and I have tried to find additional information. I have read a lot about Panache, and it is a venture capital entity that has not a long history as a venture capital entity and has made contributions, to date, to 52 entities, none of which are in the Yukon.

So, that is one of the reasons why we look to see what criteria and what data Yukon used to make this assessment that this was an area that they wanted to complement the investments made by Yukon First Nations — because ultimately the accountability the minister has to the Yukon Legislative Assembly is for the \$2 million from the Economic Development budget.

So, we look forward to getting that hopefully unredacted information — cleansed of proprietary information as is necessary to be cleansed. Then we can have a more meaningful conversation about this in the spring when we actually have the full budget debate and not these 20-minute rushed endeavours.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I would just like to finish up. I know that we have some other important business that we have to get to. Just in closing, I would maybe just add a few comments. First, I would like to thank the officials — the deputy minister and the director for coming in today — Deputy Minister Ferbey and Director Marangu. I thank you for your support today. I would also like to have the opportunity to thank the department. I apologize that we were rushed today. We had lots that we wanted to touch on. We went through, I think, the entire Fall Sitting without one question on Economic Development, so there were lots of things that we wanted to share.

In closing, I would just touch on the fact that there are some things, Mr. Chair, that we think should be highlighted here in the Legislative Assembly. The staff and the team over there have done a phenomenal job on the BreakOut West event. It was a great success. Many Members of the Legislative Assembly had an opportunity to attend that. It was a great chance to showcase all the talent here in the Yukon.

We continue to wait to hopefully have some good news around the partnership between Yukon College and our agri-food innovation centre, which is something that we have applied for and something we think is a great item.

Again, Proof Data, which we have actually heard lots about — actually, just to correct the record, the venture fund group has invested in one company so far, which is Proof. We are hoping to see more investment. We talked about the Pine Heart

Farm, Yukon Berry Farms, Hvactech, and all the other items here that have been worked on.

On the First Nation capacity side — Champagne and Aishihik First Nations on their capacity development; the Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce, as well as with some of our land use planning and development through the department; Little Salmon Carmacks, some of their great work; the Chu Níkwān investment, which we also talked about; and the continued good work by the mining alliance.

We still have some significant — the team has had some significant accomplishments over the last 36 months in the department. I appreciate that. I want to thank the deputy minister, the ADM, and our directors — Mr. Schroff and others — but really, 53 people working really hard and who have accomplished a significant amount. I know that, over the end of the mandate, they are still focused on some really significant projects, things that are making a difference. I just ask Yukoners to keep an ear out. They will of course be engaging with Yukoners over 2020 to get their feedback as we consult on some continued concepts and ideas and changes within the department — changes that we think can give us stronger tools to ensure that we continue to work on diversification of this economy and also be able to better meet the needs of our clients.

That's really what we have been trying to do, ensuring that we're listening to the needs of the private sector and using the tools that we have to better meet their needs and working alongside the Department of Tourism and Culture with their new strategy, understanding where things are moving even in areas where we haven't seen such growth, whether it be film or in the music industry, or so much local talent.

Mr. Chair, the time being 4:59 p.m. — once again, I want to thank you for everything that you do and thank the deputy minister. It was a real pleasure today to talk about some of the good work and commend the people who do all this work at Economic Development. It says something for them that we didn't get to have any questions during Question Period when you think about those 150 questions or whatever it is — so we had a chance to share some information today, Mr. Chair.

**Chair:** Is there any further debate on Vote 7, Department of Economic Development?

Seeing none, we will proceed to line-by-line debate.

**On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures**

*On Business and Industry Development*

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

**Chair:** Order, please.

The time has reached 5:00 p.m. — and everybody is anxiously awaiting — on this, the 30<sup>th</sup> day of the 2019 Fall 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 whether the government bill now before Committee of the Whole should be called.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Mr. Chair, the government directs that Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20*, be called at this time.

### Bill No. 200: *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20* — continued

**Chair:** The Committee will now deal with Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

The Chair will now recognize Mr. Silver for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I move that all clauses, schedules, and the title of Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20*, 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. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

**On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures**

**Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$20,500,000 agreed to**

**On Capital Expenditures**

**Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$47,257,000 agreed to**

**Total Expenditures in the amount of \$67,757,000 agreed to**

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to*

*Schedules A and B agreed to*

*Title agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I move that you report Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20*, without amendment.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Silver that the Chair report Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20*, without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

**Chair:** As the government bill identified by the Government House Leader has now been decided upon, it is my duty to rise and 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. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20*, 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 whether the government bill now standing on the Order Paper for third reading should be called.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Mr. Speaker, the government directs that Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20*, be called for third reading at this time.

### GOVERNMENT BILLS

#### Bill No. 200: *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20* — Third Reading

**Clerk:** Third reading, Bill No. 200, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Silver.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I move that Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20*, be now read a third time and do pass.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20*, be now read a third time and do pass. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. 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. White:** Disagree.

**Ms. Hanson:** 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. 200 agreed to*

**Speaker:** I declare that Bill No. 200 has passed this House.

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 accompanied by her Aides-de-Camp*

### 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:** *Tobacco and Vaping Products Control and Regulation Act; Liquor Act; Technical Amendments Act, 2019; Act to Amend the Corrections Act, 2009; Act Amend the Elections Act; Yukon University Act; and Second Appropriation Act 2019-20.*

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

On behalf of Yukoners, I would like to thank you for all of your work this Sitting. I would like to invite you to the annual Commissioner's Christmas open house on Friday, December 13 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Taylor House. There will be cookies and hot chocolate from the Yukon Chocolate Company, music, and Santa will be there from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for pictures with the children and yourselves if you want to.

Please join me at the New Year's Levee on Wednesday, January 1, 2020, at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. There will be good food and great entertainment, and we will be presenting the first inductees into

the Order of Yukon. I am happy and delighted to announce that we have a full roster of awardees.

I am very excited to talk about a project of translating Commissioner of Yukon — Commissaire du Yukon — into the eight First Nation languages in the territory. We are slowly getting the translations. As I found out, there is no word for “Commissioner” in the First Nation languages, so it’s going to be a description of my role. We are getting some in, and we are hopeful to be able to unveil them on June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day.

2020 will be an exciting year for our office. We are working on some very exciting projects, so keep your eyes peeled for upcoming news releases from the office of the Commissioner, in the newspaper, and on our Facebook account.

So, as you get ready to celebrate with family and friends, remember this from Buddy the Elf: “We elves try to stick to the four main groups: candy, candy canes, candy corn, and syrup.” So, happy holidays. Joyeuses fêtes. Merci. Thank you.

*Commissioner leaves the Chamber*

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

Before I adjourn the Fall Sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, I have a few brief comments. 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 Members of the Legislative Assembly, to Clerk Dan Cable, Deputy Clerk Linda Kolody, Clerk of Committees Allison Lloyd, Director of Administration, Finance and Systems Helen Fitzsimmons, Operations Manager Brenda McCain-Armour, Finance and Operations clerk Lyndsey Amundson, 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 us all to continue to do the important work that we are sent here to do on behalf of all Yukoners.

As well, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the skilled team at Hansard for their timely and accurate service, the pages for their admirable efforts to deliver papers and documents and to keep us all well hydrated, and all other background staff and contractors who keep this operation going, including my microphone.

I would also commend the hard-working civil servants who deliver services to Yukoners and support all of us, as members, in our work.

I wish members of the Legislative Assembly all the best for the winter season. I hope you find time to reflect on the year that was. I wish you safe travels as you each go to your respective ridings to connect with your loved ones, extended family and friends, and with your constituents.

Happy holidays to all, and all the best in the new year.

Thank you very much.

As the House has now reached the maximum number of sitting days permitted for this Fall 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 5:16 p.m.*

**The following sessional papers were tabled November 27, 2019:**

34-3-28

*Chief Electoral officer's Report to the Legislative Assembly — A Summary of Electoral Activities and Proposed Elections Act Amendments — November 26, 2019* (Speaker Clarke)

34-3-29

*Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues — Annual Report 2018-2019* (Dendys)

**The following legislative returns were tabled November 27, 2019:**

34-3-9

Response to Written Question No. 1 re: Members' Services Board agenda (Speaker Clarke)

34-3-10

Response to oral question from Mr. Istchenko re: Kluane Lake School relocation (McPhee)

34-3-11

Response to oral question from Mr. Kent re: teacher staffing (McPhee)

34-3-12

Response to Motion for the Production of Papers No. 6 re: Government of Yukon auxiliary-on-call employees (Mostyn)

34-3-13

Response to oral question from Mr. Hassard re: Community nursing shortage (Frost)

34-3-14

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Mr. Istchenko related to general debate on Bill No. 200, *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20* — moose surveys (Frost)

**The following document was filed November 27, 2019:**

34-3-26

*Community Development Fund Annual Report* — April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018 (Pillai)

**The following written questions were tabled November 27, 2019:**

Written Question No. 3

Re: licensed physicians and nurses practising in Yukon (McLeod)



Written Question No. 4

Re: website and visual identity costs for the Department of Health and Social Services (McLeod)

Written Question No. 5

Re: website and visual identity costs for the Women's Directorate (McLeod)

Written Question No. 6

Re: expropriations of placer and quartz mining claims (Kent)

Written Question No. 7

Re: Yukon resource gateway spending (Kent)

Written Question No. 8

Re: website and visual identity costs for the Department of Education (Kent)

Written Question No. 9

Re: website and visual identity costs for the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources (Kent)

Written Question No. 10

Re: land withdrawals and staking bans (Kent)

Written Question No. 11

Re: website and visual identity costs for the Department of Finance (Cathers)

Written Question No. 12

Re: website and visual identity costs for the Department of Justice (Cathers)

Written Question No. 13

Re: website and visual identity costs for the Department of Environment (Istchenko)

Written Question No. 14

Re: website and visual identity costs for the Department of Economic Development (Istchenko)

Written Question No. 15

Re: website and visual identity costs for the Yukon Development Corporation (Istchenko)

Written Question No. 16

Re: website and visual identity costs for the Yukon Liquor Corporation (Istchenko)

Written Question No. 17

Re: website and visual identity costs for the Department of Community Services (Van Bibber)

Written Question No. 18

Re: website and visual identity costs for the Department of Tourism and Culture (Van Bibber)

Written Question No. 19

Re: website and visual identity costs for the Yukon Housing Corporation (Van Bibber)

Written Question No. 20

Re: website and visual identity costs for the Public Service Commission (Hassard)

Written Question No. 21

Re: website and visual identity costs for the Department of Highways and Public Works (Hassard)

Written Question No. 22

Re: website and visual identity costs for the Executive Council Office (Hassard)

Written Question No. 23

Re: website and visual identity costs for the French Language Services Directorate (Hassard)