



Yukon Legislative Assembly

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HANSARD

Thursday, November 16, 2023 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Jeremy Harper

YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2023 Fall Sitting

SPEAKER — Hon. Jeremy Harper, MLA, Mayo-Tatchun
DEPUTY SPEAKER and CHAIR OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE — Annie Blake, MLA, Vuntut Gwitchin
DEPUTY CHAIR OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE — Lane Tredger, MLA, Whitehorse Centre

CABINET MINISTERS

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

OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

Yukon Party

Currie Dixon	Leader of the Official Opposition Copperbelt North	Scott Kent	Official Opposition House Leader Copperbelt South
Brad Cathers	Lake Laberge	Patti McLeod	Watson Lake
Yvonne Clarke	Porter Creek Centre	Geraldine Van Bibber	Porter Creek North
Wade Istchenko	Kluane	Stacey Hassard	Pelly-Nisutlin

THIRD PARTY

New Democratic Party

Kate White	Leader of the Third Party Takhini-Kopper King
Lane Tredger	Third Party House Leader Whitehorse Centre
Annie Blake	Vuntut Gwitchin

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	Joseph Mewett
Hansard Administrator	Deana Lemke

**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Thursday, November 16, 2023**

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

Prayers

Withdrawal of motions

Speaker: The Chair wishes to inform the House of changes made to the Order Paper. The following motions have not been placed on the Notice Paper as they are out of order: Motion No. 841, standing in the name of the Member for Lake Laberge; and Motion No. 842, standing in the name of the Leader of the Third Party.

DAILY ROUTINE

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

Are there any visitors to be introduced?

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Mr. Speaker, could we please welcome guests who are here today for our tribute for geosciences.

We have from the Chamber of Mines, President Lorelee Johnstone. We have Stuart Murray, director from the chamber. We have Brienne Warner, the executive director, and Angelique Bjork, the office manager. From Energy, Mines and Resources, we have Lauren Haney, Stephen Mead, Michelle Crossfield, Todd Powell, Karen Moir, Will Tewnton, Richard Potvin, and Sevn Bohnet — if we could welcome them all, please.

Applause

Hon. Mr. Streicker: She may be here for the other tribute as well, but Carolyn Relf — if we could welcome her, too, please.

Applause

Hon. Mr. Silver: Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling, later on, the Cannabis Yukon annual report, so I would ask my colleagues to help me welcome to the gallery today David Sloan, who is one of the chairs for the Cannabis Licensing Board.

Applause

Ms. White: Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues to join me in welcoming — and saying good-bye at the same time — Pascaline Etter. Pascaline has been the chief of staff for the Yukon NDP for just about two years and has shepherded us through some incredible challenges and some very high highs and some not-quite-so-high lows. It has been an absolute delight to have her. She is on her way to explore the world, and for that we are grateful. We have Nicole Dhillon, who is one of

our newest staff, and Laurie Tritschler, who has joined us from Alberta.

Please join me in welcoming them.

Applause

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I would ask my colleagues to help me welcome Cheryl Rivest and all of her friends from the Stix Together initiative, and we are going to be speaking about that in a few moments. I would also recognize Mel Johnson, co-owner of the Lumel Studios here in Whitehorse. I thank them for being here.

Applause

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, I want to apologize — there are a bunch of folks here today. There are some names that have been taken and I want to make sure that we address this. I know that they have been invited by both sides of the House. I see Karen Forward up there, who is our fearless leader. I think today there is a tribute, of course, to the many years — 20 years, I believe — of work on the Festival of Trees. I want to welcome you today. I believe that you are here supporting the work of the other folks who are here. I know that tribute is coming very soon. Mr. Forward, good to see you as well — and Carolyn Relf supporting them. To the rest of the folks who are here today, thank you all for coming. I know that this is the team that is being supported and all the work that you do to help fundraise for the Yukon Hospital Foundation. Thank you very much.

Applause

Mr. Hassard: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the members to help me in joining a few people today who are friends of mine in the gallery today and are with Stix Together. We have Anne and Harvey Jessup and Chantelle Rivest, as well, so thank you.

Applause

Ms. Van Bibber: Mr. Speaker, I had assumed that the Minister of Health and Social Services was taking names. I do apologize. I see Maralyn Rogers, Deb Bartlette, Susan Hamilton, Arjay Hill, and so many more. Thank you for being here.

Applause

Speaker: Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of Geoscience Forum and Trade Show

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Liberal government to pay tribute to the 51st annual Yukon Geoscience Forum and Trade Show. November 19 to 22 we will have the chance to hear from leaders of the territory's mineral exploration and mining industries as well as the latest geoscience updates from our experts at the Yukon Geological Survey.

The event is organized as a partnership between industry and the Yukon government and it is a good example of working

together to accomplish great things. I would like to thank the event's organizers for all their hard work. Gold mining continues to be an important part of the Yukon's economy and the transition to a clean energy economy is creating new opportunities for the territory to supply critical minerals. Responsible mining of these minerals is a way for the territory to make a positive contribution to Canada's green shift while also creating well-paying jobs.

We're working with the Municipality of Skagway, Alaska, on their port redevelopment project to ensure that Yukon mining companies have access to tidewater infrastructure for decades to come. We're also beginning work on connecting the Yukon's and British Columbia's energy grids. This will help the territory meet its grown demands for clean electricity and assist mining with emissions reduction.

As well, we're collaborating with First Nations to jointly develop new minerals legislation that better reflects First Nation relationships with the land and supports a modern and sustainable mining industry here in the Yukon. Our government is doing its part to help support the exploration industry. To help stimulate new discoveries, we're investing \$1.4 million to support 44 exploration projects through the Yukon mineral exploration program. This investment is expected to leverage an additional \$3.2 million in private sector spending on these projects.

The Yukon continues to attract interest from investors, explorers, and miners due to its mineral potential, identified resources, and stability. In recent years, the territory has seen investments from major players, such as Rio Tinto, Teck, Mitsubishi Materials, Agnico Eagle, and Newmont. Exploration spending in the territory remains healthy. Natural Resources Canada's spring 2023 preliminary forecast for mineral exploration spending in the Yukon is \$145 million. We have seen an increase in the number of claims staked compared to one year ago.

The Yukon supports a strong, sustainable, and responsible mining industry, and this year's geoscience conference will provide many opportunities to learn more about the territory's latest mineral exploration success stories. I hope to see folks there.

On a sad note, I want to acknowledge the sudden and tragic death of David Gould. Born in Dawson City, David was part of a multi-generational placer mining family, and he was 77. David had mined on Hunker Creek since the 1980s and was a well-known member of the placer mining community. Friends remember him as a true Yukoner who spent his life helping others. I would like to offer my deepest condolences. His death is a real loss to the placer community, to his family, and to his friends.

Applause

Ms. McLeod: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to recognize the Yukon Geoscience Forum. This year's conference and trade show kicks off on Sunday, November 19 and runs through Wednesday. This premier event focuses on the mining and geology sectors,

highlighting everything the mining industry has to offer here in the Yukon.

Over 650 delegates from across Canada and beyond will take part in information sessions, panels, discussions, and have the ability to network with others involved in the industry, governments, First Nations, and local communities and organizations.

This year's geoscience awards are still to come, but I wanted to talk a little bit about a couple of other things that have involved local industry. I would like to congratulate Ryan Burke, a young Whitehorse geologist who won the NextGen Prospect Challenge in 2020 for his exploration and samplings of the Pike Warden site. This award offered him a substantial prize and led to a lucrative deal with Transition Metals Corporation that could see his dream proposal through to the establishment of a producing mine.

Transition announced this summer that it is starting a new phase of exploration on the 3,700 hectare property south of Whitehorse. I would also like to say congratulations to John McConnell and the Victoria Gold team. They were awarded the 2024 Viola R. MacMillan Award, which is given to an individual or organization demonstrating leadership in management and financing for the exploration and development of mineral resources. Victoria Gold not only operates a prosperous and safe mine, but they provide immense community support through the Victoria Gold Yukon Student Encouragement Society's Every Student, Every Day funding program, and so much more. John and his entire team are very deserving of this recognition.

I would also like to thank all the other industry partners and organizations for the incredible acts of community support throughout the year all across the territory. So many organizations rely on this support to operate, and the mining industry continues to help our communities thrive in this way.

Enjoy the forum and trade show and the many events sponsored throughout the week.

Applause

Ms. White: Mr. Speaker, I stand on behalf of the Yukon NDP to celebrate the 51st Yukon Geoscience Forum and Trade Show. It's always a challenge being the third voice delivering a tribute. You don't want to dredge through the tailings of what has already been said twice, but you want to be sure to strike on what needs to be celebrated.

This four-day event that allows folks from across the country and beyond to get together, learn, swap stories, and more is certainly worthy of celebration. With presentations and discussions from industry leaders and innovators, government and First Nations, there is much to learn in the next few days, so congratulations to this year's soon-to-be-announced Yukon Chamber of Mines' winners and to the industry that supports them. We look forward to hearing about the community- and industry-led solutions that come out of this year's "meeting of the mines".

Applause

In recognition of Stix Together

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today on behalf of the Yukon Liberal government to recognize Stix Together. Stix Together is a group of like-minded women who paddle the Yukon River Quest to raise money for the Yukoners cancer care fund. Stix Together is truly grassroots and is the epitome of Yukoners helping Yukoners. Stix Together's first race was in 2016 but the idea was planted well before.

Organizer and Stix Together member Cheryl Rivest had watched the start of this world-famous race and wondered to herself: Why on Earth would anybody do such a thing? Later, her "why" would be to help Yukoners affected by cancer.

The Yukon River Quest is the world's longest annual canoe and kayak race, spanning 715 kilometres from Whitehorse to Dawson City. It is not a casual float. After Cheryl Rivest completed her first race, she realized that if she was ever to do it again, she would need a purpose to justify all of those blisters. Cheryl had lost a brother to cancer, which ended his life far too soon. While he was still battling cancer, Cheryl saw the immense support that people offered to him. He was cared for and supported in a way that not everyone has access to. This kindness was pivotal for Cheryl and she knew that she wanted to help others to get the support that they needed.

The Yukoners cancer care fund provides this support. The fund provides financial assistance to Yukoners and their families who are facing a cancer diagnosis and may be having financial difficulty. This fund has helped over 300 individuals and their families since 2014.

Armed with purpose and perseverance, the Stix Together team has been able to raise over \$100,000 for the fund. Their purpose is contagious as the team has inspired many Yukoners to help their cause. Several members and supporters of the Stix Together have joined us here today, and we are so pleased — I am so pleased and I know that all members of the Legislature are as well — to have the opportunity to thank all of the dedicated and brave paddlers, past and present, for their compassionate and unique support for Yukoners.

Stix Together is, in turn, supported by more than 50 people on the support team that has kept the boat afloat over the years. Thank you to all organizers, volunteers, and donors. Yukoners who would like to donate to the Yukoners cancer care fund in support of Stix Together can visit them on Facebook at [stixtogether](https://www.facebook.com/stixtogether).

Applause

Ms. Van Bibber: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to tribute the Stix Together paddling team. The Yukoners cancer care fund, YCCF, was formed to assist families through the journey of cancer with a small financial donation. The fund helps many, and we hear the appreciation from those families. Karen Forward, president of the Yukon Hospital Corporation, can attest to that. Each year, the fund still falls short to support everyone in need.

A group of women joined forces to paddle the Yukon River Quest. After completing her first race, Cheryl Rivest stated:

There is no way I would get back in a boat and do that again unless I have a really good reason to.

The really good reason she chose was YCCF. Stix Together was born.

From 2016 on, they have paddled every race, sharing hot tea, consuming a steady-trickle feed of protein balls and lemon drops, laughing and singing as they pass other boats. From 2017 on, they have placed first in the women's voyageur category. The prize money and their funds raised all go to YCCF. To date, they have raised over \$100,000.

The team's crew — 23 women in total — has changed over the years. The commitment of time and energy, suffering through blisters, sore and stiff muscles, through rain, thunderstorms, wind, hot sun, and high water — they are athletes to be honoured.

In 2016 and 2017, Stix Together rented a boat and trailer. Even with a sponsor, it was expensive. One snowy day in February 2018, Scott McDougall, owner of Kanoe People, popped into her shop and asked Cheryl: What colour of a voyageur do you want for Stix Together?

A group of anonymous people bought a boat and trailer so they wouldn't have that extra expense. The team calls them "Casper", as in the friendly ghost. Scott made sure that a discount was given to the buyers. Cheryl says she still gets teary-eyed when she tells this story.

Other paddlers from the Yukon River Quest donate their winnings as well.

A new incentive added to the mix, Schmidt Mining donates a large gold nugget to the team. No purchase is necessary to win the nugget, but a donation is encouraged. This summer, they partnered with Lumel Studios, Lu and Mel Johnson, where glass art was created and live-auctioned right on the spot. Music by Claire Ness and the Rubies, finger food, cash bar — it was a fun, fun evening.

With a fundraiser at the Fireweed Market and bhangra dance with Gurdeep Pandher, they continue to amaze with innovation and ways to raise awareness and donations.

The team gives a shout-out to all of their sponsors, the volunteers, paddling members, and families, past and present, who support them on this journey.

A quote from Booker T. Washington: "Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others." The kindness of people abounds, and I am humbled to be in the company of these amazing, awesome Yukon women, Stix Together. Thank you for all you do for others.

Applause

MLA Tredger: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to pay tribute to Stix Together on behalf of the Yukon NDP. I first got to learn about Stix Together at a women's hockey tournament in Haines Junction a few years ago. It's a pretty common experience at hockey events since a number of the founding members are also avid hockey players.

It was a noisy and celebratory room, and Cheryl Rivest got our attention — if I remember correctly — by standing on a chair, though I may have made up that detail. She told us how the Yukoners cancer care fund was funded by Yukoners for

Yukoners facing the hardest time of their lives. She told us how the fund was for whatever they needed, no questions asked, no strings attached.

She told us about the passion that drives all of the members of Stix Together to fundraise for the cancer care fund and asked us to support them. After her heartfelt, optimistic, passionate speech, I don't think there was anyone who held back that night. I can't remember the dollar figure that was raised, but I remember being very impressed, and I know that I left feeling grateful to be part of such a caring community.

The Stix Together team has a lot of fun and they never lose sight of their goal of fundraising to support Yukoners living with cancer. When they do their annual Yukon River Quest race, each member pays for their own entry fee, hotel room, and transportation home so that all of the money that they raise can go to the cancer care fund. Every year, they do a draw as a fundraiser. For the first few years, Cheryl Rivest donated a paddle pendant, and for the last four years, Schmidt Mining Corp. has donated gold nuggets as the prize. This year, they have donated another gold nugget that is as beautiful as it is large. The draw will be opening up this year in late January, so keep your eyes peeled.

Stix Together also gives each of their paddlers a paddle pendant after they complete their first Yukon River Quest, so if you see someone wearing a paddle pendant, ask them about it; they will have a story to tell for sure.

I want to give a heartfelt thank you to all of the Yukoners who have donated to the Yukoners cancer care fund and a huge thank you to all of the members of Stix Together, past and present, for inspiring and leading us to support each other. You show us what true community care can be.

One last thing — if you need Christmas gift ideas, a donation to the cancer care fund is a great gift. It's easy to wrap, it fits everyone, and it makes a huge difference in the lives of Yukoners. Thank you, Stix Together.

Applause

Speaker: Introduction of visitors outside the usual time provided.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to make sure that our visitors' names get properly recorded in Hansard and that their attendance today is well celebrated. I would like to take the opportunity, therefore, to properly introduce some of our visitors today: Cheryl Rivest, Monique Levesque, Anne Jessup, Deb Bartlette, Chantelle Rivest, Nathalie Haltrich, Susan Hamilton, Sandra MacDougall, Maralyn Rogers, Karen Forward, Arjay Hill, and Mel Johnson.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Hon. Mr. Silver: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 16 of the *Liquor Act*, I have the honour of tabling the Yukon Liquor Corporation annual report. I also have the honour, pursuant to section 15 of the *Cannabis Control and Regulation Act*, to table the Yukon Liquor Corporation annual report specifically for cannabis.

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the *Yukon University Act*, section 53(3), I have for tabling the Yukon University annual report, including the audited financial statements, for the year ending March 31, 2023.

Ms. White: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling today a letter addressed to the Premier from the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun in reference to a visit in that community at the beginning of August.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling a legislative return relating to questions posed by the Member for Takhini-Kopper King.

Speaker: 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

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT the Yukon Legislative Assembly, pursuant to subsection 17(1) of the *Human Rights Act*, does appoint Nathan Cross and Leonard Wall to the Yukon Human Rights Commission for a term of three years, effective immediately; and

THAT the Yukon Legislative Assembly, pursuant to subsection 17(2) of the *Human Rights Act*, does revoke the appointments of Samantha Dawson and Keely Bass, effective immediately.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT the Yukon Legislative Assembly, pursuant to subsection 22(2) of the *Human Rights Act*, does reappoint Roxane Larouche to the Yukon Human Rights Panel of Adjudicators for a term of three years, effective December 13, 2023; and

THAT the Yukon Legislative Assembly, pursuant to subsection 22(3) of the *Human Rights Act*, does revoke the appointment of Marius Courteau to the Yukon Human Rights Panel of Adjudicators, effective December 13, 2023.

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House recognizes Whitehorse Motors for their donation of \$250,000 over five years to enhance mental health and wellness supports for Yukon University School of Trades students.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to table all required reports under the *Clean Energy Act* prior to the end of the 2023 Fall Sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

Ms. Blake: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to provide a comprehensive on-the-ground response to support suicide prevention across the Yukon.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to address youth homelessness in the Yukon by providing Safe at Home options for youth, both in Whitehorse and in the communities.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to introduce policy and legislation to limit speculative real estate buying from individuals or entities residing outside of the Yukon Territory.

Speaker: Is there a statement by a minister?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Land-based healing fund

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, today I rise to announce the launch of the land-based healing fund, a new initiative jointly led by the Government of Yukon and the Council of Yukon First Nations. This new initiative, supported by an investment of \$9 million over the next three fiscal years, is a testament to our commitment to improving mental health and well-being in Yukon First Nation communities by reconnecting individuals to traditional teachers, culture, and the land.

The land-based healing fund is designed to address the impacts of historical injustices and intergenerational trauma. By focusing on initiatives that teach traditional skills, such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and outdoor survival, the initiative aims to build community resilience, strengthen connections to the land, and celebrate Indigenous culture. These activities are not just about learning skills; they are about healing and reconnecting with Indigenous heritage.

The Government of Yukon is entrusting the management of these funds to the Council of Yukon First Nations, who will administer them to the Yukon First Nation governments and organizations conducting their own eligible healing projects on the land. This approach ensures that the healing is led by communities that it aims to support, maintaining a culturally appropriate and community-driven focus.

Thank you to the Council of Yukon First Nations for their partnership and work to support Yukon First Nations in accessing funding. Aligning with key government strategies,

including *Putting People First* and the Yukon strategy on missing and murdered women, girls, and two-spirit+ people, this initiative ties to the treatment approach outlined in the *Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy*.

Recognizing land-based healing as a vital component of recovery and ongoing well-being, the land-based healing fund also supports our broader goal of improving safety and health in downtown Whitehorse and other communities. Our government is proud to invest in initiatives that promote reconciliation and healing, which have been priorities of this government since day one. This fund is a partnership that embodies more than just funding. It represents a profound commitment to healing, to acknowledging past traumas, and to building a brighter, healthier future for all Yukoners.

Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, it has been 22 months since the Minister of Health and Social Services declared a substance use health emergency. Since that time, the Liberal government has failed to create even a single new addictions treatment space or expand programming. We are relieved to see that they might finally be doing something.

We have repeatedly called for the government to increase addictions treatment and emphasized our position that the number one goal of any substance use emergency strategy should be helping as many people as possible break free of their addictions and live healthy lives. Last month alone saw four Yukoners lose their lives due to toxic drugs. Mr. Speaker, this is a serious problem in need of more action.

We believe that land-based healing is one of the options that should be available to Yukoners in need, and we hope that this will result in other successful healing programs. We also note that this idea is one that was put forward by the NDP in their confidence and supply agreement with the Liberals. This, of course, raises questions about the status of other CASA commitments that the Liberals haven't delivered on. They promised to expand the capacity of detox. Almost half the clients interviewed at the 405 Alexander Street shelter said that they had been turned away for detox due to capacity issues.

Can the minister tell us: Where is the promised expansion of detox? What happened to the promise to fund out-of-territory addictions treatment?

They promised \$2 million in additional money per year to enhance recruitment and retention of new health care professionals. The Liberals previously eliminated the doctor recruitment position. While they have now provided funding to the Yukon Medical Association to cover half the cost of their locum recruitment position, that position is focused on helping doctors find locum coverage. Thousands of Yukoners don't have a family doctor and there is not one single person who is focused on recruiting new doctors. Will the government provide funding to the YMA focused on recruiting new doctors to the Yukon?

What is the status of the walk-in clinic? Can the minister tell us what they are doing to recruit new doctors to staff it? When will they deliver on their commitments regarding fertility treatment and surrogacy? What are they doing about hemodialysis?

Mr. Speaker, these are all commitments that they made in CASA, and as far as we can tell, the Liberals haven't delivered on any of them.

Can the minister tell us whether or not she is concerned that her failure to meet these commitments could result in the NDP pulling the support from this Liberal government?

Ms. Blake: Mr. Speaker, the Yukon NDP is pleased to see this announcement regarding land-based healing. Visiting and connecting with First Nations across the Yukon, land-based healing is so often mentioned as an integral part of what mental health support should look like.

The 2023 confidence and supply agreement that the Yukon NDP signed with this government includes a commitment to directly support Yukon First Nations to design and implement additional government-funded land-based healing programs in their respective communities. This commitment was requested because many governments have spoken about the lack of capacity in navigating government programs and funding and the lack of clarity about what type of funding was available and under which criteria.

We look forward to knowing when this commitment will be completed and to knowing the details on what direct supports are available to Yukon First Nation governments and organizations to support them in designing and implementing their vision for land-based healing programs in their communities.

When we talk about the lasting impacts of intergenerational trauma, addictions, and mental health challenges, I think about how, so often, I see many friends and families from communities end up struggling on the streets in Whitehorse or getting lost in their addictions and the detrimental impacts and added trauma that this brings to one's mental health and well-being.

Then I think about how I see many of these folks out on the land in their traditional territory with very little, and they thrive. They thrive in establishing themselves to survive off the land through applying the knowledge and skills that they inherently carry while naturally gaining strength. This vital connection to the land brings not just healing; it also brings life to those who spend time on the land in their traditional territory.

Land-based opportunities in communities are so important for the many people who don't want to leave their home, their support systems, and their security to access help outside the community. It heals the individual and also communities through building relationships across generations. These relationships are so important because that is how communities exist and how communities have thrived for thousands of years. There is so much strength that comes from the land that can't often be put in words or found in the city and concrete.

The establishment of this fund is a start to making the concrete changes that are so necessary. There is an urgent need to work directly with the communities that want to provide more community-based resources, supports, and programming in ways that are adapted to their specific and unique needs. We have heard from communities that, in terms of accessing funding opportunities to establish land-based healing programs,

there is a need for administrative support for program planning, proposal writing, and to empower First Nation governments and communities to not only build lasting land-based programming but to also build a program that encompasses their culture, traditions, language protocols, and ways of being.

I want to thank all who worked on establishing this new fund, including the Council of Yukon First Nations. I also want to extend my gratitude to all those in the communities who do the hard work of building programs and supports in their respective communities.

Mahsi' cho.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, land-based healing is a crucial investment in supporting the continued strength and well-being of Yukon First Nation communities. It is about re-learning, reclaiming, and reconnecting. Our government recognizes the harms and deep trauma caused by colonization and we understand that land-based healing opportunities promote reconciliation, increased wellness, and better overall health outcomes through collaboration and connections. It is also an approach that adds a comprehensive aftercare experience and supports Yukoners who are in various phases of treatment or transition.

Advancing reconciliation is a key chapter in *Putting People First*, our road map to transforming the territory's health and social services system, and this includes land-based healing. The new land-based healing fund speaks directly to not only the recommendations in *Putting People First* but also the Yukon's strategy on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit+ people, and it fulfills a recommendation under the substance use health emergency strategy.

Mr. Speaker, it also is aligned with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action, specifically call to action 22, which calls for the recognition and use of Indigenous healing practices. In partnership with the Council of Yukon First Nations, we will ensure that supports are available to assist both Yukon First Nation governments and First Nation-led organizations in making application to this low-barrier fund.

Two positions within the Council of Yukon First Nations will be dedicated to this purpose and also support the reporting and evaluation component. The \$9-million fund for this initiative is based on a comprehensive evaluation of the projected needs and goals of the initiative over the next three fiscal years. It will, of course, be monitored closely. Success will be measured through regular reporting and evaluation, ensuring that the activities align with the goals of promoting mental wellness, reconnecting with ancestral traditions, and addressing intergenerational trauma.

The Yukon government has been investing and collaborating on land-based healing programs for over a decade. Successful programs include the Jackson Lake healing camp, week-long family camps, and youth-led wellness camps. Connecting with one's heritage and the transformative power of healing through land and traditions is incredibly important. Culture and language camps, traditional food harvesting, and programs for elder and youth knowledge-sharing, like

traditional medicine gathering, are just a few of the examples of land-based healing opportunities that we know can — and have — significant positive impacts on communities.

This fund goes beyond education, though. Land-based healing fosters community resilience and partnerships, honours local strengths and resources, and is an essential part of a health system that is responsive to the needs of Yukoners. Our government is truly proud to invest in this initiative.

Speaker: This then brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Physician recruitment and retention

Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, this Liberal government has been in power for seven years, and for most of that time, recruiting doctors to move to the Yukon hasn't been on their priority list. Thousands of Yukoners don't have a doctor and the Minister of Health and Social Services and her colleagues actually eliminated government's only doctor recruitment position before finally being embarrassed into supporting the Yukon Medical Association's effort to fill the gap left by government inaction.

Now, after failing to open the walk-in medical clinic that the minister originally said would open in the spring last year, they are planning to open one in January. Can the minister tell us what, if anything, she is doing to try to recruit new doctors to move to the Yukon to work at the walk-in clinic?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, as the member opposite knows, I have been asked this question many times, but I am very pleased to be able to have the opportunity to respond and give Yukoners accurate information. There is much in the beginning of that question that is not accurate.

Health human resources present one of the greatest challenges facing Canada and the Yukon's health care system today. Domestically and globally, we are facing unprecedented challenges, including an insufficient supply of health care workers — front-line workers — and we truly appreciate having the opportunity to support them as they support Yukoners. The Government of Yukon recognized the seriousness of these shortages. It is somewhat of a perfect storm post-COVID. Health human resources shortages, individuals making different choices about their lives, and an increased aging and growing population here in the territory have all conspired to make this a challenging time. At no time have we not recognized this to be such.

We have formed a Health Human Resources Steering Committee, which has jointly been led by the Department of Health and Social Services and the Yukon Hospital Corporation. The committee is using an intersectoral approach to create a Yukon health human resources strategy that I am happy to continue to talk about.

Mr. Cathers: Unfortunately for the minister, dismissing the facts doesn't change them. The Liberals' first attempt at a government-run clinic, the Constellation Health Centre, opened without any doctors. The only doctors they have been able to get to provide any services there have been poached from other parts of the health system. Now we have learned that with the

planned walk-in clinic, the minister is deliberately trying to get local doctors who already have a family practice to leave their own clinics to provide services at the government's clinic. This approach will take doctors away from serving their current patients in exchange for being paid a premium to see others. This isn't fixing the doctor shortage; it will simply move busy doctors to another clinic and increase wait times for their current patients to get an appointment.

Why is the minister taking this approach instead of focusing on recruiting more doctors to move to the Yukon?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, again, I think that the member opposite should get their facts straight. The Health Human Resources Steering Committee was unique in the territory and perhaps unique in governments across Canada, comprised of representatives from across numerous Government of Yukon departments, the Yukon Hospital Corporation, as well as Yukon University, the Yukon Medical Council, the Yukon Registered Nurses Association, the Yukon Employees' Union, the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, and First Nation representatives.

The committee was formed for the purpose of bringing together the front-line individuals who are aware of the concerns and issues that must be addressed, and their work included aspects of the health human resources crisis, including retention, recruitment, planning, learning, and innovation. They are also working to help coordinate support and influence the health human resources work that is underway in their respective organizations so that it aligns with the committee's recommendations and priorities.

We can take an approach where we all work on this issue together, something that is incomprehensible to the members opposite. The work of this committee aligns with the ongoing collaborative efforts of the federal government and the provincial and territorial governments working together through ministries and other officials, and we are supporting the recent investments in health human resources in Canada.

Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, the minister can try to pretend that she's not trying to take doctors away from the patients that they have now, but the facts say otherwise. In the expression of interest that her department issued, it is clear that the government is directly trying to recruit physicians with existing practices to work at the walk-in clinic. In fact, they are even offering those doctors more money per hour than they are willing to pay new doctors who might move here.

Doctors who have a family practice are already working as much as they are willing to, as there are thousands of people on the Find a Doctor wait-list. Taking family doctors away from their patients may serve the Liberals' political interests by trying to keep the NDP from pulling their support if the walk-in clinic fails, but they are undermining the health system and leaving other people waiting longer for health care.

Will the minister actually focus on recruiting new doctors to move to the Yukon and stop trying to take doctors away from their patients who need them?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, again, the facts are not correct, but I also want to note that unfortunately in the lead-up to this question is the idea that there is only ever one solution

to a problem, and that is simply not the way that our government approaches things; it is not the way that our government works. We work with our partners. In this case, we work with our partners who are front-line health care workers. The January 2023 commitment to open a walk-in clinic — a walk-in clinic that I might note has been designed with the assistance of three physicians here in the territory who run family practices, who run general practices, and who have front-line knowledge of how such a clinic should be designed and should be available to Yukoners — the plan is for the clinic to be opened at a temporary location and then at a permanent location so that individual Yukoners will have access to the services of a walk-in clinic. At full capacity, we anticipate that the clinic will be staffed by nurse practitioners as well as serviced by physicians on contract hours that will not take away from their original practices. I think they can design their businesses.

Question re: Mammography services

Ms. Van Bibber: Mr. Speaker, mammography is the only technique proven to be safe and effective in screening for breast cancer. Early detection of breast cancer is key to successful treatment. Thanks to the support of fundraising and both public and private contributions, Whitehorse General Hospital has state-of-the-art mammography equipment. Unfortunately, we have learned that the wait time for mammography is now over a year and growing.

Can the minister confirm that this is the current wait time, and what is the minister doing to bring the wait time down?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: As a matter of fact, I have been working to address this issue today, so it's a timely question from the member opposite. I too am concerned about the issues around timing for wait times for mammographies and for individuals who are accessing those services at Whitehorse General Hospital. I met yesterday with the CEO and the board chair of Whitehorse General Hospital. This is among the things we discussed, and that work continues as we collaborate to determine how to best serve Yukoners through the Whitehorse General Hospital and the other two hospitals here in the territory.

Ms. Van Bibber: We are very lucky to have state-of-the-art technology for mammography and we understand that we have systems in place that would allow over 30 per day. Despite this, we have learned that due to budget constraints with the Hospital Corporation, the number of screenings per day has been cut to 15 this month and just 12 per day in December.

Will the minister consider providing additional funding to the Hospital Corporation so that they perform as many mammograms as possible?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, I don't think that "as many as possible" is necessarily responsible, but I certainly will commit to working with the Hospital Corporation to determine what is the appropriate number — what is the appropriate number that staff can manage, what is the appropriate number for which we currently have staff and for the additional services, like radiology, that come as a result of those kinds of

tests being done. This is an issue that has been drawn to my attention today, as a matter of fact, and I look forward to being able to determine how we can best serve Yukoners and reduce wait times in order for them to have the health care that they need.

Ms. Van Bibber: Mr. Speaker, we have continued to raise concerns about the Liberal government's chronic underfunding of the Yukon Hospital Corporation. Both the wait times and the number of screenings that can occur are directly affected by the level of funding.

Will the minister agree to provide Yukon hospitals with more funding to ensure that women in the Yukon don't have to wait any longer than necessary to receive a mammogram?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, this is an opportunity to address for Yukoners and to Yukoners our government's commitment to ensuring that they have the services and the supports that they need, particularly through the Yukon Hospital Corporation.

I am very saddened to hear yet again from the members opposite the story that the Yukon Hospital Corporation is underfunded. We work diligently with the Yukon Hospital Corporation, firstly, to meet the needs that they request through their core funding transfer payment agreement and through many additional transfer payment agreements, and then we work closely with them at year-end each year to make sure that they have the appropriate funds to provide services that Yukoners need and deserve.

In 2023-24, we budgeted \$512.3 million in the Department of Health and Social Services in O&M for the department. We budgeted an amount for the Yukon Hospital Corporation that met its request for core funding. I noted the other day in some answers to questions that we meet weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly with officials across the department with the Hospital Corporation so that we can work together to make sure that the budgeted needs for the hospital are appropriate.

Question re: Community medevac services

Ms. White: Mr. Speaker, medevac requests from community nurses used to be triaged by trained health care professionals. These workers knew how to best respond to medevac requests. They knew which first responders to dispatch and what medications to bring to medevac patients. But last December, this government handed these vital triage decisions to a computer program. This software triages medevac patients based on two pieces of information: the medications given and the medical equipment being used to treat the patient. That's a problem, because most medevacs happen in the communities where nurses typically don't have all of the right medications or all of the right equipment to treat many medical emergencies. That means that the software can't accurately triage most medevac calls.

So, why has this government put rural Yukoners at risk by handing out community medevac triage to a computer program?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, I will again need to determine whether or not the facts presented here are accurate. I don't believe they are. What I can say is that individuals who

are highly trained — as our medevac team is — and responsive to individuals who need medevac services, either from a community into Whitehorse or ultimately from Whitehorse to Outside, are served in great capacity with great professionalism and great care by the individuals who are front-line workers.

All of the decisions with respect to how Health and Social Services operates, how the Yukon Hospital Corporation operates, and how individuals who provide front-line care are instructed to operate revolve around our collaborative work around patient-centred care. That is our focus and it will continue to be.

Ms. White: Mr. Speaker, maybe it is time for the minister to do proper due diligence within her department.

According to the software designer's website, the software is intended for patient transfer between high-tech urban hospitals. It may work fine to transfer a patient from Whitehorse General Hospital to Vancouver, but this government has also been using this software for emergency medevacs from the communities to Whitehorse. It was not designed for that.

Some patients in communities need medevacs because community health centres have limited equipment and medications to treat many emergencies, but because they have limited supplies, the software won't recognize them as a high-priority emergency. We can all see there is a problem here. The software can't reliably triage medevac patients in communities. In fact, the software might increase the wait times.

When will this government stop endangering Yukoners' lives and end the use of this software for medevac triage?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately and interestingly enough, I would have been happy to respond directly to the member opposite if there is a particular situation that she is describing. Ultimately, I support the medevac program that we have here in the territory.

Are there issues that arise from time to time with respect to Health and Social Services? Absolutely. Are there issues in any other department in government? Of course. Are we proud to make sure that we are addressing each and every one of those issues as they arise? Yes. Are we giving Yukoners and designing a system and transforming the health care system here in the territory in order to put patients at the centre of this program and every program and in order to put patients at the centre of a health system that is no longer biased, is no longer discriminatory, is no longer racist, and provides care for Yukoners at every part of the territory, as is appropriate? Absolutely. That's the work we're doing, and that's the work I'm proud to say that we will continue to do.

Ms. White: Mr. Speaker, this computer program doesn't put the patient first; that's the problem. The software provider has been awarded two contracts by the Yukon government totalling nearly \$85,000. That's a lot of money for software that doesn't work for most of the Yukon.

Instead of saving time for EMS staff, this change has required two additional dispatchers for every shift, and these changes have frustrated workers, cost a lot of extra money, and, most importantly, have put patients' lives at risk. EMS workers are highly trained medical professionals who care deeply about

their work, and this system has taken a toll on their morale and frankly their trust in this government.

We have heard from medics who were put in situations where the software incorrectly triaged a life-or-death call as a low priority. Getting these triage decisions right is paramount to patient and worker safety, and the computer program this government purchased to replace medical professionals is not getting it right.

Why won't the minister admit that this change was a mistake and give triage decisions back to human health care workers?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, what I will commit to doing is determining what facts may or may not be correct in the question here today and determining what focus Emergency Medical Services can have and whether or not they can be improved. Actually, that's the work that we're doing every day, all day, with respect to the implementation of *Putting People First*, a true examination of the issues that exist in the health and social services system. Many of the recommendations in that report have already been addressed and are continuing to be addressed.

We have taken on the work of transforming Yukon's health care system. Are there continued issues? Absolutely. May they always be there? Let's hope that they are wildly reduced and drastically made better so that Yukoners can have patient-centred care, can have issues — perhaps like the one being brought up today, perhaps not — addressed in a way that is patient-centred, in a way that is responsible, and in a way that is dedicated to the health and well-being and will improve such for all Yukoners.

Question re: Shakwak project funding

Mr. Istchenko: Mr. Speaker, ever since the US government passed a new federal infrastructure funding bill in November 2021, Yukoners have been hopeful that it could mean a return of American support for the Shakwak section of the Alaska Highway. The *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* even specifically mentions the Alaska Highway in the Yukon. According to the minister's briefing notes in February of this year, the State of Alaska, in collaboration with the Yukon, applied for a \$31-million USD project for the Shakwak. We have heard that this application was unsuccessful.

Can the minister confirm that our application with the State of Alaska for this funding was indeed turned down by the Biden administration?

Hon. Mr. Clarke: Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to answer this question.

Our government's continued work with the US and Alaskan officials led to the inclusion of the north Alaska Highway in the 2021 *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*. While the act does not commit any specific amount to the reconstruction project, it does allow Yukon and Alaska to apply for US funding for this part of the highway.

In December 2022, the US Department of Transportation announced \$1.5 billion in funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity — also known as RAISE — discretionary grant program for 2023. This

grant would make it possible for our government to restore some of the worst sections of this critical part of the north Alaska Highway into Alaska that is adversely affected by thawing permafrost and climate change.

The State of Alaska, in collaboration with our government, applied to the RAISE grant program on February 27, 2023, seeking approximately \$25 million USD for the north Alaska Highway. Unfortunately, at that time, the RAISE application was not successful in securing funding. However, I have spoken to the transportation commissioner in Alaska this summer, and working with our Alaskan counterparts, we submitted a similar funding request of \$31.25 million USD over the six years to a different US funding program — more to come, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Istchenko: Mr. Speaker, in June of this year, Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski and Senator Dan Sullivan jointly announced the projects that were successful in receiving money from the US government. The Alaska Highway Shakwak project was not one of them, as the minister noted, so why did the Yukon government not share the news with Yukoners that their application had been denied?

Hon. Mr. Clarke: Mr. Speaker, what I would say is that the Premier is certainly in regular contact with his counterparts in Alaska, as I am with my counterparts in Alaska. I am just finishing the answer from the first question.

On August 1, 2023, working with our Alaskan counterparts, we submitted a similar funding request for \$31.25 million USD over six years to a different US funding program, the multi-modal project discretionary grant, also known as the MPDG, and the department expects to receive the results of this submission by the end of 2023.

We have received guidance from our Alaskan counterparts on how to make the application more likely to succeed, both from the transportation commissioner in Alaska and also from the consul general for the US from Vancouver who met with us recently as well. These conversations continue and we know that the previous government let Shakwak inexplicably lapse. We are picking up the pieces.

Mr. Istchenko: Mr. Speaker, this is the last one I have on this for the minister.

The application that the State of Alaska and the Yukon sent to Washington was for a total of \$31.25 million USD. Both Alaska and the Yukon had committed 10 percent each to the bid, which is about \$4 million CAD. Despite the application being unsuccessful, will the Yukon government still spend the much-needed over \$4 million on the Shakwak that was committed to in the project?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, I just want to reiterate that we've looked at the different funding pots that are available to work with. The State of Alaska, I know, has been in conversation with the Governor of Alaska in the last two weeks. We are just looking at putting together an agreement on shared priorities. Of course, Shakwak is one of those items.

I want to thank Governor Dunleavy for his support and the work that he is doing directly with his secretary of transportation. We do feel that the second fund is a better route at this particular time. I think that there are other priorities that

the federal US government made decisions on. We are still committed to ensuring that we upgrade this road. We know that it has languished and there was failure over the years in getting a true multi-year plan in place to support this very key transportation route. I felt that it was a very positive outlook from Alaska in our last conversation. I think there will be more to report in the coming weeks and months.

Question re: Teacher recruitment and retention in Teslin

Mr. Hassard: Mr. Speaker, last week, the Teslin school council wrote what they called an “urgent letter” to the Minister of Education. They were seeking urgent additional support for that school. The first thing they requested was additional staffing resources. They make the case that they need a full-time principal and vice-principal and at least one to two full-time teachers due to burnout and a desire to reduce the use of three-grades split classes. What is the Minister of Education’s response to this request for the Teslin school council?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that I am in receipt of this letter. I have reviewed it. We are working to respond to it and to, of course, work with the school community. School council members and school board trustees play a very important role in supporting school success. The government of Yukon is committed to enhancing community involvement in school governance. I want to thank all current and previous members of school councils and the associations that work to support them as well.

I recently attended the Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards and Committees meeting. I heard some of the concerns that are outlined in the letter that I have been in receipt of from the school community for Teslin. Of course, we will work very closely with them. We continue to always work in collaboration with our school communities and I look forward to having direct discussions. I have certainly had discussions with Teslin Tlingit Council on issues that arise from the schools and I will continue to do that work.

Mr. Hassard: Mr. Speaker, I certainly look forward to seeing additional resources dedicated to the Teslin school.

The next thing that the school council requested was for the Yukon government to reconsider its housing policy for teachers and to ensure that sufficient housing is available in Teslin. They note that the lack of housing in Teslin has been a barrier for new and existing teachers to work and stay in Teslin. In particular, they note that the Yukon Housing policy whereby teachers can only stay in a Yukon Housing unit for a maximum of three years is hurting their ability to recruit and retain teachers. Will the government agree to waive this policy in Teslin and will they commit to making more housing available for teachers in that community?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, thank you for the question. The Government of Yukon, of course, recognizes that staff housing plays a very important role in supporting, recruiting, and retaining teachers in Yukon communities. We are continuing to work within available resources to assist staff in rural communities to meet their housing needs.

A teacher's ability to receive extensions on staff housing gives them the security and confidence of housing. The Department of Education, the Yukon Housing Corporation, and the Public Service Commission created a solution in alignment with the policy where the department will recommend extensions annually on behalf of any teacher subject to renewal. This solution ensures that teachers will not receive notices of term end and it supports the department's recruitment and retention strategy.

Again, I am looking forward to working with the Teslin school council to address the concerns that were outlined in the letter that I received this week.

Mr. Hassard: Mr. Speaker, the final issue raised by the Teslin school council was what they described as — and I'll quote: "... slow or non-existent service for school maintenance issues..." They claimed that even the most basic of requests for maintenance takes unreasonable amounts of time and they have noted that the maintenance system is unresponsive to them. One example that they raised was the school's 3D printer, which was sent in for repairs three years ago, Mr. Speaker, but they have never actually been able to get it returned.

So, will the department find a solution for improving maintenance requests in that community, and will the Department of Education agree to at least return Teslin's 3D printer?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to continue to work with all of our school partners. School councils play a very important role in ensuring that our schools are run well. I am looking forward to responding directly to all of the questions, including the one that has been raised here today.

Regularly scheduled preventive maintenance occurs throughout the school year. Maintenance that impacts school programming is scheduled normally during school closure times.

We continue to invest in ongoing building maintenance of all of our facilities, regardless of age, including routine and emergency maintenance. The Yukon government ensures that all Yukon buildings, including schools, are safe to occupy. The Department of Highways and Public Works maintains all government buildings. Yukon government schools are equipped with all of the updated ventilation systems and other regularly maintained infrastructure in schools.

Mr. Speaker, again, there is a very specific question that has been raised here today, which I will be following up on with the Teslin school council very soon.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed. We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chair (Ms. Blake): Order. Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

The matter before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, in Bill No. 211, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2023-24*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

Deputy Chair (MLA Tredger): Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

Bill No. 211: *Second Appropriation Act 2023-24* — continued

Deputy Chair: The matter now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, in Bill No. 211, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2023-24*.

Request for Acting Chair of Committee of the Whole

Deputy Chair: At this time, I will ask if any private member wishes to volunteer to be Acting Chair of Committee of the Whole.

Member for Takhini-Kopper King rises

Acting Chair (Ms. White): Order, please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

The matter now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, in Bill No. 211, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2023-24*.

Yukon Housing Corporation — continued

Acting Chair: Is there any further general debate?

MLA Tredger: I wanted to start out by asking about an article that I read recently about the Ryder Apartments being demolished for new housing. I think that's great. One thing it said in the article is that the new units are going to be rent geared to income. I wasn't clear on whether that's the designation that applies to all Yukon Housing Corporation tenants or whether that's specifically the people who are only applying to Yukon Housing Corporation because of the need for lower rent, as opposed to the priority groups.

Could the Premier clarify that for me?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: We are looking to use the building. We have gone out for design work right now, and it's really about getting the demolition done. The contract has been signed now, I believe. We had a successful candidate — a local construction company — that has won that work. We are looking to get some design work, and it is for clients of Yukon Housing Corporation. That is the concept, but I think we have also had

discussions on this topic with Vimy. I think it is important, and I just want to put on the record that in some of our exchanges previously, I have spoken to the lead on the Vimy file and talked about the fact that this is a downtown location; it's a good location. It's near amenities, and they, of course, have a lot that we have provided in Whistle Bend, but some of the thoughts that we had were that this could be an option.

We are in a position right now where we are getting some design work completed. We want to make sure that we are fluid in getting our work done. To answer your question directly, yes, this is about individuals who are on our wait-list whom we would be looking to house. Of course, then we can use rent geared to income based on that list of clients.

I will flag — and I want to put it on the record today, in case we do have a bit of a change on this — that we do think that this is a good option. When it comes to the Vimy conversation, we're really looking to — I met with our senior folks over the last couple of days, and we are really looking to try to get a final plan in place. We have a series of different options that we will table, but it is important for me to be transparent to the House that I have had discussions directly with Vimy on this location. We think that, for some of their needs, it could be workable, but again, we want to present a number of items to Vimy and have them take a look at what will be best for their organization.

MLA Tredger: I am excited to see what comes, and I look forward to asking more questions when there are more details about what will happen.

I wanted to follow up on a question I asked in Question Period yesterday about the Yukon home ownership program. I had made the suggestion and asked whether people could be pre-approved for the program before they go out to find a house and find a bank that denies them so that they know already in advance: Am I eligible for this program? I understand there are conditions that need to be met in order to get into the program, but I think it would be really great if people could find out what they would be eligible for and then have that approval conditional on being denied by a bank and finding an appropriate house, et cetera.

Is that something the Premier will direct his department to do?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: First of all, good work by the Legislative Assembly to be able to listen to QP yesterday from being highly induced by NeoCitran, but an opportunity to listen to some of these questions — great service provided there by Computerisms to log in.

I also just want to thank the team over at Yukon Housing Corporation. I know that we have President Justin Ferbey and Acting Vice-President Beth Fricke today, but also to our finance team: Thank you for pulling together numbers today and to our policy folks and coms folks for all the work you did to prepare us for this debate but also today. I thought this might be a question, and so there was a lot of fast work done today because we wanted to share with members of the House and with Yukoners some background information after those questions yesterday.

First, just to share a little bit about the home ownership program. We are committed to improving home ownership options and availability. This program has gone through a couple of iterations. This has been a program that has been successful. I know a number of Yukoners who have used this program and accessed their first home, and we want to continue to see that success for Yukoners.

What we saw over the last number of years was that the real need was in our communities. It was hard to access mortgage financing in our communities. The first thing that was happening was a lot of institutions would say that there wasn't comparables; they were having a hard time getting comparables for new assets that were being built. I heard that in Carmacks; I heard that in Teslin and in a number of places. We wanted to really focus the program in our communities and it was hard to get significant loans. We provided that to the communities; it was done under a previous minister. Then there was a request through, at that time, the mayor of Teslin, in his role with the Association of Yukon Communities, but also from his experience to increase the amount that we would provide through Yukon Housing in those communities. We did those things. We listened to Yukoners and we made sure that those loans were available.

When we started to see a change in the interest rates across the banking sector and we also were made aware — there was a lot of work done in the House — the Leader of the NDP, I know, had a lot of conversations with me around people who were buying lots and having a hard time to get access to build on those loans. There was a lot of back-and-forth on that. We have tried to make sure that those in Whitehorse can access those dollars.

Again, unfortunately, part of it is that our expanded home ownership program has not been able, in many ways, to bridge the affordability gap to assist Yukoners into home ownership. It is really about affordability issues caused by the high interest rates and home prices. Again, while supporting Yukoners into home ownership is part of how we are addressing housing pressures, we are looking at different options. We are looking at a number of options and the team is looking at — I will flag for the House and it can go on the record — we are looking at models for rent to own. We are looking at land trusts. We are looking at co-ops. We are trying to make sure that our legislation and regulations that support that type of work are in place. Our teams are looking at a number of different models because we are trying to figure out how to unlock these opportunities.

We are also trying to ensure that we don't have Yukoners walking into situations where they are taking on a significant amount of debt and they can't service that debt. We don't want to set anybody up for failure. Of course, we are just using the standard — we have made it a little more flexible for folks as compared to a bank. The interest rates are favourable as well, but we are trying to ensure — and even the amount down — the down payment is very flexible as well.

There was a number that was brought up by the member opposite about the applications. There were 40 applications. What the team did quickly — and that is why I really wanted to

say a big thank you — what we saw was there was the one approved under the credit to total debt service. That is a standard formula. We are a little bit more flexible than the banks. We have 12 of those applications that had too much personal debt. We are not making up equations here; we are not making up models. This is industry standard, banking standard pieces.

I'll preface that by saying that we are trying to figure out ways to help people. We had 10 applications that were just absolutely incomplete. We had 10 applications that were ineligible — we can't get into the specifics on individuals, but they were ineligible; three of those applications were second residences — so, they already had a home, but they wanted a second home; I think there were two that were withdrawn; and there are two that we are still looking into, out of the 40. You can see that really primarily it was around debt and around some of the eligibility requirements that were in place.

Those are some things that we think — you know, there was the Third Party question, though, that I thought was something that was a good point, which was: How can you prequalify? We talked today about it. The language is pretty codified for us in our programs, and we need to do some program change to look at that, but the two things that have to happen — and that is the way the program has always been — is that we went out, and you try to access financing from a banking institution, and if you are turned down — that would be the first thing — then you could come to us, but you also had to have an offer in place — a deal in place. I get the points that were made yesterday, and I thought that there were some good points made.

What we are going to take a look at is: One, maybe if you go through that first step, which is that you go to the bank, let's see if you can hit a number, and how do we do that? It will go to our board as well. Any of these changes, of course, go to the Yukon Housing Corporation board, I believe — it's what has been for changes in the past. Can we have somebody go apply and then, if they are turned down to prequalify at the bank, can they then go through a process with us? You know, then we will leave it to the technicians to figure out how long that offer will stand, the flexibility that we have, and then, of course, that would give them — you know, I think it would be a cleaner path forward. So, I thought that was a good point on the Third Party's question yesterday.

Just quickly, I will let you know that, of our applications, three were from Carmacks, five were from Dawson, one was from Destruction Bay, one from Haines Junction, and three from rural Whitehorse, but about 27 were from Whitehorse of that total package of applicants who came through who were having challenges — just to understand the distribution.

MLA Tredger: I thank the minister for that.

I would like to follow up on a couple of questions I asked about Yukon Housing in the spring. In the spring, I brought up the issue of people calling Yukon Housing and not being able to get through to anyone on the phone. This is something that I hear a lot. People come to me, and every time someone brings up an issue they are having with Yukon Housing, I say, "Have you called them and told them this?" I often hear, "Well, I tried,

but I could never get through, and no one called me back from the voicemail."

I brought this up with the Premier and he said — quote: "I agree; it has been an issue." Then he said, later in the conversation — quote: "We will let you know what our approach is and how we are going to improve on that as soon as we have updated information."

I am hoping he can provide me with some updated information.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I know that we're in a process right now of trying to pull data from the phone system and taking a look at what we have for coverage from a staffing perspective and then what we're getting from the volume that we have going through the system.

I think that there is more information that I need to share with the member opposite, because I have had some communication directly to me in the last number of weeks, and it has been reiterated to us, to me again, so I don't want to say that we've solved this problem, but I also want to dig a bit deeper with our team to understand if it's folks who are calling once and we're in the middle of trying to deal with call volume and they are upset because the first call doesn't get through. The e-mails that were sent to me talked about multiple calls and having a really difficult time trying to get through. Also, in some cases, a former member of the Assembly was trying to help somebody else and making multiple calls, trying to help folks.

I know that the officials just shared with me that the first 10 days of the month are also very difficult, because a lot of our clients are coming to the front counter to pay their rent, too. So, we have folks who are again multi-tasking with what they are trying to do. They are doing client-centred work face to face and, at the same time, trying to deal with the phone lines.

I think that this is something I will have to come back to you on. Again, I want to know what the call volume is, but I still think it's a challenge, our ability to properly manage the requests that are coming in and, at the same time, deal with some of our work. I will leave it to the officials to come back to me, and then I will have more information for you on that topic.

MLA Tredger: I will ask again in the spring, and I hope that, at that time, there will be an update.

One thought that occurred to me while the Premier was talking was if, every month, the first 10 days are difficult, could we staff up for those first 10 days?

When it's predictable every month, it feels like a problem that can be solved. Of course, there are going to be days when, for no particular reason, the phone is ringing off the hook, but if we know that, during the first 10 days every month, it's hard to get back to people on time, that seems like something that could have a pretty straightforward solution.

Another thing I asked about in the spring was bedbugs. I was told that the department's policy is that initial treatment for bedbugs should happen within two weeks of the tenant reporting a problem. I had asked if the department collects data on how often that target is achieved. The minister said — quote: "We are going to pull some data, and we can kind of see what

that looks like on our response time or the response time of the contractors.”

I wonder if he has pulled that data, and what did it show?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: While bedbugs are not considered a health emergency, the corporation treats all cases with importance, as we understand the disruption and stress that this can cause our tenants. The Yukon Housing Corporation conducts monthly inspections of all common areas in multi-unit buildings in Whitehorse. We also provide information on bedbug prevention and treatment to all tenants at the beginning of tenancy through tenant meetings, quarterly newsletters, and as needed.

The Yukon Housing Corporation takes all bedbug reports seriously and schedules inspections and treatments to address issues as soon as possible. The corporation engages a certified pest control contractor to conduct inspections and provide treatments, if required, including two follow-up inspections by the contractor.

Some of the data I can share with you here is this: Since January 1, 2023, the corporation has treated 25 units, with eight treatments currently ongoing. That was as of early October. The relocation of tenants is sometimes in place temporarily for treatments, if required. Bedbugs are not known to spread disease in bites but generally require medical attention.

We know the amount of anxiety this causes tenants. It was a good opportunity to meet with most of our larger, multi-unit buildings here over the last year, and it gave us a chance to have discussions and understand what has happened. I am going to ask for a legislative return to come back just to give some further data on our timing on how quickly we are getting to folks for the 25 cases.

I also want to speak to a few other things. A lot of the dialogue that we have had in the Legislative Assembly around this is, in some cases, opposition members bringing forward concerns in confidence from folks they are representing and trying to amplify their voice, and at the same time, I'm getting different types of information, whether it's directly from clients or from staff, and I also want to be very sensitive to personal information.

What I will say is that, in some of our buildings, some of our challenges have been that we're going in quickly, we're addressing the issue fast, and then either the tenant or somebody on that floor continues to live in a manner that is enhancing the situation for bedbugs, and that could be that they have pulled stuff in — furniture or items that they got their hands on — that is infected with bedbugs, or when we have requested that we need to go in and do a thorough treatment, they haven't followed through on all the steps. That becomes a challenge to the point where I heard that, years ago, there were meetings pulled together and somebody said that they are having problems with bedbugs, and then they come down to a shared area, everybody meets together — and the person is still dealing with bedbugs — and the bedbugs get shared in the meeting and then people go back. It is a difficult scenario.

So, I have had deeper conversations about how — with our current housing situations and pressures — do you get to a place where you can reallocate a number of folks — not just a

number of units but on a floor — and how do you get in there — I think the Leader of the NDP spoke to this before too and said that there's sort of a tent-type treatment, a very thorough piece of infrastructure that goes in, and it gives you the ability to really do the most impactful work.

Again, we have only two certified contractors in the Yukon who treat bedbugs, and so if anybody is looking for a new occupation, there is probably lots of work in that. Sometimes tenants don't want to report the situation because of their own concern. They feel uncomfortable about that; they feel embarrassed — they shouldn't. In many cases, this is something that could have been just spread through the building and may not have had anything to do with any action they did, and it's something, of course, that hasn't always, I don't believe, been as prevalent here as in southern parts of the country.

We are making some improvements to units under renovation to attempt to limit the movement from one unit to another, but it is an ongoing challenge.

We have tried to take a thorough approach to it. I have asked the team to think about doing multiple units at once. It is something that is still a real challenge. I can get back to you with data on just how quickly we are responding, but there were 25 units and we were working on eight of those units as of last month. I will have to get updated information for you in the Legislative Assembly just to see where those eight units are at and if work has been finished on them.

MLA Tredger: I look forward to getting the data, because I am curious if that target of two weeks is being met, but that could be looked at in a lot of different ways. Maybe 90 percent of people are getting it done in two days, but one percent took longer, or maybe actually it's everyone who is waiting the full two weeks — I don't know — so it would be really useful to see the data.

There were a few things in that answer that got my back up a bit, I have to say. Starting out a conversation about bedbugs by saying that it's not a health emergency — no one said that people are going to immediately drop dead from bedbugs, but I've had bedbugs, actually. I used to live in a city in an apartment where I got bedbugs. Let me tell you: That felt like an emergency. That was all I was thinking about until that got resolved. I was very lucky that it got resolved very quickly. Some of the stories I have heard from people who are trying to figure out where they can sleep where they are not going to get bitten — that is an emergency. That has to be an emergency. It is for those people and it has to be for those people supporting them. I agree that people shouldn't feel ashamed about bedbugs, but when we're talking about — I think the term was “the way some people live” in their apartments, that is not helping anyone feel any less ashamed about reporting bedbugs.

Anyway, I will leave that and I look forward to the data.

I wanted to ask another question about Yukon Housing Corporation, which is: How many units are empty right now? I am curious if there are stats on how long it takes to get those units back online once they have been vacated. I assume that the ones that are empty are because of renovations that are needed. So, what is the timeline for units to come back to be

used or occupied after they have been vacated and needed renovations?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: We will just move to gather some information on our wait-list and our units that are empty.

I will just clarify a few points. I try to make the point of saying, yes, I do think it's a significant issue. I think that anyone — and probably most of us in this Assembly — at one time or another slept somewhere where there were either bedbugs or we thought there might be. It is an excruciating way to spend a night or nights — thinking about that.

That is why I just wanted to say that I have been there and I think we have all been there, whether it is your own place, you are travelling, you are staying somewhere — whatever it may be. It is an extremely difficult period of time. There is a ton of anxiety with that. When I say “the way that somebody is living”, what I am really trying to get at is that I have clients who call and tell me that some of their neighbours — some people — pile a lot of material or things in their apartment — it is what is relayed to me — or somebody will go out and have access to a piece of furniture that might have been in a place where there was a chance that it was infected.

I'm not casting any inappropriate comments. I'm just saying that this is what I have had from other clients — just sort of saying: I have a neighbour. They have put a lot of stuff in their place and I think that it is a spot where we think there have been bedbugs. There could have been before. I don't even know if that is accurate. I am just saying that these are some of the things, like I said earlier. We go back and forth in the House, and a lot of times — is it hearsay? Is it that my neighbour said this and is it accurate? Sometimes questions have been formulated in that way, and I know, from being in this role, that sometimes people share information with me and I am going to believe it to be accurate — but again, it is something that has taken place.

We will get back and we will find out the time period of how long it is taking us on those calls. I know that our team with maintenance does a phenomenal job of tracking the work that they do. I do want to thank them; it is a lot of work. Right from — many things that we have dealt with before. Sometimes we get in trouble because we want to make sure that the buildings are secure, and so we have the buildings secured and we end up providing access keys to first responders, and then first responders change in those roles or the keys get misplaced in the headquarters of those first responders. We are doing our best to make sure that people are safe and that causes a challenge, and our maintenance folks are under a bunch of pressure. I have been in meetings where people are concerned, which they have the right to be and should be, around lighting in the hallways and common areas. Sometimes it could be plumbing or electrical issues in older buildings.

As we have stated before, in those two years of COVID when we had to be really cautious about our interaction and interface with people, we had a big list of work that had to be done to catch up on our repair and maintenance.

I'll just go through sort of some master statistics for you.

In the City of Whitehorse and in new housing completions — I'm going to just touch on that because I have access to it

here — in 2018, we were looking at: homeowners, 66; our rentals were 100; condos, 61 — 227 in all, through the work of CMHC. In 2019, there were 55 homeowners, 78 rentals, and 110 condos — 243 in all. In 2020, there were 80 homeowners who got access, 116 rentals, and 152 condos — 348 in all. In 2021, it was: 94 with home ownership access; rental, 57; and condos, 53 — for 204. Then, in 2022, it was: 118 in home ownership; 194 in rental; and 181 in condos — for 493, almost 500.

There has been a bit of back-and-forth, and there was a question this week as well — that our residential numbers were down. They did slump in September. We were ahead of last year in August. Month to month, we have seen strong growth, but when you go through, all in all, we're looking at almost 1,300 or 1,400 since 2018 — so really substantial numbers.

Under the rent-geared-to-income occupancy, we have 646 units. Right now, we have 39 vacant or under repair. I think that was the direct question. Under rent-geared-to-income units, under allocation, which we're just putting out — so they could be vacant but under allocation, meaning we're going through that process. We have offered it up and we're getting folks in there — there are 44, and this is as of November 16.

For employee housing, we have 164, and the rent supplement work that we're doing — that's with Da Daghay Development Corporation and through Yukon Housing Corporation. We have 78 folks, and I know that we have gone back and forth a lot about the seniors living — 20 folks there — and then assisted living under allocation, six folks. So, that is just under 1,000 — 997 individuals.

I don't know if we have an actual statistic on the time period between somebody leaving and getting somebody in there — I think it's fair to say that, if I talk to our team, part of what they would ask is: What is the work that is required after a tenant leaves, and is it much different from one tenant to the other? Also, what is our access to our own capacity to get the work done, or if we have to subcontract it to one of the companies that we work with, how readily available are they? Really, when you take into consideration our entire stock, we are looking at less than 40 units out of almost over 1,000 in all.

MLA Tredger: I have just a couple thoughts that came up. Before when we were talking about the bedbug contractors and the Premier was talking about how there are only two in Whitehorse and that capacity is a challenge there, I wonder if the department would consider having their own capacity to treat bedbugs. It's just an idea that I want to throw out there.

My last question is really more of a request for reconsideration of a policy. It's about housing for staff members in Yukon communities. We have talked before about how, in a number of Yukon communities, the policy of only being able to stay in staff housing for three years just doesn't make sense, because there are no other homes for people to move into.

I understand that there is a solution in place where people can request an extension every year or the department can request an extension for them, but that is a lot of uncertainty for the staff who are experiencing it, not knowing every year — this year, it may get extended or maybe it won't. Maybe I will

be able to stay and work this job. Maybe I should be looking for another job; I don't know.

I would suggest that a solution is found that would allow people some long-term certainty about where they are living.

That's my final comment and question of the day. I want to thank the officials for being here, all the officials listening in, helping from behind the scenes, doing the work they are doing every day. I do really appreciate it. I thank the Premier for the conversation.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I am not sure. There might be some other questions from the Official Opposition.

Just to speak to that question from the NDP, it's a fine balance. Coming into government, we saw a number of folks. We heard from a lot of community members first — I think that was the big thing — saying that it's a bit unfair. We have individuals who are in subsidized housing. They work for the Yukon government. They are very well paid and there are pressures around housing.

We also heard folks say that people would be in a community long term — many of them — long term in the community but not committing to the community by, you know, when there were lots available, when there were options available, not purchasing, because the situation that they were in was pretty comfortable. Many times, I sat down with individuals and, you know, really emotional in some communities, saying, "Look, people are overhoused in some places."

I mean, I can remember a very significant conversation in Watson Lake on that topic where, you know, you have people who are piled into one place because of the housing stock, and they are looking for an opportunity to, you know, have an appropriate spot for their family.

We have been aware, and we have gone back and forth — I have been party to a lot of those conversations when I am doing community visits about, you know, making sure that employees know the proper process — they can reach into their department. The member opposite is absolutely correct — they can request an extension.

There was a question today concerning the community of Teslin. You know, I think that there are two things for us to be able to take a look at. You know, the approach that we can discuss is really: What is the capacity in the community at the time?

Some communities, like Haines Junction — you know, you might have a person who is in Haines Junction — there are lots available, there are options available, and there are houses on the market — then, you know, you have flexibility to be able to look and acquire. If it is a community where lots are under development or there are options under development but they are not available at that time, those are things that have to be taken into consideration, and you can probably give a bit more flexibility with that, but again, I won't do a program review or edit on the fly. It is important to speak with the Public Service Commission and Yukon Housing, but I will commit to having a conversation about ensuring that folks — you know, that there is a good, common-sense approach to how we look at these things.

We can look at our stock, and we certainly have a sense of when there is new stock being built. As well, working with Energy, Mines and Resources and Community Services, we have a sense of when there are lots available.

In closing, I will say that we have been prioritizing housing for essential positions, especially for health professionals and teachers. Again, we want those folks to be out looking for options, as well — if there are lots, to be looking to try to get the private sector engaged in those communities, to be able to see the demand and be able to build and continue to see options being provided by the private sector.

I hope that answers it a little bit, but we are definitely open to continuing dialogue on the topic. With that, I will hand it back to the Chair.

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

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

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

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

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

Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Acting Chair: Unanimous consent has been granted.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$455,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures underexpenditure in the amount of \$6,000,000 agreed to

Total Expenditures underexpenditure in the amount of \$5,545,000 agreed to

Yukon Housing Corporation agreed to

Acting Chair: The matter now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 52, Department of Environment, in Bill No. 211, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2023-24*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

The matter now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 52, Department of Environment, in Bill No. 211, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2023-24*.

Department of Environment — continued

Acting Chair: Is there any further general debate?

Hon. Mr. Clarke: I believe that I do not have a great deal of time left, so I will just take this opportunity to welcome, to my left, Deputy Minister Manon Moreau and, to my right, Assistant Deputy Minister Briar Young. They are both here to assist me this afternoon. I look forward to questions.

MLA Tredger: I thank the officials for being here with us today. I don't have too many more questions left, so I will launch into them.

I wanted to follow up on a conversation we had in the spring about wetlands of special importance. I had asked when applications would be open for wetlands of special importance, and the minister said — quote: "... the estimate is six to eight months to begin the process of defining the applications for wetlands of special importance." That was in either March or April. We are getting pretty close to six to eight months. We are right in that window right now, so I was wondering what the progress on that has been.

Ms. Clarke: Madam Acting Chair, I will just provide a bit of background as to where we are at, and hopefully, by the end of this, I will be in a position to answer next steps with respect to nomination.

A policy for the stewardship of Yukon's wetlands was released on January 10, 2023. The goal of the policy is to ensure that the benefits of Yukon's wetlands are sustained. As the member opposite will know, the Government of Yukon conducted an online public survey in October 2021 to gather feedback on the draft policy. First Nation consultation in 2022 followed the release of the March 2022 "what we heard" report from the survey. In January 2023, the Government of Yukon formed an internal working group to advance and coordinate the implementation of the wetland stewardship policy. The working group was co-chaired by the Energy, Mines and Resources Strategic Alliances branch, who manage partnerships and strategic initiatives, and Environment Fish and Wildlife branch senior habitat biologist.

This working group is composed of members of Energy, Mines and Resources Mineral Resources branch and Corporate Policy branch and Environment, as well as occasional members from the Agriculture branch and the Forest Management branch, Executive Council Office, and Highways and Public Works. The group meets monthly to advance various aspects of policy implementation, as well as ensuring a whole-of-government approach to policy implementation.

In addition to policy approval, Management Board has approved \$1.68 million in time-limited funding over two fiscal years, 2023-24 and 2024-25, for the Departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources jointly implementing the wetlands policy. This includes \$840,000 for fiscal 2023-24 and \$840,000 for 2024-25, in order to support the policy's implementation.

Personnel have been approved for one two-year full-time equivalent at the Department of Environment and one two-year and one permanent full-time equivalents at the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

As the member opposite is aware, the wetlands policy contains 16 implementation actions with near-term, mid-term, and long-term implementation targets over the next 10 years. We are working on the nomination criteria and form. We are going to be consulting with parties on nomination criteria late this year and early in 2024. That might be a little bit later than what I indicated in the spring of 2023, but there is good work going on. It appears that there is reasonable funding for this process. It is an all-of-government approach.

MLA Tredger: I thank the minister for that answer.

I am now going to turn to *Our Clean Future*. Since there isn't an update yet, I would like to ask about some of the items, specifically the items that are under where Environment is listed as the lead.

I will start with L3, which is: "Incorporate climate change risks into Government of Yukon departmental planning process by 2022." I asked about that in the spring of 2023, and at that point, the minister said it was in progress. I'm wondering if he could tell me about the progress so far.

Hon. Mr. Clarke: All departments with *Our Clean Future* commitments, which I believe are most departments, have incorporated climate change into their department strategic plans.

Departments with adaptation actions in *Our Clean Future* actively address climate risk in their intended outcomes and related activities. In addition, the Department of Environment is leading by example, adding climate change risks to the risk registry at the branch and department-wide level, which are integrated into branch planning processes.

MLA Tredger: I would like to ask about item T10, which is: "Require all gasoline sold in Yukon for transportation to align with the percentage of ethanol by volume in leading Canadian jurisdictions beginning in 2025, aiming for around 10 percent." I know that we are a little bit away from 2025 right now, but I'm wondering if that is going to require legislative changes, which, if so, would need to start pretty soon, I imagine, to be ready for 2025. Maybe the minister can tell me about what will be required to meet that commitment and what the progress has been on it.

Hon. Mr. Clarke: I wasn't entirely clear which T the member opposite was referring to. In any event, from T9 to T15, a number of those sections deal with clean fuels. Certainly, the member opposite and the whole House have heard from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources — I am hearing that it was T10.

I have heard from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources — and perhaps for myself — that not an insignificant minority of the percentages that are required could be achieved through the adoption of clean fuel standards. My colleague the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has also indicated at times that, of course, there will be challenges in the supply chain and in providing the appropriate supply here. This is all to say that this is an EMR-led action. This action is critical

to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Yukon. There is research underway on how to enable adoption of the ambitious ethanol blending while addressing the unique temperature variations in the Yukon.

The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is still exploring the legislative requirements of this policy and remains committed to this action in order to reduce emissions in this sector. This is, of course, a complex area of work and research on the initiative is ongoing.

To be clear for the record, T10 requires all gasoline sold in Yukon for transportation to align with the percentage of ethanol by volume in leading Canadian jurisdictions beginning in 2025. I certainly don't disagree that we should adopt best practices and I would venture to guess that we would be aligning ourselves with British Columbia, because they have adopted a number of these best practices. It's obviously easier — from a supply chain and general supply issue — to implement in large metropolitan areas, but in any event, the Department of Environment continues to provide support to EMR on this initiative.

I will just reiterate for the House this afternoon that the reduction component to get to 30 percent with an aspirational goal of a 45-percent reduction of greenhouse gases by 2030 from 2010 levels — it's approximately what the pie chart indicates and it's still the same. I'm sure that it's transportation and heating that accounts for 75 percent of those emissions in the territory. Obviously, transportation is a sector that we are aggressively targeting, because it is certainly very much part of the solution going forward.

MLA Tredger: I appreciate that information, but in the 2021 *Our Clean Future* annual report under T10, it lists Environment as the lead. It's the second time that I have asked about an action and then been told that it's now under the leadership of Energy, Mines and Resources. I am wondering why actions keep getting transferred from Environment to Energy, Mines and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Clarke: As this is potentially the last time that Environment will be in Committee of the Whole for the Fall Sitting of this Legislature, I am just waiting for a response with respect to that question. I have some vague recollection of that question being asked in the spring, but I was just going to briefly put on the record — in a minute or two — answering a question from the Member for Kluane on wildlife collisions between Whitehorse and Haines Junction. I will be brief.

Staff from the Department of Highways and Public Works and the Department of Environment worked together to mitigate wildlife collisions on Yukon highways. Road ecologists and biologists have been contracted to analyze collision data and recommend appropriate and effective mitigation measures. This has included actions like the removal of snow berms to facilitate animal movement off of roadways.

As I stated on Tuesday, reported wildlife collisions in 2023 resulted in the deaths of 67 wildlife, with most being ungulates.

With respect to the Whitehorse-Haines Junction corridor, there have been a total of six reported vehicle collisions with wildlife that have resulted in wildlife deaths. This includes

collisions with one elk, one moose, two deer, and two black bears.

In 2022, there was a total of 14 collisions between Whitehorse and Haines Junction. This included seven elk, three coyotes, three deer, and one black bear. The Department of Environment and the Department of Highways and Public Works will continue to work toward reducing the rate of wildlife collisions on Yukon highways in order to ensure the safety of motorists and to contribute to the conservation of wildlife species.

The Department of Environment is exploring options to ensure that, in the coming year, the public has access to wildlife mortality data, including from vehicle collisions.

This was just a brief opportunity to answer that question from Tuesday, and I am happy to proceed with the question that was raised.

The Climate Change Secretariat plays a coordinating and reporting role for the *Our Clean Future* strategy. While this action began as a joint action, the Department of Environment determined that EMR has greater expertise and better connection to the stakeholders related to this action. The Department of Environment is a partner on certain actions associated with *Our Clean Future* and the department will continue to provide the centralized leadership to support us in reaching our climate goals.

We cannot rely on just one department or agency in order to implement this expansive climate change strategy. I look forward to continuing to work across government to implement the actions that we have identified.

In the annual report, which will be released before the end of the calendar year, there ought to be specifically a recommendation or an indication or even an acknowledgement that EMR is the lead with respect to clean fuels. We certainly discussed that, but the bottom line is that the Climate Change Secretariat, which is housed within the Department of Environment, is the quarterback with respect to the aggregation of data.

MLA Tredger: I will ask next about one that I think is very squarely within Environment, which is P4 — quote: "Continue to monitor key species that will provide an indication of the impacts of climate change on Yukon ecosystems and expand monitoring to more taxonomic groups." That says it is ongoing, so I am wondering what those key species are that are being monitored and what species there are plans to expand to.

Hon. Mr. Clarke: Efforts are ongoing to respond to the impacts of climate change on wild species and their habitats. Current initiatives involve monitoring species most at risk due to climate change, such as pika and polar bears, and examining the broader boreal forest food web through programs like the community ecosystem monitoring program. These initiatives aim to provide crucial insights into the effects of climate change on wildlife and their ecosystems.

To answer the Member for Whitehorse Centre's question, I will see whether there are any other animals that are included. I am seeing that lynx and hare will also be monitored.

MLA Tredger: I would also like to ask about P7, which is: “Work with Yukon First Nations to develop a tailored hunter education program by 2023 that can be adapted and delivered by Yukon First Nations for First Nations citizens.” Is that on track to be done by the end of the year? I would appreciate an update on it.

Hon. Mr. Clarke: Just to complete — I’m sure it won’t be a completely complete answer, but to build on the answer about animals and wildlife that are being monitored and the effects of climate change, I will add as well for the record that there is a Porcupine caribou summer ecosystem monitoring program — a collaborative research program with three areas of focus, including wildlife, vegetation, and Indigenous knowledge — that has been initiated on the Porcupine caribou summer range to understand climate-induced shifts in vegetation and species. This research is not only focused on these changes but will ultimately work toward livelihood adaptations.

The project is community-driven and is a collaboration between several academic organizations, communities, co-management boards and councils, and governments. I am advised that YG is a key partner in this matter.

With respect to the P7, the short answer is yes; this is on track to be completed by the end of the year. Some detail that I can provide to the House is as follows: YG hosts a wide range of hunter, trapper, and outdoor education programming throughout the territory aimed at supporting Yukoners to have safe wilderness experiences. I would just give a shout-out at this time to the Environment communications branch. I think that they are doing a great job on coms with respect to that, with respect to hunter education and providing public service announcements on hunting-related issues over the course of the last two and a half years. I think that they are doing a great job on that.

The action to maintain the ability to practise traditional and cultural activities on the land has been successfully completed in 2022, one year ahead of schedule. In the same year, four First Nation HEED — also known as First Nation hunting ethics and education — program courses were delivered, and an instructor was trained to teach the program. Additionally, a First Nation HEED course is currently being delivered in a school and a second course is scheduled with the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, further promoting the preservation of traditional and cultural activities on the land. I am advised that we now have two First Nation HEED instructors and the courses have occurred in Whitehorse.

The House will likely know this, but the Conservation Officer Services branch does the HEED. I know that there is a very enthusiastic, competent, and dynamic conservation officer who heads that, and I applaud him for the work that he does with respect to hunter education across the territory. I know that he is busy with that. Once again, on social media, I see that he is very active with respect to First Nation and non-First Nation hunting education programs.

MLA Tredger: I will wrap up my questions there for today, so I thank the officials for coming in today and for those

listening in on the radio. Thank you to the department for the work that you’re doing all the time. I really appreciate it.

Hon. Mr. Clarke: Just before we wrap up Committee of the Whole with respect to the Environment supplementary budget debate for this Fall Sitting, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Deputy Minister Manon Moreau for her long service at various Yukon departments but certainly with the Department of Environment as my deputy minister for the last over two and a half years.

Her support and wise guidance have certainly been very appreciated, and just recognizing that Manon will be retiring quite soon and she will be travelling, I think, to her homeland — the homeland in British Columbia — and enjoying herself, although I’m not sure how she could enjoy herself any more than being in her current position, but I guess it is entirely possible. One can imagine these things.

In any event, I would just take the opportunity to thank her for all of her — I know that she has been appreciated by her team at the Department of Environment. She started her career in Environment and she finished her career at Environment, and I know that she has been incredibly dedicated to the cause. Her support has been much appreciated, and this will be her last appearance in the Assembly. So, I would thank her, and I would thank the assistant department minister, Briar Young, for their support and thank the members opposite — the Member for Kluane and the Member for Whitehorse Centre — for their questions on this matter — on this file. I look forward to the department clearing shortly.

MLA Tredger: With that news, I think we had better add our appreciation, congratulations, and well wishes for her retirement. I have only ever heard great things about her work in the department, so we will certainly miss her.

Mr. Istchenko: I reiterate the comments from my fellow colleague here. Thank you for your time.

Acting Chair: Is there any further general debate on Vote 52, Department of Environment?

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

MLA Tredger: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 52, Department of Environment, cleared or carried, as required.

Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 52, Department of Environment, cleared or carried

Acting Chair: The Member for Whitehorse Centre has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 52, Department of Environment, cleared or carried, as required.

Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Acting Chair: Unanimous consent has been granted.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures
Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$3,619,000 agreed to
On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of nil agreed to
Total Expenditures in the amount of \$3,619,000 agreed to
Department of Environment agreed to

Acting Chair: The matter now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 15, Department of Health and Social Services, in Bill No. 211, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2023-24*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

Deputy Chair (MLA Tredger): Committee of the Whole will come to order.

The matter now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 15, Department of Health and Social Services, in Bill No. 211, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2023-24*.

Department of Health and Social Services — continued

Deputy Chair: Is there any further general debate?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Deputy Chair, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome back Tiffany Boyd and Ed van Randen, who are both deputy ministers of the Department of Health and Social Services, and to welcome, I think for the first time, Melanie Wallace, who is the acting director of strategic finance for the Department of Health and Social Services, and thank them very much for being here today.

I don't have anything to add to the last question that I would have received when we were here last for the purposes of answering questions on the 202324 Supplementary No. 1 for the Department of Health and Social Services, but I am happy to take further questions, if there are any, and I will take my seat and await those.

Mr. Cathers: I had expected that the minister would begin by answering the questions that I asked her on November 1 that she didn't in her response at the time — and I would just reiterate those questions that I asked at the tail-end of the day. I asked the minister if she could provide information, either at that time or when she next rose, about wait times at the hospital, as well as for other health care procedures. Specifically, I had asked the minister to provide us with an update on what the current wait times are for cardiac care, for ophthalmology, for cataract surgery, for non-urgent MRI, for mammography, for joint replacement surgery, and for audiologist services.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: At the Department of Health and Social Services, we work very closely with the Yukon Hospital Corporation, the Yukon Medical Association, and physicians to address timely and appropriate access to the specialty services, which is what is being asked about here. We work hard to

provide those specialty services closer to home to reduce the need for out-of-territory medical travel. Also, we are mindful of the fact that having these procedures here in the territory is often less stressful. It's still probably stressful for patients but likely less stressful than if they have to travel farther or are in an unfamiliar situation. It may be that they are travelling from communities as well, so Whitehorse is a little less stressful than perhaps a big city, if they're not used to travelling. Of course, dealing with medical situations is always a stressful time for people.

We continue to support the Yukon Hospital Corporation's visiting specialist program to provide pathways to some specialist services in the Yukon. Managing hospital occupancy and ensuring that patients receive the care in the right place at the right time remains a daily priority. Cardiology services are provided by visiting specialists. Wait times and wait-lists fluctuate, based on the frequency of visits by the visiting specialist.

Whitehorse General Hospital is supported by three visiting cardiologists, who provide six visits a year, and two visiting pediatric cardiologists, who offer two visits per year. As of the summer of 2023, a total of 439 individuals have received services through the program this year. In 2022, a total of 1,531 services were supported through the program. I do believe that I provided this information when we were last here on November 1 or 2, but nonetheless, I am happy to take the opportunity to repeat those for Yukoners.

The wait time to access the visiting cardiologist is approximately six months. The ideal target would be about two months. As of June 2023, there are 329 individuals on the wait-list to access these services, and that is up slightly from the previous year. The Yukon Hospital Corporation triages referrals for cardiologist services to those with the highest needs, and they are supported first. That is also a medical assessment.

I am just trying to see the other things I was asked about. Not the MRI. Ophthalmology — let me see if I can find some information.

In 2019, with respect to the ophthalmology program, we implemented a two-year plan to successfully reduce wait times for cataract assessments. This plan was extended to support managing wait times. We are meeting our target of completing cataract assessments within four months. We are working toward meeting our target of completing cataract surgeries within six months. At this time, surgeries are being completed within 12 months.

Between 2019 and 2020, a combined total of 870 cataract surgeries were completed. During the 2021-22 fiscal year, a total of 450 cataract surgeries were completed — again, remembering that it was during COVID. During the 2022-23 fiscal year, a total of 545 cataract surgeries were completed, again being restricted by the COVID limitations. As of the summer of 2023, a total of 175 cataract surgeries have been completed so far. That was as of a number of months ago.

The next part of the question involves orthopaedics or joint replacements, which is, I think, the question. The Yukon is currently being supported by two resident orthopaedic

surgeons, with additional coverage provided by locum doctors. The first resident orthopaedic surgeon was introduced in 2017. The second resident orthopaedic surgeon was introduced in 2019. We continue to look for a third orthopaedic surgeon who might be able to support the team.

In 2022-23, a total of 104 joint replacement surgeries were completed in the territory. In that same year, 2022-23, there were 28 joint replacements completed out of territory, and this compares to 71 joint replacements completed out of territory two years before, in 2018-19.

As of the second quarter of 2023/24, there have been 46 joint replacement procedures completed, including 26 total hip and 20 total knee replacements. As of the second quarter of 2023/24, the cast clinic has supported 1,542 visits during the 2023/24 fiscal year. In 2022/23, a total of 2,480 visits to the cast clinic were supported, which was more than any year prior. The orthopaedic agreement currently allows for 100 joint replacement procedures per year. This allocation has incrementally increased since the program was introduced in 2017. In addition to scheduled orthopaedic surgeries, of course, they must account for urgent or emergency consultations and surgeries; the same team is responsible.

The current wait time to access a total knee or hip replacement is between 15 and 21 months. As of October 3, 2023, there were 257 individuals on the wait-list for a total knee or hip replacement, and we have met with the Yukon Hospital Corporation and the resident orthopaedic surgeons to discuss the wait times and access to these services and an opportunity for us to improve that by working together. There is an orthopaedic working group that helps with this process.

I am probably out of time, so I will wait there. I can speak about hearing services next.

Mr. Cathers: I do appreciate that the minister provided some information. One thing that we have found in the past is that, first of all, when I first asked the minister these questions, she didn't have this information. I appreciate that she did get some of that, but some of the information is not the level of detail or as current as we would typically get when we have the opportunity to ask witnesses from the Yukon Hospital Corporation questions.

Deputy Chair, as the minister will know, for over a decade, witnesses from the Yukon Hospital Corporation have appeared in the Legislative Assembly during the Fall Sitting to answer questions. My question for the minister is: Will the witnesses appear here next week?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I note that the witnesses representing the Yukon Hospital Corporation often come — I think certainly all the times that we have been here — in the fall to appear as witnesses before the Legislative Assembly. I note that we are getting down with respect to the days. We are still trying to determine if that schedule will cooperate with us this year and that they can appear as witnesses.

Mr. Cathers: Considering the number of days remaining and the fact that we know, when called, that the chair and the chief executive officer of the hospital make attending the Legislative Assembly a priority when asked to be here, it

does sound like the minister's answer was no, they won't appear, but she doesn't want to say that today.

It does raise concerns considering what is going on at the hospital, what we have heard from patients as well as health professionals about the budgetary shortfall and, in fact, departments being told to cut back on some of the procedures that they are performing. It does raise the question of whether the government is trying to avoid us being able to ask questions from the witnesses and, if so, what government is trying to hide from the opposition.

The hospital just finished another year where, according to the audited financial statements, yet again, expenses were higher than revenues by millions of dollars, and the Auditor General noted and expressed concern about the fact that money originally voted for capital was used for O&M, and that was to the tune of millions of dollars.

Again, with the concerns that my colleague the Member for Porter Creek North raised earlier, we are hearing very concerning things about cutbacks to services at the hospital. It does raise the question of whether the government is trying to avoid accountability, and I would urge the minister to actually commit to a date that they will appear here in the Fall Sitting.

My next question is: When will the government provide us with a copy of the Ernst & Young report into financial management of the Yukon Hospital Corporation?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I am always surprised by some of the assumptions — I shouldn't be — made by the member opposite and his party. He says that the assumption is that we are not having them appear as witnesses and that I just don't want to say so. Actually, the other assumption could be that we are intending to bring them and we are working on a schedule. I don't think he should jump to those conclusions. Nonetheless, I always like to surprise him, if I can.

The member will note that there is \$17 million in the budget allocated to the Yukon hospital in the current supplementary budget we are discussing, which presumably they will not vote for, so I am not sure that they care that much about if there is a shortfall at the hospital.

I look forward to determining, with our work with the Yukon Hospital Corporation, how we can best meet their financial needs and how they can best provide service for Yukoners and convey that information to us so that we can work together on those issues.

Accountability is, in fact, key. The Ernst & Young report, which was sought to deal with and investigate the issues that were allocated and noted to be in the audited financial statements this year — I made reference to — has been a very good assessment of the situation, and I look forward to releasing that document. We are in the process of determining the process by which that could happen. It is considered a Cabinet document, with respect to the Executive Council Office and how that report came to them. As a result, I spoke about this with the Hospital Corporation CEO and the board chair, who I met with yesterday. It was a good conversation. They too are pleased with the information provided in the report, and I look forward to determining how it can properly and best be released to the public.

Mr. Cathers: Deputy Chair, the government would have had to look very hard for a way to make that document a Cabinet document, because that is not what would be indicated under the tender. It does look like the minister is trying very hard to find a reason not to share that information with us.

I am going to move on to the impacts of budgetary cuts at the hospital. We have learned that hospital staff and doctors have been told that some services, including mammography exams, are being cut for budgetary reasons. We understand that they have also been warned that operating services may be reduced for this reason and that the reduction in surgical services, as a result of these cuts related to the budget, may be 30 percent. Again, that is a reduction in surgical services of 30 percent of what they would otherwise be doing.

Can the minister confirm if surgical services at the hospital are indeed going to be reduced by 30 percent?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Again, unfortunately, the member opposite has made a couple of assumptions regarding the Ernst & Young report. I don't think I will waste the time today to correct him, but I just warn him against, please, making those assumptions, because I am again happy to surprise him.

The next part of the question — I am going to return to something first with respect to the Yukon Hospital Corporation folks being witnesses. We have brought the Yukon Hospital Corporation chair and CEO as witnesses to the Legislative Assembly every year that we have been here, from 2017 to 2022. The Yukon Party brought the Yukon Hospital Corporation as witnesses only three times during their five years of office.

The next part of the question is about a reduction in surgical services that could be as much as 30 percent of the capacity. This is certainly one of the topics that I spoke to the chair and the CEO of the Hospital Corporation about yesterday. It has been presented as a possible option for some reduction and to align with what is a usual reduction in services, in any event, over a short period of time over what is Christmas week — or the second-last week of December. That determination is being explored and there has not yet been a final determination.

Mr. Cathers: I would remind the minister that when she was trying to compare the record of having witnesses from the hospital appear, we actually began the practice of having the witnesses appear. I do appreciate that the Liberals have carried that on every year, but again, if they fail to call the chair and CEO as witnesses next week, it would be a very notable departure from the past practice of the Legislative Assembly, including under this Liberal government. Considering everything that we are hearing at the hospital — including that the Hospital Corporation has made a public statement, as well, that was covered by CBC and perhaps others today about warning people to expect longer wait times there — when the Hospital Corporation is providing those warnings, when we are hearing from people that they have been advised that services are being cut due to budgetary constraints, and when there is this report by Ernst & Young done under a \$300,000 sole-source contract against the advice of officials, it will cause us to be very concerned about why the minister would choose not to have those witnesses appear here this fall.

As I mentioned, the Hospital Corporation is warning patients to expect longer wait times. They have issued a statement to media and have it posted on their website, and here is a quote from their website: “Service impacts and longer wait times are becoming more regular as we face new and ongoing pressures. Over the past few years, these challenges have come together to create a significant strain on Yukon’s hospitals.” The minister just told us that she met with the hospital chair and CEO. She indicated that, indeed, cuts to surgical services were being considered.

Can the minister tell us how much additional funding the hospital has requested to deal with the growing financial and health care crisis at our hospitals?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: The Yukon Hospital Corporation has released their annual report — as the folks here in the Legislative Assembly know and as Yukoners may be aware — and their audited financial statements for the 202223 fiscal year. As a result of unanticipated higher costs in areas such as the use of agency nurses and overtime, as well as dealing with an aging population and more complex health issues — not to mention a very large increase in the population of the Yukon Territory — the Yukon Hospital Corporation experienced additional financial pressures that our government is supporting the Yukon Hospital Corporation to address through the increases in the 202324 first supplementary estimates. This is the budget that we are currently debating.

The first supplementary estimates for 202324 include an increase of \$17.11 million for the Yukon Hospital Corporation. In the short term, the Yukon Hospital Corporation managed those financial pressures by cash flowing some funding provided for the mental wellness unit capital project. That is what their audited financial statements note. Funding for the mental wellness unit has not been affected by this short-term approach by the hospital, and the project remains on track and is fully funded.

Moving forward, we continue to work with the Yukon Hospital Corporation to identify their ongoing core and additional funding needs in accordance with the terms of the transfer payment agreement with the Yukon Hospital Corporation. Each year during the development of the main estimates, the Yukon Hospital Corporation provides the Department of Health and Social Services with a forecast of the coming year’s financial needs. Similar to Insured Health Services or even Social Supports, the Yukon Hospital Corporation’s actual funding requirements are variable and will be adjusted higher or lower as the fiscal year progresses.

Each fiscal year when presented with these forecasts, the department will work with the Hospital Corporation to address core and additional funding needs with the recognition that adjustments will be made through the supplementary budget exercises each fiscal year, as is being done here today, with some funding needs often identified after the end of the prior fiscal year to be addressed in future budget exercises.

During the development of the 2022-23 main estimates, the Yukon Hospital Corporation, for instance, forecasted \$89 million in funding needs, not including the capital expenditures. In the 2022-23 main estimates, the department

budgeted \$88 million to respond to these forecasts. During the development of the second supplementary estimates for 2022-23, the Yukon Hospital Corporation forecasted an additional funding need of \$671,000. The second supplementary estimates for 2022-23 budgeted \$671,000 to address this request. In 2022-23, there was a \$745,000 variance between the Yukon Hospital Corporation's forecasted funding needs and the funding budgeted through the main estimates and second supplementary estimates.

This variance is connected to the Yukon Hospital Corporation entering into a line of credit to ensure that pension solvency requirements were met. Then, as an example, during the development of the 2023-24 main estimates, the Yukon Hospital Corporation forecasted \$93 million in funding needs, not including capital expenditures. In the 2023-24 main estimates, the department budgeted \$93.6 million to cover the estimate given by the hospital to respond to their forecast. During the development of the first supplementary estimates for 2023-24, the Yukon Hospital Corporation forecasted an additional funding need of \$19.3 million. The first supplementary estimates for 2023-24 include an increase of \$17.11 million.

As the current fiscal year continues, further funding needs and pressures will be assessed with the Hospital Corporation to align forecasted costs against actual costs. This is an exercise, Deputy Chair, that goes on throughout the year with respect to proper funding for the hospital, which we have provided and will continue to provide to the best of our ability, working with the Yukon Hospital Corporation to have their forecasts and then their actual costs assessed and then meeting that number.

The \$17.11 million in this year's supplementary budget — the one that we are currently debating — I encourage all Members of the Legislative Assembly to support this supplementary budget so that the Hospital Corporation will have the proper funds needed to meet the needs of Yukoners. I certainly hope that we all will place our votes in support of the supplementary budget. The approach that we are getting from the opposition will, of course, be shown out in a vote, because the Hospital Corporation does need these funds and we brought them here to the Legislative Assembly for an appropriate vote so that it can be dealt with.

Mr. Cathers: To begin, the minister knows that it's the practice here as well as across the country that the Official Opposition typically votes against the government on all confidence matters, including budgetary votes. In this case, especially since we have no confidence in the Liberal government, we will, of course, be voting against the budget as a whole, because the only time that the House typically votes on the budget is in its entirety. Trying to convince Yukoners that it's anything other than that is a pretty weak talking point.

I would note that the numbers that the minister just cited about the hospital's resource needs directly conflict with what the hospital CEO told this House last November when he indicated that the hospital's O&M core needs for that fiscal year — the 2022-23 fiscal year — were \$103.5 million. The minister then went on to claim that the hospital had only asked for \$93 million and change in O&M for the current fiscal year. It

is just not believable that they would ask for \$10 million less than they told this House they needed for the previous year. This is one of many reasons why we want to ask questions of the hospital witnesses and one of many reasons why I suspect the minister doesn't want to call them here for debate.

It's an important topic because it's directly affecting Yukoners. I will, before moving on to my next topic, again strongly recommend that the government actually fix the financial crisis at Yukon Hospital Corporation, because it is already affecting Yukon patients and it is serious.

Moving on to the topic of psychiatry, the government has talked a lot about mental wellness. We are hearing concerns in this area. We have been told that all of the resident psychiatrists in the territory except one have been offered a contract. That psychiatrist feels that he is being treated unfairly. Under the new agreement with the YMA, the government specifically agreed to offer the option of contracts to doctors. This psychiatrist indicates that he has been asking for a contract for over a year, and during that time, the government also hired another psychiatrist from outside the territory under contract while indicating to him that they might not need his services through a contract model.

We have also heard concerns from other doctors about the disparity — in fact, the growing disparity — between different contracts from the minister and her department and the fee-for-service model. This has been an issue of concern that has been raised with us by a number of doctors. Ultimately, we understand that collectively what the YMA would like to see is equality and fairness in how doctors are treated, whether they are under a contract model or under a fee-for-service model.

Will the minister commit to fixing this issue that has been getting worse under her watch?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I appreciate comments from the member opposite and the opportunity to address them again for Yukoners. The Yukon Hospital Corporation's core funding — just as a reminder in the year that's being spoken about — in 2022-23 comes from a transfer payment agreement with the Department of Health and Social Services, but in that particular year, there was also revenue from outside of the Department of Health and Social Services for the Yukon Hospital Corporation of almost \$9 million, so that might be the discrepancy that is being noted by the member opposite with respect to funding for the hospital.

There were questions about psychiatric services. Referrals for psychiatric services can be made through an individual's general practitioner or nurse practitioner or by a physician through the emergency department at Whitehorse General Hospital. Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services triages psychiatric care for its patients based on a clinical assessment and provides access to a psychiatrist for individuals with serious and persistent illnesses that are part of the psychiatric outreach program. The early psychosis intervention program or the Referred Care Clinic — so, recognition that individuals who are dealing with mental wellness and addictions might well need these services, and the referrals can be made when they

access services at Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services.

High-priority clients who are referred through Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services and who require wraparound supports are prioritized, and every effort is made to see clients with acute psychiatric concerns within a two-week period. During the two-week wait time, intensive outreach and mental health clinician supports are provided. Private psychiatrists set their own schedules and determine how many clients to take on at a time.

Construction has begun — we are very happy to say — at the Whitehorse General Hospital on the new mental wellness unit that is in partnership with the Government of Yukon, the Hospital Corporation, and community partners, which we hope will improve services of a psychiatric and mental wellness nature for Yukoners.

Our government is committed to working with physicians, including psychiatrists and the Yukon Medical Association, to establish better services — a wider variety of services — for Yukoners. We are working with physician consultants with respect to the Whitehorse walk-in clinic. We have also opened Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre and will be working as we go forward with respect to those kinds of services.

Our government and the Yukon Medical Association have, as I mentioned earlier, introduced an attachment and attraction program to encourage patient attachment to family physicians while supporting physicians with overhead and proper costs. *Putting People First* reported and recommended working with the Yukon Medical Association through the next contract negotiation cycle to develop alternative payment models to transition away from primary fee-for-service payment for medical services. As part of the memorandum of understanding with the Yukon Medical Association, we have negotiated fee increases. We continue to work with the Yukon Medical Association and our health system partners to ensure that physicians are supported and to explore alternative methods. There are certainly some individual physicians who choose to be paid by way of a contract to provide health care to Yukoners. We have worked with them, on an individual basis, to determine appropriate pay.

I can also indicate that we are looking forward to the time when we will publicize contract amounts and pay scales for physicians so that there is transparency with respect to working with the Yukon public and being responsible for taxpayers' dollars and how they are allocated through the health care system but also to support individual and other physicians to be aware of the situation of their colleagues.

I don't want to guess, but I understand that the member opposite might be making reference to one particular psychiatrist. Of course, I am not permitted to provide any information with respect to any negotiations that may be ongoing. I don't want to guess and so I will not, but if the member wants to ask me a specific question about a contract for that particular medical professional, I might have some information that I can provide, but I don't think that it is

appropriate for me to guess if there is a reference to a particular person.

Ms. White: The Yukon NDP has heard stories from communities about the failure of health services to connect to medical treatments and services in Whitehorse. One letter from a parent in Old Crow described how it took her more than eight months to get her baby in to see a doctor. The wait was worsened because the Old Crow Health Centre repeatedly tried to refer the baby to a Whitehorse pediatrician, but those referrals were never received. In the end, it turned out that this was due to an outdated communication infrastructure; it was an old fax machine. The fax machine in the health centre wasn't working. It turns out that it wasn't sending faxes — it did everything that made you think it was sending faxes — and it wasn't discovered until many, many months later.

I think that everyone here would say that it is a core belief that it shouldn't take eight months for a baby to see a doctor.

What is the department doing to make sure that there is adequate technology and communications in rural community health centres so that they can communicate appropriately with facilities in Whitehorse and we don't see this happen again?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Thank you for the question. Welcome to the debate about the 202324 Supplementary No. 1 for the Department of Health and Social Services. I appreciate the opportunity to answer these questions. I will not reference the particular situation, although I know that it was brought to our attention, and ultimately, I understand it to be resolved. Certainly, it should not take eight months, or more importantly, there should not be a technological problem that interferes with patients getting care.

We have a quality assurance process to ensure patient care at the Department of Health and Social Services. We certainly expect that any of these kinds of situations will be brought to our attention and dealt with immediately. It's clearly technological support that is needed for health centres across the territory. We do have capital and maintenance budgets at the Department of Health and Social Services so these things can be addressed quickly and immediately. Please, if there are individuals who know of such things malfunctioning or inappropriate technology not supporting the health care of individuals, it would be critical for us to be aware.

We also have a digital health strategy that is being rolled out with respect to improving technology across the territory so that technology works on behalf of patient care as opposed to hindering it in some way. As we continue to the work on the Meditech Expanse, a digital health strategy is required to inform where future investments should be made and to ensure the readiness and alignment with Health and Wellness Yukon and to set a path for digital transformation in the Yukon. We have been somewhat slow in some areas to take this on directly. The digital health strategy can help with current strains and pressures that the health care system may be facing. In February and March 2023, we engaged with physicians, nurses, Health and Social Services staff, and people with lived experience on a digital health strategy for the Yukon. Key themes from engagement included: building blocks for digital health care transformation; existing systems and structures challenging

digital health transformation in the Yukon; and critical voices that we need to involve next. A digital health strategy steering committee has been established and a committee is working toward the creation of Yukon's first digital health strategy.

Lastly, what I will say about this question is that Yukon pediatricians provide a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to child health and address social determinants and child equity. This approach has resulted in parents reporting that they are able to build more trusting relationships with pediatricians and receive care that is more consistent.

This approach has also helped to reduce the number of children who need to travel for pediatric services by 93 percent since the implementation in 2017. The pediatric group provides 365 days of on-call coverage to Whitehorse General Hospital and availability Monday to Friday at a pediatric office for consults and follow-up. They provide community outreach to rural communities. Residents of Beaver Creek and Burwash Landing attend Haines Junction. They provide support for neonatal and pediatric medevacs, of which we have a specialty service with EMS. They provide school-based clinics, including the Independent Learning Centre and clinics at Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, and those are with the Council of Yukon First Nations.

Thank you for that opportunity to just address those few things in that question.

Ms. White: I appreciate the minister laying out how great pediatrician services are in the territory, but if you go to your local health centre and they can't send out a fax, you can't access the pediatrician, so it's kind of a moot point. I hope that there are audits done to rural health care centres to make sure that their equipment is up to date. Again, just along with that is that a digital strategy is great when we have access to reliable Internet, but having tried to do a Zoom call from Old Crow previously — or others — that makes it challenging. So, just a cautionary tale that not every community will necessarily be best equipped for digital communications. It is so important to be able to refer out in other ways.

There is a real struggle for folks who are wanting to access substance use treatment. There are two major problems, as I can relay them. The first is that people have been wait-listed, so they are unable to access it when they're ready. In some cases, they are wait-listed for months at a time, even when they're ready to go to treatment. We all know that treatment may not be a one-time deal. We all know that, when someone is ready, they are ready, and it's best to respond to that.

In some cases, trying to access beds at detox, you can call every day. There is an entire system, and I'm not sure how familiar people are with it, but you call to see if there's a bed available. If there is a bed available, you try to get the person to detox right away. If there is not a bed available, you try again the next day. In some cases, people are desperately trying to hold on until they get that access and support, which is challenging.

Then there is the challenge of — there are fantastic programs through Sarah Steele, through Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services. There are great programs, but there is also not always space in those programs, and so then it leads to

another problem, which is, when Yukon government services are at capacity, people are not able to access funding to get out-of-territory services. I say this right now in terms of having tried to support people. I follow all the steps that I am told. I get referrals from doctors, family doctors, and psychiatrists. I get referrals from the people saying that they have done every program in the territory and they need to go out. The challenge becomes that you can do all the support work, but there is no clear line of where all this information is supposed to go. I don't think it is the most effective if I have to write — for example, I have to write the minister a letter with all this information attached, trying to get someone the access to that service, because, of course, we all know that there is a very time-sensitive issue with it. It is not a matter of weeks; sometimes, it is very short.

There was part of the CASA that said that funding would be made available to Yukoners to seek out-of-territory treatment services when government services are full. I will also add to that to say that, at times, the programs that we have here are very good, but they don't do complex — it is not for complex — for example, complex cases — if we are adding, for example, post-traumatic stress in there or we are dealing with trauma. There is a whole bunch of things that our programs don't necessarily address.

Lastly, also with the confidence and supply agreement, there was a commitment to increase more bed nights to be available at detox by hiring licensed practical nurses. There is a series of things here, but when we talk about support for folks when they are ready to access treatment — how many positions have been filled for the licensed practical nurses in order to expand services at detox? How many of those positions remain vacant?

I will leave it there, and then the minister can let me know if it is better to stack multiple questions or go one at a time, but I have an interest in trying to get through the questions. Whatever works best, the minister can let me know, and I will proceed accordingly.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I certainly don't agree with much of what the Leader of the Third Party has said regarding the time sensitivity of a process for an individual who might want to attend treatment and how fleeting that can sometimes be. An individual might be ready and then not ready, which is only to say that we must get better at making sure that we can respond to their needs, as required.

The Insured Health Services and Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services continue to work with Yukoners to ensure that they receive the medically necessary mental wellness and substance use care that they need, including if that care is out of this territory.

In February 2022, Insured Health Services implemented a directive that expanded coverage for out-of-territory residential treatment centres to support Yukoners to access more pre-approved out-of-territory medically necessary mental wellness and substance use care at approved facilities. The list was more restricted and now has been expanded since February 2022.

Yukoners who wish to seek treatment out of territory should initially, of course, work with their primary care provider, who will submit an application to Insured Health Services, which is as noted by the member opposite. I note that our team is continuing to seek ways in which to reduce the barriers that exist for that process. Treatment is being supported now in British Columbia and Alberta through Homewood Ravensview, Edgewood Treatment Centre, Last Door recovery centre, and Last Door addiction recovery services.

In order to ensure the privacy of individuals who need to travel out of territory for medical treatment, I can't, of course, provide specific numbers of clients, although I am asking for very high-level numbers from the department. It is a question I have asked recently to determine how many individuals we have provided out-of-territory treatment for. Depending on the number of individuals, we may be able to release that, if it can't identify anyone in any way. That information will come through the medical travel program for residential treatment.

The Council of Yukon First Nations, with temporary funding from the federal government, does provide support to send individuals out of the territory to access residential treatment. While I stand corrected, I think that number was recently conveyed to us to be about 300 individuals over the last number of years. Detox and sobering services are not insured health services and are not covered through Insured Health Services for out-of-territory medical travel, although again, this may be a barrier that we need to resolve.

I note that, with respect to the withdrawal management services here in Whitehorse, it's a 24/7 medically supported program that provides a safe place for people in withdrawal from substance use. Services include medical assistance for withdrawal from substances, psychoeducational programming, and referral to ongoing treatment counselling and social work supports, therapeutic groups, and other support services.

There are 14 beds available for adults and four beds available for youth. Our government has increased funding for withdrawal management to hire additional licensed practical nurses, as noted in the question. With these additional providers, the program will be able to offer increased detox-bed nights. One additional licensed practical nurse has been hired, and recruitment is underway for three additional positions, so four in total, to expand the nights available. Bed availability is variable, as they're offered on a first-come, first-served basis. I appreciate that this is somewhat frustrating for individuals who want to come, if there is no space, but it is the most effective way to continuously provide access to this kind of service for individuals to come on a "first come, first served" basis and to enter the program — and stay, we hope, as long as necessary to support their withdrawal.

During the 2022 calendar year, withdrawal management supported 953 bed requests, and there was a total of 947 bed requests for adults and six requests for youth. In 2022, a total of 1,650 bed requests were delayed admissions, and the number of bed requests does not necessarily represent unique individuals. Clients who were delayed were typically provided a bed within 72 hours if they continued to want the services, but as noted, sometimes that is too long. Youth bed requests were

never delayed. Access to those beds is, for the most part, always available.

As of November 2023, there have been 864 bed request admissions at the withdrawal management centre. In 2023, we are averaging 91 admissions per month.

When a request is delayed, staff work diligently with the individual to build a safety plan and to connect them with other supports and resources — such as the emergency shelter or the Whitehorse General Hospital or other support services in the community or otherwise — to support them through what might be a very long delay for them, even in the number of hours.

Withdrawal management staff can also refer individuals to the Referred Care Clinic and opioid treatment services. This is done to support them prior to being able to enter the detox withdrawal management services.

Ms. White: Again, I don't think that a person who is looking for treatment-like options should have to come to a politician. It is weird that I have now done this more than one time. I think that is part of the problem. Just going on and Googling "Yukon Insured Health Services", going to the website, tapping "out-of-territory treatment" — there is not a clear path. If there was an individual identified or a person or a small group of people — I don't think it should be on one person's shoulders. Again, I think vicarious trauma would probably be something you would get from that job, because you would be dealing with people in really hard states. But if there was a clear path — a clear way to find that person — I think it would be very helpful.

Again, I have gone through the process numerous times and it has never been a direct route, and I think that is a challenge. I would prefer if people didn't have to come to a politician and I could say that this is the person, the group, or the office that you want to contact — because I think that would make more sense. I hope that is something we can maybe see in the future.

There is a lot more to go on here, but I am concerned that we are just going to talk in circles, so maybe I will just try to add one more question to that: Does the department collect numbers or track trends, for example, of the number of people who are coming to try to access, for example, detox or the treatment programs and for whom, at the time, there was not the ability to enter — they have been turned away — is that information being tracked, and does it show trends? Are we collecting that kind of information?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Deputy Chair, I am certainly not trying to go in circles. I think that the member opposite has raised a number of very important points. I have committed to us reviewing ways in which we can reduce and remove barriers — of course, also remembering that we are responsible for taxpayers' dollars. That, of course, is no reason to not support someone who is in crisis, but these treatment programs outside of the territory are expensive and must be accounted for.

I completely agree that a more knowable route would be useful for individuals. We often have individuals go to the Referred Care Clinic and have their medical assessment done there with respect to what sorts of treatment and in what stage

the individual is for accepting treatment and those kinds of assistance there. Certainly, that work is ongoing.

We do collect the information regarding individuals who come through the process. I will check to see if we keep statistics with respect to how many people might apply for an out-of-territory care treatment plan and are denied — I think that is what the question was. I think that those are also important things for us to know about as we try to expand and appropriately align the care that individuals need to support their recovery in the territory or Outside.

Ms. White: Seeing that we are so close to the end of time, I asked a question today in Question Period about the software system that the Yukon government started using in December of last year. We have concerns about the ability of the software to deal with medical emergencies in rural communities at rural health centres. The software asks two questions; it asks about medication and it asks about equipment when it assigns a priority number. My understanding is that, in the territory, we go through 1 through 5 — and I am going to get it wrong right now as to which is the highest priority.

But what happened before when a nurse in a rural community would call for a medevac is that they would be dealing with EMS. They would be dealing with an emergency medical person — a human — who could ask a series of questions. Then that professional would make the decision about who would be dispatched, how they would be dispatched, and what equipment and what medication they would need to take. My understanding is that with the computer program, because it asks specifically what medications and what equipment is being used, it doesn't take into account that, in a rural setting, the nurse may not have the equipment or the medication that the patient may need.

We could talk, for example, in the instance of a heart attack. Maybe it says that you have given them aspirin and that they're using oxygen. Then the computer program doesn't take into account that all these other things are happening, so then it has a low-priority dispatch. I am hoping that, since the question was asked earlier, the minister has more answers. I would like it if the minister could tell us exactly what this system is being used for and how it's being integrated into emergency medical services in the Yukon.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I think what is being referred to — please note that, of course, I asked our officials about the question earlier. I think what we think is being asked about is a medical transfer protocol suite, also known as MTPS. Prior to the MTPS system, decisions were made based on the national Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale system, which is used across the country to triage emergency clients in hospital or acute settings.

Through the use of the MTPS system, dispatchers manage all flight plans, logistics, and communication with the determined destination for arrival. So, humans work along with this system. Again, I'm not 100-percent clear that this is the answer to the questions being asked, but this is the information that I have at this time about the computer program that is being used to assist with medevacs in collaboration with dispatchers

— human people who manage all of the flight plans, logistics, and communication with the determined destination for arrival.

The new approach enables emergency responders to focus on care preparation and planning, with support from dispatchers. Many medevac services in Canada operate using a centralized, coordinated dispatch system of this nature. Paramedics and nurses still have the capacity to speak to a sending nurse or physician to discuss the client and the transport needs — and presumably the receiving physician or nurse who is receiving the client.

I certainly don't disagree that humans — emergency medical services, nurses, physicians, and others involved — in a stressful situation of an individual needing to move locations in order to have medical care and the proper medical care from a rural setting or into Whitehorse or from Whitehorse to another setting — I had the unfortunate experience of being involved with a number of medevacs here in the territory and, as a result, certainly know the stress that is being pointed out in this question. I am happy to get additional information, if not? a more detailed assessment, and our inquiries can continue. We have certainly not had time to determine that today, but the information that I have has been provided.

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

Deputy Chair: It has been moved by the Member for Riverdale South that the Chair report progress.

Motion agreed to

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

Deputy Chair: It has been moved by the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes that the Speaker do now resume the Chair.

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

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

Chair's report

MLA Tredger: Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 211, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2023-24*, and directed me to report progress.

Speaker: You have heard the report from the Deputy Chair of Committee of the Whole.

Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

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

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

Motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

The following sessional papers were tabled November 16, 2023:

35-1-130

Yukon Liquor Corporation Annual report April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023 (Silver)

35-1-131

Cannabis Yukon Annual report April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023 (Silver)

35-1-132

Yukon University 2022-23 Year-in-Review and Yukon University Consolidated Financial Statements Year Ended March 31, 2023 (McLean)

The following legislative return was tabled November 16, 2023:

35-1-110

Response to matter outstanding from discussion related to the appearance of witnesses from the Yukon Workers' Safety and Compensation Board before Committee of the Whole on October 26, 2023 (Mostyn)