



# Yukon Legislative Assembly

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35<sup>th</sup> Legislature

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## HANSARD

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Jeremy Harper

# YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## 2024 Spring 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

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Acting Deputy Clerk	Allison Lloyd
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Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms	Joseph Mewett
Hansard Administrator	Deana Lemke

**Yukon Legislative Assembly**  
**Whitehorse, Yukon**  
**Tuesday, March 19, 2024 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

## DAILY ROUTINE

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

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Speaker:** Under Introduction of Visitors, the Chair is pleased to introduce Annette King, the Child and Youth Advocate.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Are there any other visitors for introduction?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I ask my colleagues to help me welcome a number of visitors who are here today for the tribute: Inspector Kent Langley from M Division RCMP, Corporal Natasha Dunmall, and Constable Devon Slade. We have the president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving here in the Whitehorse chapter, Jacquie Van Marck, and with her is Cory McEachran. We also have Mike Pemberton from the Crime Stoppers Yukon branch. Thank you very much for coming.

*Applause*

**Hon. Ms. McLean:** Mr. Speaker, I do note that there are a number of folks still coming into the Legislature for the two-spirit day tribute. I will do my best to capture those who are here now. I have Adanchilla Pauls Lepine, who was a speaker today for our flag-raising. She is accompanied by her mother, Erin Pauls, and Karen Lepine. We have Cailyn Fraser-Harris and Maren Sinclair-Eckert. We have Kailey LeMoel and Jade Lacosse — welcome. We have Kelsey Bush, Hayley Asling, and Karen MacDonald. I am not sure if Mayor Laura Cabott has come in. We have Sarah Crane, Lori Duncan, and Jessie Dawson.

Sorry, folks, if I have missed anyone. It is always the most stressful part of the day, I have to say — doing the introduction of visitors, but thank you so much for being here today for this important tribute.

*Applause*

**MLA Tredger:** I just want to add a couple of names. The executive director for Queer Yukon is here, Mona Luxion, and I believe their parents are also here, so I want to welcome them to the Yukon and to the Legislature.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** I recognize Mary Tiessen, our sign language interpreter — so welcome to Mary, please.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Are there any tributes?

## TRIBUTES

### In recognition of Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ Awareness to Celebration Day

**Hon. Ms. McLean:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our Yukon Liberal government to pay tribute to the proclamation of the Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ Awareness to Celebration Day in the Yukon.

Two-spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ identities, expressions, and experiences have always existed; however, colonial violence, both historical and ongoing, has had enormous negative impacts on two-spirit and Indigenous people. A colonial understanding of gender binary carries an unequal power dynamic between men and women as well as those who conform to it and those who don't.

Gender-diverse Indigenous people and people of colour are especially at risk of experiencing violence and discrimination coming from an intersection of transphobia and racism. Today, we are not only bringing awareness to the experiences of two-spirit Indigenous people; we are also celebrating the beauty and diversity of two-spirit identities.

The fact that this day falls on the spring equinox is not by chance. Proclaiming the two-spirit day on the spring equinox celebrates new beginnings and embraces positive change. It is symbolic because this day is a day where we have a balance between light and darkness. Two-spirit people navigate between many spaces and environments and have often been called to be the go-between people, bringing balance to our communities.

Recognizing and honouring two-spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ identities today is a step toward healing. I lift my hands up, absolutely, to those two-spirit Indigenous people in the Yukon and beyond who have advocated for this day.

Before colonization, Indigenous people had complex gender systems in place. Traditionally and broadly speaking, two-spirit people were often well-loved members of their communities with specific roles in their communities, like negotiators, healers, counsellors, storytellers, and knowledge-keepers.

Recognizing and celebrating the diversity of Indigenous sexualities and gender identities is also an important step in the implementation of the Yukon strategy on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit+ people. It will bring us closer toward an ultimate vision of violence-free communities where Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people are safe and respected.

I encourage my colleagues here in the Legislative Assembly and all Yukoners to join in this opportunity to learn more about the experiences, expressions, and identities of two-spirit and Indigiqueer people and celebrate how their unique ways of being enrich our society as a whole.

Thank you to all of the Yukoners who showed up today to witness the raising of the two-spirit flag outside of the Jim Smith Building as we proclaimed this day as Two-Spirit and

Indigenous LGBTQIA+ Awareness to Celebration Day in the Yukon.

*Applause*

**Mr. Istchenko:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to recognize Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ Awareness to Celebration Day, aligned with the spring equinox, as the minister said, which occurs today.

This event recognizes and celebrates the diverse sexualities and gender expressions that exist within our Indigenous communities. “Two-spirit” is a term used with many Indigenous communities as the way to express identity in a way that encompasses spiritual, cultural, sexual, or gender identity and diversity. This celebration is the initiative of the Community-Based Research Centre, or the CBRC.

With events taking place in a number of cities throughout the country from British Columbia to Ontario, the theme of the two-spirit day this year is “Bringing sexuality back into our Medicine Wheel”, as sexual health is a large part of physical health.

The CBRC has created two-spirit medicine bundles programs that include herbs, tobacco, tea, sexual health supplies, and information. Medicine bundles are created to help individuals to engage with their health in a holistic way — mind, body, sex, and spirit. It is great to see initiatives such as this grow from the community level to gain widespread recognition.

Best wishes to all who are hosting or are joining celebrations today and to those taking time to celebrate or honour this day in a quiet way. Enjoy your day on the beautiful first day of spring.

*Applause*

**MLA Tredger:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP to honour Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ Awareness to Celebration Day. It was a real honour to be at the flag-raising less than an hour ago and hear the speakers there and see all the Yukoners gather there to celebrate this day. I really wish that we could just hear those speakers speak again here instead of me speaking, but instead, I am going to do my best to capture what I heard, because it was wonderful.

What stood out to me as I listened to the speakers talk was the story of homecoming — the story of a circle. They talked about how, before colonization, as this minister spoke to, Indigenous cultures had complex and honoured roles for people who are two-spirited, and that changed with colonization. We all know the story of the violence that has happened since then.

We heard a speaker talk about a family member who was two-spirited who left the Yukon because of that identity. Then we heard a speaker talk about leaving the Yukon because of their identity and then coming home. Then we heard from a youth who used their art and culture to show their pride in their identity and make a place for other people here in the Yukon. That, Mr. Speaker, is wonderful. That is the homecoming that I think we all want to be the reality and are seeing can be the

reality. I want to thank the speakers for that, because it was very, very powerful.

I will close by paraphrasing one of them, because all the speakers spoke to the next generation, and one of them said: We’re doing the work so you don’t have to. There will be work for you, but we are doing our work now to make the world better for you.

I can’t think of a better thing to say on a day like today, so thank you.

*Applause*

### **In recognition of National Impaired Driving Prevention Week**

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Yukon Liberal government to recognize National Impaired Driving Prevention Week, which is a week to educate all Canadians on the consequences of impaired driving due to alcohol, drugs, fatigue, or distraction. This week reminds us of the devastating impact that driving while impaired can have on our families, our friends, and the well-being of our communities. For some of us, the tragedies are very close to home, and I can attest that the pain and loss is always there. I also think of our first responders and our RCMP members who must tell families that their loved ones are not coming home.

Although great strides have been made over the years to reduce impaired driving, it continues to be a problem. Impaired driving continues to kill and harm more Canadians than any other crime. It is for this reason that we must remain vigilant and continue to work on educating Yukoners on the devastating impacts of impaired driving.

I would like to pay tribute to Yukon Crime Stoppers and their work to support education on drunk impaired driving by increasing their signs across the territory, which are now in English, French, and Indigenous languages. These signs focus on impaired driving awareness and provide a way for citizens to report suspicious driving activity.

I would also like to pay tribute to the Boys and Girls Club of the Yukon, who are educating youth on the impacts of operating a motor vehicle while impaired or distracted.

Thank you to the Yukon RCMP and their work in partnership with the integrated restorative justice unit for the Yukon distracted driving program.

I would like to recognize Mothers Against Drunk Driving, who do such incredible work highlighting the importance of driving while sober. In the Yukon, we must remember: This doesn’t just apply to cars and trucks on the roads but to boats, ATVs, snowmobiles, and other forms of transportation.

Alcohol, while the most frequent and dangerous, is not the only contributing factor. Many things may impact driving judgment, coordination, and reaction time behind the wheel. Cannabis, prescription drugs, medical drugs, and illicit drugs as well as distracted or fatigued driving contribute to the driving tragedies that we see all too often.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I want to express my true gratitude to many Yukoners who consistently make the right choice — the choice to be the designated driver, the sober driver, or not to

text while driving, to keep their devices out of reach so they are not tempted when they hear the familiar beep.

Thank you to those who make the right choice to plan ahead by getting a ride home or calling a cab, the choice to silent distractions and to keep focused on the road — every such choice helps to make our streets safer for all of us.

Let's be clear: Impaired driving of any kind is 100-percent preventable. As such, the fact that anyone dies on our roads because of impaired or distracted driving is completely unacceptable. Please make the right choice every day. Plan ahead and be safe.

*Applause*

**Mr. Hassard:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to recognize National Impaired Driving Prevention Week.

Last December, the Yukon RCMP released statistics that highlighted impaired driving incidents between January 1 and November 30. They showed 555 incidents in which RCMP responded, with charges laid in 171 of those. The territories continue to have high rates of impaired driving as compared with other jurisdictions, and it's important to continue working to change perceptions and ideas that may lead to people getting behind the wheel impaired.

Alcohol, illegal substances, prescription drugs, and even fatigue cause impairment. Unfortunately, judgment can be one of the first things impaired, leading to poor choices: I only had a couple; I don't want to leave my car downtown; I really can't afford to take a cab; it's only another hour until I get there. Our choices can be life-changing and not always for the better. So, please, take time to plan your nights out; keep tabs on your kids, and educate them to make good decisions and be good friends.

I would like to extend our many thanks to local law enforcement and our local MADD chapter for their continued dedication to keeping our roads safe — and remember that personal responsibility remains to be the most effective way to ensure our own safety and that of those around us.

*Applause*

**Ms. White:** Mr. Speaker, I stand on behalf of the Yukon NDP to add our voices to the serious issue of impaired driving in Canada. National Impaired Driving Prevention Week is an important reminder to everyone that the decisions and actions we take matter.

I have been in three separate car accidents, each caused by an impaired driver. I belong to the "seat belts save lives" club. I'm lucky because I walked away mostly unscathed, but not everyone is so lucky. Impaired driving, whether by alcohol or drugs, continues to kill or injure more Canadians than any other crime. Illegal drugs, cannabis, and over-the-counter and prescription medications can all impact your judgment, coordination, and reaction time behind the wheel. It's important to know that even one drink of alcohol can reduce your reaction time, blur or double your vision, impair your reflexes, and alter your attention span. No amount of drugs is safe while driving, and anytime a person gets behind the wheel of any vehicle, they have a responsibility to themselves and others.

When driving, there are many things that may be out of your control — wildlife on the road, road conditions, or someone else's actions — but driving impaired isn't one of them. You can make the decision to drive sober or drive impaired. Please make the responsible choice.

*Applause*

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

## TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Mr. Cathers:** Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling today a press release from April 21, 2016, entitled "Government of Yukon officially opens new St. Elias Adult Group Home" and it includes the explanatory line: "The new home addresses the need for supported housing and programming for adults with cognitive disabilities."

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling a letter dated March 5, 2024, addressed to Chief Superintendent Sheppard of the RCMP M Division regarding Yukon's police priorities for 2024-25.

**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. Mr. Pillai:** Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House supports the development of the new Yukon labour market strategy.

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

THAT it is the opinion of this House that page 11-19 of the Department of Finance budget in the Government of Yukon's 2024-25 main estimates clearly shows that, as of March 31, 2024, the territorial government will be sitting on \$22.7 million in carbon tax that it has collected but not paid in rebates to anyone.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to engage and work alongside the disability community and partners to develop disability legislation that identifies, removes, and prevents barriers that people with disabilities face.

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

THAT this House do issue an order for the return of the *Yukon Wide Student Data Report* for the school year 2022-23 and the *How are we doing? — Yukon First Nations Report* for

the school years 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23, as per section 5(h) of the Yukon *Education Act*.

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

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: Safer schools action plan

**Mr. Kent:** Mr. Speaker, on February 27, the Yukon's Ombudsman released his second report regarding the government's poor handling of the abuse at Hidden Valley school. The Ombudsman's first report confirmed that the government's communication with parents and the school community was a failure and was unfair. This second report looked at whether the government was living up to 19 of the actions that it committed to in the safer schools action plan.

The Ombudsman found that — quote: "... less than half of them met the recommendations — eight fully met the recommendations, five partially met them, and six did not meet the recommendations..."

So, Mr. Speaker, why has the government not lived up to the commitments that it made in the safer schools action plan?

**Hon. Ms. McLean:** Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, the well-being, safety, and protection of students when they are in our care is our top priority. The Government of Yukon has received the Yukon Ombudsman's second report on its investigation into the 2019 Hidden Valley Elementary School situation and the Government of Yukon accepts in principle all eight of the Ombudsman's recommendations.

I personally said when the first report came out that I was very much looking forward to the perspective that the Ombudsman would bring to this situation, because it is a very different lens. We appreciate the work of all of the organizations that have reviewed and reported or made recommendations on the Hidden Valley Elementary School situation and we are committed to continuing system-wide improvements.

While we have made significant positive changes through the safer schools action plan, we know that there is still more work to do to improve safety and security in Yukon schools. We are committed to continuing this work and we appreciate the recommendations provided by the Ombudsman in the latest report.

**Mr. Kent:** On June 20, 2023, the Yukon government issued a press release stating that the government had fully implemented all the actions in the safer schools action plan. The quote in that release from the Premier specifically said that all of the commitments in the safer schools action plan have been completed. However, we are now getting a different perspective on that from the Ombudsman. He has found that less half of the actions he examined have met the recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen this kind of disconnect between what the Liberal government insists and what is actually happening on the ground with the recent EA allocation debacle. So, who should Yukoners believe about the progress of this work: the Liberals, who claim that it is all done and complete,

or the Ombudsman, who says that less than half of the actions are completed?

**Hon. Ms. McLean:** Mr. Speaker, again, I am happy to rise today to speak about the important work of the Ombudsman in terms of the work that they have been able to provide in this report to us. I have long awaited this report. It confirms the work, as well, that we have done on the safer schools action plan.

I'm very happy that we did take the steps early in this matter to have an independent review done by Amanda Rogers, who helped us set out, through her recommendations, 23 actions within the safer schools action plan that are underway. We know that there is still more work to be done. I have accepted in principle all of the recommendations, but we know that our work to specifically address the issues — much more work has to happen. Accepting the recommendations in principle allows us to dig into the work and apply the lens of the Ombudsman to the safer schools action plan.

**Mr. Kent:** Mr. Speaker, the problem is the difference between what the Ombudsman has found and what the Liberals are claiming has been done. The Ombudsman's report makes a series of recommendations of its own. They relate to government policies, procedures, and communications. In the Ombudsman's press release, he makes clear that he is concerned about the government's response to accept the recommendations — quote — "in principle".

According to the Ombudsman, this ambiguity of accepting the recommendations in principle is — to quote again: "... a further example of the lack of precision found when evaluating the Department's procedures..." Further, he goes on to say — I quote again: "... there remains the real possibility that a similar communication failure could happen again."

Can the minister explain why the government is only willing to accept the Ombudsman's recommendations in principle and not fully accept them?

**Hon. Ms. McLean:** Mr. Speaker, accepting the recommendations in principle allows us the flexibility that we need in order to effectively implement and operationalize the recommendations. This flexibility is valuable, as there are different ways to achieve the desired outcomes while keeping the safety of our schools and the protection of students at the forefront. Again, we thank the Ombudsman and his staff for collaborating with the Department of Education on the review and supporting us with our continuous improvement to ensure the safety of our children and the processes that we work within.

We will incorporate the recommendations from the Ombudsman into our continuous work to review and improve the policies and processes. These valuable insights provided by the Ombudsman will bring greater clarity to our policies and processes.

We thank the Ombudsman for their thorough and careful investigation into this matter. Their work is appreciated and will significantly contribute to making our schools safer.

**Question re: St. Elias group home and managed alcohol program**

**Mr. Cathers:** Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I asked the minister of health why her government had chosen the St. Elias group home as the location for their new managed alcohol program. In response, the minister claimed that the St. Elias group home — quote: "... was purpose-built quite some time ago in contemplation of the managed alcohol program..."

Mr. Speaker, her statement was quite simply blatantly wrong. In fact, that building was purpose-built as a residence for adults living with disabilities, and I tabled the news release earlier from 2016 that shows that. So, I would like to follow up with the minister again today.

Will she concede that her comments yesterday were inaccurate, and will she explain why the government chose this location for the new managed alcohol program?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question. The information that I have been provided is that the managed alcohol program has been determined to best exist at the location that has been chosen for the purposes of physical space. Quite frankly, there need to be lines of sight to assist people with their programming and their care, and the building that has been chosen is, in fact, the right size, at least initially, for such a program.

What is really critical for Yukoners to know is the importance of the managed alcohol program. Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services is working to finalize the policies and the program manuals and the work to recruit staff before accepting clients. The program will work to reduce harms related to alcohol use among people who are living with severe treatment-resistant alcohol use disorder, and we believe this to be an appropriate goal and an important step in the *Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy* and in the response to the importance of supporting individuals in our community.

**Mr. Cathers:** The only thing the minister of health said yesterday that actually was accurate is that staff of the St. Elias group home are indeed very concerned about the care and support provided to the soon-to-be former residents. In fact, many of the questions and concerns we have heard about this come directly from staff. They are concerned and upset about the fact that the people who have been living at the St. Elias home are now being uprooted from their home — without any consultation, I might add — and moved to non-government facilities operated by people who are not government employees.

Their question — and one we asked the minister yesterday — is simple: Will moving these vulnerable adults to other places mean a reduction of services, programming, support, or care for these residents who are being moved out of the St. Elias home and into the care of a non-government provider?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday in this Legislative Assembly — and I am happy to continue and repeat myself — experts in the care of individuals who are living currently at the St. Elias home are, in fact, the experts in their care. The supervisors of those individuals as well are well versed and are professionals in caring for the individuals who live at St. Elias.

As I said yesterday, the plan to move those individuals to new residences is, in fact, created for the purposes of supporting them better in more important and advanced care and services to be provided to them. That will permit the St. Elias home to be used for the managed alcohol program, which is an initiative to help protect one of the Yukon's most vulnerable populations and will support public health and resource allocation.

The individuals who work with the folks who live at St. Elias have been consulted with the purpose of determining what is best in the care going forward. These are experts in the field of providing this kind of care and they should be the ones determining how this program rolls out.

**Mr. Cathers:** Well, they should be the ones determining how it rolls out, but as the minister well knows, this was a political decision, not one recommended by staff of the department.

Other questions that the minister refused to answer yesterday are about the future of the employees who currently work at the St. Elias group home. Yesterday, she claimed that their pay, benefits, and pension would be protected, but she ignored the actual questions we asked.

I will ask again: What will happen to the government employees who are currently staff at the St. Elias group home? Will they be offered new positions within the same branch of the department? Will they have any say in what their new jobs will be, or will they simply be offered a take-it-or-leave-it job offer somewhere else in government as a result of the minister's political decisions?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Mr. Speaker, I look forward to whatever evidence it is that the member opposite has that this was a decision made by me and me alone for political purposes — clearly not the case.

This has been made with the best interests of the individuals in mind, both the individuals who will be the recipients of living at St. Elias and the individuals who currently live at St. Elias who will now be moved to better circumstances to address their particular issues and supports for them.

I can also indicate, as I have been quoted as saying yesterday, that we will respect the pay and benefits of the individuals who are currently working there who might be moving to other positions. Those decisions will be made in connection with the individuals who are having new positions offered to them. Our government currently provides coverage for some alcohol treatment and medications to support people who are diagnosed with alcohol use disorder through the chronic disease and disability benefits program, but we clearly have not — this government or any government before — taken the steps necessary to engage a managed alcohol program to support our most vulnerable people.

**Question re: Community medevac services**

**Ms. White:** Mr. Speaker, when responding to emergencies, the Yukon medevac service primarily uses airplanes through a contract with Alkan Air, but these planes can only land where there is an adequate airstrip and when weather conditions are favourable. In some places, they can't

land at night. Sometimes, helicopters are needed to reach patients in more remote locations or if the planes are already responding to a call, and suitable planes aren't always available for medevac calls. When that happens, ground ambulances are dispatched to emergencies in communities like Watson Lake or Ross River, even though a helicopter would be faster. That is a 10-hour round trip or more by ground, and a helicopter could do that same trip in under three hours. The decision to send a helicopter is not always made based on what is best for the patient but what fits the budget. When planning an emergency response, time is critical. The sooner a patient can get to the hospital, the more likely they can be saved.

So, will the minister commit to reviewing the Yukon EMS policy on helicopter use for medevac services?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Mr. Speaker, I am not entirely sure that all of the information presented in that preamble to that question is correct. I certainly will commit to determining whether or not that is the case. I certainly will commit to supporting our Emergency Medical Services teams and the work that they do every day under very difficult circumstances to support Yukoners as they are in need of services across the territory and to ultimately support them in the work that they do on behalf of Health and Social Services.

This is also an important opportunity to remind Yukoners that a health authority is in fact one of the solutions to move forward with improving Yukon's health care system and the transition to a health care system that serves Yukoners and that puts the patients at the centre of their care and the decisions that are made both policy-wise and on the ground. Emergency Medical Services — Yukoners who work for that organization: the staff, the community responders — are dedicated to providing service to Yukoners and we will continue to support that in that work.

**Ms. White:** Mr. Speaker, so many words and no commitment to reviewing the Yukon EMS policy on helicopter use for medevacs.

When a call goes out for a helicopter medevac, this government's current practice is for dispatchers to call through a list of helicopter companies until one accepts the call. This policy is supposed to be fair for Yukon helicopter companies. Each company gets a chance to be hired by government from time to time — except there's only one helicopter company in the territory that owns an air ambulance that's designed to allow paramedics to work on patients in the air. There isn't room in a regular helicopter for EMS crews to perform basic life support while in flight. That means patients picked up by regular helicopters have to be stabilized on the ground in remote spots before anyone can board the helicopter. This delays transport to the hospital, and in some cases, medevac paramedics can't provide life support if a patient's condition gets worse in flight. One operator we spoke with said this scenario is like using a station wagon instead of an ambulance.

Does the minister think it's fair to put the interest of companies above patient safety?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Mr. Speaker, this government is dedicated to building a health authority to put the interest of every single patient at the centre of every single decision.

I hope and I truly believe that the support for a health authority going forward will resolve some of the issues should they be the case but more importantly support our staff, support Yukon patients, and support the improvement of health care services here in the territory.

**Ms. White:** Again, Mr. Speaker, there was no answer if this minister believes in the fairness for companies or for patients.

We have also been told that the expansion of the emergency room at Whitehorse General Hospital was originally designed to support a rooftop helipad. A helipad would allow helicopters to land directly at the hospital, and landing directly at the hospital would improve patient outcomes. This would also avoid the need for medevac patient transfers by ground ambulance crews. That would free up those paramedics for other emergency calls.

Unfortunately, the helipad was never built. Now the emergency room is under construction once again. Does the minister have any plans to build a helipad at Whitehorse General Hospital to speed up helicopter medevacs and save patients' lives?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Mr. Speaker, the Yukon Emergency Medical Services staff and community responders are dedicated to providing Yukoners with timely and high-quality health care services across the territory. We support them completely in that work. EMS has been impacted, of course, by the concerns of global shortages of health care providers; yet, again, we have supported our EMS individuals through additional funding and additional increases — more than doubled their on-call per diem.

As part of the work to implement *Putting People First*, we have transitioned Yukon's emergency services from the Department of Community Services to Health and Social Services — one step in which to remove some of the barriers and concerns. The health authority will focus on moving forward the health care transition of Yukon to put patients at the centre of every single decision.

In 2024-25, we budgeted \$13 million for Emergency Medical Services. There are 80.8 FTEs and 102 community responders providing EMS across the territory, putting patients at the centre of every decision. Currently, operations include air ambulance services and ground operations, and they are fully staffed here in Whitehorse.

#### **Question re: Whistle Bend development**

**Ms. Clarke:** Mr. Speaker, the challenges and concerns associated with the design and construction of the green streets in Whistle Bend have been a topic of concern for my constituents for years now. Most recently, the recent warm weather has brought this issue back into the yards of these residents, as many of them are experiencing pooling, flooding, and property damage as a result of the melting snow and ice.

In January, I wrote to the minister to ask that these issues be addressed before the spring thaw to ensure that no further damage would occur. Unfortunately, we haven't seen any action from the government. How many more homes in Whistle Bend need to flood before the government takes action to

address the long-standing issues facing houses on the so-called “green streets”?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Mr. Speaker, as the member opposite knows, we have worked very hard with the City of Whitehorse and the residents living in Whistle Bend on these new green streets to make sure that they are wider and accommodate the access to fire services, which was one of the reasons why we had to go in and alter the plans that had been drawn up by the City of Whitehorse. We are working very hard with the city to make sure that the new street plans are completed, and I will certainly get back to the member opposite with more information on her next question.

**Ms. Clarke:** Mr. Speaker, over the years, the minister has been quick to point the finger at the city about this issue, but it has become clear that the issues related to the construction of the green streets are the responsibility of the Yukon government.

Can the minister confirm that the City of Whitehorse has not granted a certificate of completion for the work on the green streets and that the responsibility for addressing the issues associated with the design and construction of the green streets belongs to the Yukon government?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Mr. Speaker, as I said, we are working with our partner, the City of Whitehorse, on executing the plan that they drafted on the green streets development. We are also working with residents to make sure that the work that we are doing meets with their approval as well.

The member opposite is absolutely correct. Once the work is complete, the City of Whitehorse will sign off on the agreement. We are working with our partner, the City of Whitehorse, to finish off this project.

**Ms. Clarke:** While my constituents had hoped that these issues would be addressed prior to this year’s melt, it seems that there was still need for considerable work to be done by the government to complete the construction and landscaping on these green streets.

Can the minister tell us how much money has been spent on the reconstruction of the green streets? How much more money will be spent this year to address these issues? Can the minister confirm that none of these costs will be passed on to the homeowners and residents?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Mr. Speaker, I know that we are starting a budget debate, so I look forward to detailed questions from the member opposite during the debate process that we have here in Committee of the Whole.

As for finishing the work, I know the member opposite is quite aware that construction and work on land development in the middle of winter is really not something that the good contractors of Whitehorse and the territory can do, so we will actually resume the work that is necessary for the homeowners as soon as the ground thaws. Today is the first day of spring. That work will be happening very soon.

#### **Question re: Big Creek bridge replacement**

**Ms. McLeod:** In June 2020, the government awarded a contract to Julmac Contracting Ltd. for construction of a new bridge over Big Creek on the Alaska Highway. The project has

been abandoned and is incomplete, in spite of \$6.25 million being paid to the contractor. The minister stated last fall in this House — quote: “I am advised that the Yukon government has paid slightly over \$6 million to Julmac for work performed — or perhaps not performed — satisfactorily so far.”

So, can the minister tell us why this project was abandoned and how much of the \$6.25 million has been recovered from the contractor or the bonding company?

**Hon. Mr. Clarke:** Mr. Speaker, as the member opposite indicated, in 2020, the tender to construct a replacement bridge was awarded to Julmac Contracting Ltd., and the original planned completion was in 2022. However, in 2022, defects within the concrete deck were discovered during inspections of the new bridge. The contract with Julmac Contracting was terminated in May of 2023 on the basis of a breach of contract, and on August 11, 2023, Julmac Contracting Ltd. filed a statement of claim with the Yukon Supreme Court. The Government of Yukon has counter-claimed for the as yet undetermined costs to complete the project and repair the deficient work.

Because the matter is now before the courts, further comment would not be appropriate at this time; however, in 2023, we worked with the project engineer to perform a full assessment of the bridge. The assessment provides details of what additional work is required to allow the bridge to be opened for public use.

The Government of Yukon is planning to complete the Big Creek bridge project in 2024. This is being done through two separate tenders. The first tender, Mr. Speaker, is to secure the contractor to repair the concrete deck and complete the outstanding bridge work. The tender opened February 26, 2024 and will close on March 25, 2024.

**Ms. McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, well, this seems like this is becoming yet another significant problem that this government has had with contracting. There is currently a Yukon government tender out for the construction and remediation of the Big Creek bridge, as the minister has alluded to.

So, in the budget documents, it is estimated that this work will cost between \$7 million and \$9 million over the next two years. The Government of Canada funded a significant portion of the original failed project. So, how much funding for the new project is being covered by the Government of Canada?

**Hon. Mr. Clarke:** Mr. Speaker, I look forward to getting back to the member opposite in Committee of the Whole, as soon as this week, with respect to the breakdown of the funding on the Big Creek bridge project. However, it would not be fair at this time in this spring budget session to characterize this Yukon Liberal government as not getting projects done. We continue with the national trade corridors funding for the north Klondike Highway, another big contract that will go out this year. We anticipate the Dempster fibre project to be completed by the end of 2024. The biggest infrastructure project in the history of the Yukon will be the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport project, with a total funding of both territorial and federal funds in excess of \$250 million. Before that, what had been the biggest infrastructure project was the Nisutlin Bay bridge, which is well

underway, and we anticipate that to be sufficiently completed by 2025.

We are moving the Yukon forward. There is an abundance of infrastructure projects that are occurring in this territory.

**Ms. McLeod:** Yet the minister can't seem to answer a question about the Big Creek bridge.

The minister has been clear that they are engaging the contractor of the failed project through the courts. Can the minister tell us how much the Government of Yukon has spent on legal fees regarding the failed Big Creek bridge project?

**Hon. Mr. Clarke:** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in one of my prior responses, this matter is now before the court, so any further discussion with respect to this matter at this time would be inappropriate.

However, there is more good news for Yukoners in this budget and in the work that is being done. The \$29.8-million Haeckel Hill wind farm will be operational shortly. As well, the mental wellness unit at the Whitehorse General Hospital will be completed in late 2024. There was direction for that to be completed now decades ago, also under the Yukon Party government, where it was deemed to be inappropriate for the Whitehorse Correctional Centre to be a hospital. We have followed through; that will be completed. The Old Crow health and wellness centre and tenplex will be ready for occupancy shortly. As well, the incredible organization the Polarettes, with well over a thousand members, and the vibrant climbing community in Whitehorse and in the Yukon will have a gymnastics and climbing facility in Whistle Bend very shortly.

The list goes on. What an exciting time for the Yukon.

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

### Notice of opposition private members' business

**Mr. Kent:** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I would like to identify the items standing in the name of the Official Opposition to be called on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. They are Motion No. 906, standing in the name of the Member for Kluane, and Motion No. 905, standing in the name of the Member for Lake Laberge.

**MLA Tredger:** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I would like to identify the items standing in the name of the Third Party to be called on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. They are Motion No. 908, standing in the name of the Member for Takhini-Kopper King, and Motion No. 911, standing in the name of the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin.

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

The matter before the Committee is general debate on Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, in Bill No. 212, entitled *Third 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*

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

### Bill No. 212: *Third Appropriation Act 2023-24* — continued

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee is general debate on Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, in Bill No. 212, entitled *Third Appropriation Act 2023-24*.

#### Yukon Housing Corporation

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

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I rise today to introduce the Yukon Housing Corporation's 2023-24 *Supplementary Estimates No. 2*. I want to begin by thanking officials who have joined us in the Legislative Assembly today, President Justin Ferbey and Director of Finance and Risk Management, Marcel Holder Robinson.

For the Assembly, I will just share that Marcel is soon leaving the corporation to assume the duties of Comptroller for the Yukon government. Of course, we are sad at the Yukon Housing Corporation, but the Yukon government will benefit immensely from her talents and skilled leadership in that role as comptroller. So, I want to congratulate Marcel and thank Marcel for her help over the last number of years and all the work that she has done to support the corporation and Yukoners.

Let me begin by acknowledging several factors that drive the corporation's priorities. Yukon Housing's landscape continues to shift, and we anticipate that the demands on the corporation from Yukoners experiencing housing affordability challenges and the non-governmental sector will remain strong. The general cost of living remains a topic of public interest and concern. The Bank of Canada interest rate remains elevated from where it was in 2020, and this has ongoing downstream effects on everything, including mortgage and rent affordability.

The Canada-Yukon housing benefit rent stream assists eligible Yukoners with ongoing rent affordability, while the time-limited homeowner stream is providing a one-time payment to low-income to moderate-income homeowners to assist with their affordability challenges. Please, if any folks in the Assembly, any of the MLAs, need information, let us know;

you can reach out to my office. But if there is anything that we can do to help ensure that as many Yukoners as possible can get access to that benefit, we would be happy to help in any way by providing information to those in the House.

The current economic climate also makes construction financing costs less appealing but not impossible for both private investors and the construction industry.

Beyond the myriad of affordability issues, the Yukon Housing Corporation continues to plot its way forward, using the bold new five-year strategic plan called *Creating Home*. *Creating Home* is underpinned by four pillars, and I thank the Yukon Housing Corporation chair and board of directors for their work to bring this to fruition. The four pillars are: improving the client experience; strengthening community well-being; improving the provider experience; and building a sustainable future.

Creating Home is intended to help to ensure that every dollar invested translates into tangible improvements in the lives of Yukoners by providing housing stability and improving the delivery, among other things.

As the needs of Yukoners have evolved, the corporation is pivoting and focusing on an all-encompassing approach to housing that emphasizes wellness through design, location, and tenant placement — working with a range of partners to achieve this. Its client-centred approach is going to make a measurable difference to all those who call this territory home and help more Yukoners create homes and address core housing needed by 2028.

We will support up to 800 additional households through a range of initiatives, such as: diversification of rental units; innovative programs, such as rent-to-own home ownership, which we are investigating; more rent-g geared-to-income stock; and the provision of responsive loans and grants programs for Yukon homeowners and developers.

On that note, we will now speak to the 2023-24 *Supplementary Estimates No. 2*. Under operation and maintenance, there is an increase of \$206,000 related to increase, and that's really around heating costs. For the capital budget, overall, the corporation's capital budget has decreased by \$13.5 million because of shifting project timelines and ensuring that our partners have an opportunity to de-risk their projects. So, we're looking at a decrease of \$4.5 million related to Corporate Services programs.

The developer-build loan program decreased by \$1,572,000, and the current project is Chu Níikwān's Copper Ridge West, which will draw funds in the next fiscal. So, they are a bit behind in their timeline on their work, but there has been significant progress, I think. Many Members of the Legislative Assembly have had an opportunity to walk that project and have seen the good work that is being done.

The First Nation energy-efficient program decreased by \$953,000 due to a shortage of projects coming in that would have gone through the process of having an energy audit and then, of course, making sure that those nations have the capacity or have leveraged the capacity to do that work.

The municipal matching rental construction program received fewer applications than anticipated this year, of

course, going back to sort of the ecosystem around interest rates and construction costs, so we saw a lapse there. It's reduced by about \$75,000.

The home ownership program saw a \$1.9 million increase and is currently under review, with revisions slated for 2024-25. We have had a lot of dialogue here in the House about the home ownership program: Why is it not being fully accessed? Why are people being turned down? What can you do to improve on it? We, of course, had to go through the rigor of ensuring that we're using the proper testing models for any clients coming in to ensure that they can pay these loans — really industry-standard in most cases. We have given even a little bit more flexibility than you would see at traditional lending institutions, but we are trying to figure it out.

If this money is not being accessed, how can we put it into a program with some changes? We have requested to do those revisions. We had a lot of dialogue in here last spring, and that work has been underway. We are looking to have that ready for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

With respect to the operations division, there was a decrease of \$9 million in the capital budget. Several community housing projects were delayed this year due to their size and complexity, and this accounted for about \$8 million total decrease in the northern carve-out expenditure. These projects included the Ryder replacement project in Whitehorse, the Korbo replacement project and affordable duplex in Dawson, the sixplex in Teslin, and the Watson Lake Housing First project.

Furthermore, three community housing projects in Carcross, Burwash Landing, and Mayo did not proceed as anticipated, resulting in a decrease of about \$1 million.

I am looking forward to the dialogue today, as we look back at what played out, and we will also have an opportunity in the next number of weeks to come in and talk about our mains. We are seeing that a lot of that money in projects has just shifted for this year, and in some cases, that work is now well underway.

The related expenses are reflected in the 2024-25 fiscal year to align with the revised project timelines.

It is an honour to represent Yukon Housing Corporation, and I look forward to answering questions today. I do want to take the opportunity to thank those who are listening today for the Yukon Housing Corporation. We have asked a lot of everybody there — not only to continue to do the important work that they have done for many years but to dig deeper and to do more and to deal with what is in front of us when it comes to the challenges of housing. I want to thank all the folks there at every level. They have done an incredible job getting us ready for this budget year — preparing for the supplementary but also building out the mains. They are working with a tremendous number of partners. This is a banner year for what they will be building and the number of units they will be bringing to the market in support of clients. Again, it has not gone unnoticed, and I thank you for everything you have been doing in that role.

With that, I will hand it over to the opposition for questions.

**Ms. Clarke:** Madam Chair, I would like to thank the officials from the Yukon Housing Corporation for joining us here today. I do have a few questions for the minister responsible, mainly around the loan and funding programs and their uptake.

The developer loan program has decreased significantly over the last year. From \$5 million, the program was decreased to \$3 million and now, in this supplementary, has been decreased again by over \$1.5 million and now sits at \$1.428 million. Can the minister please confirm how many applications were received for this program and, of those, how many were successful? Considering the large decrease to this program, has there been any consideration given to changing the eligibility around this program to allow for a higher uptake?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Since 2018, there have been three proponents for this program. We saw Cornerstone use the program. They had 53 housing units built. SPK Home Construction Ltd. had 25 units. Now there is the Copper Ridge project, which was the phase 1 — 24 residential. Now, there is, of course, the dialogue that happens between the Yukon Housing Corporation and these developers.

In the case of the supplementary budget, as I said earlier, it's really about the timing for the proponents. As we look at the newest project agreement with the Chu N'ikw'an partnership, we believe that they will expend dollars they didn't last year in the next fiscal, and we will continue to work through on that.

Right now, it seems that the proponents who have looked at this program — it's not that we're turning down the applications for these proponents at all. We have actually been quite happy with the people who are coming in. There have perhaps been one or two scenarios, but for the most part, it has been very strong. We're going to continue to work in the same manner. It seems to be doing some great work.

**Ms. Clarke:** Madam Chair, with respect to the home ownership program, I have a similar question for the minister. There are many people who are looking to get into home ownership yet are ineligible for a mortgage through the bank. That is where this program should come in and should easily be well-subscribed; however, there was a decrease of almost \$2 million to this program. It now sits at \$1.3 million.

Can the minister please confirm whether this decrease was due to low subscription to the program? Again, how many applicants were there to this program? How many were successful? Has the minister received any appeals or complaints regarding the application process or eligibility requirements?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I will walk us back a little bit on this program to answer some of the questions that have been tabled. We have switched up, over the last couple of years, the delivery of this program — where we are providing it to folks in Whitehorse. I think it's important to go back a couple of years in the history of it. We were really focusing on rural Yukon, and that was because we heard from a number of municipal leaders that it was extremely difficult to get a mortgage in a lot of our communities. The traditional banks were not providing mortgages in many of these communities and it was hard to get

comparables when you talked about asset class and just making sure that you could get the proper appraisal values — and being able to work through what most people would have a pretty clear path on inside more urban areas.

Under that previous rural home ownership program, we supported about 22 clients in seven rural communities for \$8.6 million over three years, including 12 construction projects. We were asked — it was something that was talked about a lot — by Whitehorse citizens directly. I know that there are individuals here in the Legislative Assembly who advocated on behalf of some of those folks. There was an interest in: Could we expand the program to Whitehorse?

So, using the exact same criteria, which is important to understand — the corporation used the same debt-to-service ratios. Rural Yukon — \$8.6 million over three years out the door — taking that same formula and looking at what we use for our lending programs to ensure that folks can afford the mortgage. What we saw was a number of individuals — almost 40, and I will get you the exact number here. I think there were 39. Out of those 39 applications, 13 were cancelled, 25 were declined, and one was approved.

We had dialogue in the House and different critics for the Yukon Housing Corporation have debated back and forth. What we have asked is: Go back and see if there are ways to give us more flexibility within the terms and still ensure that we are being respectful to people who are going to apply.

What I mean by that is not setting them up for a position that their debt-to-service ratio is something that is going to put them at risk and is going to put the Housing Corporation at risk — but other ways that we can look at it. I can't speak to it now exactly; I don't think that it is appropriate. There are a couple of things that we have talked about that we would do, but right now, that is exactly what is happening. They are inside the corporation and we want to continue to use those funds. We want a good, solid program.

I would say that my initial comment, which I will put on the record for Hansard, is that I think that we also have to take into consideration, as a government and as a territory — now we are in a position where we invest heavily in our youth. Over the last number of years, we have been able to come and put a program in place that immensely reduced the costs on families when it comes to childcare — in some cases, almost a mortgage payment per month. Then, through the Education department, we are seeing incredible investments in Yukoners. We are in a position for Yukon youth, if they want to — whether they are going to Yukon University or somewhere else — where they then can leverage the Yukon grant, as many have, and then, at the same time, maybe even come back in the summer and have a STEP position.

So, we invest through this whole continuum and then we need to ensure that those Yukoners are home after post-secondary. I will just say that I have asked to put a unique lens on our ability to rebuild this program. How do we make sure — after putting all of that investment and support behind Yukoners, the last piece may be that we ensure that there is a smoother route to look at initial home ownership.

I will leave it there, Madam Chair.

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

There were a number of housing projects that were pushed back in our communities, and I am hoping that the minister can provide more status updates on the housing projects in Carcross, Mayo, and Burwash Landing.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Concerning the three projects requested for Carcross right now, we are still in discussion with Carcross/Tagish First Nation on the land and the area that they would like to see this built on. We are ready to work closely with them and move on it. When it comes to Burwash Landing, we are trying to align with the building of the school that is going to be there. We think that we might be able to get better value. We can tender at the same time or just after. We are trying to consider the fact that there are going to be housing pressures with the school being built. There are going to be more people in that community. How can we look for some cost-savings?

When you see the prices that have come in on a lot of our public tenders, anything we can do, I think, to make the tax dollar go a little bit further is going to be well-appreciated. In Mayo right now, I think it's just really trying to figure out which piece of land — that was the briefing that I had. It's important to note that we did just finish a brand new building in Mayo last year, and that has been completed. We are also making sure that we support private sector investment into rental space. I know, you know, at least one entrepreneur who has put in some significant personal dollars, and it seems like it has worked well. We have been able to help on that one. You know, if there is an opportunity for the private sector to be able to take on some of that responsibility — great. But right now, we are continuing to make sure that we work to identify the appropriate lot, and we will then work to build that project in Mayo.

Those are the three, I think, that were questioned, Madam Chair.

**Ms. Clarke:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and I thank the minister for that answer.

Can the minister explain the \$953,000 decrease in the First Nation residential energy retrofits? Who is eligible for this program? Why wasn't this fully subscribed? Will this money be rolled into next year or reprofiled? What are we doing to ensure that rural Yukon benefits from energy retrofits?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Can I just get a clarification on the very last question of the questions?

**Ms. Clarke:** My last question was: What are we doing to ensure that rural Yukon benefits from energy retrofits?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Well, first, it's important to note that the majority of First Nations that we would be working with, of course, are in rural Yukon. So, this was a program built for all First Nation governments in the Yukon, but you would be in a position where the majority, of course, are in rural Yukon.

About \$930,000 has been paid out from the program. The Housing Corporation — the role is to go out and make sure that all nations are aware that this funding is available, and then there is criteria that they go through that is set out within our TPA that we have or the bilateral agreement with NRCAN — I believe that's where the money flowed from. There is an

obligation — usually, the capital department or the housing department from nation to nation will go out and do this work. I know that we have continued to communicate that these monies are available.

I think, to be fair, in some scenarios, trying to get the energy audit done — I think we have a limitation in Yukon and across Canada on how many energy auditors there are at all times. So, they have to go through the application process to identify the project and have to get that done. We are hoping that, by the time the Public Accounts are tabled within this fiscal year — our team is moving as quickly as they can to try to engage and have folks who are finishing up some projects use funds — and have been since we completed our *Supplementary No. 2* — but at the same time, it's client-driven, so it becomes a difficult scenario.

The amounts approved — as you requested information about rural Yukon — really, other than Kwanlin Dün, the money has all gone to Haines Junction, with Champagne and Aishihik First Nation and surrounding communities; Kluane First Nation in Burwash; Selkirk in Pelly; Vuntut Gwitchin in Old Crow; Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in Dawson City; and Na-Cho Nyäk Dun in Mayo. All those First Nations, as well as Kwanlin Dün, have received funding through this program.

**Ms. Clarke:** I really appreciate the minister's answer to that one.

There is an \$8-million reduction to the northern carveout. Can the minister please outline which projects are affected by this reduction? Can the minister confirm when these projects will move forward?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** For the projects that were directly connected to the \$8 million, the first one I will speak to is the Ryder project. Hopefully, Yukoners will have seen significant progress over the fall, when there was an opportunity to go through demolition of the building and look at design work. Right now, the design is in progress. The schematic design has been received and reviewed, so the consulting team is working toward 65-percent design development, and I think we will probably have more to speak about during our debate on the mains, but that project is moving ahead now in 2024 and getting ready to be able to go out for RFP once design work is done.

That is a 45-unit building right at the end of Main Street. For those who don't know exactly where it is, there was a Yukon Housing building there for many, many years, and it is just behind where you can see the new hotel being built. The estimated construction start date, I will say, is looking at the end of June or early July.

The next item is the Watson Lake Housing First, and that has really been around the fact that the contractor is behind schedule. The latest update that I have is that they are still looking to increase their capacity on-site. So, the amount of cash that would come from Yukon Housing Corporation wasn't flowed at the cash-flow statement that we anticipated earlier, but we will see those monies flow in the next fiscal, and that will be part of the discussion during our debate on the mains.

The last is the Korbo housing project, which is in Dawson City. Again, we are looking for late June or early July work on that. The Korbo is looking at about a 34-unit in total. I went

through today, and there are still a few things that the Housing Corporation is doing with that project. They have issued, of course, the tender for drawings and specifications, which we know are due at the end of this week, and we have our development permits in place with the City of Dawson, and of course, we had to go through discussions just around design — there are specific design principles that we have to take into consideration, working there.

So, those are the projects that have been delayed over last year, and now we are seeing those move. The northern carve-out — we'll have an opportunity to reallocate those funds and have them in the mains for this year's construction.

**Ms. Clarke:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and I thank the minister for that answer.

Government recently announced that the Safe at Home Society will be receiving \$12.9 million from the Yukon government. Can the minister please break down the \$12.9 million and confirm whether any of this money has been previously announced?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Of the \$12.9 million announced for Safe at Home's project and renovations, Yukon Housing Corporation is contributing \$7.9 million from within its own budget allocation — \$6 million from the 2024-25 budget, \$1 million from the housing initiatives fund, and \$900,000 subject to the 2024-25 budget appropriation. In addition, Yukon Housing Corporation served — and we have had long discussions about this — a flow-through and administrator of \$5 million on behalf of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Hopefully, that gives a bit more clarity on all the funds that are committed to the project and where those funds are coming from.

**Ms. Clarke:** The total project cost is reported at \$42.1 million, which includes the \$10-million purchase price. This indicates that the capital renovation cost is over \$32 million. Can the minister please confirm if this is correct and indicate how the funding gap will be closed for this project?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** As a housing corporation, we are about a 20-percent investor in the total project — which is important to note — which means that project proponents leveraged \$35 million in outside funding for this project. Federal funding is the majority of the funding that is going forward to this project. I can give a bit of a breakdown on the project and funding sources for the record here.

There was initial seed funding that was provided from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for \$150,000. There was the rapid housing initiative fund — just for the record, these are grants — for \$5 million. Then the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation provided, through the co-investment fund, another \$10 million, which was, as the member opposite spoke to, the acquisition of the building.

There was also an innovation fund that has been identified by the organization, and that is \$5 million. Another debt instrument is through the Canada Greener Affordable Housing with, again, CMHC, which was for just over \$11 million.

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, through their climate change preparedness in the north program — just over \$800,000 as a grant. The Northern

REACHE program was \$1.679 million — again, quite a lot of dollars. Most of the dollars there are coming from federal organizations. Then the City of Whitehorse — about \$160,000. I touched on this earlier. We were looking at putting in about \$20,000 — we did in the early stage, which was part of what we do to de-risk programs, and then there was another \$1 million on that.

In the introduction of this project, I also spoke about looking at that extra funding that we were contributing, which is just over the \$6 million now.

What I will say — and I think it is important as well to put on the record — is that when you take into consideration the capital costs here and what we are looking at, from the perspective of the Yukon Housing Corporation — the building that we are talking about right now is about 4,663 square metres or just over 50,000 square feet. The main floor is approximately 11,000 square feet. Folks will remember that it was boardroom space or event or banquet space. There are some options that the organization is looking at, but there is just under 40,000 square feet of liveable space. When you take into consideration the work that we are doing — if we look at our ability to respond to the Auditor General's report — we make sure that we follow through on those commitments. We brought that to the Legislative Assembly. If you look at the square footage cost for the Yukon government on this, we are at about \$329 per square foot for liveable space. For anybody who has built lately, I think you would be able to see that it's pretty strong, and even if you look at the total cost on that, it's about just over \$7.

We are looking at about \$192,000 per unit right now, versus the 67 — so when we did a greenfield build and we went out for public tender — say, in Watson Lake — we were coming in at \$113 million on 10 units, whereas here we are at \$192,000 per unit. Actually, Watson Lake, to be very open, was \$1.1 million per unit, and that's through a public tender and out to the private sector with multiple organizations and us having the lowest price that we took.

So, we are happy with the \$192,537 on this one — comparable — and we think that it is a good investment with the infrastructure that is in place.

**Ms. Clarke:** I thank the minister for that answer. Can the minister indicate whether a funding agreement has been put in place with Safe at Home for future operations? How much is the operating cost expected to be?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I know that there is an ongoing dialogue just identifying supports for operations. I think it's through multiple departments. It probably doesn't fit the scope of a supplementary budget debate right now. We are talking about something that's in the future of what's happening here inside the operations of the Yukon government, but I know that between the Yukon Housing Corporation and Health and Social Services — it might be something that we'll be in a position to speak to when we debate the mains. Certainly, today, I don't know if it deals directly with the previous expenditures and the supplementary budget.

**Ms. Clarke:** I thank the minister for that answer. I have one more question and I'm going to give the floor to the Third Party.

With respect to the housing flood recovery funding program of just over \$1.2 million, who is eligible to apply for this funding, and what are the eligibility requirements?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Our government responded to the 2023 Klondike flooding events with a total \$8.25-million disaster financial assistance and recovery program. The existing program was modernized to compensate eligible households for their uninsured losses up to a maximum of \$250,000. With more than \$500,000 already paid out, the grants will assist households with structural and interior damages, site cleanup, restoring site services, and essential access as well as covering some damage or destroyed personal possessions.

The recovery funding strategy is now more closely aligned with the federal disaster financial assistance arrangements program.

We will, as we get ready for our future rollout, be seeking a cost-sharing arrangement as well. So, what has happened is that the Housing Corporation stood up the program. If there is any extra information required, I believe that this is all listed on our Yukon Housing Corporation site. You can go to [yukon.ca](http://yukon.ca) for other more detailed questions.

We are, of course, preparing for the season. It is important that we talk about this — whether it is making sure that we have the right program in place. I know that we are looking at potentially some changes to the program. I know that the Minister of Community Services has been in dialogue with counterparts across the country and we are seeing this evolve as we get ready for the summer.

To the member opposite, the response was good in the sense that the folks who needed the support, I believe in most if not all instances — I will say “most”. I think that there are probably still some challenges with certain files, but overall, for the individuals — Yukoners — who needed that help, we were in a position to stand this program up. Later in the summer when there was massive flooding in other parts of this country — I just want to commend the folks at Yukon Housing Corporation and other departments who helped us to respond to this, because other provinces were reaching out and we were providing the framework for this because bigger provinces just didn’t have the policy work developed and they wanted to respond quickly. I know that last summer, at least with the flooding in Nova Scotia, we were there signing off on a health care agreement, and at the same time — folks might remember — there were a couple of individuals who were lost in transit and we had an opportunity to send out some of the framework to see if they wanted to look at using that program while we were there.

Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you for the questions from the Official Opposition.

**MLA Tredger:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you to the officials for being here. I want to say a particular thank you to Marcel who is leaving and who has just been so helpful in briefings and so knowledgeable, and I know that we will be lucky to have you in other roles, but we will miss you in this one, so thank you.

I want to start by asking about the strategic plan from last year, *Creating Home*. I was excited to read this plan and I have

a question about something that shows up on page 19 of the plan under “Our impact by 2028”. One of the items listed is: “45 YHC homes are converted into affordable rental and ownership opportunities”. I couldn’t find any more details about that in the plan, so I am hoping that the Premier can tell me some details about what that means.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Thank you for the question. This is one that is evolving. Through dialogue between the senior team, the minister’s office, and, more importantly, the heavy lifting of the corporation, we have identified within the portfolio — we think that there is an opportunity to take a segment of the houses that are owned by the Yukon Housing Corporation and look at mechanisms where individuals who may have been living in those units for a long period of time — we are looking at different ways that we might have a chance to get them into home ownership. That’s work that we’re doing right now. The total portfolio is probably about \$100 million worth of units and homes. We have tasked officials with looking at different models.

We had an opportunity during our meetings in Toronto last year with the Ontario government and also with some of the organizations that represent — well, one organization in particular that represents the biggest affordable housing portfolio in the country, which is a real estate investment trust. There are different concepts and ideas about how to transition some of the assets that we have and how we can make sure that more Yukoners can get into home ownership in a flexible and agile way.

It’s there and it is one of the things that we want to see done, but our team is now looking at which is the best set of tools to get individuals down that pathway.

**MLA Tredger:** I have a couple of follow-up questions. Is that looking at rent-to-own programs for individuals exclusively, or are we looking at other options for that? Are there any particular units that we have in mind or any particular buildings? Are we looking at apartment-style buildings, or are we talking about individual duplexes? Are we talking about in Whitehorse or communities outside of Whitehorse? I would love any more details.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** The Yukon Housing Corporation really — to give a broad view of where we’re at, we’re interested in exploring new models of housing provision that will broaden any impact among Yukoners in core housing needs? and foster diversity in the communities we support.

*Creating Home*, the five-year strategic plan, sets out the 2028 target of 45 Yukon Housing Corporation homes converted into affordable rental and ownership opportunities. To this end, the Yukon Housing Corporation aims to expand its role in rental housing beyond the rent-geared-to-income program. The intent is to allocate a portion of new units to modest-income households that could afford a less subsidized rent based on a median market rent.

The Yukon Housing Corporation will also explore the feasibility of introducing a rent-to-own program to empower home ownership with modest-income Yukoners who currently face barriers in accessing that opportunity.

By providing a pathway to ownership, we will aim to contribute to the long-term stability and well-being of our community members.

We haven't picked particular units. We are not at that point yet. We are just thinking about: What is the best way for us and what are some of the models being used in the country right now? Especially for an individual who has been a great tenant for Yukon Housing Corporation — they have been in a unit with their family for a long period of time, they have looked after it, and that's their home — how do we use some of the tools that are available to us to make sure that maybe those individuals can now look to purchase that home?

That's what we are looking at. We want to see Yukoners being able to build some equity in that home. There are lots of great clients we get to work with. It would be a bit premature to talk about what the mechanism is right now. We have not identified the homes. All I am saying is that the Yukon Housing Corporation board has said that this is the direction we want to go in. I agree with them wholeheartedly. We will bring back information as it evolves to ensure that anything from which communities this is available in or which class of assets and what mechanisms are involved — all I can say at this time is that we want to embrace the strategic plan. We think there has been great work done. There is good vision, and I think many Yukon families would appreciate the opportunity to transition from being in one of those units to being able to own their own home.

**MLA Tredger:** I want to talk a little bit about the Canada-Yukon housing benefit that is for homeowners and that was announced pretty recently. I have been hearing from people who are interested in this program but are struggling to get their applications in — I think it was 10 days from when it was announced. I could be wrong on that exact number, but it was a very short period of time from when it was announced until when the applications close. I talked, for example, to one person who managed to do all the running around to get all her documents together but is waiting on a paper copy of her mortgage statement from her bank because they will only send a paper copy, and the postage is probably going to put her outside the application time.

How many applications has the department received? I would also be curious if there are more people who have been interested but, upon learning about the deadline, aren't going to be able to make it.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** We have had 125 applications to date. The terms of the agreement and the timelines have been defined by the federal partner. Again, we knew that there was a risk involved in trying to leverage these dollars, build a program, and then execute the delivery of it, which was done in weeks. But we felt that we would be doing a disservice to Yukoners to not go after those funds and be able to deliver them.

We saw much bigger provinces turn this money down. They didn't feel that they could move quickly enough, as I understand it, to deliver the program. I want to thank the folks at our organization for, again, some incredible agility and standing the program up quickly and building it out and being

able to be innovative and using the rental program as a foundational policy base to deliver the rest of this.

Please have folks reach out. There will probably be individuals who have wanted to use this program and may not have their documentation all together. I know that our team will do as best as we can with flexibility, but at this time, the dollars came with significant policy guardrails that we have to adhere to, Madam Chair.

**MLA Tredger:** I understand from the press release that the Yukon is matching the funding from the federal government using the money from the homeowners grant. Am I correct that this is the same program that is quite undersubscribed from last year — so there was quite a bit of money left over, but it is being removed through the second supplementary budget that we are debating? Is it correct that this is where that money is coming from?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I think the crux of the question — it might not be exactly where the question was going or the answer being looked for. The Government of Yukon had a contribution and put into this program — can you reuse or what are you going to do with those other funds if you are undersubscribed? I can clarify, but I think that's — what I will state for the record is that our contribution to the program is the homeowners grant. That is important to state. We have credit for the program that is in place already, which had much less pressure on us when it came to being able to stand up funds on our side. There were funds that were already in place, and we received credit for those funds as partial contribution to the program.

**MLA Tredger:** Madam Chair, I guess what I'm wondering is that — this budget cuts \$1.9 million, I believe, from the home ownership program. Please correct me if that number is wrong. I am wondering if any of those funds could be used to extend the deadline for people who want to apply but can't get their application in, in that short a period of time. Since we're cutting money from that budget, can we not use it for those homeowners in a different way?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** For the record, we have the homeowners grant, which the Yukon government provides. That has become identified and qualifies as our contribution to the existing program that we have set up. We have \$1.1 million that we have been able to leverage from the federal government. We are not looking, after the deadline, at taking on the full responsibility on this program and then using a completely different program, which was our loan program, for home ownership to do this. No, it's not something that we are contemplating at this time.

To be fair, I will put on the record today that we want as many people today — please, I would urge the member opposite to help individuals and your constituents as much as you can to get this in. At this point, the program stands as it stands, and we are not looking at pulling from other areas within the Housing Corporation before the year-end to do that. We have identified the funds that are here, and we think that this is something that can be beneficial for Yukoners. We hope that there is going to be more than the 125 applications that are in already.

**MLA Tredger:** I think that's a shame, because the sequence so far is that the Government of Canada offered us this money and the Government of Yukon decided that it was worth doing but under the constraints that were imposed by Canada, which are very difficult constraints to work with. Then at the same time, we have, I think, over \$13 million that are being cut from the housing budget this year, so why that money can't be used to make a program that we believe is a good idea more accessible to people — I don't get it.

I will move on. I wanted to ask about the Yukon Housing wait-list. I got a summary of the list at the briefing, which was very helpful. I am hoping that the minister can repeat it for me. I am also interested, as I indicated at the briefing, in a breakdown of the wait-list by priority group — so, women fleeing violence, people who are actively homeless, people with accessibility needs and I believe a couple of others. I am wondering if the Premier can break down the wait-list by those priority groups as well as by seniors, by non-seniors, and by community.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Yes, I will go through a raft of statistical information here for the member opposite. What I will start by saying is that I am going to go through client types, and I am going to go into rent-geared-to-income and employees, and then I am going to go into the wait-list so that folks who are listening — then we are going to go into the time on the wait-list, which I think is a very important data point. Then I will go into households currently there, and I can go by community next — time on the wait-list breakdown — and then I can go by our communities as well. I think that what is important is that I am not going to get into, today, a discussion around the priority groups. I could talk about sort of some higher-level information, but it won't be probably as defined as requested today by the member opposite.

Let's start with the number of occupied housing units on rent-geared-to-income and employees. There are about 568 rent-geared-to-income and about 152 employees. The number of vacant units and under repair — this is current information. We have 37 units under rent-geared-to-income that we are working on and seven for employees.

Under vacant or under allocation, because people are moving and there is a time period or we are looking for acceptance, we have 34 units on rent-geared-to-income and 14 for employees. The total of both categories is 902.

When we talk about wait-lists for communities, there are 297 people on our wait-list. Harken back to about 36 months ago when it was just over 500 individuals — I think about 510. I will say that I am not certain exactly that it was 36 months ago today, but I know that, over the last number of years, we have seen a decrease from over 500 to now 297.

When I think about the wait-list by community, when we think about seniors, there are 130 seniors on our wait-list, and there are 167 non-seniors. I would say that, outside of Whitehorse, there are two areas where we really need to focus our attention, which, of course, the supplementary budget and our mains do speak to that. First, I will speak to Watson Lake. We have four seniors on our wait-list and we have 10 non-seniors, for a total of 14 individuals. We spoke to the fact that

we have a 10-unit building — very significant and long overdue investment by the Yukon government into Watson Lake and into housing.

Under Dawson City, we have seven seniors and 11 non-seniors. We talked about the Korbo lot and the 34 units. We think that will have a significant impact. For Ross River, we did move emergency housing last year. We have about seven non-seniors, for a total of eight people there. In most of the other communities, it's one or two folks per category. About 239 of the 297 are in Whitehorse.

Time on wait-list — I want to share this with folks, because I think sometimes when we come in and we have a dialogue about this, my first question was: Are people sitting on this wait-list for a long period of time? How long does it take? We know that there are some instances where people are planning for the future. They may still have their home, but they are trying to get an application ready because they think, in the future, they might want to be looking for some of this type of housing style or they know that the application process, in the past, has taken quite a while.

You think: Okay, 297 were on the wait-list — but we have had individuals who have put in two applications. Out of the 295 individuals, the average time on the wait-list for seniors is two years; the average wait for non-seniors is one year, for a total of 1.5. The biggest category is 174 people. That is 59 seniors and 115 non-seniors in that category. That's all less than a year. You can see that, for more than half of the people who are on our wait-list, it has been less than a year. Between one to three years is 67; that's 34 seniors and 33 non-seniors. Between three to five years, it's 26 seniors and 10 non-seniors. It goes down to 12 seniors who are on the wait-list between five to seven years. I would say that the most dramatic conversations were with folks who were waiting for housing — in some cases — in at least one or two of our communities.

That gives you a breakdown of how long people are waiting to try to get housing on our list.

Households currently in Yukon rent-geared-to-income units — so, for less than a year, we have 161 people who have now been able to leverage that. There are about 66 seniors and 95 non-seniors. For one to two years, there are 88 in total. That's 48 seniors and 40 non-seniors. Two to three years — 35 seniors and 29 non-seniors. Really, four years plus, I think is the real marker, and that is 306 units. That is 193 seniors and 113 non-seniors.

We are averaging how long people are being housed, which is about 5.9 years — just under six years for seniors and just over four years for non-seniors.

We get asked from time to time, so I will put on the record now when we talk about the wait-list. There are currently eight employees looking for housing who are on our wait-list. There are two in Dawson City, and there are also two in Watson Lake. For the most part, it's spread out to one or zero for the rest of the other communities. The timeline for the wait-list for our communities — out of that group of eight people, we have had one person who has waited less than a month and between one to three months for four people or six to nine months for three

people, so all of those individuals are under nine months. Most of them are Education officials.

Other than that — I could keep going, but I think that gives a pretty extensive sense of the data that we're collecting — who is moving and who is coming and what that looks like. I will go back to the priority groups just to finish up. As of March 14, 2024, of that wait-list of 297, we had 156 individuals who identified housing needs based on affordability, including those experiencing homelessness. There were 23 identified as experiencing intimate family violence, and 38 identified a medical or mobility need, so that is our breakdown.

It is important to note that, when you think about this, a number of years ago, there was a time when you would feel — I will leave it at that.

**MLA Tredger:** Thank you to the Premier; I really appreciate that detail and those lists. I will dig back through those numbers.

I want to ask about the priority groups and how long they are waiting to get housed, because in the last Auditor General's report on housing, they found that people in priority groups were actually taking longer to get housed even though they were supposed to be priority groups. Then, of course, Yukon Housing Corporation made the change so that the people in the priority groups would need to have case plans, which was heavily opposed by most of the housing community and was called a discriminatory move, which I think it pretty clearly is, but we were told that it had to happen because it was going to help get people into housing faster and stay there longer. I am wondering how that's going.

I am wondering if the department has statistics on whether they have managed to accelerate people in the priority groups getting into housing. It's probably a little early to tell if it has extended how long they are able to stay in housing, but I would be interested to know if there is any preliminary data on that.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** First of all, I want to thank the officials, because this is some of the most significant data that we have had. I think we have been able to provide today some strong numbers. I do not have access to the average application time and then an average of that subset pending the priority group. I don't have that, but I can talk to officials. I'm not even going to guarantee that we'll be able to bring it back in a legislative return within session. I don't want to put that pressure on them. I think we're doing a lot of different pieces. What I will say is that, if there is something that we can pull, we will.

I think what we have been able to illustrate today is that there is a tremendous amount of building being done. We are seeing a dramatic drop on our wait-list in both categories. So, I see this as significant progress. We have agreements in place now with a number of organizations that will directly support the priority subsets of individuals. I want to apologize for even saying "the subset" as I speak to this, because really, we are talking about Yukoners, we're talking about people who are in need, and we're talking about folks who need support.

You know, I'm excited when I think about — these are really complex social challenges to take on. Government tries to intervene where they can. You need to have partners. You know, we have had lots of challenges in the House, and there

will be more dialogue about: Why have you invested this much? Or: You shouldn't have invested this much. But we know — and I know that, looking at the numbers and looking at the folks who are on our list, that we will not and should not do this with only the funds from the Yukon government. We are going to need to have partnership. When it comes to the energy and conviction required to do the work that we have to do at this pace, you need to have all of those different partners.

I will highlight a few things. I think that, when you see the work of the Council of Yukon First Nations right now and some of the key work that they are doing for vulnerable folks in our community, really focused on women fleeing violence and those who are moving through a transitional period from addiction, there is a really significant project that we have been able to support in Whistle Bend. That is going to make a big difference to the point where they feel that the majority of women who are in the downtown core and using 405 Alexander will likely now be able to go in totality to this new project, so I commend them.

At the same time, we have Safe at Home, which we will continue to debate. I think that our team — would I go down this path again of supporting these folks and making sure that we try to help them get to the right place and build this project out? Yes. They have done an extraordinary job in the interim of supporting clients from Health and Social Services and making sure in the interim that they worked with our government departments, and now we are in a situation where we are talking about 67 units. So, again, it is really going to be important to make sure that, over the next 24 months to 36 months, we see this great opportunity for people to get into more stable housing.

In both of those cases, we are talking about long-term housing. Those aren't for a couple of years. It is not transitional; it is not Housing First. This is good supported living — the Safe at Home project. I also think that it is important to look at — we start to think about that. That is 67 units here, and then we have another set of units coming through, and then on top of that, we talked about the Ryder Apartments, and now we are looking at 45 more units. That is making a really significant opportunity for units that are available, and that is a mixed use where we still use our prioritization, but there will be a whole mix of different individuals in that, and of course, that goes back to some of the thinking around making sure that it is really community-based.

Then, on top of that, we just signed our agreement for the biggest affordable housing project in Yukon history, which is now another 101 units.

All of these things are happening in parallel, and I think that what we are seeing is that we are going to be able to expedite with those structures and assets being developed, making sure that those buildings are done. We are now in a position where the most vulnerable folks in our community, which the Auditor General's report spoke to, are going to have an opportunity to have a home. I think that the member opposite will agree with me on the fact that we need to make sure as well, though, that we have the support services around those individuals. How do we make sure that they can thrive in these

new homes? How do they have the things that they need? And that is, of course, a whole bunch of different sets of supports that individuals need, depending on their particular situation.

Back to the thesis of your question, though — I don't have the time frame as per group. I have kind of given a broad sense of how long people are staying in our units that are rent geared to income. I have been able to illustrate the time period that folks are waiting to get into a unit — both seniors and non-seniors — and we will strive to see if there is any more detailed information that would focus more on the categories. I think that we did provide exactly the numbers and the categories as of the 14<sup>th</sup>, but I will leave it there to see if I can answer with any more details.

**MLA Tredger:** Talking about those priority groups, the history is that the Auditor General's report said that these groups were actually taking longer to get into housing than people who are in, I guess, the affordability stream, which is the opposite of what was supposed to happen. The department made changes to address that. These changes were heavily opposed by the housing community, and the department has said that we have to do them anyway because it is going to solve this problem.

I would hope that there is going to be an evaluation to see if that is indeed solving the problem and if those changes which added requirements and barriers to people who are very vulnerable people trying to get into housing — if adding requirements and adding barriers to them were going to help them get into housing, I hope that there is going to be evidence to show that it's working and, if not, that there will be a course change. That is what I will be looking for in future conversations.

I want to talk about bedbugs. We talk about this every session. We grapple with these two realities — that it is a very complex, challenging problem to solve. What I always try to do when we have this conversation is bring it back to the situations of the people who are struggling with it.

I sat down with someone last week. I wrote the Premier about it and I haven't heard back yet. This person is a senior who is living in a Yukon Housing Corporation building. It's hard to describe the level of distress going on, because she is spending every night with bugs crawling on her and every day with bugs crawling on her and going to the doctor to get medications to treat the symptoms of having bug bites that are causing swelling through her body. It's awful; it is really, really awful.

I know that this doesn't make it an easier problem to solve, but we have to remember that these are the people who are at the centre of this problem. They are people who are in really awful situations.

Something I have asked about for the last two Sittings — the Spring Sitting of 2023 and then the Fall Sitting of 2023 — is about how long it takes for people's apartments to be treated once they report bedbugs. In both those Sittings, the Premier said that he would get back to me with those numbers. I believe that the goal is within two weeks, but the Premier said he would get back to me with information about how long it was actually

taking for those treatments to happen, and I'm wondering if he has that information today.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Let me start by saying that the preamble was that we need to remember. We haven't forgotten. This is something that we are dealing with for clients all the time. It's a scenario that makes people extremely uncomfortable. In this case, I can't speak to the details that the member opposite speaks to, but I will just say that it adds tremendous anxiety. From a health perspective, we know that people get very concerned. Of course, we would love to be in a position to eliminate any of these challenges in our units.

In that particular case, I will just ask. I will make sure that I go back to check our casework to see when we responded. The Yukon Housing Corporation, as the member opposite knows, will reach out to get more detailed information to respond.

On the floor of the House today, I will just say that, if the client or the individual for whom you are advocating — please let us know if that individual has also taken the offer — we have a unit that's available, so we can move anybody from a unit to a new unit while we deal with their existing unit. Please let us know. Feel free to do that this afternoon on behalf of that individual. Let us know and then we can figure out if we can get that individual into the unit.

It normally takes about two days to get over there and have an inspection. We have talked about this, I know, a number of times. I don't think this is a problem that is going to go away. There are a number of different reasons, and sometimes it's difficult to absolutely eradicate these bedbugs inside of units. We do cover the treatment costs, including heat treatment to the unit as well as furniture as required. We try to be very helpful. There have been times over the last year — I will share with the House — where individuals have needed assistance. Sometimes, it had been the responsibility of the unit holder to do that work. I know there has been advocacy in different cases to help those individuals — if they are seniors — to make sure that they have some extra help with that.

I am just going to check with the officials on timing. I spoke with officials when preparing and I did state that we will have this question today. We usually have this dialogue in the spring and fall. Let's go back and make sure that any of the information that we want to provide to the member opposite has been received. I will now request, if you haven't received that update, that the Yukon Housing Corporation — we will come back with a legislative return before the end of the session. We will give you a sense of what the actual times were on our last 10 or 20 cases, when we did the inspection, and when we actually had the pest control contractors respond to that, and then you can have a snapshot. I'm going to get that back before the end of our spring session.

**MLA Tredger:** That would be very helpful information to have.

I'm really actually happy to hear that there is a unit available for people who are waiting for bedbug treatments. I think that's great. I think that makes a lot of sense. The person whom I talked to had not, to the best of my knowledge, received that offer and, in fact, actually ended up staying somewhere else, paid for by someone else, because it was just not good for

her to be in that home until the treatment happened. So, I will follow up about that, because I think that's a really great option to be able to provide people with.

One of the questions that I was asked is — there are bedbug traps available which can be sort of an early detection system for bedbugs. This would be particularly helpful, for example, for seniors who may not have good vision to be able to see what's happening until it's really quite severe. Are bedbug traps or early detection systems available to Yukon Housing clients?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I will speak with our officials to get to the accurate information on the traps and to see if we are providing them or what the experience has been with them, and I will get back to you on that.

Just on the end of that last question, yes, I'm happy to have a conversation after the session today. I think in some cases we have offered up units to individuals. They may choose to stay in a hotel and have another level of government pay for it or maybe not, but just for the record, I think in most cases, we try to ensure that individuals have a direct understanding of the units that we do have available when there is bedbug treatment. With that being said, traps are available — officials are just letting me know. I will find out where the pickup point is or how you access them. I will just respond by casework on that just so that we can share the way that the traps are available, where you would pick them up, who you would contact, and information such as that.

**MLA Tredger:** Thank you for that, Madam Chair. I have one final question on bedbugs: When residents of Yukon Housing units who have bedbugs in their homes have to get rid of furniture, does Yukon Housing cover the cost of removing that furniture?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Everybody is moving quickly today. The traps that we spoke about in the last question are available at Yukon Housing, so please let us know. If you are listening from the main office or if you are listening from one of the communities and you are wondering about that, please let the front desk at Yukon Housing know and they can ensure that one of our representatives in the communities can get that out to you if there are none in our other offices.

Concerning furniture, we pay for the treatment to furniture. I wouldn't say — not so much the removal. But let's make sure that we treat that furniture so that it is in a position where it can stay inside the unit when we treat the rest of the unit for any infestation that may occur.

**MLA Tredger:** I am going to switch now to the home ownership program. I know that it was discussed a little bit earlier already today, but one of the specific changes that we discussed last session was allowing people to pre-apply for the home ownership program so that they would know how much they would be eligible for before they start shopping and putting offers on houses and going to banks. Is that a change that has been made to the program?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Actually, Madam Chair, first of all, that was a great idea that was brought to the table by the member opposite. Having individuals whom the member opposite was advocating on behalf of — I think that it was a great concept to be considered in the redefining of the program.

One of the things we talked about was: Can we make sure that those funds are available? Can you understand how much of the loan program you can leverage so that you can have a bit of appropriate information in your hands when you are going out for an acquisition of a property? But I think where we are at right now — what we are seeing under the current interest rates and what we are seeing for individuals — the clients who are coming in the door — is that they are not qualifying. As I stated earlier, it was over \$8 million in three years that we got out the door into rural Yukon for individuals to get new homes in place, and now we are seeing folks who are just not meeting the criteria when it comes to their debt-to-service ratio, and we were even a little more flexible than traditional lending institutions.

To answer, I think that point is great and we will talk about that within our policy framework — how that work can be done as we redefine the program and figure out how it can be most beneficial for Yukoners who want to use it.

**MLA Tredger:** I will make this my last question for the supplementary budget and save the rest for the mains, so thank you very much to the officials both here and on call to answer questions today; I really appreciate it.

With regard to the Safe at Home project, what is happening to the people who are living there now and will have to move out when the renovations happen over the next while?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Right now, we're working with Safe at Home to look at a number of units that we think we can transition folks into. We're looking at some of the other buildings that we have access to, but we still have some maintenance work to do in order to have it ready. The conversation today with our officials seemed very positive. We were doing some broader work on the downtown area in discussion with officials from multiple departments, and I can say that it seems that there are great supports in place in the conversation between Health and Social Services and Safe at Home for those individuals in trying to make sure that they also have good, strong wraparound services as they transition out of there. It might be using some temporary housing units between now and the fall, but we also think that we can have a more stable, suitable, well-supported structure for them later in 2024 that they can move into for a longer, more permanent experience while the construction is happening in the current structure. So, it is still in progress. I have had discussions directly with the board and their executive director on this topic, and I know that officials have been working very closely with them to ensure that we have the best opportunities for people to transition from the site now into some proper housing units.

**Ms. Clarke:** I have one more question for the Premier, and I believe that my rural colleagues have one or two questions as well.

Last fall, I asked the minister about a commitment he made at the last AYC AGM in Watson Lake to provide additional resources to municipalities to support them to apply for federal funding for housing. In response, the minister said that he was going to follow up with officials. Can he provide an update on what work has been done to fulfill this commitment that the

Premier made at the last AYC annual general meeting in Watson Lake?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I will get back to the member opposite. In the last discussion I had, our vice-president from the Yukon Housing Corporation was reflecting on a conversation with the executive director of the Association of Yukon Communities. My sense was that there was a positive conversation about being able to support communities to continue to follow up on that. I will ask officials to make sure — the president is here with me today — that we have a dialogue with our vice-president and find out how that conversation has evolved with Ms. Hassard and our vice-president on the work on that particular file.

**Mr. Hassard:** Madam Chair, I have a question for the minister. In his opening remarks, he talked about the sixplex in Teslin. I am curious if we could just get an update on what is happening there. I know that part of the negotiations over the Nisutlin bridge was that maybe TTC would provide new office space for the housing office, et cetera. Not a lot has transpired — well, I guess nothing has transpired since, so if we could just get an update on where things are at with that.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** There was a bit of consultation, of course, done last spring. The member opposite was there flipping steaks not 10 feet away from our display, where we had an opportunity to speak with folks in Teslin. Right now, I have been informed, as early as today, that we are waiting for a consolidation of lots. There is lot zoning work that is being led by the municipality. There is a bit of work that still has to be done under that particular part of the work, and then that will give us the opportunity to move toward the structure and building. The member opposite is correct: There has been a dialogue happening between the Teslin Tlingit Council and the Housing Corporation concerning some space. I am open to seeing that come to fruition. I am open to seeing some private sector opportunities, but right now, I know that our goal is to try to get this built. We are working closely on the rezoning and the lot consolidation.

**Mr. Istchenko:** I just want to ask the minister a little bit about — there was a policy change in Yukon Housing for people who are looking to get into Yukon housing with the rent geared to income. Prior to that, if you had medical conditions, you were able to get into Yukon housing and it was a lot easier because of barrier-free access in some of the housing that they have — I guess that some of the housing that they have is barrier-free for people with disabilities. The policy has changed now, and anyone who develops a disability — if they go over a certain number on the rent geared to income when filling out the application, they are not eligible for it. Now, these are people who — some are constituents, and I have heard of quite a few people, and a lot of them are long-time Yukoners.

Right now, there is a housing crisis. Go out and try to find a place that doesn't have stairs with an elevator and the things that you need, for example, if you have Parkinson's or have developed a stroke. There is nothing out there for them right now in the rental market. Especially when it comes to seniors, how long they are on the planet is another question, and they need to get in somewhere for a better quality of life, but right

now, that policy has changed, and basically, they are not eligible, and there are no other options.

I am just wondering if the minister has put some thought into this policy or has had a chance to look at other options for those people. When you apply for this and go through the funding application, they basically deny you. You can ask them: What are the other options? — and they have nothing.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I will ask the member opposite to indulge me, and maybe we can work together on this. If he can just get a sign-off from the particular individual who has been confronted with this challenge and can write on their behalf, I would be happy to work through it. I want to be very open to the room: This is the first time that I have heard of this particular instance, so I'm happy to work closely to understand what has happened with this client or clients.

I think that it is good to hear from the Member for Kluane today advocating on supply. You are right; there is a crunch, and as the member stood up to advocate for the Kluane region, I think that it is going to be very important to ensure that we have stock, we have land and lots available to build the stock, and that we can see that further investment so that there is a multitude of options for individuals in the community.

My commitment is made here that we will work on this instance. I don't have all the pieces. I know that, as the member said, there has been a policy change; it's for folks who are rent geared to income.

If they transition to a place where they now have a disability but they are hitting over a financial threshold that they originally qualified for, this may cause some challenges. That's kind of what I garnered, but I think a more detailed conversation will give us an opportunity to really advocate on behalf of those individuals.

**Mr. Istchenko:** I thank the Premier for that. Yes, just to follow up on that, it has to do with the asset cap. These people have it, but they have zero other options, other than Whistle Bend or moving into Copper Ridge Place where they could probably still function with a family in a low-barrier place. I will get back to the minister with some more information on that. I thank him for his time.

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

Seeing none, we will proceed line by line.

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

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

**Chair:** The Member for Porter Creek 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.

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

*On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures*  
*Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the*  
*amount of \$206,000 agreed to*  
*On Capital Expenditures*  
*Total Capital Expenditures underexpenditure in the*  
*amount of \$13,500,000 agreed to*  
*Total Expenditures underexpenditure in the amount of*  
*\$13,294,000 agreed to*  
*Yukon Housing Corporation agreed to*

**Chair:** The matter now before the Committee is general debate on Vote 27, French Language Services Directorate, in Bill No. 212, entitled *Third 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.

The matter before the Committee is Vote 27, French Language Services Directorate, in Bill No. 212, entitled *Third Appropriation Act 2023-24*.

Is there any general debate?

### **French Language Services Directorate**

#### **Hon. Mr. Streicker:**

Je prends la parole cet après-midi au sujet du budget supplémentaire des dépenses de la Direction des services en français. En 2023-2024, nous avons reçu 210 000 \$ de Santé Canada et de Patrimoine canadien pour améliorer l'accès aux soins de santé en français au territoire. Nous voulons explorer avec le ministère de la Santé et des Affaires sociales diverses façons d'améliorer les services en français, en tenant compte des besoins de la population et de ceux des prestataires de services du Yukon.

Notre première étape sera de définir les parcours de soins de santé de patientes et des patients francophones afin de mieux comprendre leur façon d'accéder aux soins. Nous identifierons les lacunes de ces parcours et perfectionnerons les modèles de prestation de services existants. Nous allons ensuite miser sur la technologie et tester certaines stratégies comme la télésanté, les services d'interprétation et les services de navigation du système de santé pour faciliter l'accès aux services en français. Nous allons favoriser l'avis des professionnels de la santé pour mieux comprendre leurs défis pour la prestation de services en français et élaborer des solutions efficaces pour les surmonter.

Ce projet s'inspire des recommandations du rapport La population d'abord visant à rendre le système de santé du Yukon plus accessible et axé sur la population et poursuit les objectifs du Cadre stratégique sur les services en français 2023-2025. Ce Budget supplémentaire des dépenses prévoit une augmentation de 210 000 \$ pour la Direction des services en français. L'initiative globale d'une valeur de 2,25 M\$ pour

cinq ans, est entièrement recouvrable et ne nécessite pas d'équivalents temps plein supplémentaires.

Ceci conclut mes observations sur le deuxième Budget supplémentaire des dépenses de la Direction des services en français. Je suis disposé à répondre aux questions des membres sur le sujet.

I am happy to answer questions.

**Ms. Clarke:** Deputy Chair, I would like to thank the officials for joining us here today from the French Language Services Directorate. I did want to highlight the one change in the supplementary budget — an increase of \$356,000 — that was provided for the new project that leverages technology to increase access to health care services in French. I would like to commend the directorate for their work to increase access to services in French. It is so important for the French-speaking community to be able to access as many services as possible in their first language.

I am happy to see the work that you do in partnership with other departments and would like to thank you for your continued efforts. I don't have any questions for the minister today but just wanted to express my appreciation to all staff.

Merci.

**Ms. White:** Merci, c'est toujours un plaisir de prendre la parole pendant ce débat. Je n'ai pas de question pour le budget supplémentaire, mais j'ai une question d'accès aux services de traduction. Comme membre qui est élue, je n'ai pas le service de la Direction de la langue française pour m'aider à écrire ou faire une traduction de mes paroles ici et je vais demander pourquo.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** The question is about translation here for the Assembly. It was about why we don't have translation here in the Assembly for those who wish to have it.

We have never had a request, but the French Language Services Directorate does work to provide support. For example, if there are things that arise in French, Hansard will sometimes put a request to the French Language Services Directorate for their support in translations.

We do other things as well. For example, typically, if it is planned out and I am reading a speech in French, I try to provide translation for colleagues. I know that the Member for Takhini-Kopper King does not need that support, but for other colleagues, I try to get copies so that they can follow along. We are happy to consider it if there are specific requests around this.

What we have been doing is providing support as requested, but we don't have the capacity at this point to be trying to have continuous translations. The way that I think that it would work best is, if there are specific times, we would do our best. I want to be careful here. If there was something that was asked by members on sort of an ongoing basis, we would need to work through our Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges, because I think that there would be a requirement as well for some technology. For example, if you go to some other legislative assemblies, they have devices for

people who are unilingual so that they can get that translation. Those sorts of things would need to be sorted out.

The directorate does a really great job at trying to support our *Languages Act* and provide services in French.

**Ms. White:** As an example, the fantastic staff at Hansard will have to call a contractor who will come in and look at what I just said and will do the translation in Hansard — although the minister read from prepared notes and so possibly has handed those in. Previously, if I spoke in French and didn't hand in a translation, in Hansard, it said that I spoke in French.

Another concern is — I appreciate that the minister has the full support of the French Language Services Directorate, but despite my ability to still speak in French, the last time I wrote it was probably when I graduated in 1995. I as an individual do not have the ability to write the speeches anymore en français. Je peux parler, je comprends, je peux m'exprimer, mais pas toujours de la façon que je voudrais.

So, there is not always the opportunity for me to say what I mean, especially, as an example, I was talking about support for folks like myself to get translation services. I am able to write any speech in English to translate into French, which means that tomorrow, Journée de la Francophonie — it turns out that there is a theme; I learned about it this morning — which means that now I am working on a speech en français avec un theme que je ne comprends pas. Well, I understand the theme but I need to write an entirely new speech en français for tomorrow because opposition members don't have the same access to translation services.

It would be great if we did. I think it would be fantastic. I will put that down there. I am looking forward to a response.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** I have two points, Deputy Chair. The first one is that FLSD I think does assist with Hansard and its transcription. So, it is not translation, meaning that they will listen to the French and help to provide that French language for Hansard. That is one of the services that FLSD does.

Then, with respect to the second point — could the French Language Services Directorate support members of this House, on all sides of the House, to do translations? That is a great request and I just want to take it away to talk to the directorate a little bit more. There are some questions of timelines.

What I can say is that whenever there is an emergency — say a flood or a fire — then what the directorate does is that they prioritize translating those things because there is a time sensitivity to it. Here in the House, through House Leaders, we typically share topics for tributes a little ahead of time so that there is some time to prepare, but, of course, there would also need to be time for the directorate to try to get that translation in for members.

Anyway, I think that it is a worthy question, but, of course, some of the tributes we do pretty regularly, so I think that members can sort of see them coming because we have done them in the past, so I think that it is understandable.

We will take the question and check in with the directorate about what can be done. Just to give a shout-out to the directorate because they really do a lot of work, and each time I look at statistics around how much translation they are doing year over year, it keeps going up and so their productivity is

increasing all the time, which — I think we should just give them a big shout-out for what they are doing to try to support Yukoners in the French language.

**Ms. White:** I believe in the spirit of working together. There could be, at the beginning of each session, an identification, for example, that there would be two tributes in French — in the spring and one in the fall — that could happen. I would obviously commit to writing it much sooner as long as I knew the thematic purpose of the tribute ahead of time.

Again, I bring this up honestly in the desire for equal opportunity and honestly to really honour the francophone population — not with my 1995 French immersion graduation. I speak once a week maybe, depending on who I see, sometimes much less than that — often much less than that. Really, it's about making sure that those of us who come from a long time ago and don't necessarily have the practice as much as we would like still have that opportunity to honour the community in the way that we would like. Tomorrow promises to be exciting for all sorts of reasons.

Yes, I think it's just a discussion, as, of course, we have seen the French Language Services Directorate grow and change and really flourish, I would say, since the first time I called it for debate in 2012. I do really see the work that is being done as the important work that it is. Again, we do have that responsibility when we talk about the *Languages Act*, so this is just a way of elevating and honouring that. Of course, I echo the minister's thanks and gratitude to the department, but we have an entire \$7.5-million budget to talk about again soon, so there will be lots of opportunity to discuss the changes there and the work that is being done.

With that, I have no further questions for the supplementary debate, and I look forward to talking about the mains.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** Deputy Chair, I want to thank both members of the opposition for their comments and questions, and I look forward to the debate on the mains. I also think — just so everyone who is listening in today will know — that tomorrow is Francophonie day, so we plan to have a tribute. The other thing I will say is that we are very excited about the budget in the supplementary — and the five-year agreement around the investment that we're having from Health Canada and Canadian Heritage.

It's a great opportunity for us to look at health care and how we can be supporting it for our francophone population. It has been identified as one of their priorities, so I thank the members for their questions. Like them, I would like to thank the public servants for coming in to support in speaking to the supplementary budget today.

**Deputy Chair:** Is there any further general debate on Vote 27, French Language Services Directorate?

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

**Ms. White:** Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 27, French Language Services Directorate, cleared or carried, as required.

**Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 27, French Language Services Directorate, cleared or carried**

**Chair:** The Member for Takhini-Kopper King has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 27, French Language Services Directorate, cleared or carried, as required.

Is there unanimous consent?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

**On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures**

**Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$210,000 agreed to**

**On Capital Expenditures**

**Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of nil agreed to**

**Total Expenditures in the amount of \$210,000 agreed to French Language Services Directorate agreed to**

**Deputy Chair:** The matter now before the Committee is general debate on Vote 7, Department of Economic Development, in Bill No. 212, entitled *Third Appropriation Act 2023-24*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

**Deputy Chair:** The matter before the Committee is Vote 7, Department of Economic Development, in Bill No. 212, entitled *Third Appropriation Act 2023-24*.

**Department of Economic Development**

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

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** As Minister of Economic Development, I rise today to speak to the *Supplementary Estimates No. 2* for the 2023-24 fiscal year. I would like to welcome officials from the department today, starting with Deborah Lemaire, who has been our acting deputy minister and who has spent a tremendous amount of time in different areas within the department supporting our teams. I am so glad to have Deborah's support and leadership in the role. I had a very fruitful meeting with her senior team this week and again just want to thank you for your leadership in the department and for being with us here today. Thank you, Deborah.

Jamie McAllister, director of finance — I have also had a chance with Jamie over the last little while in budget preparation, and it has been just great, and I thank him for his work — and to the departmental officials, leaders in the department, having a chance just over the last number of days to go and sit with everybody and have a sense of where they are working and their focus has been really helpful. So, I thank everybody there for their continued work.

This supplementary budget request includes additional operation and maintenance funding to support the department's media development unit. We are asking for a budget increase of \$735,000 for the media production fund to support specifically Raw TV's *Gold Rush*, a television series. This series has been filmed in the Yukon for over a decade and has brought millions of eyes to the territory. The production is also a significant economic driver, providing employment in supporting local businesses. It has the largest economic footprint of any production operating in the territory, with approximately \$2.9 million in direct Yukon spend in this season 14 alone.

On the capital side, the department is reporting a net decrease of \$21.3 million. This is driven by a decrease of \$21.361 million related to the Skagway marine services platform. The appropriation at the 2023-24 *Supplementary Estimates No. 1* was based on a pathway that would have seen significant mobilization and procurement costs in the 2023-24 fiscal year, following a finalized contribution agreement with the municipality of Skagway. As negotiations on this agreement are ongoing and were not finalized in time, this appropriation could not be spent. We are continuing to work closely with the municipality of Skagway to determine the best pathway forward for the project.

This decrease is offset by an increase of \$61,000 for the business incentive program, which saw an unanticipated increase in applications late in the fiscal year.

Deputy Chair, in closing, we are requesting an overall supplementary budget decrease of \$20,565,000 for the Department of Economic Development. As always, we look forward to the discussion today with the members opposite and the opportunity to provide further details on the work of the department.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** I would also like to thank the officials for being with us today.

I just have a few questions regarding the Skagway dock. As was noted by the Member for Porter Creek South, the original amount budgeted for the dock was \$21.3 million and has been removed from the current budget, stating that the money won't be spent; however, we don't see it in the five-year capital plan.

Can the minister provide a status on what is now happening with the Skagway marine service platform? Does he have a date on when he will resume this project, and is it still a viable project?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** It is important to know that the project has continued on. It's not so much about resuming the project. First and foremost, we went through a process in the fall where we had a lot of dialogue in the House. The Yukon government had an obligation that we were looking at as a financial contribution to a project in Skagway. We think it is something that's important to continue to have access to tidewater for specifically the mining industry, but overall — whether it is import or export — we believe that's a very important access for Canadian and Yukon businesses.

There was a public tender process that occurred and was led by the borough of Skagway. They were not comfortable at

that time with the result that they experienced and did not sign off on that agreement for the tender. At that point, the borough was leading that process, so we were not contributing to the project because the next step of the project had taken a different approach — or the borough of Skagway had taken a different approach.

What I can share about the project now — the other thing that has happened is there is new leadership in the borough of Skagway. There is a new mayor — Mayor Bass. He has been here in Whitehorse for a couple of visits in January and had a representation of some of his administration plus himself in January at the Roundup conference.

We had a chance to meet with a number of officials from government, and the things that the borough of Skagway have requested is that they want updated data and information on the potential volume of export from the Yukon. So, they have been speaking — we have reiterated that to the private sector; they have reiterated that. There are some folks — there are some leaders within the private sector, specifically around the mining sector — but work around the service sector that supports the mining sector. There has been a dialogue directly with them about making sure that potential projects on the horizon in the Yukon — that the leaders of those projects provide updated volume, and then it will give a better sense to the borough of what the potential traffic will look like. So, that is work that the private sector has been committed to, and the Department of Economic Development is aware of that and will help to support where required.

We also have — another piece of interest that has come up is around — from the borough of Skagway and from mining companies — is the concept — we had preliminary conversations around doing some retrofit work that was in the 2020-21 platform, and it was really a focus on looking at how you could use the rail infrastructure that exists into Skagway and could you use that not just for tourism purposes but for industrial purposes? About a year and a half ago, we reached out to the company that had acquired White Pass — which inevitably, White Pass owns the rail infrastructure and easement. Now we are looking to re-engage them. We had discussions within the department around that, just making sure that we have a sense on where we can go on that discussion.

I have also had a dialogue with a number of folks in the mining sector — a couple of bigger investors here in the Yukon now — and have asked if they would work with us and the private sector around a more updated infrastructure plan, which can take into consideration everything from power to roads to port to transmission. That work hasn't started yet, but there has been a commitment from at least one of the companies that they would put a financial contribution into that work, and we could work with the folks in the Chamber of Mines as well as with the Yukon chamber and their infrastructure committee.

There is a lot of work right now that we are seeing happen.

We have also spoken with the borough of Skagway about looking into and investigating different types of ore transfer infrastructure. We have talked about the marine services platform. We think that the marine services platform is still very important and vital for the work that's coming in front of

us. We are open to seeing other options, but we are working toward that. We have a non-binding agreement. Mayor Bass has said to me: Let's continue to work on that agreement to move it toward a binding state. At the same time, we want to continue to look at what the best type of infrastructure is to sit on a marine services platform if it's built to ensure that you transfer concentrate. The previous system was a conveyor system.

We have talked a number of times here in the Legislative Assembly about another modern system, which is bulk container hauling. I don't think I have to speak about that very much. I know that the Yukon Party had an opportunity to go down on official business, taxpayer-funded, to go and see that infrastructure and educate there, so I know that the member opposite probably knows and has been brought up to speed about what the potential challenges and opportunities are with that system that's being used in Surrey at their container terminal.

At the same time, we are going to continue to work on seeing what is available with that system, and we have offered up to Mayor Bass to see if we can work with the private sector to give them the experience to look at a modernized conveyor system as well, which really has changed a lot globally. We made those overtures as we go into the spring, so that is where the project is right now. We still think it's really important.

There was a discussion with the Governor of Alaska to ask if there is a chance to come back and have a dialogue about this with the Crown corporation that previously held the lease — if they would be open to having discussions. That was just preliminary. In my next discussions with the governor, we will hopefully see if there is more interest in working directly with the borough and us on this particular project.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** That leads very nicely into my next question. Now, we know that there is a new mayor. He is looking for updated information. You have spoken to many partners or possible partners. Has the Government of Canada expressed any interest in this at all? Now that the Governor of Alaska is swaying a little, have we made any inroads in Canada?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** The position of the Government of Canada has continuously been that they will not solely support infrastructure of this type being built in another country. The most productive conversations that we have had have been with the infrastructure bank of Canada. The infrastructure bank of Canada has looked at what the potential supply chain of concentrate movement from the Yukon to Alaska would look like. They were open to discussing a review of an application if we wanted to look at debt financing any components, but the components, from my understanding and dialogue with the infrastructure bank, would be components that are working both on the Yukon side as well as the Alaska side.

That's all we have. We have certainly had broad conversations with a multitude of individuals at the federal level, but to date, we have not seen a commitment to a direct investment by the federal government into the infrastructure in Alaska.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** In the last budget, \$739,266 was allocated for design work. Can the member tell me: Has that money been spent on design work? And can he provide a breakdown of how the money was spent?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** In 2023-24, the department transferred \$87,537 to Skagway for completing the 100-percent design. In 2022-23, the department transferred \$651,730 to the Skagway borough for drafting up to the 90-percent design. That included two separate transfers. One was \$354,011 for 30-percent and 60-percent design and \$297,719 for up to 90-percent design.

The amount spent with Ausenco, the department's primary consultant, was \$79,848. That was over three years in the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 fiscals. This amount, of course, was not part of the \$739,267 spent on the design work.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** Is that in Canadian funds or American?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Canadian funds.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** Could the member tell me which design company was used? Was it in Canada or was it an American-based company, and how was this company selected?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I believe that it was a US-based company, but all the decisions on design work that were undertaken and the decision-making was done by the borough of Skagway.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** Thank you for that answer. The member also stated that he has been speaking with mining companies and mining investors on what system will work effectively for them. I am assuming that this will be ongoing. Can the member tell me whether mining companies have to pay access to use this port? If so, who will they pay? Will it be the Government of Yukon or will it be the borough of Skagway?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I just want to clarify one point. I just want to make sure that the design work — I am just going to make sure that it was a US office versus a Canadian office, but we can come back on that. But again, this was the borough of Skagway.

I will break that into two pieces. I think that the first question was really about the technology. It is really about what we talked about a few minutes ago I believe and if I interpreted the question properly. What is the best system to use? Is it the container bulk system — meaning: Are you going to put it in a container and then are you going to ship concentrate in that form? Or are you going to have a truck and are you going to put it in the back of a truck, which normally happens, versus a flat deck and are you going to cover it and move it to Skagway and then are you going to put it into an ore storage area and then are you going to move it on a conveyor?

I will say that there is a perspective coming from different places within industry. I would say that initially industry broadly wanted to keep the exact same system that has been in place — maybe with a modern version of it — but to use a conveyor system.

There are many people in the community — not all, but I know that there are many people in the community of Skagway, in the borough, who do not ever want to see a conveyor system. Quite simply, they speak about a level of contamination that

exists in the harbour in Skagway. The residents in Skagway don't have the ability to eat the shellfish and take part in a lot of traditional activities right there in the harbour that they did for years, and there is a lot of concern around how, when you're moving ore, you are going to be in a position to increase contamination.

Our due diligence would lead us to believe that a modernized system of conveyor transfer can be done in an environmentally friendly way, in an efficient way, with some of the same supply-chain technology that we have access to already. That has been the experience, I think — we have been told — in many parts of the world — South America, Asia, western Europe — where systems like this are being used.

The other conversation was about a bulk-hauling system, and that is being looked at. Some of the bigger companies seem to have a comfort level with using that type of technology. Of course, now you are dealing with a big, upfront capital expenditure on containers, and then you have to ensure that you have the right supply chain that can fit with that. In many cases, you are dealing with a laydown area either for containers before you take the concentrate out or dealing with some sort of a contained unit to put concentrate in and transfer it. I think both things are being contemplated.

When you say "industry" — I think that industry is really looking at both. I'm hearing a junior mining company that is trying to build a project and will inevitably be acquired — it will talk about their view of the technology and then the companies that are actually producing globally and that would make an acquisition — as a major company, it may have some views about what the best technology is.

What we do know and what I think is important to contemplate is that, if we haven't hit it, I think we're at about 1.3 million visitors in Skagway this upcoming year — if we haven't hit that number yet. The challenge is, for anybody who goes to Skagway in the summer, it's difficult just to get into Skagway in the summertime or even some of the shoulder season time with the amount of traffic coming in and out of Skagway. That's why it's really important to understand the volumes. Are you looking at multiple producing projects that will be moving into that area? Does it make sense to look at a different system that uses a spur line with rail? That's why all of these different conversations are happening. I think that industry is really quite engaged and we're there to help it, but I think there will be a direct line of information coming back and forth. That kind of gives you a sense. I'm not giving a definitive position on a type of technology, but those are the pros and cons that exist.

The terms sheet that we signed contemplates a discount for Yukon companies. So, our view is that the borough of Skagway is in control, and there would be a discount of 25 percent for those companies in the Yukon that are shipping ore.

I am going to leave it at that. We are in the supplementary budget debate right now, but certainly, as we go forward and get closer to a binding agreement, we will have a better sense of all the mechanisms. Again, as we scope out the volumes, it will give us a better sense of the best technology. Depending on

the technology, we will understand who the operator is. Based on the operator, we will see where we are with the borough.

Just to clarify from earlier today, KPFF Consulting Engineers was the group that did the design work. They are a Seattle-based company. Again, Ausenco, which I spoke about earlier, is a consultant that specializes in this field of work and they are based in Vancouver.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** I thank the Member for Porter Creek South for his answers. I thank the staff for being here for us. That is it for me. I will hand it over to the Third Party.

**Ms. White:** I thank my colleague from Porter Creek North and echo the welcome to the officials and all the rest of it.

With the cancellation or current pause on the Skagway marine platform, we know that during the budget speech there was the expectation that it would move forward. Can the minister help us understand when we might see that funding request come through again?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** There is still \$44.65 million in our capital plan. That is over three years — 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28. We are anticipating that we can get to an agreement over the next year and that the private sector will be able to follow through on the requests from the borough of Skagway on volumes.

We will have an opportunity to still be able to work with the borough around retendering, hopefully with a multitude of interest to lead to a more competitive nature, and we will also have a sense, at that point, on the due diligence on what type of infrastructure for concentrate transfer would be most appropriate for the industry and still be congruent with the marine services platform build-out.

**Ms. White:** Thank you, Deputy Chair, and I thank the minister for the answer.

What does Yukon get from the \$735,000 increase for Raw TV's *Gold Rush* television series? What do we get for that money?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I think that it is a broader conversation on looking from jurisdiction to jurisdiction about how we incentivize investment into film. We know that there is a two-point — what do we get? First of all, I guess a \$2.9-million direct spend into the Yukon. That is everything from hospitality to vehicle rentals to hotel rooms to long-term rental employment opportunities, which are quite outlined in the agreement that we sign. This is part of the strategy that we work with industry on — still having some of these organizations — we have two or three now — that are coming in and really looking at our location funding, and that, of course, leads to really significant investment into the sector. In this case — I have heard it loud and clear from Dawson. I think that for anybody who has spent time there, it's just asking what this means to the diversity of their economy and also being a pipeline.

We have a lot of individuals now who have gone to work in Dawson City or Keno with Raw TV and then have used that as a leap-pad into their own projects or other work. We have a great production that has just been shot by Kelly Milner and *Northern Tails* — pretty exciting. I know that even in that, the

discussions with the crew there — some of those individuals at some point took time to work with Raw, and now they have their interest in the industry. So, I think that it is the legacy capacity building, and I think that it is the direct spend, supporting a number of businesses and then, of course, it continues to provide employment opportunities, summer to summer, for individuals through our media fund.

**Ms. White:** Thank you, Deputy Chair, and I thank the minister for that. I was just checking to be sure that I remembered correctly. It was indeed Raw TV's *Gold Rush* that was fined under the *Environment Act* in 2017. It was fined \$31,000 for bad behaviour. I just wanted to see if it was the same, and it is. I am sure they learned lessons and won't do some more things again.

I actually don't have any other questions right now for the supplementary budget. I am looking forward to having conversations around the main budget.

**Mr. Dixon:** I appreciate the opportunity. I have a few questions. For the benefit of my colleague from Marsh Lake, I will only have a couple of questions. I won't have 30 minutes' worth of questions, luckily, just for his inquiry.

I would like to return to the port. The minister has said that the port has been removed from the budget. That is what we have in the supplementary here today. In the discourse following the tabling of the budget and the announcement of this, it has been stated that it is still in the five-year capital plan. Can the Premier confirm that the Skagway marine port is still in the five-year capital plan?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I want to be very clear. In the preamble to the question, it was — yes, we are stating that there was a removal from this fiscal year that is just ending, and that is what is reflected.

Moving forward in the next mains, you will not see dollars for the upcoming fiscal year that have to do with this project, but in our overall defined capital moving forward, we know that there is \$44.65 million on the out years that we have put in place based on what we saw in response to the original RFP.

**Mr. Dixon:** So, the \$44.6 million that the Premier has referenced with regard to this project — I don't see it in the five-year capital plan. Perhaps he could point me to the page that it is on or where I could find reference to this project in the five-year capital plan.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I can tell you that it is certainly not in the supplementary budget which we are discussing today. We will be happy to define and point to our funds in the mains, but today, we are talking about a decrease on this particular project versus — not what we have going forward over the next couple of years.

**Mr. Dixon:** From the sounds of it, the Premier would prefer me to ask this question in the mains budget for debate, but with due respect, this supplementary budget removes the expenditure for this line item. We don't see it any of the four projections of Yukon government's planning documents, including the five-year capital plan, and so we are left wondering if this project is indeed anywhere on Yukon government's books. The minister has said that it's in a future year, but I'm not aware of any other \$44-million capital project

that's on Yukon government's books that is not mentioned in the five-year capital plan.

Can the Premier give me any sort of indication as to why this project isn't in the five-year capital plan?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Again, I will just reiterate that I'm happy to discuss forward-looking expenditures in the main budget. Today, there are a few different pieces here that we have touched on that really have to do with the supplementary budget. I look forward to the discussion about the Economic Development budget in the mains. I think that will probably be a good time to have a dialogue, and we will talk about the \$44.65 million at that point.

**Mr. Dixon:** I will take the Premier's point that this is a question we will put to him in the mains debate about this subject, because he's obviously not willing to answer it today.

With regard to the supplementary budget, we had heard from the Department of Justice during their briefing that Economic Development was providing funding to pay for some security at 405 Alexander. Can the Premier confirm if that is the case, and if so, how much is in the supplementary budget, and how much is planned going forward?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** There was just two months of funding. The contract was for \$50,000. It was from Economic Development for Sirius Security in the downtown core. We then moved the expenditure over to the Department of Health and Social Services for the remainder of the fiscal year.

**Deputy Chair:** Is there any further general debate on Vote 7, Department of Economic Development, in Bill No. 212, entitled *Third Appropriation Act 2023-24*?

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

**Ms. White:** Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 7, Department of Economic Development, cleared or carried, as required.

### **Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 7, Department of Economic Development, cleared or carried**

**Deputy Chair:** The Member for Takhini-Kopper King has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 7, Department of Economic Development, cleared or carried, as required.

Is there unanimous consent?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

#### ***On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures***

***Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$735,000 agreed to***

#### ***On Capital Expenditures***

***Total Capital Expenditures underexpenditure in the amount of \$21,300,000 agreed to***

***Total Expenditures underexpenditure in the amount of \$20,565,000 agreed to***

***Department of Economic Development agreed to***

**Deputy Chair:** The matter now before the Committee is general debate on Vote 51, Department of Community Services, in Bill No. 212, entitled *Third Appropriation Act 2023-24*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

**Deputy Chair:** Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter now before the Committee is general debate on Vote 51, Department of Community Services, in Bill No. 212, entitled *Third Appropriation Act 2023-24*.

### **Department of Community Services**

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

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Deputy Chair, broadly, we are speaking about two things in Community Services' latest supplementary budget. It is simple, really. This afternoon, we are talking about addition and subtraction — an overall reduction in our capital budget and an increase in our operation and maintenance budget. In the end, there will be less money spent this year through our department, so that is the spoiler.

I will briefly delve into the details — then on to the no doubt incisive questions from the opposition on this relatively straightforward supplementary budget, which is helping to ease stress for folks in the Klondike Valley and make the territory more fire resistant.

This supplementary budget advances our very important work to improve waste management in the Yukon and supports our athletes who recently won a passel of ulus at the Arctic Winter Games in Alaska. These are all very important matters for Yukoners, which is why I look forward to this afternoon's discussion.

Fasten your seatbelts; here we go.

Humanity's dirty-fuel-induced climate change and a growing population expanding into fire-prone forest areas is making work a little more challenging for the folks at Wildland Fire Management. We found federal funding to address these challenges and others while increasing response capacity, modernizing and replacing aging equipment, and improving training. This is all good news for Yukoners. 100 percent — I will repeat that — 100 percent of the \$1.4 million that we are asking for in this supplementary estimate is recoverable from Canada's fighting and managing wildfire in a changing climate program. As well, an additional \$122,000 is 100-percent recoverable from the Government of Canada's 2 Billion Trees program, which supports us in planting fire-resistant trees in firebreaks.

This funding request supports commitments in the 2023 mandate for the Minister of Community Services, *Our Clean Future*, and reconciliation. It will also extend the response season supported by Wildland Fire Management, First Nations, and Yukon First Nations Wildfire crews and support staff and

increase funding under the First Nation initial attack agreements and unit crew services agreements.

We are indebted to everyone involved for keeping us safe. This budgetary support is one way we can all show that we appreciate their work.

We are also requesting additional sport and recreation funding — namely \$577,000 for the Canada-Yukon northern wellness agreement. This money will improve the health and well-being of Yukoners, especially children and youth. We are also asking for another \$100,000 of funding to support Yukon teams that travelled to the 2024 Arctic Winter Games. Again, 100 percent of this funding is recoverable.

It is often said but always bears repeating that an investment in sport and recreation — and especially our youth — is always money well spent. These investments provide immeasurable returns in the health and well-being of Yukoners.

I have been clear about the importance of our investments to improve services to rural residents. Maintaining and improving water, sewer, and garbage services for those living outside the capital is absolutely critical. That's why we are asking for more money to address recent pressures, including the cost of providing solid-waste services and potable water delivery services in rural Yukon.

We also made repairs to the solid-waste gasifier in Old Crow and look forward to training operators on the equipment this spring.

We have funded regional landfill agreements that will support waste management efforts. The goal is supporting municipalities in their efforts to manage garbage while ensuring that every Yukoner has access to well-managed and controlled, modern, environmentally responsible landfills, similar to those seen across the country.

Now we are turning to subtraction. Community Services is returning money related to infrastructure developments as a result of updated cash-flow projections on various projects. We administer federal infrastructure funding on behalf of our colleagues in other levels of government. In this role, we carefully track spending, ensuring that projects are adequately funded.

One vehicle to fund our partner governments is a transfer payment agreement. These agreements put responsibility on the respective municipal or First Nation government to finish the project. Spending on such agreements can be difficult to fully predict. This year, this has resulted in part of our lapse along with regulatory delays that have led to some spending on projects being deferred until the next fiscal year. In simpler terms, some of the projects were delayed by regulatory processes, and some of our partners ultimately did not need as much money as they said that they would this year. As a result, we are returning some money to the government coffers.

That ends my introductory remarks, and I look forward to questions from the opposition.

**Ms. McLeod:** Thank you, Deputy Chair, and I want to thank the minister for making his officials available today to help us with our questions in the limited time that we have.

The minister raised the matter of sewer and water in our rural communities, so I wonder if the department could provide

us with a breakdown of what the costs are for delivering that potable water in the communities of Carcross, Old Crow, Ross River, and Keno.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Deputy Chair, I will tell the member opposite this afternoon that we have a \$250,000 increase for water delivery costs and \$1.24 million for solid-waste costs. That is for costs for new attendants, waste transfer costs, tipping fees, repairs, and maintenance, including brush-burning and more from people who are firesmartering.

**Ms. McLeod:** The minister has provided me with the breakdown with the increased budget amount of \$1.5 million, I believe it was. Does the department track a cost breakdown for, for instance, water delivery in those four communities that I mentioned?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I thank the member opposite for the question. Yes, we do.

**Ms. McLeod:** Deputy Chair, I wonder, then, if the minister has those numbers, because that is what I had asked for in my first question.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Very astute of the member opposite — I do not have those numbers with me this afternoon. I have my deputy here; we don't have the full package. My finance person, Phil, unfortunately was not able to make it this afternoon. However, I'm sure that we will have another opportunity to delve into this subject in more detail.

Seeing the time, I move that you report progress.

**Deputy Chair:** It has been moved by the Member for Whitehorse West 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. 212, entitled *Third 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:** Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

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

*Motion agreed to*

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

*The House adjourned at 5:28 p.m.*

**The following document was filed March 19, 2024:**

35-1-177

Yukon's policing priorities for 2024-25, letter re (dated March 5, 2024) from Hon. Tracy-Anne McPhee, Minister of Justice, to Chief Superintendent Scott Sheppard, commanding officer, RCMP M Division (McPhee)