



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 211

1st Session

35th Legislature

HANSARD

Wednesday, October 30, 2024 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Jeremy Harper

YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2024 Fall Sitting

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

CABINET MINISTERS

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

OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

Yukon Party

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

THIRD PARTY

New Democratic Party

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

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Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Wednesday, October 30, 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: Are there any visitors to be introduced?
Visitors introduced

Speaker: Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of Car 867

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Yukon Liberal government to pay tribute to the dedicated team behind Car 867, the mobile crisis response team, as they mark their second anniversary of service to Yukoners.

Launched in October 2022, Car 867, which includes an RCMP officer and a mental health nurse, was created with the purpose of providing compassionate, immediate, and trauma-informed support to Yukoners experiencing mental health crises. In its two years of operation, Car 867 has responded to more than 775 calls for service. Each one of these calls represents a person in crisis — a Yukoner who needs care, understanding, and specialized support.

By pairing a specially trained RCMP officer with a mental health nurse, Car 867 has given Yukoners the opportunity to access care on-site, making a meaningful difference when it is needed most. The impact of Car 867 goes well beyond the numbers. This team has brought comfort and provided dignity to individuals in some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives. For those experiencing distress, Car 867 has become a trusted presence, offering safety planning, mental health assessments, and referrals.

This team has successfully reduced strain on Yukon hospitals and kept people out of the criminal justice system when appropriate, ensuring that people in crisis receive the care that they need. What makes Car 867 truly exceptional is the dedication of the individuals who make it work. The RCMP officers and the mental health nurses who operate Car 867 bring skill, empathy, and professionalism to every call, meeting people where they are and helping them find stability. Their efforts are grounded in respect and compassion, reflecting the very best of what community care should look like.

Car 867 is based in Whitehorse but has reached across our territory, supporting other Yukon communities when needed.

As we recognize this second anniversary, we honour not just the service itself but the people who bring it to life every

day. To each team member, your work is a lifeline and it is deeply valued and appreciated.

Let us celebrate this milestone and look forward with hope. With Car 867, we are reminded that together we can implement innovative programs to build a Yukon that provides timely, compassionate, and effective mental health support for all.

Applause

Ms. White: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP and the Yukon Party to celebrate the valuable and hard work done by all of those who bring mental health supports to Yukoners experiencing crisis.

For years, the community encouraged all of us to imagine a mental health response team that could be dispatched to Yukoners in a time of crisis. Car 867 is answering that call.

We thank those with the specialized training who use their skills, empathy, and compassion to support Yukoners when they need it most.

Applause

In recognition of Canadian Library Month

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Mr. Speaker, today we are paying tribute to libraries and institutions dating back to when archives of clay tablets were found in present-day Syria — say, 5,000 years ago, give or take.

In his Pulitzer prize-winning book *The Swerve: How The World Became Modern*, Stephen Greenblatt wrote about Italian book-hunters in the 14th century searching for lost masterpieces in the monasteries of Europe. They were hunting down written ideas that had been shelved, forgotten, and subsequently lost to humanity — think of it as a true life *Raiders of the Lost Ark* adventure for book lovers. The lost toms were long-lost libraries in remote mountain monasteries — it's remarkable — and let me tell you that *The Swerve* is a gripping yarn.

Today's libraries serve much the same purpose as those monasteries used to and more — much more. They are known places where people can meet, exchange ideas, search for ideas, information, simple entertainment, or write a few words to yourself or to a friend in an e-mail.

We pay tribute to libraries every year in this House and for good reason. As I have said before, our libraries very much support us. In fact, within their walls, they chronicle our world in all its complexity and splendor and, by doing so, help to shape our understanding of it and our place in it. They are a bridge from our present to our past and a window on the future, and as Greenblatt so beautifully writes, they have been so for literally thousands of years. They are repositories of ideas — ideas that can be shared across centuries. Once again, I ask everyone to think about that for a moment.

Like many Yukoners, I'm thankful to have a safe social setting to get together and talk, read, and share a bit of news or an idea. I encourage everyone to visit the Whitehorse Public Library or their own local library in their region.

While there, please take moment to thank the library staff who do such a good job managing and curating the collections for the benefit of the community. It is an important job and key to the critical service they provide.

As Greenblatt wrote, until the 14th century, the cumulative writing of mankind was fractured and tenuous. For long centuries, monasteries had been virtually the only institutions that cared about books.

The Yukon is fortunate to be rich with libraries. Our territory not only enjoys 15 public libraries, but we also have the Yukon Public Law Library, the Yukon Archives, the Yukon University library, the Energy, Mines and Resources Library, not to mention all the school libraries as well. Each is a vital hub that helps us understand different points of view and defends freedom of expression, which is something important to me. So, that is something to celebrate.

Applause

Ms. McLeod: I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to recognize October as Canadian Library Month. “Libraries for Life” is the theme this year — a fitting theme that recognizes that libraries are important for people of all ages.

Fostering a love of learning and reading early in kids helps them to experience a lifetime love for books and for libraries. We all know the benefits of reading for kids and adults alike. It helps imagination, creativity, and vocabulary expansion.

Now, the Member for Kluane must have spent some quality time in the library in his lifetime, because he is quite the word bird, as we all know.

Libraries ensure that books are available to all — variety, selection, and free of cost — and, best of all, no late fees for those who can’t quite make it back in time. They provide access to reading material, movies, periodicals, the Internet, Wi-Fi, accessible resources, technologies, and more. There is access to photocopying, outreach services, or the extensive expertise of any of the knowledgeable staff and librarians available. They also provide a space to curl up with a book or for families with small children to browse and read. There are workshops, youth programming, book readings by authors, and story times for kids. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful network of libraries throughout rural Yukon and an interlibrary loan program to ship book requests where they need to be.

In addition to librarians and staff in our Yukon Public Library system, I would like to recognize those working in school libraries, at the university, the law library, the Yukon Family Literacy Centre, Yukon Archives, and other places that make books and reading available for all Yukoners.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy library month.

Applause

MLA Tredger: I rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP to celebrate Canadian Library Month. Albert Einstein is quoted as saying: “The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.” I couldn’t agree more. Every time I walk into the library, it somehow feels like comfort and adventure at the same time. There is the dizzying potential of so many books to read and things to learn and, at the same time, a cozy contentment of knowing that this is the place where you could stay a long time without getting bored.

Libraries are more than rows of books and computer terminals. They are even about more than literacy. Libraries are the hubs of communities. They allow people to access and share information. They allow parents the ability to share the magic of stories with their children, seniors the ability to read a paper, and for everyone to be able to access the Internet. In the Yukon, we have seen librarians innovate with interactive programs for kids, youth, and adults with everything from science clubs to author talks. You can borrow and use an incredible range of materials — everything from book sets for your book club to accessible materials like audiobooks and books in Braille.

Public libraries are funded by our community for our community. Regardless of your income or status, libraries are a place for everyone to access support, knowledge, and tools with no barriers and no cost. Libraries are truly public institutions and librarians are the champions of information. So, thank you to those champions for everything you do.

Happy Canadian Library Month.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling today a copy of a letter sent by the Minister of Justice to me.

Hon. Mr. Silver: Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of legislative returns.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling the 2023-24 Yukon Arts Centre corporate annual report and financial statements, which are tabled pursuant to section 12(3) of the *Arts Centre Act*.

I also have for tabling the annual report of the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board.

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling today a letter from the school council of EWES supporting the Whitehorse Elementary School replacement project.

Mr. Dixon: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling a letter addressed to me, dated October 23, from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business entitled “Rising crime weighs heavy on Yukon small business owners”.

Ms. White: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling today the report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly entitled *Stanton Territorial Hospital Renewal Project*.

Speaker: Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House congratulates Yukon University for their milestone achievement in becoming the 97th member of Universities Canada.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House celebrates the first-ever majority female legislature in British Columbia following the 2024 election results.

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

THAT this House celebrates the late Bob Hayes and the late Peter Milner for their induction into the Canadian Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to recognize the heritage and tourism values of the Canyon Creek bridge, originally constructed in 1903, by exploring opportunities to rehabilitate the structure rather than demolish it.

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

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Property crime in Whitehorse

Ms. Van Bibber: Mr. Speaker, yesterday when I asked questions that the business community had raised about the surge in crime, the Premier questioned whether or not it was actually Yukon businesses that were raising this issue, so I would like to assure him that it is. In fact, it was just last month that the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce raised the seriousness of this in the public presentation. Here is what they said — quote: “The business community wishes to stress that this issue is of utmost importance. It is affecting their very ability to stay in business.”

In light of those comments, does the Premier think that his government is taking enough action to stop the surge in crime in Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, I think it’s important, for clarity — there was a report that the member opposite spoke to directly yesterday, and I think that most members of the House felt that this report was referred to as containing data from the Yukon. I had gone through the report; I didn’t see anything about the Yukon there. So, that’s exactly what it’s referring to, and maybe during the second question, just to clarify, is there anything in that report that refers to the Yukon specifically?

We talked about, yesterday, the many strategies that we’re deploying, because we do think it’s a problem. We have sat down with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; we have sat down with a number of government departments. Yesterday, I highlighted some of the things that we’re doing. We talked

about making sure that there are more members in Whitehorse, in downtown, to help us with these challenges, making sure that we have a program that, of course, is in the supplementary budget, which we look to hopefully have supported and will specifically be rolled out to help businesses. We’ll speak more to that in the coming weeks. We’re doing that work in conjunction with business organizations.

We also talked about the addition to more capacity for SCAN and we think that’s important. So, there are a number of things that we will continue to invest in, and again, we hope the opposition will support us in those endeavours.

Ms. Van Bibber: Whether it’s in the news, on social media, or hearing directly from business owners, it’s absolutely clear they are feeling the effects of this crime wave, and it’s not just hurting them economically. It’s starting to affect their employees, and it’s discouraging entrepreneurs from starting new businesses.

Despite this, the business community does not feel that the government is doing enough. Here’s another quote from their presentation in September — quote: “Where is the government’s response? Where is the justice system? Where is the law and order that we expect our governments to provide?”

Mr. Speaker, can the government explain how it has gotten so bad?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments and respect those comments from September. What you would have seen is that, throughout the month of September, later in the month of September, we rolled out our response to what was happening. Of course, if you look at the timeline — those comments, then the response — then the important thing is to put the resources behind that response.

The supplementary budget that is before the House this fall specifically has those items, the response, and what we’re hearing from business. And what I’m hearing is having more RCMP officers, having more capacity at SCAN, rolling out a program that is specifically for business to take on those challenges; those are things that people are looking forward to.

I know that it must be difficult, because you’re going to ask me those questions, but I also hope that the member opposite and her colleagues will get up and stand and support the tools that we need to make sure those are in place — to make sure that the supplementary budget is supported — and that’s not just about downtown safety, but it’s about as well health and social aspects of our community.

Some of the most important priorities that we see from the opposition are all reflected in that supplementary budget. So, we have those tools in front of us, and we’ll have an opportunity to collectively vote for those tools later in the session.

Ms. Van Bibber: I will turn it into the words of the business community — quote: “We are now seeing regular armed robberies in this community. This has left many business owners feeling helpless, as there is minimal legal recourse available to them.”

Does the Liberal government think that they are doing enough to restore the faith of the business community and of all Yukoners in our justice system?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Well, it's important to note that there are certain tools that we have and partnerships, whether it's making sure that there is more money for the RCMP, which you saw in the spring budget and which you see now in the supplementary budget; it's working through the Justice department to look at these reoccurring offender programs, which we touched on yesterday. It was in place I believe up to 2014, and then it was removed. We think that is a good program. We have sat down with the British Columbia government on some of that work.

You know, I spoke to the individual who was previously in charge of the program here in the Yukon, who is now a well-known leader in our municipalities, who was specifically in charge of that program. So, the timing, again, for that was interesting. I asked him why the program was removed, and in that discussion, he wasn't sure. But look, we think that is important work that should come back again to the Yukon, and we are clearly listening to the business community, and yes, we think that the business community working with organizations like the Whitehorse chamber and the Yukon chamber as well as working with supports in the Yukon government can make big differences.

This is, of course, not just specific to the Yukon, but these are challenges that we are seeing; we think that they are serious and we want to take them on.

Question re: Bail system reform

Mr. Dixon: It's not just the business community that feels let down by the current justice system. Yukoners across the territory are losing faith in our justice system each and every day because of repeated examples of its failure to keep our community safe and deliver justice for victims. Whether it's the Liberal government in Ottawa or the Liberal government here in Yukon, it's clear that things have never been so bad.

The best example of this is the catch-and-release bail system. Despite calling the system a "revolving door", the Premier has failed to express any single change that his government would like to see made to the bail system. I will give him a chance to do so now. What specific changes does this Liberal government want to see the federal Liberal government make to the catch-and-release bail system?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: This is a question we had yesterday and then spent several hours in Question Period and then spent several hours yesterday discussing it in the debate on the supplementary budget for the Department of Justice. I very much look forward to that being supported by the members opposite, because they have expressed concern for all of the implementation and support for all of the programs. Hopefully, they will do so with this vote.

The Department of Justice is taking new actions that will be implemented in the 2024-25 fiscal year to address community safety concerns in Whitehorse, including: funding two additional RCMP members to complement the current Whitehorse detachment; support for one additional investigator to the safer communities and neighbourhoods unit; development of a new funding program to support crime prevention initiatives for businesses, NGOs, and organizations

who have been impacted by crime; and funding for a community safety and well-being plan, to be developed in partnership with the City of Whitehorse, that brings together community perspectives and identifies key actions for safety and well-being.

The department is also facilitating a restorative justice circle at 405 Alexander on a regular basis, providing opportunities for healing, knowledge-sharing, and constructive dialogue to interact with that organization.

Mr. Dixon: I would note that it was the Premier who called the system a "revolving-door" system and called for changes; yet while he may be unclear about what changes are needed, I will not be.

Yesterday, I wrote to the Prime Minister calling for specific changes to be made to the Liberals' failed catch-and-release bail system. I asked the Prime Minister for the removal of credits for time served for repeat and violent offenders, and I asked for the removal of bail availability for serious crimes, including murder, terrorism, and human trafficking. It's clear that the Liberals' bail system needs a complete overhaul, but in the meantime, these are real, tangible changes that can be made immediately.

So, will the Premier of Yukon join me in calling for the federal government to make these changes immediately?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, while I appreciate — and I'm sure the Prime Minister will — having legal advice from the Leader of the Official Opposition, it's not quite as easy as he describes it to be.

Provisions that shift the burden to the accused to demonstrate that detention is unwarranted are called "reverse onus". These amendments expand the reverse-onus provisions, and they were expanded by Bill C-48, which came as a result of letters written by the premiers, including our Premier, to the Prime Minister and then directed to the Department of Justice, where those changes were made in quite short order.

In January 2024, Bill C-48 came to be. It works to strengthen public safety by targeting repeat violent offenders and those accused of serious offences committed with firearms or other dangerous weapons, part of what is being called for here. This work is being monitored, as I noted yesterday, at some length. We spoke about this at a recent federal-provincial-territorial meeting of ministers from across the country, including the two federal ministers responsible for Public Safety and the Department of Justice at the federal level, and that conversation will and must continue as we monitor the impact of Bill C-48 and what other additional changes could and should be made.

Mr. Dixon: Mr. Speaker, I should remind the minister that, since the passage of Bill C-48, her Premier has written to the Government of Canada and noted that it didn't go far enough. The Premier has been quick to criticize the federal Liberals' failed catch-and-release bail system. He has even referred to it as a "revolving door".

Well, Mr. Speaker, it's time to back those words up with actual specific policies. I have proposed two clear policy changes: the removal of credits for time served for repeat and

violent offenders and the removal of bail availability for certain serious crimes.

So, will the Premier stand up and join me in calling on the federal Liberals to make changes to our failed catch-and-release bail system, or will he continue to sit on his hands?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, again, I think it's important to note that at least some — I haven't heard all of the crimes noted, the *Criminal Code* offences noted, by the member opposite. But certainly, reverse onus is primarily required for individuals trying to seek bail as a result of being charged with those criminal offences. I'm not sure what the impact of that request would be — but certainly worth exploring.

In the matter of repeat offenders and violent offenders and the bail system — involved many complex factors. Amendments to the *Criminal Code* are only one part of a solution. We will be monitoring the effectiveness, as I have said, as every minister of Justice and public safety across the country has committed to doing within each of our jurisdictions, and we remain mindful of the potential impacts of these measures, including the Charter rights that must be protected and the impacts on those who are overrepresented in the justice system, including Indigenous peoples, Black and other racialized people, and other marginalized groups.

All of these factors must be taken into account in addressing what is a very complex system — and must be designed to both protect Yukoners and protect Canadians from serious violent crime.

Question re: Support for seniors

Ms. Blake: Mr. Speaker, earlier, I asked the minister about cuts to seniors income supplements. The Yukon seniors income supplement that low-income seniors received in October was a shock, as it was much lower than it had been previously. When I asked about this at the beginning of the month, the minister assured us that — quote: "... there has been a reduction with respect to the Yukon seniors income supplement, but there has been an increase with respect to the federal old age security, which covers that, plus additional funds."

We have heard from low-income seniors that, after receiving their federal old age security, their cheques are still \$50 or more short of what they were before.

Why is this government clawing back funds from seniors?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, let's be clear: This government is not clawing back amounts that are available to seniors for the Yukon seniors income supplement payments or anything else. Quite frankly, when the federal government programs increased old age security payments, it impacted the guaranteed income supplement that is available to Yukoners here and prompted a decrease in the Yukon seniors income supplement payments. Most Yukon seniors income supplement recipient payments decreased by \$76.81 but were increased by more than \$100 from the federal program.

We have had seniors reach out with further concerns now that they have received their old age security payments, and we are currently investigating to ensure that Yukon seniors income

supplement payments are correct — that if there are underpayments, those will be fixed immediately, and we will ensure that those payments are corrected as soon as possible.

We are working closely with our finance team and the Government of Canada to review the formulas and our procedures and how that played out in the pockets of seniors. We are very supportive of making sure that no senior has had an adverse impact as a result of these changes.

Ms. Blake: Mr. Speaker, the minister assured us that seniors' incomes would increase due to changes to the federal income supplement. Instead, they have decreased. Many seniors who have received a smaller-than-usual first monthly payment were left struggling to decide whether to pay their bills or buy food. They hung on waiting for the increase that the minister promised would come from the federal government that could help them balance their budgets.

Will the government reverse their clawback to seniors?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, our government will do everything in our power to make sure that no Yukon senior is adversely impacted by this change with respect to the federal government.

The calculations are done by the federal government. That's why we are currently investigating the details of this situation and who has been affected. We, please, encourage all seniors to come forward if they have had difficulty or have had a change in the payment that they either don't understand or don't think is correct. We are very keen to make sure that we can deal with folks and make sure that they are made whole.

We are implementing measures to alert recipients when these changes will happen if they do happen in the future and prior to receiving the payment, because that's the right thing to do. We will notify recipients as soon as possible when we are made aware of a federal rate change that will, in fact, impact the Yukon seniors income supplement.

Again, I urge people who have had difficulties to please contact us so that we can help resolve the situation for them.

Ms. Blake: Mr. Speaker, on October 15, the minister said — quote: "The notification regarding the change of the amount that is paid to Yukoners under that system is coming." That was in response to our question about why seniors had not been notified that they were facing cuts to the Yukon seniors income supplement.

Yesterday, we heard from multiple seniors that they were still waiting to hear from the government, and they are left more confused and worried, as their second payments have now come in and they have seen a decrease to their income instead of the increase.

Can the minister explain to Yukon seniors why their income is lower than expected?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, as I have said, this change in the payments for Yukon seniors income supplement payments to Yukon seniors is a result of federal programs having increased old age security payments and the impact that this has on the guaranteed income supplement. That change is prompted by a decision at the federal government level.

The calculations are done as a result of work at the federal government level. We have had seniors reach out to us, and I

encourage anyone else — if the member opposite knows of anyone, perhaps they could provide us with that information, because we understand there may be further concerns with those who have received their old age security payments and they may not be correct.

We will work with individual seniors and with seniors organizations to make sure that this doesn't happen again — so long as we are aware of the change in the federal program — and then make sure that we are committed to Yukon seniors to make sure that not only are they aware of it but, if there are any adverse impacts, we are helping them to resolve them.

Question re: Diabetes treatment

Mr. Kent: Mr. Speaker, CBC Yukon followed up this morning on the story of a Yukon family who is living with type 1 diabetes, or T1D. The family had to wait until the week before their young child started kindergarten to get confirmation that an educational assistant, or EA, would be assigned to help manage her disease while she was attending school. While the family is grateful for the support, they did talk about the unnecessary stress this put them through and there is no guarantee of support going forward into future grades.

Will the Minister of Education implement a policy that guarantees EA support for students living with type 1 diabetes?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I will start, of course, by saying that, for privacy reasons, the Department of Education cannot — and I will not — speak about details of an individual student or family on the floor of the Legislative Assembly. What I will say is that Yukon schools work to ensure the safety of every student, including those living with medical conditions.

When a student is in need of extra support, it is a highly personal process where school teams work with families to find a path forward that meets the students' needs to keep them safe. The Department of Education thanks the type 1 diabetes support network for its ongoing advocacy and efforts to ensure that students with type 1 diabetes receive the right supports in school. The Department of Education has advanced work to support these students and their families.

Some of this work includes providing training for staff specifically on type 1 diabetes and also working closely with the Health and Social Services chronic care program. These training sessions held at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year were well-attended by school staff and, of course, there are a number of other steps we have taken that I'm happy to talk about today.

Mr. Kent: On January 4, 2022, the Yukon T1D Support Network wrote a letter to the Leader of the Official Opposition in his capacity as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. This was part of the 2022 hearing held on the K to 12 public education. In the letter, they said — quote: "Since 2018, the Network has been trying to see implementation of Type 1 diabetes policies in K-12 schools, to no avail."

It has been almost three years since this letter was sent and seven years since they started advocating for change. How many times has the minister met with the Yukon T1D Support

Network since her appointment as minister in 2021, and do we now have type 1 diabetes policies in place for K to 12 schools?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, some of the other steps that we're taking are finalizing a new type 1 diabetes health care plan with Health and Social Services to help families share essential information specifically to type 1 diabetes within schools and exploring the role of educational assistants in student support teams with a focus on individualized approaches that support students' independence and access to education.

We're in the process right now of recruiting for a newly created type 1 diabetes support case manager position to increase in-school supports. This position will work directly with students' families and schools to support the well-being and academic success of students with type 1 diabetes.

Notably, while this work marks important progress, we recognize that continued efforts are essential to fully support the needs of students with type 1 diabetes at schools and school-related activities. I can certainly add more context around the work that we're doing as we move forward with the questions today.

Mr. Kent: Mr. Speaker, we're approaching seven years since the Yukon T1D Support Network started asking for policies on the care of children with type 1 diabetes, so action is long overdue. The letter that they sent to the Public Accounts Committee concludes by saying — quote: "In sum, the Network believes that the Department of Education's response to the Auditor General's recommendation that there be a full review of the services and supports for inclusive education is inadequate as it fails to incorporate the needs and perspectives of children with disease."

I'm going to ask again: How many times has the minister met with this organization in the three years since they sent this letter? When can we expect to see updated policies that reflect the needs of students who are living with disease? Will the Minister of Education implement a policy that guarantees EA support for students living with type 1 diabetes?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I think I have spoken to all of what has been contained in the questions today regarding this very important matter around the health, safety, and well-being of students in our school system.

We have certainly worked with T1D Support Network to review the existing administration of medication to students policy and procedures and to identify and remedy any gaps, specifically for students with type 1 diabetes. All Yukon schools will follow this policy, which requires planned care and support for students with various medical conditions, including diabetes.

Education, again, is recruiting for a new position for a T1D support case manager, which will help students, schools, and families navigate the complexities of living with type 1 diabetes in school. We are exploring the role of educational assistants — as I have said already today — for students with type 1 diabetes, with a focus of individualized approaches that support student independence, safety, and access to education.

We do have a number of students who are living with type 1 diabetes in our school system, and we will continue to support them in the best way that we can.

Question re: Prolific offender management program

Mr. Cathers: While the Liberals' failed catch-and-release bail system requires changes at the federal level, there are changes that can be made at the territorial level too. The National Police Federation has specifically called for provincial and territorial governments to take action.

In 2011, the Yukon Party government created a prolific offender management program to address the problem of a small number of offenders who commit the greatest volume of crime. In a February 2017 letter, the Minister of Justice confirmed that the program was still operational and ongoing. Yesterday, the minister said that the program had been cancelled, but it is clear from her letter that it was cancelled after 2017.

Can the minister tell us when that program was cancelled and why?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I think what is important for Yukoners to know is that a repeat offender management program is instituted in many jurisdictions in the country, including mentioned in the news release that we have been speaking about at some length with the member opposite and the Leader of the Official Opposition yesterday and today.

The Department of Justice is exploring a repeat offender management approach intended to mitigate criminogenic risk factors and to address the needs of repeat offenders and, in turn, address the needs of communities that need to be safe from repeat offenders. This approach will engage offenders in a behaviour-change process that is necessary for them to stop the cycle of offending behaviour while increasing support, monitoring, and enforcement — a complex issue, for sure, but one that is part of many solutions that need to be addressed and brought forward in our community to deal with crime rates and the proliferation of crime here in the territory and in many places across Canada.

Mr. Cathers: Well, the minister didn't even come close to answering my question. Yesterday, the Minister of Justice claimed that this repeat offender management program was cancelled by the Yukon Party in 2014, which we knew was incorrect, and then the Premier repeated that claim.

This letter from her, signed in February of 2017, makes it very clear that the program was actually still up and running when the Liberals took office. Since we know that this program is no longer in operation because the minister said so yesterday, it must have been cancelled sometime after the minister wrote this letter to me in February of 2017.

So, can the minister tell us when the prolific offender management program was cancelled and why?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Justice has started preliminary conversations with related stakeholders to better understand programming needs and to explore previous iterations of this concept and understand the work that is currently being done in this area. As these

conversations unfold, the Department of Justice will continue to engage with the stakeholders to bring forward programming to manage repeat offenders. We hope to do this work by the spring of 2025.

The downtown business community and the public are vocal and concerned. They are clear about their frustrations with criminal activity in the Yukon. We too find it disturbing and ultimately very difficult. I can indicate that our long-standing support and our continued support this year in the main budget and this year in the supplementary budget for RCMP resources and services to be provided to Yukoners through the very qualified officers who protect us every day on the streets of Whitehorse and across the territory is absolutely crucial, and we hope that the opposition will support it.

Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, that is twice that the minister has not answered the question. Who cancelled the prolific offender management program and why?

In her letter to me dated February 10, 2017 — weeks after she was sworn in as Minister of Justice, the minister said this — quote: "The Department of Justice, in collaboration with the RCMP and other partners, established the Prolific Offender Management in 2011. The program focusses on 15-20 offenders who are responsible for a large percentage of crime, and often the most serious crime, in Whitehorse."

By all accounts, that program seemed to be working well, but for some reason, it was cancelled at some point after the minister's 2017 letter. I think that it is important to understand: When did the Liberals cancel this program and why?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Unfortunately, once again, the member opposite doesn't have the correct information.

The repeat offender management program is an integrated evidence-based approach intended to reduce offending. It was then called the "prolific offender management", or POM, program. It was piloted for three years between 2010 and 2013.

An independent review of the program was completed in 2014, and findings suggested that there was a notable decrease in offending patterns of those who received the POM support compared to the wait-list of the control and comparison group, where there was little change over time. More than half of the POM clients responded positively to the POM program and reduced their offending.

In looking to revitalize the program, the Department of Justice will engage with stakeholders to build on previous work that explores program development options such as bail verification, increased supervision, and case management.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

The matter before the Committee is general debate on Bill No. 39, entitled *Act to amend the Forest Resources Act (2024)*. 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. 39: *Act to amend the Forest Resources Act (2024)*

Chair: The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 39, entitled *Act to amend the Forest Resources Act (2024)*.

Is there any general debate?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Madam Chair, I want to begin by welcoming back to the Assembly Deputy Minister Paul Moore, and I would also like to welcome our director of the Forest Management branch, Michelle Sicotte. This is Michelle's first time in the Assembly. I will say that all members of this Assembly appreciate the public service who come and assist us to get information for Yukoners.

The *Forest Resources Act* was the first piece of successor legislation; we have others that are in progress right now around new minerals legislation and around lands. It is really about establishing a process of the legislation to ensure that our forests are managed well, and this review that we had is about updating, improving, and making sure that our forest legislation reflects the Yukon context.

The amendments that we have before us today in Bill No. 39 are the result of a review of the *Forest Resources Act* and are important to make the legislation more effective while continuing to allow for responsible use of the Yukon's forest resources. Let me just give a few details, and then I'll see where we go with the questions from the members opposite.

Streamlining the tenure system includes a suite of amendments to reduce administrative burden, and one of these amendments is to expand the scope of the forest resources permit to increase the permitting options to encourage the salvaging and utilization of timber. Some of the amendments allow the director to issue a forest resources permit to: harvest timber for non-commercial purposes; to harvest forest resources other than timber for commercial purposes; and to sell, trade, or distribute timber harvested. These amendments encourage the use of the timber harvested, including timber harvested under other Yukon acts.

In addition, Madam Chair, we are increasing the permit term from three years to five years, with an opportunity to renew for an additional term. The longer term permit and the

opportunity for renewal will provide greater planning certainty and financing for permittees.

That is just a bit of a highlight. I'm looking forward to our conversation today and happy to answer questions from members opposite.

Mr. Kent: I would like to welcome the deputy minister and the director who are here to provide support to the minister and thank them both and their colleagues for the briefing and the follow-up — the information provided by the minister in the follow-up letter that we received on October 21, 2024 — to that briefing.

I have some general forestry questions that I just wanted to start out with, and then I have a few questions about the act itself before I turn it over to my colleague the Member for Takhini-Kopper King. The first item that I wanted to start to talk about goes back to — I believe it was a 2016 campaign commitment by the Liberal Party, and that was with respect to harvesting in the southeast Yukon.

Can the minister give us an update on what is happening with the forestry plan in the southeast Yukon? Are we any closer to finalizing it? I note from his spring briefing notes that there is a small-volume timber harvest planned for Scoby Creek and planning is underway with LFN to advance a timber harvest plan in the Poison Lake burn area. So, I am just curious if the minister can provide updates on that and then updates on a broader plan that would be designed to support any local small-scale lumber mills with saw-logs, or fuelwood, for those who are using it for firewood?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: So, late last month, the Liard First Nation's chief and council approved the *Scoby Creek Timber Harvest Plan*. The Forest Management branch issued a YESAB decision document, and we have been working with Liard First Nation. We now have a government-to-government interim wood supply plan in place. We have just recently begun issuing permits under that plan. I think currently we're at about 10,000 cubic metres of permits that have been issued.

I know that we have other work underway, for example, in the Poison Lake burn. So, there is more happening.

I had the opportunity this past, I think it was, summer — but it might have been late spring — to get down to Watson Lake to meet with the chief and some of his folks from the development corporation there to talk through about timber harvest in the area.

I think things are moving ahead and they're on a fairly positive note.

Mr. Kent: I just wanted to make sure that I heard the minister correctly. He said 10,000 cubic metres of fuelwood and saw-log supply has been approved in the Scoby Creek area? Just — when I look at this briefing note from the Spring Sitting, it said that this plan was approved to provide an immediate fuelwood and saw-log supply of up to 2,735 cubic metres of fire-killed timber to Watson Lake.

I just wanted to make sure that we're talking about the same thing. Then if we are, if the minister can explain the discrepancy between what I'm reading in the spring briefing note and the 10,000 cubic metres that he has referenced.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: There are a few things going on, so let me try to get them all clear. Then, I will see if there are further questions and just check with the department to make sure that I am relaying it fairly.

First of all, when I referred to the interim wood supply plan — that government-to-government plan — that's about developing a range of areas around Liard's traditional territory, which includes Scoby Creek but is not limited to Scoby Creek. It includes Poison Lake as well.

Last spring, we did issue, or approve, some permits — maybe it was late winter or early spring — which provided sort of 2,700 cubic metres of wood that was issued. It was utilized. We went on working under that interim wood supply government-to-government agreement and developed a larger timber harvest plan for the — Scoby Creek timber harvest plan, which was for up to 17,000 cubic metres. We have now issued permits for 10,000 cubic metres under that 17,000 cubic metre timber harvest plan.

There are several things going on at once. The member is correct about the earlier reference to 2,700. That was late last winter, early this spring, and now we have gone on to issue permits for more.

Mr. Kent: Again, just back to the spring notes — at the time, it said that planning is underway with Liard First Nation to advance a timber harvest plan in the Poison Lake burn area. So, this area would provide fuelwood and saw-logs. I just wanted to make sure that this work has been done and that it has gone through YESAB and has the decision document.

Is that one of the areas where some of this harvest has already started? It says fuelwood and sawlogs — I don't need the exact amounts, but if the minister can just give us a sense or what percentage — obviously, I won't hold him to the exact numbers, but what percentage is fuelwood versus what percentage is sawlogs?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Yes, when I referred to the Scoby Creek timber harvest plan of the 17,000 cubic metres that has gone through YESAB, a decision document has been issued and we are now issuing permits under that.

The member also asked what the breakdown is roughly of firewood versus timber, and it is roughly 20 percent timber and roughly 80 percent firewood.

Mr. Kent: Sorry, I was referring to the Poison Lake burn area, not Scoby Creek, because that is the one that I was talking about. I will just maybe give the minister an opportunity to address that.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: My apologies; I missed the reference to Poison Lake.

Yes, so because we have the Scoby Creek one sorted and we are issuing permits under it now, we have turned our attention toward Poison Lake. Again, this is under that government-to-government agreement with the Liard First Nation. The fieldwork, I think, is now complete, so we will now prepare a YESAB submission for that. So, that is where we are in that stage.

Mr. Kent: During the briefing, officials told us that most of the YESAB submissions were done by the Yukon government. Is that the case with respect to Poison Lake? Will

the YESAB submission be submitted by the Yukon government?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Madam Chair, it is still to be determined, but I will note that, under the government-to-government agreement with the Liard First Nation, our application under Scoby Creek was a joint submission between us and the Liard First Nation. We think that it's likely to be that way again with Poison Lake, but we're not quite there yet.

Mr. Kent: I guess we'll look forward to, at some point, a plan for the entire southeast region. I thank the minister for those updates on Scoby Creek and Poison Lake that he provided here today.

I do want to jump over to the *Whitehorse and Southern Lakes Forest Resources Management Plan*. The approval dates back to 2020. Looking at the executive summary in that document, at the very end, it says that the first priority is to establish an implementation agreement and identify areas for timber harvesting and fuel abatement.

Again, I'll go back to the minister's spring briefing note on this. It says that the plan implementation team has not met since 2022 because Carcross/Tagish First Nation was concerned about lack of action on the tasks identified in the MOU. It goes on to say: "In fall 2023, the Forest Management Branch began meeting with Carcross/Tagish First Nation to advance work on our commitments in the MOU." It further says: "In February 2024, the Forest Management Branch sent letters inviting the Southern Lakes First Nations to reconvene the implementation working group."

I'm looking for an update on that. Has the plan implementation team met since the spring of this year after all of these letters were sent out requesting a meeting?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I don't want to be cheeky, but I am noting that the member is using those briefing notes that we now share with the members opposite, which I think is a good thing. I am just acknowledging it. I am not looking for praise, but I think it is a good thing.

With respect to the southeast Yukon, there is broader planning work that's going on there. One of the broader steps that we're taking is to work with the community wildfire protection plan. Remember that Community Services and the wildfire team are leading that work around the Yukon. In and around Watson Lake, there's this conversation that is in that government-to-government relationship with Liard First Nation around how to complement that from a timber harvest perspective. I mentioned the work that is happening with Poison Lake, but we also have work going on with the wildfire team. I will just mention that because, when it comes to Whitehorse and Southern Lakes, we are doing that as well.

So, we have reconvened the *Whitehorse and Southern Lakes Forest Resources Management Plan* working group — that's a mouthful. That's us, but it's the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, and it also includes Wildland Fire.

The working group met earlier this month. They have plans to meet again in December, and the branch is letting me know

that those meetings are constructive and they have been productive. So, it's encouraging work in that planning effort.

Mr. Kent: I appreciate that.

I did want to jump over to the harvest area at Quill Creek, which is close to Haines Junction.

So, I know we've talked about it on the floor of the House before with respect to the wildfire season and the closure of that area from, I believe it was, April 1 to the end of October, and that was the Canadian definition of the wildfire season. I see that the April 1 closure is no longer in effect because of a fuel break that was completed, and summer harvesting can commence after August 15 in this area depending, of course, on the level of fire risk at the time. So, I just wanted to check with the minister to see if anybody did go longer than April 1 or if individuals have started in there after the August 15 start-up date that is now allowed.

Then, I am curious if that — it was my understanding that the April 1 to the end of October date was in the decision document that came out of the YESAB recommendation. So, did the decision document or the permit have to be altered to accommodate these new dates?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Madam Chair, the way that the department describes it to me is that the recommendation from YESAB and the decision document — it said: Hey, if you build this fuel break, then you will be able to go these longer dates. So, you didn't need to go back and change anything — it was contemplated — and the fuel break was built. So, away we go; we were able to use the longer dates.

Mr. Kent: So, did anyone take any of the harvesters in the area — work past April 1 or have any started since August 15? How were these changes after the fuel break was built communicated to those harvesters who are active in that area?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: We will work to try to get this information. We don't have it with us right at this moment, but if I get it while we are still in debate, I will make sure to stand up and add it to the record.

Mr. Kent: I am just curious what — you know, obviously, there is a finite amount of fuelwood at Quill Creek, and a few years ago when we ran into the fuelwood shortage and prices spiked and there was a lack of supply, we were waiting on the Quill Creek harvest area to alleviate some of those concerns. I think that the amount of fuelwood harvested has jumped significantly, but I am just curious where the next planning area sort of close to the largest market, which is Whitehorse, is so that we can make sure that there is no lag between the end of the available harvest at Quill Creek and where we are going to go next.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: There is planning underway with the industry and the branch. Out in the Haines Junction area, we think that after Quill Creek, the next couple are Mackintosh east — the timber harvest plan is called "Mack East". There is likely some development around Bear Creek as well. Earlier, we were discussing southeast Yukon, and there is significant wood at Poison Lake, so we think that is a potential for supplying more than the Watson Lake area.

There is this other initiative that I mentioned earlier about working with the folks from Wildfire and the community wildfire protection plans. I note that one because typically that's greenwood, but the industry has been moving toward using green wood and just processing it differently. For example, Kilrich is selling bags of firewood, and what they do is take — it's typically coming from greenwood — but it's being split and then left to dry in these bags that have this mesh on the side so that they can air out. That presents another opportunity, and I think — we look at the work that is being done where we're trying to protect our communities and at the same time displace fossil fuels, so that's sort of the initiative.

Mr. Kent: With respect to Mack East and the Bear Creek areas, how far advanced are those? Are they still in the planning stage? Are they prepared to go to YESAB? If so, when can we expect them to be in the YESAA process?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: For Mack East and Bear Creek, we think that they should be in YESAB sometime this winter.

Mr. Kent: Would they be assessed by the executive committee or would it be done at a designated office? I think that the threshold is 20,000 cubic metres, so I'm just curious about that.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Designated office.

Mr. Kent: I wanted to jump over to the subsidy programs that the government has put in place over the past number of years. The first one is the incentive for commercial harvesters — the payment per cubic metre of harvest. I am just wondering if the minister has the most recent statistics for how much has been paid out through that timber harvest incentive program.

Also, the establishment of the Yukon forestry support program — how much was paid out through that program, how many businesses have applied, and is there a public place where a list is available of the businesses that have applied and what they have received?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: For the timber harvest incentive program, in the 2022-23 year, we distributed \$315,000 for that program. Last year, it was nearly \$238,000 that was issued.

The forestry support program — I am just checking in with the department — we don't have public-facing information on it — first of all, to make that clear. The branch is trying to check whether or not we allowed for the disclosure of that information as it was collected. So, I don't know that. Of course, I can get some aggregate data or totals — things like that — but what I don't know is whether we can list off the more individual stuff.

Mr. Kent: Obviously, with some of the price spikes that we have seen for fuelwood in recent years, that's a concern to many Yukoners. I'm curious if the timber harvest incentive program — if the Forest Management branch is tracking the cordwood prices and if they have seen any downward trends with those prices since these incentives have been introduced.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: The first thing I'll say is that the firewood industry is tough to track. There are a lot of folks who cut their own wood, and then there are a lot of small operators and they are pretty independent-minded. So, we don't always have insight into how much wood they're harvesting or not and the prices that they are charging.

One of the things about the two programs was that they helped us to get more information and to try to understand it better. Our sense is that the programs were successful, but that didn't come from being able to track prices closely. It did come from a lot of engagement with industry and talking with them and the harvesters to understand what was driving their situation. We all felt — I think that Yukoners felt — that prices spiked back when supply started to be limited. Since then, we have some — I will call it “anecdotal information” — that prices had levelled out and at times even dropped a bit. But I will say that this was happening — those prices seemed to stabilize — during the backdrop of when inflation hit across other sectors. We noted that fuelwood prices were not rising with other energy prices.

The branch feels that the programs were successful, but we don't track closely enough to be able to say that it had this specific impact to prices.

Mr. Kent: It is my understanding that the amendments to the act will change the stumpage fee schedule so that fuelwood is then captured and is charged a stumpage fee the same as the sawlogs, so hopefully, that will give the branch and the department a better understanding of how much is harvested and maybe a better way to track the prices.

Just before I leave the general forestry questions, someone in the industry reached out to me with respect to the planned burn that Parks Canada was supposed to undertake in Kluane Park. It is my understanding from the MLA for Kluane that the planned burn this year was unsuccessful. They weren't able to ignite the forest where they wanted to do the burn, but the industry individual was wondering if there is any opportunity to perhaps go in and selectively harvest some of that wood, either for sawlogs or fuelwood, prior to the burn.

I am just curious if the minister has considered reaching out to Parks Canada about that opportunity before they proceed with the planned burn.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: First of all, I need to go back to an earlier statement. The director let me know that we do track harvest numbers and our tracking of firewood is improving, but what we don't track well right now are prices.

Then, I think one of the earlier questions — again around the timber harvest incentive program — is about the number of applications — in the distribution, how many folks did we get it to? In 2022-23, it was just over 60, and in 2023-24, it was just under 60, so it was close.

Then the member asked about Kluane Park. Jurisdictionally, it's not for us, so I don't know how Parks Canada deals with this. It's a conversation that would have to be had with them. But I will note that if you are planning to harvest ahead of a burn, which I can understand the argument for, it also means you need access, so that sounds like some sort of road to me. That just really has to be a conversation with Parks Canada. It's not anything that the Forest Management branch addresses, because it's outside of our jurisdiction.

Mr. Kent: Yes, I recognize that it's not within the Government of Yukon's jurisdiction and that's why I asked the minister if he would consider reaching out to Parks Canada or have officials reach out to their counterparts at Parks Canada to

see if there were any harvest opportunities prior to any planned burning in Kluane if indeed it is accessible.

I do want to jump over to the *Forest Resources Act* amendments. The definition of “forest resources” is going to be changed to the following — and I will quote from the document provided by the officials on the act: “‘Forest resources’ means all or any part of any flora that is in a wild state, and includes fungi” — the mushrooms. So, the officials mentioned that this also includes sap and I would assume berries and that type of thing and that there won't be a permit required for personal-use harvest of berries or morel mushrooms but will be for commercial activities. Is there a threshold for commercial harvest that would trigger the need for a permit? If you require a permit for it, do you also require going through a YESAB assessment to make those harvests for commercial purposes?

I ask because we have a number of small syrup suppliers and makers of jams and jellies from berries, and, of course, the morel mushroom industry can be fairly significant depending on the fire activity of the season before. I am just curious about what this change in definition will mean for some of those operators involved in those enterprises.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: So, folks provided me with several points. First of all, the threshold for requiring a permit is not volume; it's whether you're a seller. So, that's what's required.

For example, right now, the folks who do birch syrup get a permit.

Right now, mushrooms are under the existing act. In the amendments, what we're doing is trying to broaden the terms from “mushrooms” to “fungi”. We also tried to provide some clarification that, for anyone who is out berry-picking for themselves or mushroom-picking — if it's for personal use — it's fine on the appropriate land — let's say that. But that's fine.

There are no YESAB permits required for any of these activities. But if, for example, the outfit was building a road in to get to whatever it is — whether it's berry-picking or mushroom-picking or whatever that harvest is — then, yes, that would need a permit, but the picking itself of berries or mushrooms doesn't trigger YESAA.

Lastly, I'll just note that the branch let me know that, when it came to the Kluane burn this year, the weather didn't cooperate. So, again, I don't think it's for us to be involved in that conversation. Of course, I encourage — if there is someone who wants to have it — them to reach out to Parks and talk to them directly, but I think it's not appropriate for us because it is not our jurisdiction.

Mr. Kent: I appreciate the minister confirming that there won't be a YESAB assessment required for those commercial operators who are involved in harvesting some of the items or some of the things in this new definition.

During the ECO briefing and then when I was asking the Minister of the Executive Council Office, he did say that proposed YESAA amendments have been sent to Canada jointly by the Yukon government and CYFN. In those proposed amendments, is there anything that affects the forestry industry, or is it strictly other industries? I'll just focus on forestry.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I don't believe that there is anything that is specific in these amendments about forestry. I

would have to check. It's broader process-based questions that are there, so I guess that changes to YESAA would impact anyone who is applying and that would include forestry, but there is nothing specific dealing with forestry in those amendments.

Mr. Kent: In the response sent by the minister to me and the Member for Takhini-Kopper King on October 21, it says that the project thresholds that are in YESAA are in the YESAA regulations, I believe. So, these thresholds are set in the YESAA regulations and are not tied to the *Forest Resources Act*. Outside of this *Forest Resources Act* potential and then the proposed amendments to YESAA, is there an opportunity to have the federal government change these thresholds which are — if less than 20,000 cubic meters, they are assessed at the designated office, and greater than 20,000 cubic meters are assessed through the executive committee, which, of course, has more rigor and takes longer. I'm just curious if there is any consideration being given to advocate to the federal government to adjust these thresholds at all.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: There is a YESAA oversight group which has representatives from the Yukon government, the Council of Yukon First Nations, and the Government of Canada. They work together to consider amendments to YESAA. When they agree that something should change, the action item goes to the federal government because it has to go through Parliament, because that is where the act was passed and proclaimed.

That is the process to get at any changes for YESAA, including thresholds.

Mr. Kent: We discussed this with officials at the briefing, but I did want to ask the minister here for the record. The definition of "First Nation" is replaced with the following — and I won't go through them all, but it lists the 14 First Nations that are primarily located within the Yukon and then it also includes — quote: "... the Tetlit Gwich'in in relation to any matter involving the areas described in Annex A of Appendix C of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, Volume 1..."

My question at the briefing — and I will pose it to the minister now — is with respect to other transboundary First Nations. Of course, the Inuvialuit come to mind and their presence and claims to the North Slope of the Yukon and also the Taku River Tlingit and the Acho Dene Koe in the southeast Yukon. Taku River Tlingit, of course, is in the south-central Yukon, as they are based out of the community of Atlin. I am just curious why those First Nations were not recognized in this new definition.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: So, the working group, as they were developing the amendments that are before us today, did identify the same issue. The three transboundary groups — the Inuvialuit, the Acho Dene Koe, and the Taku River Tlingit First Nation — were all part of that discussion.

We identified that there were potentially other legal implications that were perceived to — that they may exist, and it would require us to do more background work on our side. So, that meant — and we were still interested in bringing forward the amendments at this time.

So, what we've sort of done is to say: Okay, here are the amendments that we are able to bring forward today, but here are follow-up actions that we identified through that working group table.

So, we will continue to work to advance recommendations that could not be made at this time but that required further work. So, it's sort of like a list of other things that we would like to see and just to continue doing that diligence.

Mr. Kent: I appreciate that.

The last bullet in the briefing that we received says that, if the act amendments receive assent, work will begin on amendments to the forest resource regulations. Once the regulations are complete, the act amendments will come into force. We received a response at the briefing, but I just want to get the minister on the record here with respect to timelines for the completion of those regulations and the eventual coming into force of the act.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: There is some regulatory work that is required, as the member noted in his question. It is worth noting as well that as the working group was looking at amendments to the act, they were also considering the regulations at the same time. So, some of the ground work has taken place already. That's good news.

I don't have a hard timeline in front of us. I think that we anticipate that it will take a year or more to get the regulations in place.

One of the things that I would need to be careful about is that I know how hard the legislative counsel office is always working, so I don't know where this is in the queue against other projects that they are in the middle of, but this is something that is not as big as some of the other projects. So, you know, I think that it should be soonish to get the regulations.

Mr. Kent: I appreciate that. I think that, at the briefing, we were told they're hoping to get it done within a year, but obviously the minister will — or made his response that they're hoping to get it done soon — "soonish", I think his word was.

With that, that concludes my questions. I thank the officials for attending, and I will turn it over to my colleague the Member for Takhini-Kopper King.

Ms. White: I thank my colleague for sharing the floor and, of course, I echo my welcome to the Assembly today for the officials and do thank them for a very thorough briefing initially.

For the minister, I can easily ask my questions in line-by-line as opposed to just asking specific things about questions and then going through it. With that, Madam Chair, I will have questions as we go line-by-line.

Chair: Is there any further general debate on Bill No. 39, entitled *Act to amend the Forest Resources Act (2024)*?

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

On Clause 1

Clause 1 agreed to

On Clause 2

Ms. White: I think that, when we talk — in the definitions section, there is actually quite — there are some changes and some kind of exciting changes. My colleague

mentioned the addition of flora, sap, and fungi in the definition of “forest resources”, but if there is anything that the minister would like to add here in the definitions section that he feels is different from the initial act, I would be happy to hear it. But I do think that there is a real opportunity when we talk about that expansion of what forest resources are. So, it means all or any part of any flora that is in a wild state, and that includes fungi.

If there is anything that the minister wants to add — I just wanted to highlight my appreciation for the definitions section.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Really, the idea here was to just broaden this out a bit.

I recall, during the COVID pandemic, we had a lot of people who were turning to land-based activities, and that included a lot of folks who were harvesting. The act we that we had in front of us would have allowed us to deal with some of it, but it didn’t allow us to deal with all of it. We felt that was a weakness in the act generally, and we just wanted broader provisions.

It isn’t a big change under the definitions, but it is trying to capture and in some ways future-proof the act a bit so that if there are things we don’t see in front of us now, we just have as broad a definition as we can so that we don’t have people trying to just squeak around the act a bit.

Ms. White: I thank the minister for that, and I particularly think about the more harvesting that we have seen in ways that have negatively impacted the communities they have been near, so I appreciate that this will capture that and we will be talking about the requirement for permits. I think that’s a positive thing, and I thank the department for that.

Clause 2 agreed to

On Clause 3

Clause 3 agreed to

On Clause 4

Clause 4 agreed to

On Clause 5

Clause 5 agreed to

On Clause 6

Ms. White: So, in clause 6, this is really when we get the opportunity to talk about the timber licence, so I wanted to give the minister a chance here. I think this is one of the explanations that was given to us in the briefing but how now the definition of “timber licences” has been expanded, including the ability of the time frame. I think this is an important one for the minister to mention and why those changes were made here.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: This is about commercial harvesters. What we’ve been seeing under the current act — not for all of them but for many and especially our larger harvesters — is they are trying to harvest efficiently. That means that they will take both timber such as sawlogs and fuelwood or firewood, and then they end up having to have two licences. Sometimes, they are out of sync with each other. This is really to reduce red tape, make it simpler for them, help their planning processes, and that includes this notion of going from the five years to the 10 years. It hasn’t been our experience that we need the shorter time frame, and we can use other tools if things are not working appropriately.

This is I think going to be beneficial for industry, which we think will be beneficial for the Yukon in the long run.

Ms. White: I appreciate the answer.

Am I right in understanding — it says: “... for a term not exceeding 10 years...”, but then it goes on to say that “The Director may renew a timber licence for one additional term...” The reason why I think this is important is that one thing that we have heard from the timber industry is about certainty and the ability to plan. Knowing that you have the ability to harvest for 20 years — that’s a career — and that I think brings a certain amount of certainty when we talk about investing in equipment. Maybe the minister wants to speak about how they landed on that.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Part of the question that the member asked was: How did we come up with this?

Basically, it was in conversation with industry. We took a look at the existing pieces, and we used the best part of that. What we’re looking for is that the operator is in good standing; that’s all we would need, and then we would just extend.

So, it was to — as the member notes and as I gave in my opening remarks — provide more certainty to allow for planning and really to streamline the process, because there were — it was a bit of a burden as well for the branch in dealing with multiple permits. So, it will make it easier.

So, there will still be some folks out there who are looking for just one or the other, but that’s fine. This is enabling. I think that the 10 years is the licence, but it can be extended for a second 10-year term so long as the harvester is in good standing.

Clause 6 agreed to

On Clause 7

Clause 7 agreed to

On Clause 8

Clause 8 agreed to

On Clause 9

Clause 9 agreed to

On Clause 10

Ms. White: So, clause 10 is actually talking about section 32, which is forest resource roads, which I think is important.

The reason why I highlight this is that there was a lot of discussion in the briefing about how a forest resource road worked, who was responsible for construction and who was responsible for maintenance, and whether or not more than one harvester could access that road. Maybe the minister can give us an overview of what section 32, “Forest resources roads”, is all about.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: It was our folks at Justice who stepped in to assist us with this section. In practice, we have been there out in the field. Sometimes, the road can be built by the harvester. If it’s a licence that is for one harvester, then that is often the way it goes, but sometimes — if we are dealing with several licensees — it might be the government that builds the road.

We always need to make sure that there is going to be reclamation of the road at the end of the harvest period. Once that area is exhausted, we need that road reclaimed.

We saw that the act hadn't caught up to where we had gotten practice in place, and that is always worrisome, because sooner or later, something will go wrong on you and you don't have the act to backstop what you are doing. This was to clarify the act and make sure that it was going to support that way of commissioning, utilizing, maintaining, reclaiming forest resource roads. The whole rewrite of section 32 is to get that in place.

Chair: Is there any further debate on clause 10?

Clause 10 agreed to

On Clause 11

Clause 11 agreed to

On Clause 12

Ms. White: Clause 12 deals with section 41, which is about compliance orders. I was hoping that the minister could talk a bit about this. It talks about the forest officer — I believe that would be the compliance officer, the person able to make the compliance orders, but maybe the minister can walk us through the compliance orders and how and why — the details of how that would work.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: This is really about trying to provide more teeth to compliance, as we have seen developed in other areas. It is to get ahead of problems before they become too problematic, let's say.

First of all, one of the ways that things are changing here in the bill before us and in what would be in the new act or an amended act would be that currently our forest officers — think of compliance, monitoring, and inspection; those are the people who would be doing this work — we can request voluntary compliance, but we can't currently direct someone who is non-compliant to take specific actions, so that's issue directions — as we have seen, for example, recently with mines.

As well, under the current act, there is a line in there that says, you know, if the issue — if there is irreparable damage — but gosh, if you have irreparable damage, that means that things are irreparable. So, you want to try to get there ahead of that, so it's changing that to "damage". The point would be that we really want to be able to correct a situation before it becomes uncorrectable.

Overall, section 41, the compliance order, would be provided with more teeth to make sure that we can achieve the outcomes that we're trying to — and I asked the branch: Have we had instances in the past? The answer is yes. What I was informed is that, generally speaking, most of the operators are good operators, but there are times when there are folks who are not doing the right thing, and this would be an opportunity for us to correct that more directly.

Clause 12 agreed to

On Clause 13

Ms. White: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem clauses 13 through 25 in Bill No. 39, entitled *Act to amend the Forest Resources Act (2024)*, read and agreed to.

Unanimous consent re deeming clauses 13 through 25 of Bill No. 39 read and agreed to

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 clauses 13 through 25 in Bill No. 39, entitled *Act to amend the Forest Resources Act (2024)*, read and agreed to.

Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: Unanimous consent has been granted.

Clauses 13 through 25 deemed read and agreed to

On Clause 26

Ms. White: I think that this is an opportunity. Clause 26 talks about — I want to say the "transitional clause", but that sounds weird. I think it's an important part, and I appreciate that the department put this in. It talks about how: "A timber resources licence or fuel wood licence that was in effect immediately before the coming into force of this section continues, for the purposes of the *Forest Resources Act...*" Maybe the minister can take an opportunity here to just reassure folks that, if they have a licence right now, this is the clause in which it will carry forward until the points he can say.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: There's always a bit of a challenge when we move from one system to a new system, so you always do have to have these considerations about how we will make that journey.

First of all, just based on questions from the Member for Copperbelt South earlier, I indicated that we need the regulations in place before this comes into force, so we've got a year or so in time to get those regulations there. What we have here is: If people have an existing timber harvest licence, they can stay with that. They can just let it run out and use it until it hits the end of its time. We anticipate that many folks are going to want to just transition right away, so what we anticipate is that people will come and apply and we will issue under the new system.

What we have here under section 26 is the description of how people can work under that system of moving from the current act to an amended act. It will not be prescriptive in the sense that the harvesters can continue under the licences and permits that have been issued to them now, but we will support them moving over to the new system.

Of course, once their existing permits and licences are timed out or complete, then they would have to come in under the new system. They couldn't just continue to extend under the old system.

So, that's the plan that we have to assist folks in moving across. We will have — I mean, there has been a working group already that has been doing this. And I know the branch has spoken with the industry, but there will be opportunities for us to alert all the operators to make sure that we assist them through that transition.

Clause 26 agreed to

On Clause 27

Clause 27 agreed to

On Clause 28

Clause 28 agreed to

On Title

Title agreed to

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Madam Chair, I move that you report Bill No. 39, entitled *Act to amend the Forest Resources Act (2024)*, without amendment.

Chair: It has been moved by the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes that the Chair report Bill No. 39, entitled *Act to amend the Forest Resources Act (2024)*, without amendment.

Motion agreed to

Chair: The matter now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 3, Department of Education, in Bill No. 215, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2024-25*.

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. 215: *Second Appropriation Act 2024-25* — continued

Chair: The matter now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 3, Department of Education, in Bill No. 215, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2024-25*.

Department of Education — *continued*

Chair: Is there any further general debate?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Madam Chair, I know that I do have a bit of time left from the last time that we debated, but I am just going to take a moment to welcome back to the Assembly Deputy Minister Mary Cameron and director of Finance Andrea McIntyre for the Department of Education.

I would like to thank them for their work and, of course, to the entire Department of Education, you provide great support to us in these debates. I will just move right into questions today.

Mr. Kent: I appreciate that from the minister and take the time to welcome the officials back to the Chamber here as well.

Just quickly, my wife let me know that my mother- and father-in-law are listening in from Vancouver Island, so a shout-out to Tom and Louise Van Soldt. Hopefully, they find something a little bit more fun to do later on this afternoon rather than listening to this. But I did promise that I would give them a shout-out.

The first topic — I just wanted to close the loop on the discretionary capital discussion that we were having last year. I think it was in early July that there was a decision made to defer those funds until later on into the school year. So, I have a couple of questions: Has that ever been done before? Because I think it's the first time that most of the school communities that I've been talking to have run into this. I'm also curious if

it's still scheduled to come off in November so that applications will then be accepted again, I think, starting next month.

Hon. Ms. McLean: We continue to work to ensure that government spending is allocated in a way that meets key priorities and long-term goals. To meet these priorities, departments continue to follow established processes to ensure that funding is distributed efficiently and effectively across the public service and programs. This means that regular financial scrutiny is applied to decision-making and that new requests for funding are approved in a financially sustainable way while continuing to provide the services that Yukoners expect.

This coordinated approach to funding ensures that government can respond to new and evolving challenges while managing resources responsibly. In response to the direct question, we can bring back that information on the history and the other times this has occurred.

I will just go a little bit specifically into our work in the Department of Education. We work to identify projects for maintenance, refurbishment, or replacement, such as playground equipment, experiential learning spaces, modernizing learning spaces, and program-related capital repairs. Upgrades to existing playgrounds and installation of new playgrounds will include accessible equipment. I think that was part of the discussion that we had earlier this session.

I think it's important, as an example, to show that we look at the needs of schools on a regular basis, and those types of requests oftentimes will find their way into the smaller capital projects that we do with schools each year. I think it is very important that we ensure that the portfolio of schools meets the demands of our growing population and provides modern learning environments for students to learn and grow for years to come.

Schools are provided a program-related capital budget for small scale, program-related renovations. Non-discretionary capital spending, which is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of students and employees or to fulfill contractual agreements, remains a priority for schools. These decisions are part of the government's — as I have stated a little bit earlier already today — broader commitment to meeting both immediate and long-term goals, ensuring that critical needs are addressed while maintaining fiscal sustainability.

After last time debating the Department of Education supplementary budget, the director of Finance for the department met with principals and vice-principals to clarify the directive — the process — and answer any questions that they may have had. This meeting was well-received and clarification was provided.

The department will be reviewing capital spending during the last week of November. Following this, further communication will be sent to school administrators regarding non-discretionary capital spending. In the meantime, all school administrators are encouraged to request non-discretionary capital spending through the department's process if deferral is not deemed appropriate.

Mr. Kent: I believe that I did hear the minister mention that it will be the last week in November that applications will be considered and the deferral will end. I appreciate the

commitment to get back to me on the history of this. As I said, most school councils that I've spoken with are under the understanding that this hasn't been done before.

I just wanted to provide one example to the minister and hopefully get some clarification. One school council has told me that the desks that they were planning to replace under the funding program that has been deferred are collapsing on the students. I am hoping that she can just confirm that this is actually a health and safety issue and would qualify for non-discretionary funding so that I can let them know to reach out, through their administrator, to the superintendent to get those desks replaced.

Hon. Ms. McLean: Again, if any of the needs are health- and safety-related and to do with the well-being of students and employees, those are not deferred, so I will confirm with the department after this debate today, but my understanding is that we have not received an application for this type of what's being described here today.

The other request I would have is, if the member could share a bit more information with me or through me to the department, that would be helpful as well, but from my information, we have not received an application for that type of replacement of desks.

Mr. Kent: I will send the transcripts from today to the school council who advised me of this, and they can reach out to the department through their proper channels so hopefully we can get this particular situation dealt with.

Earlier today in Question Period, I asked about policies around students who have type 1 diabetes. The Yukon T1D Support Network let us know that, approximately seven years ago, they started raising issues around the policy gap with the department. Then I referenced a 2022 letter that the same organization sent to the Public Accounts Committee about the lack of policies to deal with students who have health conditions or, in this case, type 1 diabetes. I just wanted to follow up on that here this afternoon.

I'm just curious if the minister herself has met with the Yukon T1D Support Network, and then if she's able to provide a timeline as to when we can expect some sort of resolution or some policy development around this.

Without getting into the specifics of the case that we heard about in the media this morning and that I referenced in Question Period, I'm hoping to get some sort of a commitment for a policy to be introduced that will ensure that students with type 1 diabetes or other diseases that need the same level of attention or a different level of attention will be provided with an EA so that the families don't have to go through the stress of waiting to hear or not if they're going to get an educational assistant to make sure that their children are safe at school.

Hon. Ms. McLean: Thanks for the follow-up question. This is an area that we take very seriously; the health, safety, and well-being of students and staff is always our top priority. Department of Education is working closely with Health and Social Services and the T1D Support Network on several of the recommendations from the draft Yukon type 1 diabetes strategy.

This year, we have advanced training for Education staff on type 1 diabetes, as I talked about today in Question Period. Training was provided at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year from the chronic conditions program. Training will be ongoing and can be requested by schools at any time. We worked with Health and Social Services to finalize a new type 1 diabetes support care plan. This plan will help families share essential information specific to type 1 diabetes with schools. We have worked with the T1D Support Network to review the existing administration of medication to students policy and procedures and to identify and remedy any gaps, specifically for students with type 1 diabetes.

All Yukon schools will follow this policy, which requires planned care and support for students with various medical conditions, including diabetes.

As I talked about today, Education is in the process of recruiting for a T1D support case worker who will help students, families, and schools to navigate the complexities of living with type 1 diabetes at school. We are exploring the role of educational assistants for students with type 1 diabetes, with a focus on individualized approaches that support student independence, safety, and access to education.

We look forward to formally implementing Education's action items within the T1D strategy once it has officially been launched. We have been moving forward toward implementation of these actions prior to the launch.

I know that there are specific questions about the meetings. I will get a list of all of the meetings that have occurred with the association or the support network and bring that information back. I don't have it at my fingertips today, but I think — just assuring that we remain committed to ensuring that both staff and students are supported in schools and are taking steps to do this properly in collaboration with T1D Support Network and the Department of Health and Social Services.

I wanted to just note one part of some information that I didn't fully share today in Question Period — I didn't have enough time. The Department of Education has worked with the T1D Support Network as part of the implementation of the draft Yukon type 1 diabetes strategy, and this includes updating the administration of medication and school policies and procedures. This will be released pending consultation with the Yukon Association of Education Professionals post-bargaining. I think that's an important part of the work that is underway. As I have stated, it is part of a much larger strategy for the Yukon, and Education has one aspect of it. We did have a joint meeting with Education, Health and Social Services, and the Yukon T1D Support Network that I unfortunately was not able to attend because I was at home ill on that day. But our department, along with the Deputy Minister of Education and the Minister of Health and Social Services, did take the meeting and not cancel it. But all of the other meetings that have occurred with the network — we can bring that information back, because there are multi-levels of meetings that are happening.

Mr. Kent: I appreciate that the minister is going to bring back a list of all of the meetings that have occurred, but I want to just confirm that she herself has never met with the Yukon T1D Support Network. I just want to make sure that is correct.

Hon. Ms. McLean: That is the only meeting that we had scheduled for me to attend. Certainly, as we look forward in the full implementation of the strategy, there will be other opportunities to meet, but I think that, at the officials level, there is a deep commitment to working at that technical level to ensure that we are understanding each other and that we are working through the various aspects of our part — from the Department of Education's items within the strategy.

Mr. Kent: I ask this because, while I appreciate the minister's optimism on the progress that's occurring between Education and the T1D Support Network, I don't necessarily think that the optimism is shared with members of that organization. As I mentioned in Question Period today, we are coming up on seven years, as they said in the 2022 letter. They said that the advocacy started in 2018 with respect to bringing in policies to help students living with T1D in the schools, so we are coming on seven years, and obviously, we do not have the policies in place yet.

The minister referenced the type 1 diabetes strategy, but I would hope that the minister would potentially reach out — or if the organization reached out to her — and have a meeting to see if some of the log-jams that are, I understand, occurring can get cleared up. It might just be something very simple that can get things moving to make sure that everyone is on the same page, but it sounds to me like they are not on the same page at the moment. It might take the minister attending a meeting and listening to their concerns to get that moving.

I will jump over to a different issue, which is with respect to home-schooling. Last December, I wrote to the minister and asked for the home-school numbers. She responded to me in early January of this year with those numbers that are registered, but I have talked to some home-school parents and the association that represents them, and I think, for them, they would be looking to have more regular reporting on the number of students that are being home-schooled and perhaps a little more information on what grades they are registered for and what communities they are in.

Looking at the monthly enrolment reports that Yukon Education publishes on their website, I appreciate that information, but I'm just wondering if the minister would consider also including the number of students who are being home-schooled in these monthly reports. I think that would be helpful and is something that I could share with the organization that represents those families that have chosen to home-school their students.

Hon. Ms. McLean: In terms of the public reports that we generate, we certainly can add or look into adding Aurora Virtual School to that. The Aurora Virtual School is connected in a lot of different ways. It's connected through the Independent Learning Centre work that is now happening at the Teen Parent Centre and is certainly utilized in communities as well. When you are tracking students who are, I think, included in all of those and probably many others, it may require its own

sort of category, because it will fit in a lot of different areas under various schools.

I certainly will endeavour to bring more information back either through a legislative return around this particular area — and we will be working to explore ways to do enrolment reporting with Aurora Virtual School.

Mr. Kent: I think it would be great if the AVS, or the Aurora Virtual School, registration could somehow be added to the monthly enrolment reports along with some other level of detail about grade and community — if that is something that could be shared in those reports, I could just direct the organization to that.

In that letter that the minister sent me in January of this year, we also talked about funding for families that are home-schooling their children. Per student, it is \$1,200 per year and it is dispensed in two \$600 installments.

If the minister doesn't have the information, I welcome a letter or a return on it, but I'm just curious if she is able to tell us how long since the last increase to that support number and if there are any plans in place or thought being given to review those numbers and potentially to look to an increase or to tie them to inflation or some aspect like that.

So, again, with respect to home-school funding, the \$1,200 per year — how long has it been in place? Are there any plans to increase it or to index it to inflation?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Thank you for the question. I do not have those details with me today, but I will certainly endeavour to bring them back either through a legislative return or a letter back to the member.

Mr. Kent: I appreciate that and I look forward to getting that information.

I did want to jump over to the supplementary budget on the capital side. It says that there is a decrease in the supplementary budget — this is information provided by the department at the briefing that we had — a decrease in the capital budget for the Burwash school, Kêts'ádañ Kù, of \$3.155 million.

It says that the revised targeted cost of this project is \$32.5 million and that amounts are going to be deferred to future years. I'm just curious if the minister can tell us how that \$32.5 million compares to the previous estimate now that the project has been tendered and awarded. Is the minister also able to give us an expected completion date for that school?

Hon. Ms. McLean: The targeted cost for the project is \$32.5 million. There is a decrease of \$3.155 million. These costs have been deferred due to the construction schedule associated with the awarded tender. That is still just an adjustment that we had made based on the scheduling.

Mr. Kent: I thank the minister for the information. That was also included in the briefing, and I thought that I mentioned that in my question. I'm just curious if the minister can share with us the revised budget for the total budget for the project and the revised schedule for the project completion.

Hon. Ms. McLean: Madam Chair, this is an important project for Government of Yukon. We have been working on this new Kêts'ádañ Kù project, House of Learning, to be located in Burwash Landing. The school will provide learning and community space that meets the needs of the residents and

the surrounding area. We are happy to be advancing the project. The contract was awarded on August 22, 2024 to GenMec ACL Inc., and we are working with the contractor through normal process to determine the schedule going forward. The work has begun, and we are reducing the amount that will be spent this year due to the schedule associated with the awarding of the tender.

Again, this remains a high-priority project for us, and I had an opportunity to speak with Chief Dickson just last Friday about the importance of this project in their community, and I look forward to bringing back more information once I have that information about the revised schedule.

Mr. Kent: I will look forward to getting that information when it is available.

I did want to talk about enrolment at a couple of high schools here in Whitehorse. I'm going to start with CSSC Mercier which, of course, is the French first language high school that serves students from grade 7 to grade 12. It looks like, in the enrolment report, that in May 2024 — which was the last full month of the last school year — there were 139 students enrolled, and now it is 160. My understanding from debating the minister's predecessor in this government's previous term is that the school was built for 150. I'm just wondering if there have been any discussions with the CSFY — the Francophone School Board — about plans to deal with the numbers that are over and above the capacity that the school was built for.

Hon. Ms. McLean: As Whitehorse continues to see steady population growth, our school facilities need to grow and adapt to meet the needs of the student population. The Department of Education routinely gathers data and input from school communities to plan their short-, medium-, and long-term needs. We recognize that enrolment levels are approaching operational capacity in some schools. As a whole, the secondary school buildings in Whitehorse are more than large enough to accommodate the number of grade 8 to 12 students enrolled across the system.

As it relates specifically to CSSC Mercier, they had made a decision to have their grade 7s be enrolled in the high school, so that is a factor. They also operate École Émilie Tremblay up in the Copper Ridge area and now also operate a francophone school program in Dawson as well.

Early in my time as minister, I had brief discussions, not in a formal way, with the trustees of the Francophone School Board. They had talked to me at that time about their enrolment in the high school program. We did talk about decisions about having students from the elementary school at grade 7, who would normally be at École Émilie Tremblay, coming into the high school, so I can certainly go back and talk to them about that.

Our relationship, of course, with the Francophone School Board remains strong. We continue to support for success. We are very pleased to have been able to work with them on the building of this school and also pleased with the current work and the work we have done over the last year and a bit with the Francophone School Board and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to

move forward on the implementation of a French minority language program in Dawson as well.

In the 2023-24 year, we have funded the Francophone School Board in the amount of \$763,000. I will bring some numbers in since we are talking about a supplementary budget. This, of course, is not one of the areas that's within the supplementary, but I am happy to talk about it today. The 2024-25 budget, of course, will follow the existing CSFY funding agreement. Again, we remain committed to our relationship and partnership with the Francophone School Board. They are one of three authorities in our education system within the Yukon — the other one being the First Nation School Board.

Mr. Kent: The minister mentioned École Émilie Tremblay and its location up in Copper Ridge, which is the elementary school for French first language students in Whitehorse.

According to the September enrolment report, there are 218 students there. I should also mention that it is the only school in Whitehorse that also includes K4. I am just curious if the minister can let me know what the capacity is for École Émilie Tremblay because, as mentioned, the 36 grade 7 students who are currently enrolled in that program are attending CSSC Mercier, so I am curious if the minister has the maximum capacity numbers for École Émilie Tremblay that she can share with us.

Just one other quick question then about enrolment is with respect to F.H. Collins high school here in Whitehorse. I attended a council meeting prior to the start of the school year, and there were concerns with families who had students living in the catchment area being diverted to alternate schools, so I am just wondering if that materialized or if the school was able to accommodate all in-catchment students this year.

I know that next fall there will be some modular classrooms or some portables placed at F.H. Collins, but I'm curious if the minister can maybe let us know what the longer term plans are with respect to that school. Are there plans to add on to the school? Or are they going to manage increased enrolment at F.H. Collins through the modular classrooms?

Hon. Ms. McLean: The first question around École Émilie Tremblay, which is, right now, K to six — the operational capacity of that school is 358. Its current enrolment is 218. So, it's at a maximum capacity of 61 percent. As opposed to that, we have F.H. Collins Secondary, of which the operational capacity is 744 and we're at 739, so it's at 99 percent.

Capital planning decisions are made based on current information and facility assessments supplemented with education programming needs and emerging enrolment trends and pressures. Students who wish to attend secondary school outside of their catchment area are required to complete an out-of-area request. For the 2024-25 school year, these requests are being more carefully considered if the student wants to attend a school experiencing enrolment pressures, such as F.H. Collins. We are undertaking a historic catchment analysis of Whitehorse high schools, including out-of-area enrolment at F.H. Collins Secondary School. F.H. Collins Secondary School

was designed to accommodate a school expansion in the future when needed.

Schools can use the school growth planning process to identify the need for additional space. All approved school construction and renovation projects are prioritized and managed through the five-year capital plan. We are working with Highways and Public Works on a multi-year procurement and placement program to place new and replace aging modulars at Yukon schools. Schools make daily decisions, of course, on how to manage their operational capacity. For example, schools that are above operational capacity may repurpose spaces in the facility or alter class schedules to optimize the use.

I will just add these other couple of notes: Operational capacity of a school is based on the number of classroom and teaching spaces and the school's grade structure. Class size maximums are part of the Yukon Association of Education Professionals' collective agreement as well.

I think that has answered the questions. We are planning those two new modulars to be placed at F.H. Collins next year and will continue to assess the enrolment. As I have said, we are going through a historic catchment analysis of Whitehorse high schools, including the out-of-area enrolment at F.H. Collins, and will certainly be gathering more information as decisions need to be made.

Mr. Kent: I appreciate those numbers shared on École Émilie Tremblay's capacity; it helps to inform the discussion and the debate around that.

I did want to ask a quick question about the First Nation School Board authority. I think that, in the Public Accounts, the number that I saw for the last fiscal year 2023-24 was over \$9 million, which was transferred to the First Nation School Board for the operation of all the schools and their operations. I am just curious if the minister has an estimate on what that number is going to look like for this current fiscal year. Is it the same or is it close to the same as we saw last year?

I am familiar with the process if a school wants to become part of the First Nation School Board family of schools. Either there is a resolution from the school council seeking a referendum or, without that, there is an opportunity to have a petition signed that includes a certain percentage of the catchment area, and that will trigger a referendum. I am just curious, as obviously the school council resolution wouldn't apply, but if there is a number of signatures gathered by a school community that is currently served as a First Nation School Board school and they would like the opportunity to vote to go back to a school council school, is it the same trigger to seek that opportunity as the trigger to become a First Nation School Board school? I hope that makes sense.

Hon. Ms. McLean: I will just go through a bit of the background on the financial aspect of the First Nation School Board.

The breakdown of the 15-month TPA, which ended in June 2024 with the First Nation School Board, included operational supports and operation and maintenance of eight schools, and that was at \$29.3 million. This included the same cost factors and drivers as Commission scolaire francophone du

Yukon, or CSFY, with a minor difference for rural remoteness. Sport governance and administration of the eight schools was \$3.3 million. Discretionary grants for Indigenous recognition was \$4.8 million. One-time funding for governance and community committees was \$450,000. Discretionary grants for student outcomes and Indigenization of the curriculum in response to the 2019 Auditor General's report was \$3.125 million.

The TPA was amended to include funding to support the three new schools as well as to extend the expiry date past the June 30, 2024 date while negotiating a new TPA. That is currently where we are at; we are negotiating a new transfer payment agreement with the First Nation School Board. On September 19, 2024, an interim TPA was signed to ensure that the First Nation School Board has the funding to support their board operations and governance. This interim TPA expires on December 31, 2024. The negotiating team is working to negotiate a new TPA with the First Nation School Board and that work is ongoing.

In terms of the referendum process, we would certainly follow — as laid out in the *Education Act* — and I am happy — of course, working with the First Nation School Board if there were a reversal, and I will bring back specific information around that, and I'll be happy to share that with the member opposite.

Mr. Kent: I appreciate that.

With respect to the finances, I will submit a written question to the minister and just try to get a better handle on the different TPAs and their expiry dates and the fiscal year funding for the school operations and then funding for the board's operations. That's something that I can come back and submit as a written question and then look to get a return from the minister on that at some point.

I did want to jump over to the École Whitehorse Elementary School replacement project in Takhini. There have been quite a few concerns raised by a number of stakeholders, including the Takhini Neighbourhood Association. In their most recent news letter dated October 25, 2024, they mentioned a meeting that took place on Friday, October 18 between three of their members, the Minister of Education, and the Minister of Community Services.

So, obviously, there was an error in a document that was put forward entitled *Choosing the future site for École Whitehorse Elementary School*. It cited that the Takhini Neighbourhood Association — the option that was chosen was the one that they supported, but they contend that they never — that there's an error in the document. So, the ministers at this meeting agreed to correct that error, but they didn't commit to a timeline for doing this. So, I'm hoping that the minister can give us a timeline here today on when they will correct the error in the document that is being circulated about the future site on the Takhini education reserve for a new Whitehorse elementary school.

Hon. Ms. McLean: Yes, Government of Yukon met with representatives of the Takhini Neighbourhood Association on October 18. The meeting allowed us to better understand the community's key concerns. It was highlighted that — among

other things, we talked about the traffic study; we talked about community engagement and shared the updates to *Choosing the future site for École Whitehorse Elementary School* report. I did commit to folks at that meeting that we would make a correction, and that report was reposted on Monday, so that has been corrected — I have a copy here — and folks can find that on the Yukon government website.

I'll just wait for other questions.

Mr. Kent: I appreciate the quickness from the minister in correcting that error that was in that publication and posting it on the website.

We found out from — well, I believe that the minister mentioned in Question Period and at other opportunities here that the site at the Takhini educational reserve was the preferred site because it wouldn't require zoning changes and those types of things, but we have since found out through a *The Yukon News* article that zoning amendments will be required; there will be changes to the official community plan required. I'm curious if the minister has timelines for when those — or how long it will take to go through those two processes — when the government intends to apply for those changes.

Then just another quick question with respect to a project review. I noticed that the Whistle Bend Elementary School had to go through the YESAA process. Is that something that a new École Whitehorse Elementary School will have to go through prior to any tender award for design or construction?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Maybe what I will start with is — again, I have said this a lot of times — that the Takhini Educational Land Reserve is large. It is a serviced parcel of land that provides a central location that has better access to greenspace desired for the modern learning environment. Of the three options identified for the school's location, the option that scored the highest is the only option that would require rezoning.

As we work toward the conceptual design phase, we will begin discussions with the necessary officials at the City of Whitehorse to discuss the rezoning. When that time comes, we do have a member of the City of Whitehorse on the project advisory committee as well.

With regard to the question about the YESAA process, that will be also under consideration, of course, through the current work that is happening with KZA, which is the primary contractor doing the work right now. As we have said a number of times, we are in that second phase of the project.

All of that work will be considered as we work through this phase 2. It will include the traffic study that will report on local impacts of development — the pedestrian safety, the traffic access/regress from the site will also be assessed.

I will just stop there and take further questions.

Mr. Kent: I have many more questions on a variety of topics, but I did want to give my colleague from Takhini-Kopper King an opportunity to ask some questions. Hopefully, we will get a chance to see Education back on the floor prior to the end of the Sitting and I can finish asking the questions that I have.

At this point, I will thank the officials for attending and providing support to the minister and I will turn it over to my colleague for Takhini-Kopper King.

Ms. White: I thank my colleague for his questions and, of course, I echo the welcome to the officials and I thank the minister for today's debate.

I am just going to jump right in. Like my colleague said, he has more questions, and I definitely have more questions than the half-hour I have been allowed today.

The new education agreement between the Department of Education and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation — was it specifically around French language education in the community, or does it touch on French language education in Dawson City?

Hon. Ms. McLean: A couple of different things here that we worked through with CSFY and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. I mean, I know that the member is aware, of course, that we have a section 17.7 agreement, which is under the self-government agreement for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. This summer — in August — we signed a letter of agreement that allows for stronger co-governance in education in the traditional territory, so it strengthens the agreement and brings it, I think, into a next level for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. We did that on August 30 of this year. You can already see the amazing difference in how decisions are being made at the school.

In terms of the CSFY agreement, I'm happy to report that, for a second year, French minority language students have access to an in-person French language program of instruction in Dawson. This was a priority for the Francophone School Board and francophone parents in Dawson. We are continuing to work with CSFY and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in as the CSFY moves forward with their implementation of the French minority language program in Dawson. CSFY, the Department of Education, and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have established an effective working relationship, and officials will continue to navigate the approach and work ahead together. This is a huge accomplishment to have the Francophone School Board work in such a way with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and to find a way to continue to work in a way of unity within the community. It's a story that hasn't been talked about a lot, and it's a really great one, so thanks for the question; I appreciate it.

Ms. White: I thank the minister for that. I agree; I think it's a success story — what's happening with the commission scolaire and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the community.

But the reason why I was asking about the letter of agreement is that the commission scolaire is a school board. I just wanted to know if — I went to the annual general meeting — time is a weird thing — recently; let's say I went there recently. There wasn't snow on the ground; it wasn't that recent but recently enough that it was in the last couple months. One of the things that had been mentioned is that they knew that there was a letter that was signed, but they don't know if it affects them at all because they hadn't seen the letter, they hadn't been told what was included, they hadn't been told what the commitments were, and they had questions. So, I'm just curious as to whether or not the commission will be updated or kept abreast of commitments between the Department of

Education and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and just ensuring that communication remains open.

Hon. Ms. McLean: That's surprising to me. I know that when I attended the community on August 30, I met up with Jesse Cooke, who is a trustee, and Jesse actually took me for a tour of the francophone program building, and I got to meet the new teachers there. Then folks went over to the signing ceremony, which happened at the Robert Service School. It was well-attended by the community, by the First Nation, elders, school administration, Department of Education, and folks who are local within the Francophone School Board.

I will certainly follow up after this debate today, because I want to know more about that and to make sure that folks are well aware of the agreement, and again, it is a letter of agreement with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in under their section 17.7 agreement, but I will definitely follow up as a result of this debate.

Ms. White: I thank the minister for that. It was my understanding based on that meeting, and so I hope I am wrong and look forward to the minister following up with the commission scolaire about that.

In response to a question the other day, the minister had said that there was accessible playground equipment installed at the Whistle Bend school. I was hoping that the minister could tell me what accessible play equipment was installed at the Whistle Bend school.

Hon. Ms. McLean: I was just going through it again. I just gave the petition response last week on accessible playgrounds. Whistle Bend Elementary School is our latest addition and features two playgrounds, one of which is fully accessible. Again, through Ketza Construction, we are supporting the opportunity for the gold certification for the Rick Hansen Foundation. I know that when he came through the school with us on a tour, part of that was outside of the school and we had a look at the equipment that is accessible.

I'm not sure if that answers the question, but the school has been designed around accessibility and ensuring that we have the inclusion that we are seeking. As I said in the petition response, this is so linked to much of the work in the Department of Education around reimagining inclusive and special education, ensuring that children have the access that they need to learn, play, and be able to have all of the benefits, including physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development, while promoting that community cohesion and understanding of differences. I think that was an important petition response for me because it's really something our department is committed to doing. Whistle Bend is that high bar that we want to meet with all of our schools.

Ms. White: The reason why I was asking about what pieces of equipment were considered accessible at the Whistle Bend school is that Adam Sernoskie, who was the person who brought forward the petition, actually went to the school and took photos of the accessible playground. He was looking for clarification on exactly what parts were accessible on those accessible play structures. I wanted to know who the department consults when they look at the accessibility of play structures.

He highlighted concerns around the swing structure. He highlighted concerns on the climbing apparatus that were ropes, because you need a certain amount of dexterity to be able to do that, and he highlighted other concerns about what was considered to be an accessible playground, knowing that his child wouldn't be able to play there. He highlights the accessible play area that is at Shipyards Park as being one that is truly accessible. To be perfectly frank, it wasn't until I started researching the difference between accessible and inclusive playgrounds that I really began to understand more of the issue. As an example, the playground play structure at Shipyards Park — all the really fun things — anybody can go on, and that becomes where it is inclusive. It is important, for example, to have an accessible swing. He did say that he had gone to four of the schools that you had listed and he did say that there is an accessible swing at each of those, but when it is one swing and it is off to the side, it doesn't mean that you get to play with others; it means that you have one accessible thing that you can do.

I appreciate the commitment to working toward that inclusion in playgrounds, because I think that it is really important, and so I appreciate that, but I guess I would be interested in knowing what groups the department consults with when they put that equipment in just to make sure that it does work for what we are trying to do. So, if the minister can let me know who they consulted with on that accessible playground.

Hon. Ms. McLean: Going back to Whistle Bend Elementary School, as I have said, there are two sets of playground equipment. The one in the front of the school is the accessible playground equipment. I do not have all of the detail around — I know that there was excessive consultation on the design of Whistle Bend Elementary School. I certainly heard parts of that on the numerous times that we had gone through the school.

A lot of the design was influenced by the project advisory committee to meet barrier-free access requirements as set out by the building code but to go beyond that, aiming for that gold certification through the Rick Hansen Foundation, as I mentioned. I can bring back some information about which organizations were part of providing the advice on the school.

Ms. White: I thank the minister for that, and I think it's always just making sure it is no different. I spent a long time, after initially getting elected, talking about washrooms for seniors when they would show me that they couldn't access the bathtubs because they were afraid, because they were higher than their knees. It's about making sure that, when we are building things, we include people with lived experience in those conversations.

I appreciate the Rick Hansen gold certification that the minister mentioned in the petition response. My understanding is, within that requirement, there is the need to have a universal washroom, and within that universal washroom, there needs to be a change table. It had been highlighted to me initially that was not a change table, keeping in mind, of course, that we are not just talking about for infants — we are talking change tables for K through grade 7 — so, something that's big enough to support a bigger child.

Hon. Ms. McLean: I will go back and get some more information about that, because there are different types of washroom facilities within the building. There are some on the main floor, and there are some specialized up on the floor where you enter through from the street. There are some specially equipped rooms within that space. We will bring back more information about that.

Ms. White: I thank the minister for that. It is truly a beautiful school. If people haven't had the chance to go see it yet, it is truly a beautiful school.

When I did get the tour, I know that there were some kinks being worked out. For example, the doors were quite heavy for small children.

I did realize that this is that time where a designer designs a building, but they're not three feet tall and weigh 50 pounds — they're adults. Some other things that were highlighted for me is that, as cool as the bathrooms are — they are gender-neutral; like, anyone can use any bathroom, which is fantastic, and it has common sinks and hand dryers. One of the other things that had been pointed out — that it felt like you could remove paint with the sink because the pressure was so high and that when a small person used the hand dryer, if any of the nearby classroom doors were open, it sounded like a plane was taking off. I know these are growing pains, and I'm sure that the department, or Highways and Public Works, is working to address those, but it is an example of the growing pains.

It is truly a beautiful school and one that, you know, for the next generation of time, the minister can be proud to have opened. So, congratulations on that school. I do look forward to hearing about how the doors get resolved and the sinks are a little less terrifying and maybe they sound less like planes taking off. I appreciate that is not something that the minister can do right now, but I just thought I would put it out right this second.

I'll give the minister just a chance to respond before I move on to the next question.

Hon. Ms. McLean: I just want to say that we have an excellent team working up there led by Jeff Cressman, the principal administrator and, of course, the school council — certainly a big part of working together — and the team at Highways and Public Works and our team at the Department of Education. I'm aware of the areas that the member has raised today. We talked about them, and I think that some of them may have been resolved already, but it's a work in progress, and you know, we're happy to do the work to get it right. I think, you know, CSSC Mercier was a school that went through some of those growing pains as well, and we learned from that, and Kêts'ádañ Kù will learn from Whistle Bend Elementary, and École Whitehorse Elementary will learn from all of those experiences. So, I think, again, we will be working with the functional plan, I think, as an important part of that planning and how we ensure that we're not missing this so that the continuity of planning for projects is truly done in a way that learns as we go and that we are not having to have the same issues in schools as we go forward, because that's ultimately the goal.

Ms. White: I thank the minister for that. I agree; it is definitely a dream team there.

So, I tabled a motion earlier this week asking for the terms of reference for the traffic safety study ahead of any kind of school relocation to Takhini. I wanted to know if that was going to be possible. Will the minister be able to share the terms of reference for that traffic safety study?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Thanks for the question. The meeting that we had with the Takhini Neighbourhood Association was a good one. It really helped us to understand from having that direct conversation where some of their worries and concerns were.

One of the things that we had talked about, of course, is the traffic study. It's not a terms of reference but a scope of work. So, we're working on it right now to respond to what we heard in that meeting and to continue to work with them. That was the commitment that we had made at the meeting.

So, we're working with the departments of Education and Highways and Public Works to obtain some of the requests within that meeting. I look forward to communicating directly with the Takhini Neighbourhood Association around some of the requests that they have and continued follow-up. That work is happening right now.

As you heard in earlier debate, one of the things we did is immediately change the *Choosing the future site for École Whitehorse Elementary School* report and posted it right away.

It was a very helpful meeting for me and we are working to follow up on those requests.

Ms. White: I just got a note from Adam to say that he and his family have just tuned in. Adam, I have changed topics but will say hello because it's lovely to know that you're here. You can check the Hansard.

So, hello to Adam, Selena, Lennox, and Maddox who continue to push the bar on support for families with children with disabilities, so big props to them.

The reason why — I have so many reasons why I'm asking questions about traffic in Takhini — is that the City of Whitehorse has recently installed two crosswalks on Range Road. The reason why this is important is that I have lived in Takhini for 13 years, and there has been one crosswalk in front of the elementary school. The second crosswalk on Range Road is in front of — sorry, there are three, I guess. There's one in front of the Takhini Arena, then there's the crosswalk right at Two Mile Hill and Range Road. So, in 13 years, there were only three designated spots where you could cross the road, and I have to be honest; the only one that has flashing lights is the one in front of Takhini Elementary.

The City of Whitehorse has recently installed two crosswalks, so one is at the Rhine Way entrance and one is at Falaise. I ride my bike to work. I have talked about that before. There are crosswalks now, which you would think would be quite exciting. You would think that crosswalks would be exciting. I have to say that the crosswalks are not exciting or not in a positive way anyway. They probably get my adrenaline kicked up in a way that I wouldn't anticipate so early in the morning.

I recently asked my neighbourhood about their sense of the crosswalks, and there were 70 responses about the crosswalks when we're talking about traffic on Range Road. My interest in the terms of reference for the traffic study is that there is a lot of traffic, it is often aggressive, and it doesn't feel very safe. I look forward to having a further conversation about that.

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

Chair: It has been moved by the Member for Takhini-Kopper King that the Chair report progress.

Motion agreed to

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

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 Chair of Committee of the Whole?

Chair's report

Ms. Blake: Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 39, entitled *Act to amend the Forest Resources Act (2024)*, and directed me to report the bill without amendment.

Committee of the Whole has also considered Bill No. 215, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2024-25*, and directed me to report progress.

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

Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

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

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

Motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

The following sessional paper was tabled October 30, 2024:

35-1-175

Yukon Arts Centre Annual Report 2023/24 and Yukon Arts Centre Corporation Financial Statements March 31, 2024 (Streicker)

The following legislative returns were tabled October 30, 2024:

35-1-151

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Ms. White related to general debate on Vote 10, Public Service Commission, in Bill No. 215, *Second Appropriation Act 2024-25* — retiree benefits (Silver)

35-1-152

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Ms. McLeod related to general debate on Vote 10, Public Service Commission, in Bill No. 215, *Second Appropriation Act 2024-25* — retiree benefits (Silver)

The following documents were filed October 30, 2024:

35-1-273

Community safety, letter re (dated February 10, 2017) from Hon. Tracy-Anne McPhee, Minister of Justice, to Brad Cathers, Member for Lake Laberge (Cathers)

35-1-274

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board 2023 — 2024 Annual Report (Streicker)

35-1-275

École Whitehorse Elementary School Replacement, letter re (dated October 29, 2024) from École Whitehorse Elementary School Council to Hon. Jeanie McLean, Minister of Education (McLean)

35-1-276

Rising crime weighs heavy on Yukon small business owners, letter re (dated October 23, 2024) from Brianna Solberg and Tyler Slobogian, Canadian Federation of Independent Business, to Currie Dixon, Leader of the Official Opposition (Dixon)