



Yukon Legislative Assembly

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HANSARD

Tuesday, November 19, 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
Tuesday, November 19, 2024 — 1:00 p.m.

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

Prayers

DAILY ROUTINE

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

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Speaker: Introduction of visitors.
Visitors introduced

Speaker: Are there any tributes?

TRIBUTES

In remembrance of Murray Sinclair

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our Yukon Liberal government to pay tribute to Murray Sinclair. It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Murray Sinclair, one of Canada's most decorated and influential people to work in Indigenous justice and advocacy.

Mr. Sinclair had a long career in public service. He is a former judge, senator, and chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He served over 25 years as a judge after being appointed as Manitoba's first Indigenous judge and Canada's second at the time. As the chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, he led the difficult task of examining Canada's residential school system. He participated in hundreds of hearings held across Canada, including in the Yukon, and heard testimony from thousands of residential school survivors. I attended many of the hearings that were held here in the Yukon and I admired his ability to listen with deep compassion and understanding.

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission issued its report documenting one of the darkest and most troubling chapters in our collective history. The commission also issued 94 calls to action to help Canada reckon and address the ugly truths of the past and make things right for the future. At the time, Mr. Sinclair said: "Education is key to reconciliation. Education got us into this mess and education will get us out of it." I agree that all Yukoners can benefit from opportunities to learn about our history as well as Yukon First Nation ways of knowing, doing, and being. I revisit the work of the commission each and every day as the Minister of Education as we work to decolonize our Yukon education system.

This groundbreaking work and report continue to impact us today as we work both at the local and national levels toward forging and maintaining respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples and implement these important calls to action together.

One of the commission's calls to action was one calling on the Government of Canada to hold a national inquiry into

missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. I had a chance to discuss this inquiry and Yukon's approach to responding to it with Mr. Sinclair in 2019. He was so generous with his time and gave me meaningful advice that truly helped to shape our response. In addition to his specific advice about our approach, he encouraged me to not forget to bring Canadians along as we continue the journey of truth and reconciliation. One of my favourite quotes of his that I find many opportunities to share is: "We must think and work outside the box but stay within the circle."

In 2016, Mr. Sinclair was appointed to the Canadian Senate where he spent five years working to move many of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action forward.

In 2022, he received the Order of Canada for dedicating his life to championing Indigenous people's rights and freedoms.

Throughout his career, Mr. Sinclair travelled across the country delivering presentations on ways to tackle systemic racism in Canadian institutions. He brought the conversation to the Yukon on multiple occasions, most recently in 2019 when he generously shared his experiences and wisdom with senior Yukon government leaders. I was very honoured to be in attendance.

During his talk, Mr. Sinclair was direct as he called out Canadian public institutions, including the media, for deliberately hiding the history of residential schools from Canadians. He warned that governments cannot resist the truth of residential schools out of fear that Canadians do not know how to address the past. He pointed to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report as accessible to everyone and a starting point for moving forward. He also reminded us that we all have responsibilities and roles to play in the journey of reconciliation.

At a different presentation that he did in the Yukon in 2012, he had a slide that said: Listen, learn, lend a hand, lead. I cannot think of a better summary to exemplify Mr. Sinclair's life's work as he passes the torch to the rest of us to do the same.

May his legacy continue to reverberate for decades to come. On behalf of the Government of Yukon, I extend the Yukon's heartfelt condolences to Mr. Sinclair's family, friends, and community.

Applause

Ms. Blake: Mr. Speaker, I want to express my profound gratitude and admiration for Senator Murray Sinclair, a man of immense courage, wisdom, and unwavering dedication.

Senator Sinclair has been a guiding light for Indigenous people across Canada and a steadfast advocate for truth, justice, and reconciliation. Senator Sinclair's leadership as chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada brought the painful realities of residential schools to light, allowing survivors to share their stories and breaking the silence that had shrouded our history for far too long.

Senator Sinclair's commitment to truth-telling did not only unveil the systemic injustices inflicted upon Indigenous people but also began the journey of healing for our communities. His reminder that reconciliation is not an Indigenous problem — it is a Canadian one — resonates deeply. It challenges every

individual in this country to take responsibility for righting the wrongs of the past and to strive for a future built on mutual respect, understanding, and partnership.

In 2015 when he released the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, he said: “We have described for you a mountain. We have shown you to the top. We call upon you to do the climbing.”

Beyond his work with the TRC, Senator Sinclair’s life as a lawyer, judge, and senator has been a testament to the strength and resilience of Indigenous people. He has reminded us of the power of education, the importance of our language and cultures, and the necessity of preserving our traditions for the generations yet to come.

I am deeply inspired by his ability to balance justice and compassion, to speak truth to power, and to remain grounded in his Indigenous identity while navigating spaces that often marginalize our voices. As a trailblazer, he has paved the way for many of us to rise and reclaim our roles as leaders, knowledge-keepers, and change-makers. The legacy of Senator Sinclair will have a lasting impact on systems and generations for years to come.

I am grateful for the privilege that I have had to sit in on a number of Senator Sinclair’s lectures, and a few times I have been able to have tea with him. I found Senator Sinclair to be very much like a grandfather. He held a gentle, welcoming presence and would often observe me as I answered any questions that he had asked. In those moments of conversation, Senator Sinclair would have a little smirk across his face when I was hesitant to answer his questions.

I recall one conversation that we shared. Instead of answering Senator Sinclair’s question, I told him that I’m too shy to answer. He proceeded to ask if I knew the history of my maternal bloodline. In response to me answering yes, he asked a few questions about my mom, my aunts, my grandmothers, and the lives they had lived. At the end, Senator Sinclair looked at me softly and said: “My dear, the women in your bloodline have endured much too much pain and sacrifices for you to be shy. The pain that your people have been through runs in your DNA. It is up to you to continue on that fight for your daughter and the Indigenous people across this country so that our people can become an equal part of society and not be seen as objects. That is the responsibility you carry as an Indigenous woman in today’s society.”

I found it very powerful each time I heard Senator Sinclair say that we need to ensure that our young people always know these four principles to help guide them in life: Where do I come from?; Where am I going?; Why am I here?; and Who am I? — which he indicated would lay a solid foundation for Indigenous people across this country to never feel lost or that they don’t belong and to always know where home is.

Thank you, Senator Sinclair, for your tireless efforts and for showing us what is possible when we lead with courage, love for our people, and a steadfast commitment to the truth. Your legacy will continue to inspire and empower us as we move forward on this shared journey of reconciliation.

Mahsi’ cho.

Applause

Mr. Kent: Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to pay tribute to the late Murray Sinclair and recognize his profound impact on our country.

In a November 10 article on CBC, his family remembered his life as being — quote: “a beacon of integrity and compassion”. Going on to describe his career, the article stated — I will quote again: He was “... an Anishinaabe lawyer who was the first Indigenous person appointed as a judge in Manitoba and went on to become chief commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission into residential schools and a senator...”

Mr. Sinclair’s son, Niigaan Sinclair, spoke at his dad’s memorial ceremony. He said — quote: “Few people have shaped this country in the way that my father has. And few people can say they changed the course of this country the way that my father had, to put us on a better path. Whether you are new to this place, or whether you have been here since time immemorial, from the beginning — all of us have been touched by him in some way.” This is such a fitting statement about the late Justice Sinclair.

This morning, I reached out to Senator Pat Duncan and she shared that a moment that resonated with her was Mr. Sinclair’s counsel to them as senators to model their behaviour in the Senate as a council of elders, sharing the importance of the wisdom of that council. She said that the Senate went on to produce a booklet for young children called *The Wise Owls*, which embodies this philosophy.

His work on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission will echo for generations in our country. I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Sinclair on a number of occasions in my former role as Minister of Education. In those meetings, he set all provinces and territories on a path to teach young Canadians about the tragedy and impacts of residential schools on Indigenous Canadians. I congratulate all current and former ministers of Education and their officials for seeing this vision through and continuing to build upon it.

On behalf of my colleagues, I want to thank the late Justice Sinclair for his contributions to the Yukon and Canada and offer our sincere condolences to his friends, colleagues, and family.

Applause

In recognition of Yukon Geoscience Forum award recipients

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Liberal government and the Yukon NDP to give tribute to recipients of awards from this year’s Yukon Geoscience Forum, announced last night. The Robert E. Leckie Awards recognize exemplary performance in environmental stewardship in the mining industry and are given in honour of the memory of Bob Leckie, a Mayo mine inspector who is remembered for encouraging progressive land use practices and fostering cooperation between mining and government.

This year, there were seven nominations, four in placer and three in quartz. Recipients were selected by a committee from

the Yukon Chamber of Mines, the Klondike Placer Miners' Association, the Council of Yukon First Nations, and the Government of Yukon.

Last night at the Yukon Geoscience Forum banquet, I had the honour of awarding the three Leckie Awards. The first went to Schmidt Mining for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship in placer mining. In restoring a mined area on Big Creek, they went above and beyond what was required of them to create entirely new fish habitats. Through careful planning, they introduced complex habitats under very challenging conditions.

The second Leckie Award went to Snowline Gold for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship in quartz mining. Snowline cleaned up the remote Plata airstrip, about 190 kilometres east of Mayo, in the traditional territory of the Na-Cho Nyäk Dun. The area around this airstrip hosts a legacy of mining activities dating back to the 1980s, with decades of abandoned materials. The airstrip isn't even on Snowline's claims, but they cleaned it up anyway with the help of several other Yukon-based companies.

The third Leckie Award for Responsible and Innovative Exploration in Mining Practices went to Fireweed Metals. This company turned science fiction into science fact using cosmic rays — muon tomography — to find new mineral deposits in the Yukon, minimizing the environmental impact of surveying and mining.

For the other awards, Prospector of the Year went to Scott Berdahl, founder and CEO of Snowline Gold. At 38, Scott already has three decades of prospecting experience under his belt.

The Yukon Prospectors Association has also placed Denis Jacob's company, Coureur Des Bois Ltee, on its honour roll. Yukon's mining industry has benefited greatly from Denis' dedicated hard work and professionalism.

The Yukon Chamber of Mines also bestowed awards to Tosh Southwick for the First Nations in Mining Award.

Newmont Coffee mine project received one of the community awards. Cobalt Construction and Selkirk Development Corporation received the other community award.

Brooke Rudolph received one of the member awards and Hecla received the other member award.

And finally, Maurice — or Mo — Colpran won special recognition for his decades of dedicated service with the Yukon Geological Survey.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to all of these responsible mining folks who work hard to respect and care for our land and environment.

Applause

Ms. McLeod: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to recognize the winners for this year's geoscience awards.

The awards banquet took place last night and it was quite the all-star event in celebration of some very deserving recipients. Several awards were handed out, among them, the Yukon government Robert E. Leckie Awards.

A huge congratulations to Leckie Award recipients: Fireweed Metals for the innovation award and Snowline Gold, for which the win of the Leckie Award for the second year in a row is testament to the incredible work of Scott Berdahl and the entire team. Schmidt Mining took the Leckie this year for placer mining. The Prospector of the Year Award for 2024 went to Scott Berdahl of Snowline Gold.

Also awarded last night were the 2024 Yukon Chamber of Mines awards. The community awards this year went to two deserving organizations: Newmont for the Coffee mine project, which, in collaboration with Yukon University, actively supports mining education and research in the Yukon; and Cobalt Construction in recognition of the company's exceptional work in the reclamation and closure of Minto mine in partnership with the Selkirk Development Corporation.

The recipients of the 2024 member awards went to Brooke Rudolph and Hecla Yukon. Brooke is the former executive director of the Klondike Placer Miners' Association and has been an incredible asset to mining through her many contributions to the industry.

Hecla Yukon was named for its meaningful collaboration and engagement with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Development Corporation that have been beneficial to both the mine and for reconciliation.

Tosh Southwick was the recipient of the 2024 First Nations in Mining Award in recognition of the efforts that she has made throughout her career to advance Indigenous self determination and economic reconciliation while supporting industry.

Finally, the 2024 Chamber of Mines special recognition for contributions to Yukon geology — Maurice Colpran. Maurice has been recognized for his life's work in advancing our understanding of cordilleran geology, which has given rise to important mineral deposit suites.

So, congratulations to all winners this year on their recognition, and our sincere thanks for their work to support and advance the mining industry in the Yukon. A huge congratulations to all award winners.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling the *Crime Prevention & Victim Services Trust Fund Annual Report 2023-24*, which is tabled pursuant to section 9 of the *Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Act*.

Hon. Mr. Clarke: Pursuant to section 50(1) of the *Environment Act*, I have for tabling the 2024 interim state of the environment report.

Hon. Ms. McLean: I have for tabling a legislative return regarding questions arising out of Vote 3 for Education.

Mr. Dixon: I have for tabling a letter addressed to me from the Town of Watson Lake, dated November 18.

I also have for tabling an e-mail which I was cc'd on from a partner with Tucker Carruthers addressed to the Minister of Community Services. I committed to table that yesterday.

Speaker: Are there any reports of committees?

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Hon. Mr. Clarke: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the *Eighteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees*.

Speaker: Are there any further reports of committees? Petitions.

PETITIONS

Petition No. 27 — response

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to respond to Petition No. 27 on the *Chronic Disease and Disability Benefits Regulation* under the *Health Act*.

The contents of the petition and the spirit in which it is brought forth are being considered in the context of our current health system transformation. Amending the current regulation may be one option, but we are working to consider how to best update this program to respond to the needs of Yukoners.

The chronic disease and disability benefits program, governed by the *Chronic Disease and Disability Benefits Regulation*, supports eligible Yukoners under the age of 65 to help cover some costs associated with managing their chronic diseases or disabilities. To access the chronic disease and disability benefits program, clients and their prescribing health care provider can submit an application. If the application meets the requirements of the program, the client can begin to receive coverage.

Last fiscal year, the program supported a total of 1,257 clients and, as of November 12, 2024, has provided support to 1,127 clients. There is no question that the program plays a critical role in managing many chronic conditions across our communities. The program provides coverage for approximately 80 chronic conditions. The chronic disease and disability benefits program provides drug coverage, medical/surgical supplies such as syringes or diabetic supplies or prosthetic garments, and more. It supplies medical equipment, including manually operated hospital beds and electric wheelchairs, or it provides prostheses and orthotics.

Section 11 of the regulation provides for and describes the chronic disease and disability benefits advisory committee. The regulation took effect in 1994. Section 11 states that there may be a chronic disease and disability benefits advisory committee struck to periodically review the administration of the plan, particularly the amount and types of drugs that are paid for under the plan, and to recommend to the director changes in the administration of the plan.

The advisory committee as described under the regulation has never been convened by any government, including the New Democratic Party or the Yukon Party. The director of Insured Health Services regularly seeks input from health care

professionals related to the program, including physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. Insured Health Services recognizes and welcomes the suggestion to support forums for discussion with people with lived experience. Our work on health system transformation includes many opportunities to engage with front-line care providers and patients.

Earlier this year, we passed the *Health Authority Act*. We are now hard at work to realize the vision of that act and to transform the health system and build Shāw Kwā'ą. We are engaging individuals with lived experience to ensure that their voices shape the system's design and delivery not just for those with chronic conditions but for all Yukoners.

I understand that there are occasions when someone wants to challenge a decision or appeal. An appeal on decisions can be submitted to the director of Insured Health Services via letter or e-mail for review on a case-by-case basis, as is the current practice. The director of Insured Health Services, as per the regulations, may use their discretion in the application of the regulations to limit or to expand coverage based on expertise, experience, and resources.

Insured Health Services uses experts and resources, including pharmacists, clinical advisors, nurses, and organizations such as Canada's Drug Agency, to update and evaluate coverage. We agree that a knowable, transparent appeal process should be part of our improved system. Work is already underway with the intent to formalize a clear, transparent appeals framework. Thank you to the member opposite and the signatories for raising concerns and recommendations on the *Chronic Disease and Disability Benefits Regulation* and associated processes.

By working together, we will ensure that the chronic disease and disability benefits program continues to serve Yukoners effectively as part of our broader commitment to person-centred, equitable health care.

Speaker: Are there any petitions to be presented?
Are there any bills to be introduced?
Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Hon. Mr. Clarke: I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT on the 1,000th day since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Yukon Legislative Assembly supports and echoes the Government of Canada's unequivocal condemnation of Russia's recent attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure and echoes Canada's steadfast support to Ukraine in defending its people, territory, freedom, and democracy; and

THAT the Yukon Legislative Assembly shares its best wishes for the safety and health of Yukoners in Ukraine who are close to targeted areas following these recent attacks.

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

THAT the Yukon Legislative Assembly, pursuant to section 17(1) of the *Human Rights Act*, does reappoint

Michael Dougherty to the Yukon Human Rights Commission for a term of three years effective December 11, 2024; and

THAT the Yukon Legislative Assembly, pursuant to section 17(1) of the *Human Rights Act*, does appoint Helena Tlen to the Human Rights Commission for a term of three years effective November 30, 2024.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT the Yukon Legislative Assembly, pursuant to section 22(2) of the *Human Rights Act*, does reappoint Judith Hartling, Julie Jai, and Vincent Laroche to the Yukon Human Rights Panel of Adjudicators for a term of three years effective November 30, 2024.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT the Yukon Legislative Assembly, pursuant to section 22(2.01) of the *Human Rights Act*, does designate Judith Hartling as chief adjudicator and Julie Jai as deputy chief adjudicator for a term of three years effective November 30, 2024.

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to pay its bills to the Yukon Hospital Corporation in a timely manner, including:

- (1) ensuring that \$11.6 million in accounts receivable owed to the Yukon Hospital Corporation, according to the Public Accounts, is fully paid; and
- (2) avoiding future delays which result in millions of dollars being owed by the government for over 90 days past due.

Speaker: Is there a statement by a minister?

This then brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Confidence and supply agreement commitments

Mr. Hassard: Mr. Speaker, in May of this year, the NDP put out a press release stating that they were putting the Liberal government on notice. They noted that only 13 out of the 29 CASA commitments were complete or on track to be complete. They pointed out three specific policies that they said needed to be delivered on by the Fall Sitting.

The first of those was a training program for EAs or TOCs that, just a few weeks ago, the Yukon Association of Education Professionals said was being totally disregarded by the Liberal government. So, based on what the YAEP has said, it seems unlikely that it will be delivered by the last sitting day, which is Thursday.

Mr. Speaker, is the Premier concerned that the NDP might actually follow through on their threat, or does he just assume that the NDP is all talk?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I want to start by holding up the partnership and relationship that we have with the New Democratic Party for the work that we have done on

the confidence and supply agreement, which contains very important commitments not only to each other but more importantly, I think, to Yukoners.

These commitments include one of the commitments within my area: a one-year training plan for educational assistants, also teachers on call. I spoke to this several times just this week and at other times during Committee of the Whole, and I have indicated that we're on track to have an updated TOC training plan completed by the end of 2024.

I want to just go through some of the accomplishments that we have experienced as we have embarked on this relationship with the New Democratic Party — and for the work that we're doing in Education. We have hired seven school wellness specialists to provide ongoing mental wellness and system navigation supports in Yukon schools, and we are in the final stages of signing an MOU with the First Nation School Board so they may choose the staff who best meet the needs of their school communities. I will continue to talk about our accomplishments.

Mr. Hassard: So, we'll try that again. Mr. Speaker, the second commitment in the May press release from the NDP that needed to be delivered on by the Fall Sitting was — and I quote: "... to provide financial support to Yukoners for fertility treatment and surrogacy expenses." While the government did include fertility treatment in medical travel, they have not come close to doing what was demanded in the press release. Based on what the minister said last week in response to a question from the NDP, it's clear that this won't be delivered by Thursday as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, again, is the Premier concerned that the NDP might actually follow through on what their press release said, or does the Premier just assume that the NDP is all talk?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to be able to speak about the advantages and financial support that this government has given to Yukoners who are seeking fertility treatments. Insured Health Services does, in fact, provide coverage for initial fertility consultations and diagnostic tests that are completed locally, and we now provide medical travel for individuals to seek care outside of the territory.

This is not a light commitment. Medical travel is a significant part of the kinds of treatments that individuals might be seeking to first of all explore surrogacy or fertility treatment themselves. It is an opportunity for individuals to have financial support directly to do that outside of the territory, which is significant. In addition to that, the tax credit conversations have been ongoing. It is imminently available to announce that to Yukoners so that they will have the full details of that program. We are working out some final details with the members across the way — members of the New Democratic Party — and I look very much forward to us announcing the details of that to serve Yukoners who are seeking fertility treatments.

Mr. Hassard: We'll see if that is actually done by Thursday.

The third commitment from the May press release from the NDP that supposedly needed to be delivered on by the Fall Sitting was reforming the land lottery system to make it more

accessible to all Yukoners. We know that there have been no changes to the land lottery system since the press release was issued. In fact, there have even been several land lotteries since then on the current model, so it's clear that this commitment has not been delivered on either.

In the press release, the NDP said — and I'll quote again: "The premier knows what he has to do if he wants us to keep his government alive through the fall sitting." So, Mr. Speaker, again, is the Premier at all concerned that the NDP might actually follow through on their threat to bring the government down, or again, does he just assume that the NDP is all talk?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I don't know — maybe the member missed it yesterday. We were in Committee of the Whole discussing Energy, Mines and Resources and this question came from one of his colleagues. I did say then that we had been doing engagement work, starting this summer, with the public about doing some interim measures around the land lottery. Those reform pieces are coming. I said yesterday that it was within the next day or days. I'll say that again today for all members and for Yukoners.

I also said that we're doing the deeper work on successor legislation of our *Lands Act* and that we will continue to look at the land lottery to see how it can be best adjusted to serve the needs of Yukoners.

Question re: Vimy Heritage Housing Society

Ms. Clarke: Mr. Speaker, the 2023 confidence and supply agreement includes a commitment to — and I'll quote: "... provide funding to the Vimy Heritage Housing Society, comparable to similar projects to build non-profit seniors' housing in the Yukon."

In a July 10 letter to the *Yukon News*, a member of the Vimy Heritage Housing Society asked when there will be funding agreements in place so that building foundations could be laid this fall. Can the minister tell us if that happened and if this commitment has been delivered?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, the conversations have continued between CMHC — Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation — and Vimy. I was briefed on this last week. The current request from Vimy is far above what has been identified in CASA, but it has really been around a series of requests for information that have been identified by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation in order for them to help finance the project.

I believe there is a feasibility plan. Right now, I spoke with one of the leads of Vimy just last week, and I know that they are doing a public survey. They are looking to ensure that they can identify the demand that's required to make sure their project is feasible.

I look forward to questions 2 and 3.

Right now, I know that Vimy is still doing significant work to ensure that their project is moving in the right direction as well as working with both federal officials and the Yukon Housing Corporation.

Ms. Clarke: The 2023 confidence and supply agreement also includes a commitment to impose rent control; however, the CASA ends in the 2025 Spring Sitting. The current rent

control policy is tied to CPI and adjusts each year in May. Since this will happen after the CASA ends, many landlords are wondering if the policy will change.

Can the government tell us if the rent control policy that the NDP forced on the Liberals will continue after the CASA is ended?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, I know that the Minister of Community Services as well as myself have spoken to this. The timing around the rent cap really was focused on the fact that this is a significant piece of legislation that the Yukon government is working on. We have gone out on a number of occasions to speak to the public. It is the work around the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*. That, of course, is something that we will be hoping to have ready to bring forward in the spring. That will give us a set of tools that we can use to take a look at some of the challenges that we have seen.

I am glad that inflation was brought up by the member opposite again today. Looking at the numbers for this month, we have seen that steady decline in inflation here compared to other provinces throughout western Canada — another reduction — but I know that the inflation numbers, as well as in the spring, were well below what we had seen at the five percent for the rent cap. That has been the key — to look at the CASA agreement, continue to have those respectful conversations, which we have on all the topics that have been brought up today, but again, looking toward that piece of legislation this spring.

Ms. Clarke: Mr. Speaker, another commitment in the 2023 confidence and supply agreement is to legislate a ban on no-cause evictions. However, we know that the CASA will end during the 2025 Spring Sitting.

Can the Liberal government confirm whether or not they will go through with this commitment regardless of what happens with the CASA in the Spring Sitting?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Minister of Community Services and the team who is there for the extensive work that they have done speaking to both the private sector, that has invested heavily into the rental market, as well as to tenants across this territory in order to ensure that the work that is done to modernize this act is done taking into consideration all Yukoners. I appreciate the questions today, and I appreciate the work of my colleagues.

I know that, on that Education file, there is great work being done. We have talked to the team there, and they are moving to get that work done over 2024. I appreciate the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the work to modernize the land lottery, which has been incredible work. I thank the minister of health for the work that has been done to make sure that the tools are in place — that we have never seen before — for folks who are out there seeking fertility and, again, the folks at Yukon Housing.

We have seen a number of topics today, and I am glad that our team is on board with that in a respectful relationship with the NDP.

Question re: Mining legislation

Ms. White: So, in the spring, I asked the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources about the liens owed to local businesses by the failed Minto mine. Unfortunately, since then, the Eagle mine has failed and local businesses are once again losing out.

Fast forward to Geoscience week and here we are celebrating the industry, but the debts owed to Yukon companies and contractors from failed Yukon mines continue to pile up. Despite this, there has been no evidence that this government is planning to overhaul the *Miners Lien Act*. For many businesses, this is not their first time being left with huge unpaid bills — \$4.3 million in liens against Yukon Zinc, \$42 million in liens against Minto mine, \$60.2 million in liens against Victoria Gold. That's over \$100 million in unpaid bills in the local economy from failed mines.

When will this government finally protect Yukon businesses and contractors by rewriting the *Miners Lien Act*?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I appreciate the question. Just this week, we have been at the Geoscience Forum. I myself have stood up and given a couple of pretty long talks about the Eagle Gold site and the Minto mine situation. One of the things I will say is that a couple of months ago now, I think it was, we met with many of the companies who are left being owed money — creditors — at Eagle Gold and, of course, we heard about their concerns. One of the things that they asked us to do was to try to use as much of that local talent here in the Yukon around the work that is happening on-site to remediate it and to protect the environment. That has been underway and happening.

Another one that we heard was: Please do it as quickly as possible; like, invest heavily, because the sooner we can get back to where that mine is operating well and safely, the better.

I'll just say for all Yukoners that we are in the middle of rewriting our new minerals legislation. This is part of our devolution transfer agreement, and the team has been working hard on that.

Ms. White: So, I appreciate that the minister referenced legislation that the NDP made him start working on, but Yukoners heard on the radio today just how badly it's going. Again, the problems with the *Miners Lien Act* aren't new. The Yukon NDP has been standing up for Yukon businesses and raising this issue since the failed Wolverine mine left Yukon contractors holding the bag in 2015. So, we're nearing a decade since the flaws of this legislation were made clear.

The Eagle Gold mine scenario presents a new challenge, though. Because the Yukon government rightly pushed Victoria Gold into receivership, the government is now first in line to access the assets of the company. This has vendors who supplied goods and services to the mine worried.

Does the minister have a plan to ensure that suppliers of the Eagle Mine will be paid out fairly for the goods and services they provided, or will they lose out on the money they are owed again?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, I want approach this question in a couple of parts. First, the comments made about legislation reflecting on some comments the member opposite heard on the radio — I think it does a disservice to the technical

teams who have worked on this for a number of years. A file that I know and I've been close to — walking through the MOU that was signed, the mineral development strategy, then on to this. So, the reflection of this as a priority in CASA, I appreciate, but the work started long before that, and it's very technical, significant work that I know our teams are doing in a respectful way.

On the lien act, look, I think I've said this before in the House, and it should be captured in Hansard. I think we do have to have a discussion about it, and I think where, in the role of the Minister of Economic Development and in the Premier seat, I do want to have discussions with previous government. I know that there have been comments made by the Member for Lake Laberge on this about investment; I know former mines ministers have perspective on it; I know that the former Leader of the NDP fought hard for this. I always want to understand why it has been changed and why it hasn't been used previously.

I know it has been pushed, but there was discussion of why it was a challenge. Look, I think part of that is a discussion with the private sector and showing them what a lien act would look like. It's something we should investigate, especially —

Speaker: Order, please.

Ms. White: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, unless the government fixes the *Miners Lien Act*, this won't be the last time that this issue happens.

During the Yukon's receivership proceedings, I watched as people were told that they would receive pennies on the dollar, and it was devastating. Yukon businesses are primarily small businesses. They don't have the resources to take this kind of hit. For many, it may mean layoffs or selling equipment and downsizing their companies, but it doesn't have to be that way. The Yukon Party wrote this legislation to the benefit of mining companies and their boards of directors. We have seen how badly this legislation works for Yukoners, but it doesn't have to be that way.

So, when will this government fix the broken *Miners Lien Act* and stand up for Yukon businesses?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, in response to question 2, I have just said that it's something that we're open to having a look at it. The commitment I'll make on the floor today is we'll have the Department of Economic Development start a process of speaking with the Whitehorse chamber, the Yukon chamber, the First Nation chamber — I think they represent a number of individuals — as well as the Chamber of Mines, the Producers Group — there are a number of groups that we can reach out to. I want to get their perspective.

The member opposite stands up on behalf of the private sector; I think that we should reach out directly to them and see what their perspective is on this. I am happy to direct officials later this week to begin that work.

Question re: Carbon tax rebate program

Mr. Istchenko: Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I asked about changes that the federal government is making to their carbon rebate program for businesses and whether or not the Premier would be making similar changes here in the Yukon. The

Premier said that he thought that, in the Yukon, carbon rebates for businesses and placer mines were tax-free but committed to get back to me today. I want to note that the yukon.ca website states clearly that the rebates qualify as income and are therefore taxable.

Can the Premier tell us if he has confirmed this to be true?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the member opposite, because I committed to a legislative return that I have, but I didn't get it into the system quick enough. I will table it tomorrow, but I want to answer the question, so I will start with the carbon tax rebates for businesses and placer mines. The member is absolutely correct that the mining business rebate is issued as a refundable credit and the rebates qualify as income and are taxable.

I will look forward to question 2.

Mr. Istchenko: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Premier for that.

On November 12, the federal Minister of Finance announced that the Canada carbon rebate that would be delivered to Canadian businesses would not be considered taxable income. Of course, as the Premier has noted, this is not the case in the Yukon.

My question to the Premier is: Why won't he consider making the rebates that are delivered to small businesses and placer miners tax free, like the federal government has done?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I am going to read from our response today to a similar question yesterday: Under the federal tax law, refundable tax credits, including the Yukon's business carbon rebate and Canada carbon rebate for small businesses, are taxable unless an exception is provided.

The Department of Finance has reached out to Finance Canada requesting details on how the Canada carbon rebate for small businesses will be deemed tax free. There is currently no legislative provision for this treatment, and the federal government has not expanded on this commitment further, so it's a good point yesterday. Again, our teams are looking at that.

The Government of Yukon looks forward to further details from the federal government on those public commitments. As part of its annual review with the Government of Yukon's carbon rebate program, government considers developments to the federal carbon price as well as updates to rebate shares.

I look forward to question 3.

Question re: Yukon Hospital Corporation funding

Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, construction of the mental wellness unit at Whitehorse hospital is behind schedule. As of this morning, a sign at the hospital still proclaims that the project will be complete in July 2024.

In December 2 last year, CBC reported — quote: "Yukon Hospital Corp. used capital funds just to meet payroll last year, report says"; "Financial review says hospital corporation has been dealing with a 'chronic cash flow and operating shortfall.'" It goes on to explain: "... the hospital corporation was so strapped last year, it used \$7.3-million in capital funds — intended for the building of a new Mental Wellness Unit — to cover payroll and operating costs."

Mr. Speaker, the Liberal government is directly to blame for the delay due to their chronic underfunding of our Yukon hospitals. Can the minister of health tell us what the current timeline is for completing the new mental wellness unit at the Whitehorse hospital, and will it be delayed again due to lack of funding?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately for Yukoners, the information characterized by the member opposite of their approach to how the Yukon Hospital Corporation is funded and how this government operates in partnership with the Hospital Corporation and the YMA to make sure that health care for Yukoners is available and well-funded is a strategy on their part and a point of view, but it's not accurate. The Yukon government works to meet the funding needs of the Yukon Hospital Corporation, and year over year, we provide funding through core and additional transfer payment agreements commensurate with the needs of the Hospital Corporation as determined by the Yukon Hospital Corporation's board.

First of all, I do not see it the same way. I certainly do not expect the issues that occurred a year and a half or so ago with respect to the use of capital funding for expenditures that were not capital funding to occur again. We have worked very closely with the Hospital Corporation — meet weekly on issues of funding. We have, over the past year, continued to improve the reporting processes enabled by the review work that was completed by external parties back in the fall of 2023.

The supplementary estimate here is \$120.8 million. I hope the other party supports it.

Mr. Cathers: Well, I have to remind the minister that I was quoting CBC and Ernst & Young.

Mr. Speaker, the new mental wellness unit was supposed to be a 12-bed facility. Here's what the *Yukon News* said about it on October 25 last year: "Once complete, the unit will have 12 beds..." Now we have learned that, in addition to construction being months behind schedule, the Liberal government has only approved funding to operate five beds at the new facility. So, after years in construction, the mental wellness unit will have exactly the same number of beds as the unit it's replacing — just five beds.

Can the minister of health or perhaps the Premier explain why this Liberal government continues to deny our hospitals the funding they need to meet the demonstrated needs of Yukon patients?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, the 2024-25 first supplementary estimate has budgeted \$120.8 million for the Yukon Hospital Corporation O&M as well as \$8.7 million in capital expenditures for the combined total of \$129.5 million. The first supplementary estimate for 2024-25 includes an increase of \$10.4 million in O&M and an additional \$3.6 million in capital expenditures over the main estimates for 2024-25. This increase responds to the growth in hospital and surgical services costs and higher costs associated with responding to health human resources challenges.

If the member opposite thinks that the funding set at the beginning of the mains of a budget should not be adjusted over the course of the year as Yukoners need additional health care,

as the hospital continues to grow and respond, and as our health system does, then unfortunately, that's not going to serve Yukoners well.

We have continued to work on a weekly basis with the Hospital Corporation. We continue to fund them adequately; we continue to respond to Yukoners' health care needs financially and with support of front-line health care workers.

Mr. Cathers: It has been a year since the government released a damning report by Ernst & Young confirming what we have been saying for years. This Liberal government has been failing Yukoners by chronically underfunding Yukon hospitals. The report confirmed that Yukon Hospital Corporation was forced to use \$7.3 million in capital funds intended for the building of a new mental wellness unit to cover payroll and operating costs. The review found that YHC has been dealing with a "chronic cash flow and operating shortfall."

Last fiscal year, our hospitals began the year short of O&M funding by almost \$30 million, receiving just \$95.3 million, when their actual needs turned out to be \$124.7 million in O&M. That was only after they cut and capped services in November and December.

Since the minister is refusing to call witnesses from the Yukon Hospital Corporation to appear in the House this fall, will she tell us if this government is forcing our hospitals to cut surgeries and services again this winter?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, first I want to speak to the conversations that continue to happen between the Hospital Corporation — I know that the minister and I, both last year and this year, have always said that we need to know exactly what is required to ensure the hospital runs in an optimal way.

Again today, what we are hearing is a perpetuation of a narrative that is incorrect. It is really focused on the mental health institute — the work that has been done there — the new infrastructure. I know that, from our response that we have gotten from the Hospital Corporation and their team is — I know that there is a bit of a delay on some infrastructure. I think that it is windows and some doors. We can get back and have that discussion, but it certainly doesn't have to do with the way we are funding the hospital. I think that it has to do with some of the work being done through the construction and the supply chain.

What it really comes down to for the Member for Lake Laberge — he can perpetuate whatever narrative he wants, but the real —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Pillai: — and speak off-mic, but what it really comes down to is: On Thursday, will you vote to support the money that is in this budget to help Yukoners and the health of Yukoners? That is what it really comes down to. I know that it makes the member opposite uncomfortable and he squirms when I ask because he knows that, at the end of the day, that is exactly what Yukoners will be watching. We will be watching to see if he votes, but I know that we will have money in the budget to make sure that our health care system continues to be invested in.

Question re: Whistle Bend traffic

Mr. Dixon: Mr. Speaker, on November 7, my colleague representing Whistle Bend asked some questions about the ongoing issues of traffic that have plagued that neighbourhood. In response, the Minister of Community Services criticized her for raising those issues and said — quote: "... she is dictating a solution to a problem that she has heard. That's great, but I actually will rely on the traffic experts..."

Well, Mr. Speaker, at last night's city council meeting, the topic of Whistle Bend traffic was a significant part of the discussion about the next phases of Whistle Bend. In the council package from last night, it states that the city and YG have already undertaken a transportation impact analysis and identified these very issues that my colleague asked about. It should come as no surprise that residents of Whistle Bend, their MLA, and the formal analysis undertaken by the city and YG all agree that action needs to be taken.

So, will the minister admit that he was wrong to dismiss these concerns and get to work on the infrastructure to alleviate Whistle Bend traffic?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the municipal question on a municipal issue this afternoon. It is important, and I understand that. What I will say is that we have just had an election at the municipal level. We have a brand new slate of councillors; we have a brand-new Mayor of Whitehorse, and I look forward to working with the brand new mayor and councillors of Whitehorse on the agenda that they put forward. I understand — I heard the meeting last night. I do know that traffic is an issue in Whistle Bend; it is an issue in Copper Ridge, and it is an issue in Riverdale.

We are going to continue to work with the municipality to hear what their solutions for the traffic problems on their roads are. We will work with them to solve those problems. It is a municipal road issue, and we will work with the municipality to solve the problems when they bring us their requests.

Mr. Dixon: Mr. Speaker, when my colleague asked about the specific concerns that she had heard and the specific solutions that had been proposed, the minister criticized her and dismissed those proposals. He said — quote: "I'm not going to come with pre-baked solutions for the citizens of Whistle Bend."

Well, Mr. Speaker, those were far from pre-baked solutions. According to last night's council package, administration is actually recommending that city council make these infrastructure priorities a condition of subdivision approval for phases 10 and 11. That means that, among other things, the design and construction of a third lane for Mountain View and the design and construction of a third entrance to Whistle Bend are going to be conditions that must be met in order to allow for the subdivision approval of phases 10 and 11.

So, will the minister admit that he was wrong about these projects, and will he get to work addressing the traffic concerns that the MLA, the City of Whitehorse, and residents of Whistle Bend have so clearly identified?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Mr. Speaker, what I am hearing from the member opposite and what I heard from the council meeting last night was that council is setting priorities for their

council. They will come forward to me with those priorities — through the city administration to my deputy minister and from the mayor to me — and address those priorities. I will then work with my Cabinet colleagues to find ways that we can address the priorities brought to us by the City of Whitehorse.

The City of Whitehorse, of course, is a municipality, a government that was duly elected by its citizens, and I expect that it will have some wherewithal itself to deal with some of these problems. We will work with the City of Whitehorse to make sure that we address the priorities that they bring forward.

Last night, they had a council meeting; they addressed this as a priority. I expect that they will have formal recognition of that to my office in the coming days and weeks.

Mr. Dixon: Mr. Speaker, the minister may dismiss these infrastructure priorities as demands of the City of Whitehorse, but quite frankly, it's clear that the Yukon government needs to be involved. According to the package presented to the council last night, city administration is recommending that the development responsibilities, timelines, and costs related to these projects be addressed in an agreement between the city and Yukon government and that subdivision approval of phases 10 and 11 be conditional on that agreement between those two levels of government. That means that, if the minister doesn't start taking these concerns seriously, they could threaten the development timelines for over 200 lots in phases 10 and 11.

So, will the minister admit that he was wrong to dismiss these concerns raised by the MLA and work with the city to address these concerns to ensure that there are no delays in phases 10 or 11?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Mr. Speaker, I will say again that we have a newly elected mayor and council. They are just holding their very first meetings. They had a meeting last night where the administration brought forward the work that had been done by a previous council and under a previous council, and they have expressed some priorities that they expect to work with the Yukon government on. That is the process. We will certainly respect the process.

I am sort of surprised at the former minister on the opposition bench. I thought he would know the way that you work with a municipal council. The council makes decisions, they come to us, and they give us our priorities and we work with them. That's the process and that's what we're going to do.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

Notice of opposition private members' business

Ms. White: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I would like to identify the items standing in the name of the Third Party to be called on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. They are: Bill No. 308, standing in the name of the Member for Takhini-Kopper King, and Motion No. 1057, standing in the name of the Member for Takhini-Kopper King.

Mr. Kent: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I would like to identify the items standing in the name of the Official Opposition to be called on Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

They are: Motion No. 1122, standing in the name of the Member for Copperbelt North, and Motion No. 1127, standing in the name of the Member for Kluane.

Speaker: We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3 and notwithstanding Standing Order 74, I request the unanimous consent of the House to move that Bill No. 45, entitled *Electoral District Boundaries Act*, be now read a third time.

Unanimous consent re third reading of Bill No. 45

Speaker: The Hon. Premier has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3 and notwithstanding Standing Order 74, requested the unanimous consent of the House to move that Bill No. 45, entitled *Electoral District Boundaries Act*, be now read a third time.

Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Unanimous consent has been granted.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

Bill No. 45: *Electoral District Boundaries Act* — Third Reading

Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 45, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Pillai.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 45, entitled *Electoral District Boundaries Act*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 45, entitled *Electoral District Boundaries Act*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, I think at this point I want to thank members of the House for their comments yesterday at second reading. There were a lot of different perspectives shared with the Assembly. I think it's important.

At this point, I want to thank the individuals from the commission who did a tremendous amount of work, discussions with Yukoners throughout many communities — difficult work but incredibly important work — and as well the Yukoners who came out to share their perspectives on this.

I think I'll save any other remarks until the end of debate today, and I will open it up to my colleagues from the opposition benches and hearing their comments.

Mr. Dixon: Mr. Speaker, the comments that my colleagues and I wanted to make were made at second reading, so we will not be speaking too much further to that.

The vote at third reading, as with second reading votes, will be done with the views of our constituents in mind, and each MLA will be reflecting those constituents when they vote.

Ms. White: Mr. Speaker, today in speaking in support of Bill No. 45, I first want to start off by thanking my colleagues

from Pelly-Nisutlin and Watson Lake for their words yesterday and for standing up on behalf of their constituents. I do appreciate it, and I heard what they said yesterday, and I did hear and understand the letters from both the Mayor of the Town of Faro and the Mayor of Watson Lake, so I appreciate — as a person myself who has often been in the minority of votes, it's not always comfortable. So, I do appreciate that they used the mechanisms that they were able to last week to stall, and I appreciate the reasons behind it.

Again, I thank the members of the commission for the work that they did on the electoral boundaries. Again, I'll mention that this will hold for two elections, so, in 2030, the new commission will be appointed and will be doing the same things. Unless the *Elections Act* review happens ahead of that and we put in some parameters, a lot of the same challenges that were voiced in this boundary commission report will happen again.

I appreciate the work that was done and the recommendations and look forward to moving on.

Speaker: If the member now speaks, he will close debate.

Does any other member wish to be heard?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, reflecting on the comments yesterday, I want to thank those who stood to speak. I would also like to just identify a few things — maybe correct the record a bit — and just close our debate and recognize the comments that were raised around maintaining rural representation.

After releasing the interim report and receiving feedback from Yukoners, the Electoral District Boundaries Commission reversed its interim proposal to combine the ridings of Vuntut Gwitchin and Klondike. In its final report, the commission said that it recommended leaving Vuntut Gwitchin as its own electoral district. The commission's reasons included the electoral district's remoteness, the strong connection of the Vuntut Gwitchin people to the land, and the importance of ensuring that their values are reflected by the elected representatives.

Likewise, the commission recommended changes to the boundaries of the current electoral districts of Pelly-Nisutlin and Watson Lake. In its report, the commission acknowledged that there are strong feelings and opposing viewpoints. I know that we have also received comments from leaders in a number of communities — both supporting and opposing viewpoints on where the electoral boundaries should be. The commission's role was to balance the need to ensure that each Yukoner's vote counts and the unique gifts and challenges that our vast territory presents.

It is important to note that the commission conducted extensive consultation with Yukoners from May to September 2024. The commission held 18 public hearings. These included three virtual hearings between July and September. A number of submissions were received by the commission as well. Two of note I know, and we talked a bit

about Watson Lake. I know that there are two of note from the Member for Watson Lake.

Following the release of the interim report in this submission, there was no — yesterday, there was a lot of talk about Watson Lake, but following the first release of the interim report in this submission, there was no specific concern raised around the new proposed district — simply a request for a subsequent meeting from the Member for Watson Lake along with a request that the rural representation be weighted in the same way as the present-day ratio. In the member's second submission, it seems to take a different position — one opposing new boundaries and citing travel time as a primary concern.

Again, interesting that the Member for Watson Lake — and I know yesterday there was some strong language, but I think that it's also important to note that it was — I think that the term was that community members did not want this, but I also think, from my perspective — and I think that it's important to note that some community members did make submissions. The Liard First Nation made input to the commission as well, and I know that there was a detailed 17-page submission from the Chief of the Liard First Nation, and that was sent on April 9, 2024. I won't go into too much detail on the submission but just to highlight a few points that are a bit counter to the statements made yesterday that I think are important to put on the record, and they were points that were made in the second submission by the Member for Watson Lake.

The travel distance between Ross River and Teslin in the current riding of Pelly-Nisutlin is over 580 kilometres, while in the new proposed riding of Watson Lake, the travel distance across the district is 383 kilometres. The submission goes on to compare the driving distance of the electoral district of Klondike, which is 542 kilometres as well. They do go on to state that their territory is webbed with traditional paths and modes of transportation and that under the Yukon Resource Gateway agreement between Canada and the Yukon, there is significant funding available for the upgrades and improvements to the Robert Campbell Highway, which reflects the Kaska realities that were enabled again to increase economic opportunities.

Again, I'm just reading what was submitted by the Chief of the Liard First Nation. In the Member for Watson Lake's second submission — again, she notes that there are several — that several commissions have contemplated combining Ross River and Watson Lake, with a decision never being followed through. The Liard First Nation goes on in great detail about the ongoing request along with the commission's final recommendations going back to 1991. So, interesting again that this has been a change long advocated for by the Kaska yet, again, never adopted in a final report until now.

I would also note that the submission made by the Chief of the Ross River Dena Council also supported the new boundaries.

So, I think that it's important, after the comments yesterday, that we do bring those forward. I know that they weren't brought forward by the Member for Watson Lake, but

they are individuals from the community of Watson Lake, so I think that it's important to note that.

Again, I think that there were some accusations yesterday that the Chief Justice of the Yukon and the Chief Electoral Officer and the members of the commission made decisions on the boundaries all in the name of politics — again accusing them of not hearing the voices of her constituents. I think, again, that we should go back and take some time to read that submission. I think that it's important that we note that, and again, I know that there is a bit of a difference of opinion there as well as we went through some of the comments yesterday from the Leader of the Official Opposition, who I know was supportive of the work of the commission.

I believe that I interpreted the integrity and noted the Chief Justice and the Chief Electoral Officer as being independent of partisanship. I appreciate the comments from the Leader of the Official Opposition, although I know that they were counter to the Member for Watson Lake and maybe to the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin, who weighed views and shared some of those comments.

I also note that the Mayor of Teslin raised some concerns around the need for rural representation and did not weigh in on the boundaries of the riding itself. I think that is important to note. All of us in this House have great respect for Mayor Curran, and it was really about rural representation and not about the boundaries. Anyway, I will leave that.

I would like to wrap up my comments by thanking Geomatics Yukon and the commission for their forward-thinking work. I think it was good work, and the majority of the House are there. I do want to thank all members of the House for the reflection and focus on rural representation.

I want to take a moment to sincerely thank the members of the Electoral District Boundaries Commission and their hard work — Chief Justice Suzanne Duncan, Patricia Cuning, Elizabeth Hanson, Warren Holland, and Maxwell Harvey. I thank you all for your work and your commitment to good governance in the Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, I respect the commission's process, and we have introduced a bill in accordance with the *Elections Act*.

Speaker: Are you prepared for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Agree.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Agree.

Hon. Ms. McLean: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Clarke: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Silver: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Agree.

Mr. Dixon: Agree.

Mr. Kent: Agree.

Ms. Clarke: Agree.

Mr. Cathers: Agree.

Ms. McLeod: Disagree.

Ms. Van Bibber: Agree.

Mr. Hassard: Disagree.

Mr. Istchenko: Agree.

Ms. White: Agree.

Ms. Blake: Agree.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 15 yea, two nay.

Speaker: The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried.
Motion for third reading of Bill No. 45 agreed to

Speaker: I declare that Bill No. 45 has passed this House.

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.

Motion re appearance of witnesses

Committee of the Whole Motion No. 18

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Madam Chair, I move:

THAT from 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, Kurt Dieckmann, president and chief executive officer of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board, and Mark Pike, chair of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board, appear as witnesses before Committee of the Whole to answer questions regarding the operations of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board.

Chair: It has been moved by the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes:

THAT from 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, Kurt Dieckmann, president and chief executive officer of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board, and Mark Pike, chair of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board, appear as witnesses before Committee of the Whole to answer questions regarding the operations of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board.

Is there any debate?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Madam Chair, very briefly, just in conversation with House leaders, there was a request to shorten the time here for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board in order to provide more time for debate on the budget, and I'm happy to do so.

Committee of the Whole Motion No. 18 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: Order. 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: I would just ask my colleagues to again welcome Deputy Minister Mary Cameron and director of Finance Andrea McIntyre to the Legislative Assembly for our further debate on Vote 3 in Supplementary No. 1. I am just going to move right into questions, Madam Chair. I am happy to answer further questions on Education.

Mr. Kent: I would like to also welcome back the officials here today. I will split my time here this afternoon with the Member for Takhini-Kopper King, so I will jump right into some questions.

The first ones I have are around the staffing concerns, staffing vacancies, and some of the shortages that the schools are experiencing. We brought this up in Question Period yesterday, but I want to dig in a little bit further on that. We are hearing from families and also from some schools that, in spite of the increased numbers of teachers on call or substitute teachers available, they are not getting people on the other end of the phone to fill those positions when they have absenteeism, so we're seeing educational assistants and learning assistance teachers pulled away from their normal duties to provide coverage at schools. I know that the minister has said that this is one of the administrative tools that is used, but what we're seeing is that, on occasion, some of the students requiring EA coverage are asked to stay home when their EA is pulled away for other duties in the schools.

I guess the first question I would have is: What solutions are there beyond students having to stay home for someone to be able to cover? I know that there are some educators who work in the Department of Education itself. Is there an opportunity to deploy them? Obviously, that isn't going to work for rural Yukon, but it would work for schools in the Whitehorse area, so I am just — are there any other creative solutions that the minister and the department are looking at to ensure that students aren't asked to stay home if their EA is unavailable?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Thanks for the question. Certainly, it is a very important topic. We know that all students deserve the support they need to meet their potential. As I have stated a few times, there are different positions with — and I know that the member is well aware, having been in this role previously, and these are not new pressures I think on the education system. They are certainly more prevalent now post-COVID-19, which really put a strain on education across the board, as it did with health.

There are a number of other positions that support a student — learning assistance teachers. There are other specialists who work within schools. Again, there are educational assistants.

I think that part of what we're seeing in some of the pressures is that, during the time of COVID-19, we were under the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and so we had a lot more ability to move folks around. That just doesn't exist — if a teacher is a YEU member, which most are — during the civil emergency measures, we were able to move folks around and we were more nimble in our ability to reassign folks. So, because we are no longer in that state of emergency and haven't been for some time, we know that we have to look at creative solutions. Some of those included some of the work that we did last year when we started going into individual school settings and looking at creative solutions. Some teachers may agree to be reassigned to a temporary vacancy or a pressure that's within the school.

So, those are all things that we are doing. We're certainly working with our authority, along with the CSFY, which falls under our HR management under the Department of Education. We're working closely with the First Nation School Board. They have taken on a majority of the rural schools, so the rural schools do have vacancy pressures. We still have vacancy pressures. I will get the current number. As of November 8, 2024, Yukon Education and CSFY schools were 98-percent staffed. I have the breakdown of all of the schools in the territory now, including the Yukon First Nation School Board schools, and can go through some of that.

We agree that ultimately we want to have our children supported in the way that they need to be and we're working diligently around staffing recruitment and working with the other authorities to make sure that we're working together on those measures.

I note that we recently had a temporary vacancy in the St. Elias Community School, for instance, and one of our superintendents has moved over into the permanent principal role at St. Elias Community School. That's a great example of how we are working together to ensure that our schools are supported in the way that they need to be.

I do not deny at all that there are pressures in schools. I think that the human resources team has done good work in terms of working to recruit. I note that the member did mention the TOC levels that are growing all the time, even now. I get updated numbers as they change. As of November 8, we have 226 registered TOCs and 35 pending applications. I do note that these numbers do not include the First Nation School Board, as they have taken on full hiring responsibility this year.

I think that there are also numbers that move around because we do have TOCs who have accepted temporary full-time positions with Yukon Education schools either as educational assistants or, in some cases, even as a teacher.

I know that's a long answer. It's complicated in terms of how we're working, and every school is a little bit different in terms of what is available to them in the rural settings. We work with the administrators. They are ultimately responsible for the assignments, but we at the Department of Education certainly support them in the work that they do to meet the needs of our children.

Mr. Kent: I have just a couple of follow-up questions then. The minister mentioned that there was more flexibility during the pandemic because the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* was in place to move employees around from YEU employees at the department into the schools. Would it take a legislative change? I don't think that anybody is too anxious to go back to some sort of civil emergency. But what would it take to allow, on a temporary basis, some of the educators who are now in the department and are YEU employees to get back into the schools if we are running into situations where students are asked to stay home because their EA is acting as a substitute teacher or covering something else off within the school?

So, I guess the question would be: What would it take? Would it be a legislative, policy, or regulatory change to allow for the teachers who are at the department to spell off in the schools when necessary?

Hon. Ms. McLean: I know that the member is well aware that we are in collective bargaining. We also will have the opportunity I think to have discussions potentially in YEU collective bargaining.

But the note is well taken. I think that — considerations, for sure. As we look at other ways to continue to always put children at the centre and to respect the agreements that we have, we need to work with all of the unions and work with other authorities within Education to make sure that we have — and that we have learned as well from experiences like a global pandemic that created a lot of temporary change. But what were some of the things that did work during that time of emergency and how can we learn from that?

I think that those are all areas that we are wanting to look at. That is definitely something we can follow up on to see if there are any areas or information that we can share on the immediate front with the member. I would be happy to bring that information back and ensure that everyone has the same information here.

Mr. Kent: I just wanted to clarify and make sure that I didn't misunderstand what the minister said. The change that is required is something that is being discussed in the collective bargaining to allow for some of the teachers who are currently YEU employees and working in the department to be deployed to the schools on an emergency basis, such as the ones I have described. I just want to make sure that I'm getting that straight.

Hon. Ms. McLean: Thanks for asking for the clarity. We have members working within the department who are YEU members. I am not suggesting that this is part of the

collective bargaining now, but we would at an appropriate time have those discussions.

Mr. Kent: When it comes to teachers on call, as we have talked about, the minister has said — and I believe that she said that she continues to get regular reports on the increased numbers, but again, we are hearing from some schools that are having trouble getting substitutes, or TOCs, in to cover off the positions that they need to. I'm sure that the department receives student absentee reports from each school, but I'm wondering if they receive staff absentee reports from each school and whether or not someone was available — a TOC was available — to cover off that absenteeism by a teacher for illness or other reasons. Obviously, there could be a number of reasons that a teacher or an educator is out of the school — professional development is another one — but just wondering again: Are there reports that come in so that the department officials can track which schools are having more difficulty and perhaps deploy resources or make choices to deploy resources to those schools that are having difficulty getting TOCs to come in?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Again, I think when we look at illness or absenteeism in the schools, the schools are required to report — and I'll just talk about communicable disease for a minute, because I think some of it may apply, but in terms of getting to some of the procedures that happen on a day-to-day basis, schools are required to report suspected communicable disease to the Yukon Communicable Disease Control.

The Department of Education follows the advice and guidance of the chief medical officer of health and maintains a close collaboration with their office. We recommend that children who are ill, regardless of symptoms, stay home to rest, recover, and avoid infecting others. We continue to employ established processes for monitoring and reporting communicable disease, and that's done, again, with the chief medical officer of health, who provides recommendations on school operations, including decisions on notifying others about suspected outbreaks. Schools have contingency plans in place when there are high rates of absenteeism among staff and/or students.

In terms of temporary vacancy management — I know I have gone through this before, but operation and management of schools routinely require regular adjustment by administrators, and I am thankful to the great administration teams we have for their ability to effectively adjust where there are temporary vacancies that have put increased demands on staff resources.

The schools have several options available to help them manage when they have that need, and this includes adjusting staff teaching assignments, adjustments to student learning groups, and/or use of the teachers on call. If schools determine that they are unable to operate due to a shortage of staff, temporary redeployment of superintendents to schools under the authority of Education or regrouping students will be considered before a shift to remote learning, as we did see from time to time when we were in the *Civil Emergency Measures Act*.

When that act was invoked when we had COVID-19, employees could be redeployed to other tasks and responsibilities, as we have talked about already today. Classroom operations in the school system do not, of course, constitute an emergency under CEMA, but again, the Public Service Commission and the Department of Education are working together to identify and implement new initiatives to address teaching shortages. This ensures that our students will have the necessary in-classroom support that enables Yukon students to succeed in their educational journey.

Specifically around the question of whether we track, we do. Each school does track, and on a day-to-day basis, it's not something that the deputy minister would see, but the superintendents would know that information, so it certainly is being looked at and considered as we look at some of these other ways, as I have indicated, to support schools and address teacher shortages.

Mr. Kent: The reason that I was asking is because we are hearing from some schools that are having trouble getting substitute teachers to come in and cover off, whereas other schools that we heard from last year we are not hearing from again, so maybe they are having better luck. I think that was why I was asking. I don't expect senior officials to look at the daily absentee and coverage reports, but if there is something long term that a school is identifying, that is what I was wondering about — whether or not that was tracked so that decisions could be made on a school-to-school basis if some of the schools, like we have heard, are having trouble getting substitute teachers, or teachers on call, to pick up the phone in the morning when they are needed.

That brings me full circle to where I started the question: where we are seeing some students who require EAs being asked to stay home on occasion, because their designated EA is often asked to substitute and cover a class.

I did want to talk about EA allocations and ask a couple of questions. Yesterday in Question Period, we asked about the concerns with a new policy that was set to come forward in the spring. There were a number of education stakeholders — I think that there were four education stakeholders — who had concerns with it, and the minister paused it.

I am just curious if the minister can give us an update on what we are doing. Did we revert back to the previous process for this school year, and are there plans moving forward to work with the stakeholders — or work with all stakeholders — and come up with a new EA allocation process that works for everyone?

Hon. Ms. McLean: I will start with the current process and what we are doing right now. The allocation of educational assistants in schools across the territory — of course, a collaborative process involving Student Support Services, superintendents, school board executive directors, principals, and learning assistance teachers — all partners play a valuable role in ensuring that students receive the support to learn and be included. There is a range of student supports available. As I have indicated, educational assistants are one of those supports.

Both the First Nation School Board and CSFY have requested to manage their own EA allocation. So, when we are talking about EA allocation, we are talking about the Department of Education process. Student Support Services, number one, share materials for school staff to request EA support for their students. This material includes an evidence-informed rubric for shared and intensive support that considers areas like safety of the child, independence, communication, academics, medical needs, and social and emotional skills. School staff complete this paperwork and share it back with Student Support Services through their superintendents, and as needed, Student Support Services, school staff, and superintendents discuss the requests for EA support.

Student Support Services then assigns educational assistant support for each school based on conversations, a needs-based evaluation, and budgeted full-time equivalents, and then schools work with the human resources to hire educational assistants. Principals assign those EAs within their school-based need — so, where there are additional considerations for educational assistant allocations based on factors such as managing a transition from CDC, a transition between elementary to secondary, and students moving into and within the territory throughout the year.

In the spring of 2024, the allocation process for the 2024-25 school year for Yukon Education schools was paused due to ongoing consultation with the Yukon Association of Education Professionals and work with the broader system partners. To respect this work, we allocated for the school year based on the 2023-24 numbers. For the 2024-25 school year, as of September 4, there are a total of 338.86 FTEs for learning assistance teachers and educational assistants. I mean, of course, we also have the increased supports through the confidence and supply agreement that we allocated in 2023-24, so 40 new positions were added there. This year, we are adding 21 new positions, and then 20 new positions will be added for the 2025-26 school year.

In terms of the next steps, we began reviewing how we allocate educational assistants in the fall of 2023. We heard from partners on how EAs were allocated. We met with every school in 2023-24 to review each educational assistant request. During this time, we gathered feedback from schools on the process. Schools continue to provide feedback to Student Support Services on the process and EA support. On April 25, 2024, the department met with partners and heard concerns regarding an update to the EA allocation. Formal consultation with the Yukon Association of Education Professionals on EA allocation process began in spring 2024.

For the 2025-2026 school year, we will continue consulting with our partners and for now maintain the current allocation process. However, of course, the data that we request will be refined and will more accurately and transparently reflect the students' needs.

The other part is that we've cleared a backlog of educational assessments. Currently at the Department of Education, we do not have any wait-listed psychological educational assessments pending. We have cleared the backlog

on that. So that then helps us to understand better the needs of our students. I think that those things are hand in hand.

I can continue to build on where we're at and hope that this has answered that question for now, but the work still continues to get us to an updated process.

Mr. Kent: So, the reason I'm asking about this EA allocation process is that we have heard from a family over this past weekend — and I've heard from other families as well — that their child has not been assigned an EA this year and that's simply because there aren't enough EAs to go around. They still have a need for the EA, but they are not getting the support that they need because of a number that appears to be assigned to the size of the school or perhaps other students were also in need, so these students are kind of left out in the cold.

I am just wondering if the minister has any plans to deal with that and how these students who have had EA support and need EA support from the past are not getting that support this year. What is their recourse? What can those families do to advocate with the department, administration, or staff at the school to ensure that they're getting the coverage for their child that they need?

Hon. Ms. McLean: In terms of allocations, I have gone through in quite a bit of detail how we get to the numbers. We revisit the numbers and the needs of each school. I think that September 30 is the more official date when we look at what the allocations are for schools, but we work through that in between that time so that, if there is a need, it's dealt with at the school level, for sure.

I think that if there are cases where children are not receiving the support, the very first place to start is with the teacher and the principal at the school. We work in a case-management style to ensure that everyone who needs to be at the table is at the table and that Student Support Services is aware of the needs, and then we work to address those and meet the needs of the child.

As I have said a couple of times today already, we have the three authorities. CSFY and the First Nation School Board are managing their own EAs, so that's an important distinction because, when something is elevated to my attention, we move into caseworking it immediately. The deputy minister will then work — because it comes from my office through to the deputy minister.

Preferably, we would like to have those matters dealt with at the school level and through the superintendent with the case management approach, but if something has not gone smoothly there, sometimes I become aware and I work through the deputy minister's office to ensure that we are meeting the needs of that child, ultimately.

If there is allocation regarding the other two authorities, I really encourage the member to ensure that they are moving through that same process — through the teacher, through the principal, and ultimately through the executive director for the authority — so that they are aware that there may be an issue and that they will work in the same way.

I know that when I am made aware of an issue that involves another school authority, we move that over to them

immediately and the deputy minister is made aware of that situation.

Mr. Kent: I do have quite a few more questions, but being mindful of wanting to share time this afternoon with the Member for Takhini-Kopper King, I will cede the floor to her so that she can ask some questions and maybe those will be some of the ones that I wanted to ask too.

Ms. White: Madam Chair, I thank my colleague for sharing the floor. The last question that I asked the last time I was up on November 13 was actually about professional development training. I used the example of the difference between the percentage in Yukon, which is very low — in Yukon, the funds are approximately 0.4 percent of gross wages, while the Northwest Territories is 3.35 percent of gross wages. The minister got into some of the answer before we were through, but I just wanted to revisit that.

The reason why I am bringing it up is that professional development is critical. It is critical to not just attracting educators but to keeping them. You keep them interested and you keep them learning.

I wanted to know if there had been discussions, for example, with the YAEP about bolstering that amount. I know that the Yukon government and the union are in collective bargaining — or maybe I should say “stalled collective bargaining”, because we know that conciliation is going to start in December — but I would like to know more about the minister's stance on the funding amount for professional development.

Hon. Ms. McLean: Our department actively plans and provides in-servicing and professional development opportunities to all Yukon educators with the goal of improving student outcomes by supporting professional growth. Educators are provided with training and professional development sessions each school year that include mandatory training on Department of Education policies along with professional development on First Nation history, culture, and beliefs, numeracy, literacy, Ready-to-Learn, sexual health curriculum, universal design for learning, and other areas.

The Yukon Association of Education Professionals development fund is established under terms of the collective agreement. The annual employer contribution increased from \$460,000 to \$475,000 on September 1 back in 2015, and this rate remains in effect. As collective bargaining is underway between the Government of Yukon and the Yukon Association of Education Professionals, it is not appropriate that any discussions involving professional development funding occur between the parties to the collective agreement and the bargaining table.

So, the professional development fund that was mentioned between the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association and the Government of Northwest Territories is established under the terms of their collective agreement. Their fund consists of a 2.5-percent formula based on the gross basic salary of teachers calculated at the start of each academic year and jointly managed through a regional professional development committee. So, that's the way that's done.

So, the fund remains — that part of the professional development fund remains as it has since 2015. I'm not going to be able to get into any of the areas that may be in discussion at the current collective bargaining.

Ms. White: I thank the minister for that. I'm just going to highlight the discrepancy between 0.4 percent and 3.5 percent. I'm in the process of trying to see if I can find other jurisdictions, but I'm going to imagine that they are not as low as 0.4 percent. I'm going to highlight that I do think that is of concern, and hopefully, that will be addressed.

The last time I was up, I had asked the minister if she knew when conciliation dates were set, and she was unaware at the time. Does the minister know when conciliation dates are set now with the YAEP?

Hon. Ms. McLean: During our last debate, during debate, I had received a message from the Public Service Commissioner indicating that dates were set for early December. That's the information that I still have today.

Ms. White: We heard questions from the Member for Kluane about concerns about school busing and, for example, the amount of time that kids had to be on buses in his riding. I wanted to get a better understanding of how the Department of Education works with Standard Bus when it comes to the school bus contract. How are decisions made, for example, about where school bus stops are, about the length of time a student may be on the bus, and those types of things? Can the minister help me understand how the Department of Education works with Standard Bus?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Thanks for the question. The department's operations team works with Standard Bus on requests or any issues that may arise. It's done through contract management. I am certain that we will get into a specific probable situation that recently happened, and I'm happy to provide more information if the member wishes to go into more specific questions.

The department's operations team is responsible for overseeing the contract with Standard Bus and working closely with them when we have requests or when there are requests from Standard Bus as well, as those can happen from time to time. We also work with — there is also a committee that considers bus-route changes and other considerations when it comes to overall planning for our busing of students.

Ms. White: I guess I have questions — so, we heard about students being on the bus for a very long time, and the Member for Kluane asking, you know, that it be resolved. The minister has two letters from myself at this point in time; one involves busing down the Annie Lake Road. So, there was a change — Standard Bus, after having driven the same route for years, has said that the last 10 kilometres of the road are no longer safe but then indicated that the Department of Education could change that decision.

There was a decision on Range Road. Instead of stopping, for example, at the City of Whitehorse bus stop on one side of the road, children are now crossing a barely-marked crosswalk to get on the bus from a snow bank on the other side of the road. I'm trying to understand how the Department of Education works with Standard Bus to ensure the safety of students.

For example, if you live at kilometre 24 of the Annie Lake Road, you can take the city bus to school, and you're not going to walk the 10 kilometres to catch the school bus. Saying that the only option is based on the family — well, it's not realistic, especially if the buses weren't even stopping at that spot for more than a decade. So, why the sudden change not even at the beginning of the school year but partway through the school year?

Again, both of these changes, as examples, weren't at the beginning of the year; they were fairly recent. So, how does the Department of Education work with Standard Bus to ensure the safety of students in pick-up and drop-off locations?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Yes, recently, the Department of Education was made aware of concerns regarding the Standard Bus decision to suspend school bus services beyond the route of kilometre 14 on the Annie Lake Road.

The department's operation team is working with Standard Bus on the recent change. While discussions are underway, Standard Bus is not travelling past the kilometre-14 point on the Annie Lake Road, citing dangerous winter conditions. Standard Bus assessed the road conditions and determined that travelling beyond kilometre 14 poses significant safety risks for bus travel, including unmaintained roadways, snow or ice on roadways, and unstable road surfaces. The focus right now is on proactive measures to provide safety for students and their staff. While we are working through this, families that are impacted by the change in schedule and live 2.3 kilometres away from school can receive a transportation subsidy to cover travel costs to the kilometre-14 drop-off location.

The Department of Education works with the school bus committee on matters affecting the delivery of shared bus services. Notably, there are 43 active bus routes in Whitehorse alone and 12 in the communities. At the start of the 2024-25 school year, there were approximately 2,200 registered riders for school busing in Whitehorse.

This is a matter that we are aware of, and we are following up and working on this with Standard Bus but also with the families involved in both incidents that the member is speaking about today.

Ms. White: Although I appreciate the answer when we talk about the Annie Lake Road — the issues of safety — can the minister help me understand the changes on Range Road? That doesn't seem to have the same challenges, but the safety of the children now seems to be more affected. Can the minister help me understand that decision?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Again, this is another area that we are aware of. I've worked it through. As I talked about a little while ago, when the matter comes to the attention of the minister, I immediately work it into a casework — some with more urgency than others. This is certainly an area that involves the safety of a child or children. That is one of our most enduring priorities, and we are actively working with the provider of the busing service and the families that are involved.

Ms. White: I appreciate the minister's response about casework. When the letter is sent out by me to the minister specifically about concerns about busing, I guess the question

becomes: What is the timeline? What should I indicate to the family as to the timeline?

Hon. Ms. McLean: As I have indicated, the department's operation team would be working with Standard Bus, the family involved, and, in these matters, potentially the superintendent and the ADM of schools. I know that work is actively underway. I will be happy to bring an update back to the member as soon as I have that in my hands.

Ms. White: Can the minister just let me know if the family has been contacted since that letter was sent on November 8?

Hon. Ms. McLean: I have described what ultimately would happen in a matter like this, and this is an area that I have moved into the hands of the deputy minister's team. That moves it, of course, quickly into the department's operation team and other folks become involved. Families are at the centre of that work. As I bring the update forward on where we're at with this particular matter, I will be happy to provide that information to the member.

Ms. White: I thank the minister for that.

We had conversations about lead in school drinking water and were assured that it is being addressed now. Can the minister let me know the line item for this work in the budget and if it is in Department of Education or if it's in Highways and Public Works? Can the minister tell me the amount of money that has been allocated to remediate any of the concerned water fountains that did show traces of lead in the water?

Hon. Ms. McLean: This is a shared responsibility between Highways and Public Works and Education. The remediation work that is happening is a collaboration between our two departments. But right now, the repair is being resourced under — when you go into the main budget, under “School Authorities” and “Program Related Capital Repairs”, there is a line item there. That is where — specifically, we are under “Capital”, so it would be under “Facility Construction and Maintenance” and “Program Related Capital Repairs”. It's under “School Authorities”.

Ms. White: I thank the minister for that answer.

I'm just going through a CBC article dated September 24, 2024, and it highlights — it says that the Yukon Education department did not test all school water fixtures for lead over the summer as it promised, with the new deadline for the work now being set for the end of the year. Department officials in May pledged to do the testing and replace any fixtures that did not meet current drinking water standards within two to three months after two Faro students doing a science fair project discovered that their school's water contained an elevated level of lead.

Can the minister help me to understand what the delay was in getting that contract out? As an example, my understanding is that the contract wasn't released until actually after the school year started. So, can the minister help me to understand what the delay was in that regard?

Hon. Ms. McLean: The initial project timeline, established in May 2024, did not adequately account for some of the complexities and the scope of tasks. Key factors such as

the time required to identify human resources and acquire essential materials, navigate the logistical challenges of various school locations — and this is the key part of this — determining the optimal timing for water testing was underestimated. That aspect of this I think is probably one of the most critical parts of this, because initially, in determining the work that needed to be done, it was thought that empty schools would be a good time to do this work, but it is really more that having folks in the school and the water being used regularly was more optimal. This resulted in having to reassess and reset milestones and necessitate a revised schedule to align with more realistic timeframes and resources availability to determine the best way to move this work forward.

Maybe I will wait for other questions, but I think that there has certainly been progress. I did provide a legislative return earlier in this session to identify where things are at with schools, but I do note that Highways and Public Works contracted a third party to install filters at all Elkay water stations, and the work has been completed. The Elkay water filter is a type of filtration system designed to improve the quality of drinking water, and these filters typically work to reduce contaminants, such as chlorine, lead, and other impurities, ensuring cleaner and better tasting water as well.

Education has contracted a third-party contractor to complete compliance and monitoring testing in all schools tested in 2018 to 2020. The work commenced as of October 7, with completion expected by the end of the 2024 calendar year. I think those are important updates.

Ms. White: Can the minister let me know how many GSAs are currently up and running in Yukon schools and if they are fully supported by the Yukon government — so, for example, additional staffing hours or additional funding? I am just curious to know how many GSAs are currently up and running in Yukon schools.

Hon. Ms. McLean: The GSAs are an important part of our — and we absolutely support the work that they do. We were happy to support the *Education Act* amendments as well in the spring of 2022 to promote equity and non-discrimination and to ensure that all Yukon schools have safe places for 2SLGBTQIA+ students in the form of activities and organizations. We certainly continue to encourage and support schools to meet their legal obligations to support students.

I do not have all of the information that the member is asking for today other than the ones that I'm sure both the member and I are well aware of that are established, but we do have some school assessments and visits happening with the new ADM of schools, who has just joined the team in October. They are currently checking in on schools. We have certainly provided training and support to all of our schools around LGBTQ2S+ inclusion and the application of SOGI policy, and one of the resources — maybe I'll just stop there, because I think I'm happy to bring that information forward by way of a follow-up to the member or by a legislative return.

Ms. White: I would appreciate a legislative — well, maybe not a legislative return as we won't be here after Thursday but information around that. That would be good.

I just have one last point before I clear the lines. In discussion with my colleague from Copperbelt, I just wanted to know — actually, no; I'm not going to ask how they would know. I'm just going to indicate right now so that the department can address this. So, I play basketball at St. Francis every Sunday, and the soap dispensers in the women's change room do not work. There has not been soap for almost two years, and I keep thinking that I should message a teacher there so that they can let administration know, and I never do because it would be a weird thing to reach out to my teacher friends to be like, "Hey, could you let the principal know that there is no soap dispenser?" So, I'm going to say it here in the hopes that at one time I can wash my hands at basketball, because let me tell you; it's a high school; you should be able to wash your hands.

So, with that, I'm hoping that I will be able to wash my hands at basketball. I will tell all my basketball friends that the soap dispensers are because of me, but with that, I thank the minister and her officials for their time, and I look forward to getting some of those answers later on.

Hon. Ms. McLean: I'm happy to — there are lots of folks listening to debate today. I am sure that it will be actioned very soon. Also, I think that it is an important issue that we take the health and safety of our children and those coming to use our facilities seriously, so thank you very much for flagging that. I thank the officials — Deputy Minister Cameron and Andrea McIntyre, director — for helping today in the debate and we will certainly follow up as quickly as we can. On the GSAs and SOGI question, I will follow up by way of letter.

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

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

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

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

Chair: The Member for Takhini-Kopper King has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 3, Department of Education, cleared or carried, as required.

Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: Unanimous consent has been granted.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$6,855,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures underexpenditure in the amount of \$3,155,000 agreed to

Total Expenditures in the amount of \$3,700,000 agreed to

Department of Education agreed to

Hon. Ms. McLean: I move that the Chair report progress.

Chair: It has been moved by the Member for Mountainview that the Chair report progress.

Are you agreed?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to

Chair: Pursuant to Committee of the Whole Motion No. 18 adopted earlier today, Committee of the Whole will receive witnesses from the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board. In order to allow the witnesses to take their places in the Chamber, the Committee will now recess and reconvene at 4:15 p.m.

Recess

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

Appearance of witnesses

Chair: Pursuant to Committee of the Whole Motion No. 18 adopted on this day, Committee of the Whole will now receive witnesses from the Yukon Workers' Safety and Compensation Board.

I would ask all members to remember to refer their remarks through the Chair when addressing the witnesses, and I would also ask the witnesses to refer their answers through the Chair when they are responding to the members of the Committee.

The Member for Whitehorse West, I believe that you will introduce the witnesses.

Witnesses introduced

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. The witnesses appearing before the Committee of the Whole this afternoon are: Mark Pike, who is the chair of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board, and Kurt Dieckmann, president and chief executive officer of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board. I will just note to the Chamber this afternoon that this is for all intents and purposes Mr. Dieckmann's last appearance here in the House unless something changes. He has, much to my chagrin, decided to retire. This marks his — perhaps, as I said, barring any encore performance — last appearance before the House. With that, I will let them do their thing.

Chair: Would the witnesses like to make brief opening remarks?

Mr. Pike: Madam Chair, as mentioned, I am Mark Pike. I'm the chair of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board. With me is Kurt Dieckmann, our president and CEO.

I would like to thank you all for having us here today and discussing our operations, our organization, and to answer questions that you might have on our annual report. We're here today to discuss the 2023 annual report — I believe that was tabled here in October — and to discuss anything that's in there. In the report, you will see that the compensation fund ended the year in a strong financial position, and I give credit to our team for that solid financial management.

We also shared that the board has continued to engage and reach out to our stakeholders who are our most valuable investment. Whether it's through stakeholders meeting Yukoners at outreach events or sharing information directly with the public, our relationship with our community is at the core of everything that we do. Here in the Yukon, when workers are injured on the job or become ill due to workplace conditions, they are our friends, our family, and our neighbours, and the impact ripples through our community. We encourage all Yukoners to build a culture of safety across our community and to protect one another. The board is committed to supporting Yukoners by providing education resources through partnerships, guides, and other tools designed to assist workers and employers in creating safe workplaces. This dedication to health and safety and these stakeholder relationships have laid the foundation for our new 2025-to-2029 strategic plan.

Our strategic plan continues to support our journey toward Vision Zero, and that's our goal of zero work-related injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.

In our annual report, I just want to mention that on page 2 there is a synopsis of many of the significant statistics for 2023. With that, I'm happy that we are once again here able to take your questions, and I will turn it back to the Chair.

Mr. Dixon: I appreciate the opportunity to ask a few questions of our witnesses today. I only have a few questions, but I will start off on the compensation fund. Of course, Mr. Pike noted that the fund is in a significant surplus position. Can the witnesses describe how overfunded the fund is currently? What plans are in place to address that overfunded position?

Mr. Pike: So, on behalf of the board itself, what we have is — the fund is overfunded. We have in place a funding policy that essentially returns that overfunding to employers over a period of years. Because of our solid financial management and a good year financially, we decided as a board that we would speed that up somewhat, and we have recently approved a \$10-million rebate to employers. At the end of the day, that speeds up the funding policy that essentially says that we should be between 121- and 129-percent funded.

I don't want to get into a whole bunch of technicalities. If you read this report this year, we've been forced to change the accounting policies. If you look in the report, I believe we are something like 132-percent overfunded, but when we do what we consider our real calculations, we're at about 143 percent and we want to be between 121 and 129, and we will be there.

Mr. Dixon: I appreciate the witness providing that information. As you noted, indeed, being funded at a rate of about 142 percent is a significant overfund position. That is a fund that is in significant surplus. I would like the witnesses to talk a little bit about the policy for returning that to employers.

I note that on their website, with regard to the rebate section, it notes that — and I will quote from the website: "We use rate subsidies and, when necessary, rebates to return the Compensation Fund from a surplus back to the target range. Rebates are a responsible, controlled method for accelerating the distribution of surplus reserves to employers."

Can the witnesses describe how they decide on a rate subsidy, and when does it become necessary for the compensation fund to use rebates?

Mr. Pike: What happens is that the funding policy — without getting into accounting technicalities — intends, at the size of the actual return, that overfunding to employers over a 10-year period. I always have to look at Kurt to make sure that I don't say something — it is over a 10-year period. There is never a requirement to do the rebate. That was a conscious decision of the board looking at it and saying that, if we continue to invest our money and make good rates of returns, we want to get back into that funded position quicker. So, as a board, we chose to do that.

In the last seven or eight years, we have been in that position several times, and again, a conscious decision of the board was to speed up the process to get back to that target range. So, it is not a requirement to do that, but we as a board chose to do that.

Mr. Dieckmann: I just wanted to add a little bit to that to fully address the member's question. Part of the decision-making as well is looking at what the impact on the rates will be when we do a surplus distribution. When we have a subsidy on the rates, if we are over the 129 percent and we have a subsidy on the rates and if we were to provide a rebate that dropped us into the range, what the impact on that would be is that, in the following year, there would be an immediate increase in the assessment rates. The board balances it so that any rebate that we do will bring us down close enough to the range that we don't drop into it and cause a sudden increase in the rate, but it gets us close enough that it will then, over the next year or two or three, actually bring us into that range slowly so that we can prevent spikes in our rates — our rates going up and dropping down, going up and dropping down. Our stakeholders have made it very clear over the years that they want rate certainty and smooth movement of the rates up and down, not spikes up and down.

Mr. Dixon: Just to follow up on that, if I understand it correctly, when the funding position falls within the rate, is the witness implying then that this is when they would need to do rate increases for the businesses? When they are within that rate, that's when an increase is required?

Mr. Pike: Yes, I think that is correct. Because we have had a surplus, that surplus essentially gets returned to the payers — the employer community — through what we refer to as a "subsidy". So, the amount that they are paying is less than you would pay if we were in that range. If we suddenly get into that range, every employer would then have to pay the full rate — there's no subsidy on it anymore — that it costs to run our system.

Without getting into technicalities, the subsidy right now is somewhere in the neighbourhood of 10 percent. The rates would jump up by 10 percent across the board almost immediately if we are in the range. As my CEO mentioned, one of the things that certainly the employer community has said is that they much prefer a smoothing of the rates up and down as opposed to dramatic changes.

Mr. Dixon: I guess I'm not entirely clear why we even have the range then. Why have a bottom range of 121 if you basically have a de facto bottom range of 129? Because you will have to change the rate when it hits 129. Perhaps the witnesses can explain when the last time the range was looked at, was consulted on with industry, and was reviewed. When was the last time that range was reviewed?

Mr. Pike: There are two parts to that question, so I will deal with the first one. The range is there because we have a significant amount of money under investment and it goes up and down daily. So, you could be at 121 one day and, as any of you who have investments somewhere would understand, the next day all of a sudden, you are at 118, and now we have to ask employers to pay a surcharge because we cut it too fine. The rate was set there to allow for that kind of movement both up and down.

We haven't done a formal consultation with stakeholders on our policy, but we review it with them constantly. At this point, I can tell you that, in my time, we haven't had push-back from employers saying: We want you to change that range.

Mr. Dixon: The reason I ask about the last time it was considered is — I just know that, looking around the country, we see a wide spectrum of ranges that are used by different funds across the country. Some are a little bit higher than Yukon; some are quite a bit lower. The reason I ask is that I presume there is some interest from the business community and the employment community around the setting of those ranges, because, of course, they impact the rates that are paid.

Can the witnesses tell me when the range that we currently use was set?

Mr. Dieckmann: I'll have to get back to you on the exact date when the policy came into effect, but we have been operating under this policy since the act was amended in 2008.

As the member mentioned, there are different ranges in different jurisdictions. A big piece of what goes into establishing an appropriate range is consultation with our actuaries and consultation with our stakeholders, but ultimately, the larger your fund, the lower your range can be.

So, if you look at a large fund — for example, Ontario, which has a multi-billion-dollar fund — they can operate at 100-percent funded and it will not impact them very much if there is an industry that shuts down or if they have market swings. They don't see the same impact. Whereas with our fund, if we see a drop in the markets of 10 percent, that can cause a \$20-million hit on our fund, which can actually drop us down to the bottom of our funded range, which then would lead to, as the chair said, not just an increase due to taking off the subsidy — but then at that point, we would be in an underfunded position where we have to put surcharges on to bring us back up into the range.

The range that we have between 121 and 129 gives us enough flexibility that if we're sitting in the middle of the range and we see adjustments in the market — typically within a full cycle, which is a year — we will get back to where we were and typically don't end up going into a surcharge position but can remain fully funded and, at the worst, start charging what the actual costs of injuries are.

Mr. Dixon: I appreciate that explanation, although I'm not entirely sure — the explanation that I thought I understood there is that the larger funds would have a different range. I note that Ontario's is 110 to 120; Nova Scotia, for instance, is about 100; Newfoundland is 100 to 120. I just realized that there are other ways of doing it. I just wonder if that had ever been looked at here, but it sounds like they haven't reviewed the range in some time.

Another thing that some jurisdictions use are some — either legislated or policy — requirements for rebates. I know that the witnesses mentioned that the date can dictate so much of when they do that. Can the witnesses tell us: What are the dates on which they make those decisions? Is it year-end or is it the budget year? Are those dates publicly available?

Mr. Pike: Yes. Well, there is an automatic — we use the word "subsidy". It's automatic based on our December year-end. So, our December year-end comes up with an overfunded position. It's automatic that this gets built in and returned to the employer community through the rate subsidy.

In terms of a rebate, that usually happens later on the next year using the numbers from December 31 and having a look to say: What has happened in the last few months? Has some of that surplus disappeared because of the markets crashing, or have we kept it all? What has gone on? That's where the board has traditionally had a look to see whether we want to do rebates.

I'll just mention — I was referring to that page 2, "Year At A Glance". If you were to look at 2023, the actual fund lost 10 percent and went down by \$24 million in that year. So, it's not that we always have good years or that we're always protected, because we are subject to the vagaries of the markets.

Mr. Dixon: The reason why I ask about the date is because it helps the business community to understand when they might anticipate a rebate or any change coming and if they know then that the decision is made at the end of December. Can the witnesses then explain — so, between the end of December — when is the decision made by the board to issue a rebate, and how do they factor in how much that rebate would be?

Mr. Pike: I will just do the first part. I think Mr. Dieckmann has a couple of points, but in general, the statements that you are looking at — our annual report — get tabled in the House by the end of April, so it's not until really close to that time that we have a number. Once we have that number, over the course of the next few months, we look at whether we are in a position to think about a rebate.

The funding policy takes place no matter what. We don't have to consciously do that. It's built in and happens. The rebate decision is made over the next few months after that, and then as soon as it's made, we announce it to the world so that they know it's coming, but there is no specific date, because that's a conscious decision of the board that doesn't necessarily have to be made. The board weighs all the factors, including how the markets have performed, what effect it would have on the rates, and how many peaks and valleys are going to be created, and our actuaries provide us with lots of advice on what the effects of those would be.

Mr. Dieckmann: I will just add a little bit. As Mark said, our annual report must be provided to the minister by the end of April. At the end of April, our financials are fully baked in, we have completed our annual report, and we provide the minister with the report. Now, the minister has to table it within seven days I believe of receiving it if the House is sitting; otherwise, it's within seven days of the House sitting again. Typically, it's not tabled when the minister gets it, because the House has already risen, but the bottom line is that this is when we have our financials signed off by the Auditor General of Canada.

Once we have those financials signed off by the Auditor General, the board, myself — or whoever the next president will be — that is when we start the rate-setting process, and the rate-setting process typically takes us between two and three months for the board of directors to have the full scope, our actuarial calculations on what the rates will be. If you move that forward, we are generally announcing the rates in July or August. That's when the rates go out. We really try to make sure that happens by the end of August, because we know that the employer community needs that information if they are starting to bid on projects into the next year. So, if there are tenders coming up that are going to be into the next year, they really need to know what those rates are. So, we work very hard to make that happen.

Then once we have the rates set, we understand what the implication of the rates will be on our benefits liability. Then we will take a look at some of the other factors that Mr. Pike has talked about, which are: How have the markets performed? Are we still in an overfunded position by that time of the year? If the markets have started to go down and if we think that, by the end of the year, we're going to actually end up within our range or closer to our range, that will factor into the decision as to whether or not a rebate is going to be approved by the board of directors.

If it looks like our investments have continued to do well, then we will look at: How well are they doing? What is our benefits liability likely to be? Our finance folks will do a rough calculation on what the benefits liability is at that point in time based on the information from the previous year. Then the administration will start to have a discussion as to whether or not it would be appropriate to make a recommendation to the board of directors to do a rebate.

The rebate — if we decide that we are going to make a recommendation to the board of directors, then what the board of directors asks us to do is a number of scenarios with different amounts that could be rebated, and so that work typically takes a couple of months to get all that done. So, the decision on whether or not a rebate is going to be provided is generally looking at the end of September through the end of October before we have a solid idea as to whether or not a rebate is going to be made.

The board this time, in announcing those rebates, we were in quite a very good position this past year. So, the board was actually able to make that decision earlier rather than later.

Mr. Dixon: Madam Chair, I appreciate the response from the witnesses.

The annual report discusses the new mine rescue station. It suggested that construction began in 2023 and anticipated to be completed by the fall 2024. I am just wondering if we can have an update on that. Has it been completed? If so, when was it completed, and what was the final capital cost of that new station?

Mr. Dieckmann: The mine rescue station — we have not taken possession yet, but that is imminent. I think that the final inspections and walk-throughs are scheduled for before the end of this month, maybe the first week of December, but we are very close to completion on it. I don't have the final final costs on it yet, because we are waiting for some other equipment that will have to be installed. I can get back to the House and provide you with the final costs once we have done the walk-through and I have those final invoices, which will hopefully be by sort of mid-December.

Mr. Dixon: I appreciate the answers from the witnesses, and I will pass things along to my colleague.

Ms. White: Welcome to the witnesses from the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board back to this Assembly again.

I am just going to jump in and follow up with some questions — or I guess topics — that we discussed last October. I am sure that the president can anticipate where I am going to start, which is presumptive cancer or presumptive cancer covered for wildland firefighters.

In one of his responses last go-around, he said — and I quote: "But the part of the conversation that disappoints me is that there is no conversation about prevention." Then I went on to ask: What does the witness suggest; if we are talking about making wildland firefighters safer, what does he suggest? So, it has been another year, and we have seen some changes across the country. Ontario has moved legislation, although there have been some concerns highlighted by the people it will cover. I just wanted to know if, in the year since we last met, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board has some suggestions on wildland fire safety as far as prevention of disease?

Mr. Dieckmann: Yes; thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, this is an area that we have really been looking at. We continually monitor the latest information that comes out. You know, an interesting report that came out recently — there was an interesting report that identified that there are a number of cancers — or a number of carcinogens — that wildland firefighters are exposed to, and you know, they are all basically products of combustion, and we do know that, whenever you have combustion — whether it's from fossil fuels, whether it's from wood, from products of construction, those kinds of things — there are carcinogens associated with it; you get volatile organic compounds; you get, you know, carbon black; you get ultrafine particles. There are a number of carcinogens.

But one of the interesting things in that report — and it was a pretty good report. It did look at — it was an assessment of about — they looked at initially something in the range of 200 various studies that had been done and narrowed it down to I think 42 that were actually related to wildland firefighters. In that report, what they noted was that there are around 35

carcinogens that wildland firefighters can be exposed to, but interestingly enough, they do note in there that the majority of the studies show that the wildland firefighters are not exposed to carcinogens that are in excess of the occupational exposure limits, which are laid out in legislation.

One of the things that we have been asked about is: Why are we not issuing orders to do things like, you know, requiring the use of respiratory protection and, you know, making sure that there is reduced dermal contact and those kinds of things? Unfortunately, you know, based on the information that we have received and the studies that we have looked at, if we were to issue those kinds of orders and they were challenged, there is a better than likely chance that it would get overturned on appeal. So, we typically won't issue an order where we know that we have a good chance of it being appealed and being overturned on appeal. So, we don't have the regulatory clout in order to require some of these things to be put in place.

What I really agree with in that particular study is that it says that, given that there are still a lot of unknowns, there is a lot more research that needs to be done. We strongly support the idea of more research being done in these areas. It's an area where, if we did have some more research or if there was more research done in these areas, especially around individual monitoring on the fire line to understand what those exposure profiles are and sort of the longer term exposure in that profile, it would make it a lot simpler for governments to put in place regulations on how to better protect the firefighters and make it a lot easier for us from an enforcement perspective.

The tool that we use the most is education and trying to help people understand how you can go about protecting from these exposures. There are three common known routes of exposure: There is absorption, so through the skin; there is inhalation, so respiratory protection; and ingestion. So, there are administrative controls that can be put in place. You can prevent ingestion by having proper hygiene practices in place. You can prevent dermal exposure through things like better turnout gear, such as impenetrable gloves, goggles, and those types of things. You can prevent respiratory through the use of things like respirators, self-contained breathing apparatuses, and those kinds of things.

I wouldn't suggest self-contained breathing apparatuses for wildland firefighters. That might be a bit of a stretch, but they can definitely use respiratory protection. I hope that answers the question.

Ms. White: I guess that answers the question, but it still shows me that we're in the same spot that we were in years ago, which we have a difference of opinion on.

So, I tabled a letter written actually by wildland firefighters earlier in the Assembly. I'm not sure if the witnesses have seen it, but I'm just going to read from a portion of it, because when the witness just talked about absorption, inhalation, and ingestion as three things to look at to promote safety, I'm going to give an example. Really, what I'm interested in knowing is how the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board can help support wildland firefighters in their efforts to actually address some of those concerns.

This is what they say: "In terms of prevention, myself and coworkers believe that the government is falling short of its goal to completely prevent disease development in its workers. I would encourage research into the contamination of our work clothing from wildfire smoke as we have not been provided with adequate decontamination and cleaning services for our PPE at any of our fire bases across the territory. While we are provided with washers and dryers for our clothing, we do not have access to separate facilities for gear that has been exposed to wildfire smoke and other particulates. All of the wildland firefighters in the Yukon are expected to respond to wildfires in PPE that has been covered with smoke and ash that we are not able to properly decontaminate in between incidents."

So, in discussion with this wildland firefighter, he went one point further, and he said: "Well, the washers and dryers we use for everything. So, the clothing that I'm wearing when I'm not on the line, I'm washing in the same washer and dryer. So, there is no way to separate those."

So, if we're talking about prevention — and maybe that would be absorption or ingestion, as the witness said — how does the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board support, for example, when concerns like this are brought forward? Is it a way that they need to approach the board directly with these concerns?

But if we're talking about the prevention of disease, it seems to me that making sure that there are proper decontamination facilities would be helpful. So, if the witness could just let me know their thoughts on that.

Mr. Dieckmann: I completely agree with everything that the member said. In order to prevent things like absorption, it's not just making sure that you have the right turnout gear, but it's also making sure that it can be cleaned on a regular basis or you are supplied with — you know, if you are out on the fire line, maybe it's making sure that you have clean turnout gear to provide if you can't wash it while you're out there. But as I say, these are administrative controls that can be put in place, and we would strongly support them being put in place. Absolutely, when you have personal protective equipment, there are requirements for decontamination of it if it does get contaminated. These are all areas that we absolutely would support.

I have not seen that letter and I did not know that it had been tabled here, but I will definitely take that back to our workplace health and safety folks and make them aware.

Ms. White: I'll also forward it, but it was tabled earlier this Sitting, so it should be on the — I believe it's available, but if not, I will send a copy to the president.

Following that, he goes on to say: "I believe that where we are truly behind the curve in terms of prevention is when it comes to our respiratory protection. Each firefighter in the territory is provided with a Respro Bandit designed only for urban walking and dust mitigation." Are the witnesses familiar with the respiratory masks that Yukon wildland firefighters are provided with?

Mr. Dieckmann: I am not sure if our workplace health and safety folks are; I am not. This witness is not aware. It is one of the areas that we have been working with, and the

minister and I have had some conversations about appropriate respiratory protection. It is an area that I think is well worth examining, but I will go back to the statement I made earlier. It is not something that we would be going and ordering Wildland Fire to provide because, based on all of the information that we have, we don't have any information on the exposure limits. The only information that we do have says that they are typically not exposed at or above the occupational exposure limit.

That being said, typically, for applying the precautionary principle, when you approach 50 percent of the occupational exposure limits, that is when you should start to take action. But I do believe, from a prevention perspective, that it makes really good sense to have good respiratory protection and make sure that respirators are properly fit tested and that the people wearing them are clean-shaven so that they get a good seal on that respiratory protection. It is possible to look at the types of filters that need to be used, because we do have an understanding of the exposure — the types of chemicals that there is exposure to. From that, it is pretty easy to put together a profile on the types of respiratory cartridges that need to be used on respirators.

Ms. White: I think the concern is that they are not respirators; they are essentially dust masks. On the website, it says that they should only be used to reduce discomfort caused by exposure to coarse non-toxic particles. The concern is that it is inadequate.

In conversation, the individual told me that Fair Air fire mask is a mask manufacturer from Australia that wildland firefighters in Australia use. It's preferred by many in the industry, as they are washable — you are able to wash them, hopefully in your clean decontamination area so that they are actually cleaned.

Another note that they talked about when we talked about prevention is that they indicated that in Yukon, wildland firefighters wear their Nomex suits even in camp. They wear a fire-treated fabric when they are in camp, and then they wear the same clothing when they go to the line. He highlighted that those suits off-gas with benzene — which is, of course, a known carcinogen — and said that in other areas, they were able to wear just standard cotton in camp. They could wear clothing that was not fireproof so that they could change into what essentially would turn into a turnout gear then when they went to the line.

I guess one of the concerns that they brought up is that these things have been brought to the supervisors as concerns, but they haven't been dealt with. Based on the witnesses — if you're bringing that to the attention — and you're concerned and you're told — it was an example with the smoke. They had been told things like: The masks are not given to firefighters with the intent to prevent smoke inhalation — or: Step out of the smoke if you feel uncomfortable. The reason why I highlight this is that, in their work, it's not really like they can step out of the smoke.

If people who are in that industry are concerned and they have highlighted their concerns, where do they turn next if they have gone up their own line of command?

Mr. Dieckmann: Yes, I would say that if there are concerns, they can always be brought to us. We haven't heard any of these concerns raised through our office, so it is quite interesting that no one thought to come to us, because we are always willing to help any employer and any workers to resolve these types of issues. The reality of it is that what we would be looking for in this instance is: Has a proper hazard assessment been done? So, have people actually looked at it and looked at the hazards associated with the work that is being done and with wearing different types of equipment in camp and then, once that hazard is assessed, looked at what the best ways are to mitigate the hazards to the greatest degree possible?

So, what I would encourage anyone to do — not just the wildland firefighters but anyone — if they have concerns with the way that safety is being managed in their organization, they should let their safety representative on the safety committee know and talk to their supervisor. If, going through the internal channels and utilizing the internal responsibility system, they still are not able to get any satisfactory response, then by all means, come to us and we will assist in getting the answers that they need.

Ms. White: I will pass that along, but as that industry reads relevant information that happens in here about coverage, it probably hasn't felt very friendly, to be honest — about bringing those concerns forward.

One thing that was highlighted to me by them was a concern about when — let's say in 20 years — they are no longer wildland firefighters. They talked about how, with the intensity of the industry, you kind of have those front lines for a maximum of 10 years and then maybe you become a crew leader or may have another position, but we're not talking about a 20-year-plus career in that.

One of the things that they highlighted was the concern that if they develop a cancer that was definitely related to smoke inhalation — let's say 20 years after they worked in wildland fire — how would they get that correlation made? How would someone who, let's say, spent 10 years working wildland fire in the territory and who had highlighted the concerns that I've already spoken about at great length and developed a cancer that is known to happen due to smoke inhalation — what happens then? Are they able to file a workers' compensation claim? How do they get support if they believe that their cancer is in direct relation to the job they did in their early 20s? What happens then?

Mr. Dieckmann: With occupational disease, if they suspect that work that they did at any point during their working career may have been a contributing factor to that occupational disease, they can file the claim at any time. There are some timelines. Once you know of the disease, you have a year to file, but the exposure could have happened anytime in the past.

That's the nature of occupational disease, that the latency periods on occupational diseases can be anywhere from five years up to 35 years. That is well-recognized in the compensation system and in the workplace health and safety systems. So, if somebody does suffer any type of occupational disease that they suspect is tied to work they did anytime in their career — and it may not have been — you know, it may

have been some other job that they had that they think it might be tied to — you know, maybe they got asbestosis and they were working and doing renovations 10 years back. As soon as they know or have a diagnosis of a cancer and they suspect that it's an occupational disease, file a claim, and those claims will be properly adjudicated.

Ms. White: I do appreciate that. When we talk about asbestos and then we talk about the conversations that have been had in this Assembly — for example, about wildland firefighters — there hasn't been the — I mean, I have just heard today that the smoke that they're facing isn't above a concerning level. I appreciate it; I think that it will be harder to do than it sounds, but I will continue on the conversation with the next person, because I'll keep trying — I'll keep trying.

I'm going to move on. What happens if a person catches a virus at work and it leads to a post-viral illness, like long COVID, and that then leads to a disability claim or inability to work? Is that considered a workplace injury?

Mr. Dieckmann: I can't give a blanket answer on diseases, because normal diseases of life are not considered occupational diseases. So, you know, the flu, common cold — those kinds of things — we would have to — it would have to be adjudicated. If it's adjudicated — like, I would file the claim and have it adjudicated, and if it's adjudicated and it's found that the exposure can be directly linked to the workplace, then there is a good chance that it could be an accepted claim. I won't say that it will be; I mean, I would never — I can never commit to that, but what I would strongly suggest is, if there is an exposure at work that can be tied back to the work, to file a claim.

There are some that we would look at and go: It's fairly easy to link it to the work. You know, for example, if you had somebody who had COVID and was being medevaced out of the territory, the flight nurse was in close contact with that person for the duration of that flight and, two or three days later, they start showing symptoms of COVID, there is a pretty good cause and effect there. What I would say is that, if they strongly suspect that they have been in close contact while at work in an occupation where — typically, they are in an occupation where you have to provide care — those claims are — we have had some of those exactly as I have described with a flight nurse where we have accepted the claims. So, file a claim and let us adjudicate it.

Ms. White: I thank the witness for that.

Just based on those last comments, can the witnesses give me an idea of how many COVID claims were filed and accepted as, again, illness due to your workplace? The pandemic, as we know, was not great. I would suggest that the pandemic, although it's changed, COVID still exists. We know that whooping cough was recently warned about on an Air North flight.

Can the witnesses let me know about the number of COVID claims that have been received and accepted?

Mr. Dieckmann: Madam Chair, if you could just give me a second, I will see if I have the numbers. I don't recall seeing it in my notes, but I will check and see if I do.

I'm sorry; I don't have that information with me, so I will have to get back to the House with the number of accepted claims.

Ms. White: I thank the witness for that. I know you folks are good, but that was asking you to dig deep.

Many workplaces and governments are looking more closely at their air quality in workplaces because of the COVID-19 pandemic, so I have some questions about that specifically. Does the board conduct workplace inspections unprompted or only when a complaint arises about air quality?

Mr. Pike: So, we do inspections for a number of reasons. We will do targeted inspections if we see things like increased numbers of injury, illness, or disease in a particular workplace. We track those kinds of things and that will prompt us to do an inspection.

We do inspections based on complaints, and we do — the majority of our inspections are actually random inspections where we will go into workplaces unannounced. A lot of the time, our inspection focuses change through the year depending on where there is more activity.

We do tend to get a lot of complaints of indoor air quality during the wintertime. Typically, that's because HVAC systems start to decrease the amount of fresh air intake. The air gets staler and people tend to notice that.

But as far as are we going in specifically looking at the indoor air quality as part of those inspections, I would say that is probably not something that we're looking at unless we have a reason to look at that particular issue. That is generally generated through a complaint or if we get increased numbers of injuries or claims coming in from a particular workplace and we can tie it back to indoor air quality.

Ms. White: I thank the witnesses for that. Can they walk me through a bit of what that air-quality monitoring or inspection looks like just to give me an idea of what's involved?

Mr. Dieckmann: That's a digging-deep question as well, because it can really depend on the workplace.

So, if the workplace has a modern HVAC system, some of the things that we will look at are: What is the maintenance schedule on that system? Has that maintenance scheduled been followed?

We will ask them to open up and show us the filters. We can see if the filters have been changed recently and if they're not. We ask questions of the people working in the workplace, if there is anything that they have noticed. We tend to try to not ask them specifically about indoor air quality, because those are leading questions, but we will ask them if they have noticed any changes in the workplace, if there are any concerns that they have. Typically, if there are indoor air-quality issues, we will hear about it.

We also look at things like — when you look at where the diffusers are for blowing out air, if there is dust buildup around — you can see it where, you know, along the roof you will get a track of dust. That tells us that the systems probably aren't clean and there needs to be some work there. There are a number of things that we can look at when they have an HVAC system and where there is forced air. Those are fairly simple.

In some older buildings, it can be very difficult to really determine what the causes are. In those instances, we will typically look for things like mould buildup to see if the humidity is too high in there. Are there any smells in the building that can't be traced? We have asked where we have identified things like — you know, there may be a little bit of mould here — we have told employers to cut holes in the walls and look in behind to make sure that there is nothing built up. In those instances, if we are looking at some sort of a biologic — we suspect a biologic — like mould and spores getting into the air and that is causing the problem, we will look for specific incidence of mould buildup in the building.

Yes, it really depends on the building and how it is laid out and what the heating system is and whether or not it has ventilation systems in it. Based on that, there are a number of different things that we can do.

Ms. White: I do appreciate that. Are employers responsible for the quality of air in their workplaces?

Mr. Dieckmann: The employer is responsible for health and safety in the workplace writ large. The only caveat that I would put on that is that it depends on if they are in a rented building — if they are renting space or if they own the building — because in some instances, the owner may be responsible for the indoor air quality. In those instances, it would depend on the lease agreement that they have. That is another thing that we look at in those instances where we have those kinds of complaints.

We will look and say: Okay, you are in a rented building and you have leased the space. What does the contract say? Who is responsible for what? And then based on what that is, our act does actually mention that. So, if the owner is the one who is responsible, the owner is the one whom we will take the issues up with. If the employer is the one who is responsible, the employer is the one we will take it up with.

Ms. White: I want to shift over a bit. Full disclosure: I had no idea — I mean, I have had interactions with the previous Workers' Compensation Board, now the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board. At times, they can be challenging; there's no doubt about that, but I have in recent times begun to understand more of the challenges for a person who resides outside of the territory and has been injured in the Yukon. I am not going to speak to any kind of specifics, but I would appreciate if the witnesses could walk me through how a worker injured in the Yukon but residing outside of the Yukon is supported by the organization.

So, you don't live in the Yukon; you live outside of the Yukon, but you have been injured while working in the Yukon. What are the steps? What happens? Then I will ask further questions.

Mr. Dieckmann: Yes, that's a multi-faceted question as well, because the answer is that it depends.

There are certain things that happen. An employer coming into the Yukon Territory, if they are going to be working in the territory or have workers in the territory for 10 days in a year, must register with the board. If they work for less than 10 days, they don't have to register with the board, and they would continue to be insured through their home jurisdiction's

compensation system. In those instances, if a worker comes into the territory, the employer does not have to register in the territory; if they get injured in the territory, they cannot claim in the territory. They would claim in their home jurisdiction because that is where they are insured. That is one scenario.

Workers have an ability to elect. If they come from another jurisdiction, the employer does have to register in the territory. If the worker comes and works in the territory, gets injured but is only in the territory for a short period of time, they can elect to claim either in their home jurisdiction or in Yukon. If they elect to claim compensation in their home jurisdiction, then we have what is called an "interjurisdictional agreement" with other jurisdictions, and they will cover the — they will provide all of the indemnity benefits, the medical, all that work on the return to work, and they will bill us back for it, and we will pay for that. So, that's another way that it could work.

Then there are some workers who, if they elect to claim in Yukon and go back to their home jurisdiction, then it becomes a bit more challenging, because what we are doing is that we're making all arrangements to provide medical care in that other jurisdiction, so there can be delays in those instances simply because the challenges of us trying to — like, we don't know the area, so trying to find service providers to ensure that the worker, you know, is receiving the medical — there are also challenges with — a lot of times in these instances — where workers miss appointments; we just have difficulty in the communication. So, we are able to manage them, but it takes a lot more effort on the part of the worker and the board in order to make sure that those — that everything that the worker needs is provided in a timely manner. We do have a number of those; some of them work really, really well; some are more challenging.

Ms. White: I thank the witness for that. I guess I didn't — I'm just going to look for some clarification. There are employers in the territory who bring in shift workers. We'll just use mines as an example or nurses, right? We have nurses who come in on rotation. In that case, is it up to the worker to decide if they're covered in their home jurisdiction where they reside or if they're covered by Yukon, or are they automatically covered by Yukon because they're working for a Yukon employer?

Mr. Dieckmann: Thank you for that question, because I did forget that fourth scenario, which is a worker coming from outside of the territory to work for a Yukon employer. In that instance, they can only claim in the Yukon. There again — but, I mean, the same challenges exist with getting the treatment. Fortunately, a lot of the time, the initial medical and those types of things happen here in the territory before they return home, so that is — you know, we do have a lot of the initial stuff done, which is very helpful, but then getting the care and treatment outside the territory can be a challenge.

The other place where that becomes a challenge as well is on the return-to-work side. In both instances where the employer's outside the territory or here in the territory, the outside the territory can be really challenging from a return-to-work perspective, because our legislation doesn't apply to the employer in their home jurisdiction. So, while our legislation

has an obligation to participate in a return to work and to return a worker to work, it doesn't apply to an employer outside the territory. But for an employer in the territory, it is actually a little simpler even with an employee who is Outside, because there is that return-to-work obligation that does still exist, so they do remain employer-attached, which always makes the care and the treatment and the return to work a lot simpler.

Ms. White: Has there been any discussion or thought, in all of those scenarios that you talked about — including an employee who resides outside of the territory, injured in the territory, but chooses to get covered — and you had mentioned that the Yukon would pay for that care, like, they would be billed for the care that was happening in another jurisdiction — when we talk about injured workers, my intention or my desire is for them to have as much support as possible.

Understanding the challenges that you have highlighted and the challenges that I've now been made aware of, has there been any thoughts on how to — if there are ways to, for example, develop those relationships or partnerships with other jurisdictions with their own workers' safety and compensation to have that coverage then be performed in another jurisdiction and billed back to the Yukon?

I ask this question just in recognizing that the challenges — all the challenges that the witness mentioned but also in concerns of there being gaps. So, has that ever been a discussion? Is it part of the legislation? Is it something that the minister responsible could reach out to his colleagues about? How could we look at that in the future?

Mr. Dieckmann: Wow, those are discussions that have been brought up during the course of my career from time to time between jurisdictions, but that would require another interjurisdictional agreement, and that would require all jurisdictions to get together and there would be a common desire to move that forward.

Unfortunately, while I agree wholeheartedly with the member that it would be an ideal situation, anybody who has worked on any sort of FTP file will understand that the challenges around that are not insurmountable, but they do require a lot of buy-in and agreement from all jurisdictions. Right now, we have challenges with the existing interjurisdictional agreements that we have. So, adding that as a new one would be challenging, but it would be one that we as an organization would fully support if we could move that forward. For the smaller jurisdictions, we are always looking to line up new and innovative ways of doing things. It is a lot easier for us to put some of those things in place than the larger jurisdictions. The reality of it is, for us, we would be looking at larger jurisdictions that we need to be partnering with.

Yes, the discussions have happened from time to time; never has there been a serious push to make it happen.

Ms. White: Challenge accepted; challenge accepted.

Just recognizing the time where we are at, I will thank the witnesses for their appearance and offer congratulations and well wishes in retirement. I hope you do a better job than my folks, who are very busy — maybe in all the ways that they like because of that, but I will sit down.

Chair: Are there any further questions for the witnesses?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Madam Chair, on behalf of Committee of the Whole, I would like to thank Mark Pike, chair of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board, and Kurt Dieckmann, president and chief executive officer of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board, for appearing as witnesses today. I wish you all the best in your retirement, and thank you so much for your guidance and advice over the many years.

Thank you very much. With that, I will take my seat.

Witnesses excused

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. 215, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2024-25*, and directed me to report progress.

Also, pursuant to Committee of the Whole Motion No. 18 adopted earlier today, witnesses appeared before Committee of the Whole to answer questions regarding the operations of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board.

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: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

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

Motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

The following sessional papers were tabled November 19, 2024:

35-1-184

Crime Prevention & Victim Services Trust Fund Annual report 2023-24 (McPhee)

35-1-185

Interim State of the Environment Report 2024 (Clarke, N.)

35-1-186

Eighteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees (November 19, 2024) (Clarke, N.)

The following legislative return was tabled November 19, 2024:

35-1-156

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Mr. Kent related to general debate on Vote 3, Education, in Bill No. 215, *Second Appropriation Act 2024-25* — meetings with T1D Support Network (McLean)

The following documents were filed November 19, 2024:

35-1-286

Electoral Boundary Commission Final Report, letter re (dated November 18, 2024) from Lauren Hanchar, Mayor, Town of Watson Lake, to Currie Dixon, Leader of the Official Opposition (Dixon)

35-1-287

Amendments to the *Business Corporations Act*, correspondence re (dated November 14, 2024) from Kyle Carruthers to Hon. Richard Mostyn, Minister of Community Services (Dixon)