



# Yukon Legislative Assembly

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## HANSARD

Thursday, October 28, 2021 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Jeremy Harper

# YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## 2021 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** — Emily Tredger, MLA, Whitehorse Centre

### CABINET MINISTERS

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

### 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
Emily Tredger	Third Party House Leader Whitehorse Centre
Annie Blake	Vuntut Gwitchin

### LEGISLATIVE STAFF

Clerk of the Assembly	Dan Cable
Deputy Clerk	Linda Kolody
Clerk of Committees	Allison Lloyd
Sergeant-at-Arms	Karina Watson
Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms	Joseph Mewett
Hansard Administrator	Deana Lemke

**Yukon Legislative Assembly**  
**Whitehorse, Yukon**  
**Thursday, October 28, 2021 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

**Withdrawal of motions**

**Speaker:** The Chair wishes to inform the House of a change made to the Order Paper. Motion No. 174, standing in the name of the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin, was not placed on the Notice Paper as it was not in order.

**DAILY ROUTINE**

**Speaker:** We will proceed with the Order Paper.  
 Introduction of visitors.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

**Mr. Istchenko:** I would like to introduce the former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Dave Laxton — and also, everyone knows Red Grossinger. He has been with the legion for many, many years. I would be remiss if, for today's first poppy, I didn't also — doing double duty today — recognize the Sergeant-at-Arms, the president of the Royal Canadian Legion, Joe Mewett.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** This afternoon for the podcast tribute, we have Jessica Eden, Richard Eden, Reed Vanier, and Brenda Pilatzk-Vanier here to hear the tribute. Please give them a rousing welcome.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Tributes.

**TRIBUTES**

**In recognition of Royal Canadian Legion's annual poppy campaign**

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I rise today to pay tribute to the Royal Canadian Legion's annual national poppy campaign. This year marks the 100-year anniversary since the poppy became a symbol for remembrance. The Great War Veterans' Association of Canada began making the poppies in 1921 based on John McCrae's poem *In Flanders Fields*.

The remembrance period starts on the last Friday of October and goes until November 11. I hope that all Yukoners will join me in wearing a poppy during this period, as we look back at the last century of conflict and of sacrifice. I also hope that Yukoners will once again donate to the Royal Canadian Legion and help support important local programs and services for veterans. Your contributions directly help veterans and recognize their sacrifices, their courage, and their dedication.

The Yukon is home to approximately 300 veterans, including many still serving as active RCMP members, Canadian Rangers, and in other public safety roles. We deeply

appreciate their prior and ongoing service to our communities and to our country.

One of those veterans, Hon. Speaker, is Mr. Joseph Novak. Last week, Joe was awarded a Chevalier medal from the National Order of the Legion of Honor. This is France's highest order of merit. The grand chancellor of the National Order of the Legion of Honor flew from France to present this special medal to him at the Whitehorse legion. Joe was 20 years old when he went to war. He arrived just after D-Day and made his way across France, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

Today, Joe is 98 years old, and Canadians are still welcomed as liberators in Europe and around the world. Joe, and those he served with, are the reasons why we all get to enjoy all of the freedoms and the safety that define the Canadian way of life that we enjoy. Joe has continued contributing, following his time in uniform. The past year, for example, he gave a major historic financial gift to the Yukon Hospital Foundation and to the Yukon University. His generosity and commitment to giving back to our community — well, that is truly inspiring. Joe is only one of two remaining World War II veterans still living in the Yukon.

Ms. Louise Miller is our other World War II veteran. She served as Corporal Miller with the Royal Canadian Air Force in Canada during the war years. She turns 100 years old this Christmas, and we wish her and her family all the best and thank her for her service.

This remembrance period, I will wear my poppy in honour of Louise and Joe and in honour of everyone who has answered the call to serve.

Sadly, Hon. Speaker, we have witnessed the passing away of several of our veterans in the last two years. I want to express my deep condolences to their loved ones, to their family members. We appreciate everything that they have done on our behalf, and we mourn their passing.

Thank you to Joe and Louise and everyone who stepped forward when called upon. I hope that all Yukoners will join me in wearing a poppy this remembrance period and take time to reflect on everything that our amazing veterans have done for us over the past 100 years and more.

*Applause*

**Mr. Istchenko:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Premier for his tribute.

Mr. Speaker, this past Monday, Governor General Mary May Simon received the symbolic first poppy as the Royal Canadian Legion launched this year's annual national fundraising campaign for veterans ahead of Remembrance Day.

Anna Guérin of France first proposed the poppy as a symbol of sacrifices of war following the First World War. Her inspiration came from *In Flanders Fields*, the moving poem written during the war by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, which continues to be read at Remembrance Day ceremonies across our country and in other parts of the world.

Officially adopted in Canada in 1920 by the Great War Veterans' Association, which is the predecessor to today's Royal Canadian Legion, poppies are recognized as the national

symbol of remembrance for the Canadian men and women who gave their lives during military service around the world.

Of course, this year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the poppy symbol. Poppies will be available to the general public beginning tomorrow, October 29. Last year, I had the opportunity to sit down with some wonderful ladies from our business community. They wanted to help promote Remembrance Day and the wearing of the poppy. With the guidance from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 254, they recreated the Yukon Remembers campaign. Yukon Remembers shares a common pledge: “Lest we forget”.

The pledge signifies the commitment to remember the service and sacrifices of veterans, those who serve on behalf of our country in war conflicts, peacekeeping operations, as well as first responders who serve their community as police officers, firefighters, emergency medical services, bylaw and corrections officers.

The Yukon Remembers project allows Yukoners the opportunity to connect themselves and their families to the history, the memories, and the people who have served and continue to serve today. The organizers of this campaign have been engaging with the community with things like “Did You Know?” and poppy pointers to help the public learn more about Remembrance Day. Lawn signs will be available free of charge to decorate residential front lawns and other key public spaces in the lead-up to Remembrance Day. The artwork and banners will be showcased in the windows of businesses across the Yukon.

If you would like to help — help Yukon remember — the free signs are printed and they are ready for pick up. They will be ready on Saturday, October 30 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the corner of Ogilvie and Fourth Avenue. That’s in NVD’s parking lot. You don’t even have to get out of your vehicle. Donations will be accepted and will go directly to the Whitehorse branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Yukon Remembers will also support businesses to participate in the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the poppy and for the community to join in a moment of silence wherever they are.

So, in closing, Mr. Speaker, millions of Canadians will pin the poppy to their lapels or their hats each and every year on November 11. It’s a way of expressing their remembrance of the servicemen and servicewomen who gave their lives in two world wars and in Korea, and others remember the sacrifices in the world’s trouble spots such as Cyprus, Bosnia, and most recently in Afghanistan.

So, whatever the reason in Canada, the poppy has come to be known as the one universal symbol of remembrance, so please wear a poppy — lest we forget.

*Applause*

**Ms. White:** It’s a great honour to rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP to acknowledge tomorrow as the first day of the legion’s annual poppy campaign. We are privileged to live in such a breathtaking place, a place with security and stability, but it’s easy for us to forget to look beyond our own borders to see what others are living through. When we look outside, it is

with realization that not everyone has the same privileges as we do. For many in the world, armed conflict is a daily occurrence.

In Canada, it isn’t only the armed conflicts of the past that affect us, but also the conflicts of today. Families are affected as Canadians are sent to distant places to uphold the dignity and human rights of others. Families from war-torn countries are affected as they are separated when fleeing from these same conflicts, trying to find a better life for their families and seeking refuge in countries like ours.

It’s important that we don’t forget our collective memory and that we remember the actions of the past and the ongoing efforts that got us, as a country, to this place of stability, safety, and security.

The risk of forgetting the sacrifices made on our collective behalf only separates us further from our veterans and our active military personnel — people who, every day, carry with them the realities of war.

The Royal Canadian Legion works on bridging that separation in the two weeks leading up to Remembrance Day. It is important to remember that the poppy isn’t a symbol that supports war or the politicians who make the decision to engage in conflict. The poppy is a reminder to acknowledge the sacrifice of those who have borne the cost of those decisions — those who have lost their lives as well as those who walk among us today.

The poppy lets the families of soldiers know that we care about the sacrifices that they made and continue to make. It is with these people and their families that we pledge never to forget. It is in honour of them that we will remember the cost of the freedoms and the peace that we enjoy today. It is in remembrance of them that we wear the poppy — lest we forget.

*Applause*

### In recognition of Canadian Podcast Award winners

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** This tribute has me conflicted. I am in an awkward place this afternoon, Mr. Speaker. You see, Barry Allen, Ray Palmer, Carter Hall, and a host of others I could name who are — and I mean no disrespect — far better known have secrets. Big secrets — or rather, they did. Allen, of course, is now widely known as “The Flash”; Ray Palmer, “Atom”, and Carter Hall, “Hawkman”. Their secret identities held to protect their friends and family are now well known — a terrible breach of personal privacy. It is a terrible breach.

So, I am conflicted this afternoon because today we are celebrating Reid Vanier and Richard Eden, and I know who they are. “Who?”, you ask. Well, in a moment, you will know and then their secret will be revealed.

Today’s tribute is important. It marks a triumph — their triumph and, by association, our triumph. Discussing this and celebrating it outs them as the principals of — heck. Here we are, and there’s no delaying it now — the dynamic duo are the principals behind *Doctor DC*. That’s right — Reid Vanier is Doctor DC, and Richard is the producer.

*Doctor DC* is a podcast focused on the DC universe or multiverse. Gentlemen, which term do you prefer? Please discuss. This year, *Doctor DC* was named the very best in the

national 4<sup>th</sup> annual Canadian Podcast Awards in the arts category — the very best in the country.

Taking a national award in any field is hard; leading the nation in the dynamic and the fast-evolving field of podcasting is truly an accomplishment. To win that honour from the Yukon, a community of 40,000 people, is remarkable. They were competing against the very best in the country, and that is decidedly not easy.

I know how much time and effort goes into producing content, writing, researching, and then actually recording the episodes. These two gentlemen have more than 264 — as a matter of fact, they told me this afternoon — 270 podcasts under their utility belts, Mr. Speaker, which is incredibly prolific.

Every week, they see thousands of downloads. Listen to it and you'll hear a firm friendship that shares a passion for a specific comic imprint, and they love talking about it. They dive deep into the DC universe, a place where godlike heroes explore their humanity in modern society with that casual, often breezy approach that close friends share. That they make the show so inviting and that they carry the on-mic conversations so easily is a measure of their mastery of the craft of broadcasting.

Mr. Speaker, nothing rocks a media more than folks enjoying what they are doing. It's great to see Yukoners making the territory a leader in the evolving knowledge economy.

So, congratulations to Reid Vanier and Richard Eden. Yes, they really are Doctor DC and the producer. Sorry, gentlemen, but your secret is now out of the bag.

*Applause*

**Ms. Tredger:** Today I rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP and the Yukon Party to pay tribute to Richard Eden and Reid Vanier and their podcast *Doctor DC*. I don't know that I can follow that tribute, but we do want to give you our genuine congratulations.

In 2017, these two friends decided to share their love of DC comics with the world, and *Doctor DC* was born. As mentioned, they have more than 270 episodes, and it continues to inform and entertain Yukoners and listeners around the world.

I also wanted to mention their creation of the Brain Freeze Podcast Network. Through this, Richard and Reid have been supporting comedians from across North America to hone their podcasting skills. This network is home to nine podcasts. One that I'm particularly excited about is *The 'Horse*, a comedic take on life with a northern perspective, hosted by Yukoners Jenny Hamilton and Dan Bushnell. Podcasting has been growing in popularity over the years, and Richard and Reid have been helping to make sure that this is true for Yukon creators as well.

Congratulations to Richard and Reid on their outstanding achievements over the last four years. Their work has been a great benefit to the Yukon arts scene and an absolute pleasure to witness. I can't wait for what these unique creators will bring to the Yukon next.

*Applause*

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

## TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Pursuant to section 8(2) of the *Financial Administration Act*, I have for tabling the Public Accounts for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

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

## NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to:

(1) expand the obstetrics and gynecology program in the Yukon to reduce wait times for gynecology exams in Yukon; and

(2) increase access to obstetrics and gynecology in rural Yukon.

**Speaker:** Is there a statement by a minister?

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### COVID-19 vaccine booster shots

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is important that our government take the steps needed to stop the spread of COVID-19 and to protect Yukoners across the territory. We know that vaccination remains our best protection against all forms of COVID-19. Although the Yukon's vaccination rates are some of the highest in the country, our territory is not immune to outbreaks. We continue to see schools, gyms, and flights being impacted by cases here in the Yukon and across the country.

We know that the most effective way to reduce the spread and harms of COVID-19 is to have the best vaccine protection possible. The acting chief medical officer of health has provided new recommendations that will better protect the safety of Yukoners and those at higher risk of having severe illness due to the virus.

COVID-19 booster shots will be available to Yukoners aged 50 and older starting on November 1. A booster dose strengthens the immune system response when protection from a primary vaccine series shows signs of waning over time. Booster shots help those who may have a dip in their immune response to once again reach the highest protection from COVID-19. Yukoners aged 50 and older will be eligible for a booster if it has been at least six months since they completed their primary COVID-19 vaccine series, which is two doses.

While priority is being made to Yukoners aged 50 and older, booster clinics may be expanded at a further date to include younger ages once recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization. Clinics will begin in Carcross, Watson Lake, and Whitehorse starting the week of

November 1. Within the next six weeks, all other Yukon communities will have booster shot clinics.

Yukoners can also receive their first or second dose at these clinics. If someone is unsure of the date when they received their last COVID-19 vaccine, the information is available on the COVID-19 wallet-sized vaccination card, but Yukoners can also download their proof-of-vaccination certificate at [www.yukon.ca](http://www.yukon.ca) where they can also find the date of their last received dose.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention that we are currently holding flu vaccine clinics across the territory. Yukoners do not need to wait a specific period of time between their seasonal flu vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine. These vaccines can be provided at the same time. I encourage all Yukoners to get a seasonal flu vaccine and all eligible Yukoners, aged 50 and over, to get a booster shot as well.

Visit [www.yukon.ca](http://www.yukon.ca) or call the COVID info line at 1-877-374-0425 for information on the clinic dates and times. We need to do everything we can to stop the spread of COVID-19, and every Yukoner has a role to play.

**Mr. Cathers:** I am pleased to rise to speak to this, as the Official Opposition critic for Health and Social Services. We support making booster shots available to Yukoners aged 50 and up.

As members will recall, I wrote a letter to the government urging them to make booster shots available for senior citizens, and I have urged them to do that through motions in this Assembly. A few provinces began making COVID-19 booster shots available to seniors earlier this fall, and the NWT is offering boosters to anyone 75 and over.

When we raised this issue again earlier this week, the Province of Saskatchewan had made booster shots available to everyone 65-plus and Alberta was offering those third doses to everyone 75-plus. Members will recall that we urged the government to immediately make third doses available to everyone 65-plus through a motion. We picked 65 and up since, at the time, it was the lowest age at which any province or territory was making third shots of COVID-19 vaccines available to everyone.

However, we are pleased that Yukon health officials have decided to make it available to everyone aged 50 and over, starting November 1, and we support that.

Notably, in Saskatchewan, third shots are also available to individuals living in the far north and those living in First Nation communities, aged 50 and older, so the Yukon is moving to what is in place in northern Saskatchewan for third shot eligibility. In Alberta, third shots are also being offered to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people aged 65 and older and to all seniors in supportive living.

British Columbia is now making third shots available for seniors 70 and up and to indigenous people 12 and up, from November to the end of December. All of these jurisdictions, as well as other provinces and Nunavut, are also making shots available for other people with specific conditions, such as immunocompromised people and health care providers.

BC yesterday announced that everyone 12 and up will be able to receive a booster shot as of January 1. We urge the Yukon government to follow BC's lead in this area. We would also urge government to make shots available to children five to 11 as soon as that is approved for use in Canada.

When does government anticipate doing this? When will parents who choose to have their children aged five to 11 years old vaccinated have the opportunity to do that? What will be the process for informing parents of this opportunity to have their kids vaccinated, if they so choose, and what steps will be involved? Will parents have to sign a consent letter, and where will those shots be made available?

My colleague, our Education critic, wrote to the minister about eligibility criteria for children, and I would remind her that this letter and mine to her about third doses are both awaiting a reply. I also wrote to her asking that Pfizer be made available on request to adults, and I have not received a reply to that letter either. I encourage her to not only reply to that letter, but to make those shots available on request immediately.

In closing, I want to thank all health care professionals who are making vaccinations available, as well as those doing testing and other parts of the Yukon's pandemic response. We encourage everyone to be vaccinated and to make the personal choice to get a third shot when you are eligible.

**Ms. Blake:** It is good to hear that COVID booster shots will now be made available to those 50 and over, starting next week. We seem to be well ahead of the curve, since only BC has announced making available boosters to the public starting in 2022.

Yukon seniors in the extended care facilities have received their boosters, and we are thankful for that. We know that individuals who are more vulnerable, due to illness or organ transplants, have received their third vaccine.

Despite this good news, I do have some questions and concerns that I am hoping the minister can address in her reply. Yukoners 50 and over will be grateful for the opportunity to begin to get their boosters. Do we know when the younger Yukoners will be able to get theirs too?

Canada is still waiting to approve and start vaccinating children from five to 11. Some parents of children in this age group are more hesitant about vaccinating children this young. We would like to know if this government is considering different ways to share information with parents who might have questions or are more hesitant. What public awareness steps can be taken?

Yukoners and all Canadians are very fortunate to have millions and millions of doses of vaccine available in the country. At the same time, we know that there are countries in this world where they do not have the financial resources or manpower to carry out a vaccination program like we have experienced. In some places, the percentage of vaccination rates are in the single digits. Until more people around the world are vaccinated — especially in those countries without resources — COVID will not disappear.

Canada has been a partner in donating excess vaccines to COVAX. Through the World Health Organization, countries contribute vaccines and money to COVAX to ensure that countries without those resources are able to start vaccine programs for their citizens. It is our hope that Canada continues to support and donate to this program and that this government reaches out to encourage the federal government to continue to do so.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** By making COVID-19 boosters available to Yukoners who are 50 and older, we are continuing to follow the advice of the acting chief medical officer of health — something we have always done.

We know that trusting the science is what makes a difference in the fight to slow the spread of this deadly virus and its variants. We have said it so many times, I know, but it bears repeating: Vaccination is our best protection. Vaccines save lives. Vaccines keep us out of hospital. Vaccines safeguard us against serious illness. I should note, in response to some of the comments made, that boosters have been available to immunocompromised Yukoners for some months now, and boosters have been provided to all long-term care residents here in the territory — previous to today.

However, like many vaccines, they do not last forever. There is a growing body of international evidence that shows the waning of the immune response and the COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness over time. This evidence comes from countries that followed the manufacturer-recommended intervals for mRNA vaccines like Moderna and Pfizer. With this in mind, it is crucial that the government make booster shots available, take the steps necessary, and start with those individuals who are more at risk of severe illness from COVID-19. The booster announcement is another protective step and proactive step that we can take to further protect Yukoners.

Mr. Speaker, similar actions are happening in jurisdictions across the country. Earlier this week, the Government of British Columbia announced that it would be inviting priority groups to book a COVID-19 booster shot as it continues its COVID-19 immunization plan. We cannot forget that this is the largest and most complex immunization program that the Yukon Territory has ever delivered. We are living in unprecedented times. We have worked hard to get to where we are today in our response. Our early actions were praised by the chief public health officer of Canada, Dr. Theresa Tam, who said that the Yukon is leading the way. We will continue to protect and respond to the needs of Yukoners. That remains paramount as we forge ahead and adapt to living with COVID-19.

I sincerely thank the first responders, public health nurses, health care and community workers, and the Yukon Communicable Disease Control staff for everything that they have done to help keep Yukoners safe. Thank you to everyone who has stepped up and received their two shots to date. You are protecting not only yourselves, but also your loved ones and the communities at large. I urge everyone who is eligible to get a booster to please do so and to take their flu shot at the same time. It's quite convenient.

Lastly, those who have not yet found their way to being immunized against COVID-19, I urge them to make those considerations and speak to their health care providers if they have questions.

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

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: Watson Lake continuing care

**Ms. McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, 527 residents of Watson Lake have signed a petition asking the government to begin planning a continuing care facility for the community. This would ensure that loved ones would not have to move away to Whitehorse when they require care.

Will the Deputy Premier commit to begin planning for this facility immediately?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Long-term care facilities and the ability for Yukoners to age in place and to spend time in their own homes, if possible, or their home communities is, of course, a priority for this government. There are opportunities to do so in some communities, primarily through the concepts of aging in place. We know that seniors who are able to remain in their homes as long as possible thrive, continue to thrive, and enjoy their lives. Having to move into a facility is always a last — or a second — resort for elders and seniors who have told us so in our aging-in-place conversations with them and in our research and consultation with them.

We will continue to implement the recommendations that came forward with respect to that, and we will, as always, take into account every community.

**Ms. McLeod:** This September, a constituent told me that he reached out to the Deputy Premier's office asking her to come to the community to discuss a continuing care facility for Watson Lake, and her office said that she was too busy.

On September 15, I wrote to the Deputy Premier asking to her to go to Watson Lake to hold a public meeting to discuss this issue with the community this fall. That was 43 days ago, Mr. Speaker, and the deputy minister still has not responded to that letter.

Will the Deputy Premier stop ignoring the residents of Watson Lake and visit the community so that discussion and consultation can begin for a continuing care facility in that community?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** It won't surprise anyone that I don't agree with the preamble to that question, but what I can say, and what Yukoners deserve to know, is that aging in place is a priority for this government. We have worked on that through our engagement with elders and seniors, and that's what they have explained to us — and the research shows that it is, of course, better for individuals — in addition to the comments and recommendations in *Putting People First*, which also supports that concept.

We have met with many communities. I am puzzled by some of the preamble. I was in Watson Lake during the late summer of this year, and I met a number of individuals on a number of different topics. Nobody is ignoring Watson Lake,

and I would be pleased to discuss this issue with that community.

**Ms. McLeod:** I am not sure if the minister thinks that my constituent was mistaken or that I didn't send a letter that has not been answered. However, it seems obvious that the community of Watson Lake is not a priority for the Deputy Premier or for this Liberal government. The Deputy Premier has ignored the letters and requests to go to the community to discuss a continuing care facility for our community. The 527 residents have signed a petition asking the Deputy Premier to come to our community, meet with us, and begin planning. The signatories to this petition represent 35 percent of the entire community and over 50 percent of voters.

So, will the Deputy Premier commit to travelling to Watson Lake before the end of this Fall Sitting and hold a public meeting with the community to discuss the planning for a continuing care facility in Watson Lake?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Mr. Speaker, I don't hesitate to remind the members opposite that when they were sitting on this side of the House and making decisions, they planned and began building a 300-bed facility in Whitehorse. That is clearly not focusing on aging in place or communities and individuals being permitted and encouraged to have service in their communities.

Back in September 2020, the aging-in-place action plan, which was based on extensive public engagement with more than 1,200 people from across the territory, was released. Its vision is to ensure that all Yukoners, regardless of age, income, and ability, have access to supports that they need to live safe, independent, and comfortable lives in their own home or community for as long as possible. Our government is working collaboratively with our partners, including First Nation governments, municipal and federal governments, the private sector, NGOs, and community groups to implement the recommended actions and achieve our common goals.

#### **Question re: Physician recruitment and retention**

**Mr. Cathers:** There is growing pressure on family medicine in the Yukon, as we have seen clinics close and the walk-in clinic shut down. Family doctors don't yet feel supported by this Liberal government, and there is growing uncertainty about what family medicine in the Yukon will look like, going forward. The government has given up on recruitment of new doctors for several years. They cancelled the physician recruitment officer position within government that was tasked to work with the Yukon Medical Association.

They cancelled the stand-alone Yukon MD website, which used to promote the Yukon as a great place to practise, and thousands of Yukoners now are without a family doctor.

Why isn't the government taking the challenges that face family medicine in the Yukon seriously? Will the Minister of Health and Social Services finally start taking this issue seriously and start working with the YMA to actively recruit family doctors to come to the Yukon?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Again, unfortunately, I think that Yukoners are receiving inaccurate information with respect to the ways in which these questions are formulated; however,

what they do deserve to know is that we are, in fact, working with the Yukon Medical Association and that we do recognize that the recruitment and retention of nurses and physicians is critical to providing the proper patient-centred health care services that are required here in the territory.

Our government is aware of one local clinic that has closed its doors and the effect that this has had on the City of Whitehorse or individuals who live nearby who might have come to that clinic. The pandemic has significantly impacted our ability to recruit nurses, physicians, and other health care providers. This is the case nationally and globally. That is not an excuse; that is a fact. Individuals have made personal choices and we, as always, support the Yukon as a fantastic place to live and work, where individuals can move and support our health care system.

**Mr. Cathers:** Thousands of Yukoners are without a family doctor and the minister dismisses the question.

The minister told us that she is working with the YMA on doctor recruitment, but we haven't seen much evidence of that. Last week, when I asked about this, the minister said — and I quote: "This is not a problem that will be solved." Well, of course it won't be solved if the minister continues to ignore it.

Government used to have a position in her department devoted to physician recruitment and retention, but the Liberals got rid of that position. There used to be a website specifically focused on encouraging doctors to come to the Yukon to practise. The Liberals deleted that site and it redirects to a general department page now. Government used to actively recruit doctors at health symposiums, medical conferences, and medical school graduations, but they stopped doing that. The result has been that there are thousands of Yukoners without a family doctor.

Will the minister reverse the decision of the previous Minister of Health and Social Services and reinstate the physician recruitment officer position and start working closely with the YMA to attract new doctors to the Yukon?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** The answer to that question is yes, because that's what we are already doing. We continue to explore options to connect Yukoners to primary health care services. Previously, we initiated in 2019 a "find a doctor" program and we have helped 1,048 Yukoners be matched with a physician here in the territory. Of course, there are still folks on that waiting list, which is why our work continues, expanding access to virtual care alternatives and increasing the number of resident pediatricians, psychiatrists, and surgeons. As we implement *Putting People First*, we will work to hire additional nurse practitioners and we are meeting with the Yukon Medical Association to address the physician recruitment and retention issues. As the members opposite might have heard on the radio this morning, our own Dr. Smart, who is the president of the Canadian Medical Association, is speaking about this issue being a national and international one.

Our government is also moving forward with the creation of a bilingual health centre that will open in early 2022. This primary health care setting in Whitehorse is expected to reduce some pressures. I will continue with the work of the department when I get a chance.



**Mr. Cathers:** Again, there are thousands of Yukoners without a family doctor, and we know the record of the Liberal government on this area. We need more than lip service. We have seen family doctors closing their practices, doctors who are seeking parental leave have been unable to find locums, and there are little to no recruitment efforts by government. So, it was no surprise when the minister said last week — and I quote: “This is not a problem that will be solved.”

We have heard from family doctors that morale is low and it’s very difficult to convince doctors to come here either as locums or permanently. The result of this is that the list of Yukoners without a family doctor is growing by the day. Meanwhile, the minister has given up and said that this is not something that can be solved. When will the minister and this Liberal government start taking the issue seriously, reverse the decision to abandon recruitment efforts, and start working sincerely with the YMA to encourage more family doctors to move here to the Yukon?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I am pleased that the member opposite is bringing up these thoughtful questions that are important to Yukoners, but I do wish he would listen to my answers, because I am agreeing with him. The work is being done. “Little to no recruitment” is a statement that is inaccurate, and I should clarify that the quote that the member opposite is using from me from last week is out of context, because what I was talking about —

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

**Speaker:** Order, please. The member has the floor.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I was talking about was that recruitment and retention of physicians and nurses will be an ongoing activity of the department and an ongoing challenge for Yukoners well into the future. It is not something that will end any time soon.

The department has been exploring options to work with a professional recruiter or a recruiting firm to support physician recruitment as well as exploring opportunities to contact nurse practitioners to serve some existing clinics. Additionally, work is underway to expand access to virtual services and we are working with the YMA, including opportunities for clinics to have extended hours or opportunities for individuals to receive medical care at those clinics, mostly here in Whitehorse.

### Question re: Affordable housing

**Ms. Tredger:** Yesterday in debate, the Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation said — quote: “... the high cost of living in the territory and the lack of affordable housing leaves many social assistance clients, especially single people living on their own, unable to make ends meet and struggling to make it through each month.” This government’s solution has been to put people in hotels.

Can the Minister of Health and Social Services tell this House how many Yukoners are currently being housed in hotels and at what cost to the government?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I think that, first, I would like to start off by sharing a little bit with the House around what our government is doing to deal with affordability when it comes to housing and then I will leave it to the Minister of Health and

Social Services to talk specifically about the work of Health and Social Services and some of the programs that they are doing to house vulnerable folks.

First of all, looking at it, we know that Yukoners are facing increasing housing prices and this has been discussed at length in the House. Affordable housing, whether renting or owned, costs no more than 30 percent of gross household income. This means that affordable housing looks different for each individual depending on personal circumstances, income levels, and type of housing needs. I think some of the key pieces that Yukoners need to know is, one, that the Yukon Housing Corporation, under the previous minister, negotiated the northern carve-out. The northern carve-out with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation puts \$40 million in place. What we are seeing right now is the largest investment in affordable housing in Yukon history. All one has to do is travel to our communities or look at what is happening in Whitehorse. Again, I look forward to sharing more about the many initiatives on affordable housing here with the House today.

**Ms. Tredger:** It’s all very well to hear about projects, but what I asked was about Yukoners living long term in hotels. Because the minister didn’t reply — I’m not actually surprised because we know that this government doesn’t like to share bad news.

As the minister for Yukon Housing Corporation said yesterday — and I quote: “... it is not cost-effective and does not lead to healthier outcomes over the long term to see individuals in hotels. It doesn’t make financial sense.”

Living full time in hotels is not a dignified way to live. What’s more, someone living in a hotel for less than six months has no protections as a tenant, and if they move rooms at six months, it resets the clock. That means that they can be evicted at any time with no notice.

Will the minister commit to closing the loophole that leaves Yukoners living in hotels unprotected from evictions?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I should note that the Department of Health and Social Services works tirelessly to assist individuals either on an emergency basis with support services or as they are looking for housing. The Department of Health and Social Services, along with the Housing Corporation, supports individuals to find and retain housing. Hotels are intended to be short-term assistance with a plan to transition individuals back into market housing — for example, if there is an eviction, as noted in the preamble.

In rare instances, someone who experiences significant or multiple barriers to obtaining and maintaining housing may stay longer in a hotel. We are always working to make this not be the case. Some individuals have become accustomed to residing in certain locations and this is an option that they prefer. We work with individuals to determine how to best serve them.

**Ms. Tredger:** Although we appreciate that the Minister of Health and Social Services told us about housing plans, this was a question for the Minister of Community Services, because there is a very specific loophole. The reason for this loophole is that the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* is not being applied to provide to Yukoners who have no choice but

to live in hotels. It states in the act that — quote: “This act does not apply to ... living accommodation occupied as vacation or travel accommodation...”

So, here’s my question for the minister: Does the minister think that Yukoners living full time in hotels are on vacation? If not, why won’t he close the loophole and give these people basic tenant rights?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I know that my colleague will look into the question that has been asked with respect to the particular wording, but I wanted to clarify that, when a client resides in a hotel for six months or longer, they do have rights under the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* in such a situation. The notice period for eviction would depend on the tenancy agreement, and it is typically two to three months. The most important information that I can give Yukoners today about this is that social workers offer support to any such individuals or families — in accessing residential tenancies process, if necessary — but more importantly, to find them alternatives to housing that suit their individual circumstances.

#### **Question re: Obstetric and gynecological care**

**Ms. Clarke:** Access to obstetrics and gynecology care is an important component of women’s health. We have heard from both patients and doctors that the OB/GYN program is under a lot of pressure. Patients needing a consult are facing wait times of over a year. The services that are available to women living in rural Yukon are limited.

What is the minister doing to reduce wait times for women needing to access OB/GYN care?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I appreciate the question. I think along the lines of the individual questions that I have had earlier about physician recruitment and retention. It is important to provide services here in the territory to Yukoners so they do not have to travel for such things as well.

OB/GYN and obstetrics services in the communities have always been a challenge, because it is a highly specialized area of medical practice. I can indicate that we have expanded the services that are available here in Whitehorse by retaining new physicians, psychiatrists — as I have noted earlier — surgeons and pediatric medical professionals.

I intend that we will continue to expand the services that are available here in the Yukon. I should also note that, for those individuals who do have to travel outside the territory, we have increased the amounts available for medical travel. We actually doubled it from \$75 a day to \$150 a day.

**Ms. Clarke:** We are concerned about the long wait times for women needing to access the OB/GYN program. OB/GYN care is an important aspect of women’s health. We have also heard that the current program has limited reach to rural Yukon.

What is the minister doing to increase access to this important aspect of women’s health in rural Yukon?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Not to be critical, but I think that is exactly the question I just answered, but I am happy to do so again and provide more information for Yukoners with respect to the services that this government has expanded and continues to expand in order to serve Yukoners better.

One of our services and commitments has been to have a reproductive care plan for Yukoners, primarily women, of course. Our government has committed to supporting Yukoners and creating reproductive care plans. As part of this process, we will be looking to subsidize the cost of fertility treatments and any related medical travel. That is a really significant change, Mr. Speaker. None of these types of services or the covering of medical travel has ever even been considered by Yukon government before.

We are also looking at supporting Yukoners in need to purchase birth control and period products. We recognize that nearly one-quarter of women in the territory struggle to afford menstrual products in Canada, and that is a problem that must be solved.

**Ms. Clarke:** The current OB/GYN program in Yukon is located in the Whitehorse General Hospital and is serviced by two doctors. Relying on only two doctors to run a program like this means that one of them has to be available at all times. This puts incredible pressure on these doctors. We are worried about burnout and the possibility that this structure will drive them away.

Will the minister consider expanding the OB/GYN program to increase services and to ensure the longer term sustainability of the program?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I’m pleased to have the opportunity to rise today to speak about a number of services that are being provided by this government in this area. I can indicate that Yukoners presently have opportunities to attend the Yukon Women’s MidLife Health Clinic, which also supports Yukoners. The Yukon Sexual Health Clinic offers sexual and reproductive health services to all Yukoners, genders, and sexual orientations.

I can also speak at length about the midwifery program that is being introduced and supported by this government. We look forward to the postings being completed to hire new midwives and to working with the Hospital Corporation and the Yukon Medical Association to provide midwifery services for Yukoners, which will address, or possibly address, some of the issues depending on the community need for such services.

That goes along with what I said probably in almost every answer here today, which is that we are dedicated to expanding the specialist services that are here in the territory. We have done so; there is evidence that we have done so. We’ll continue to do so.

#### **Question re: Secure medical unit**

**Mr. Hassard:** So, staff at the Whitehorse General Hospital have been raising red flags about safety to this Liberal government for over two years. This is one of the reasons we need a secure medical unit at the hospital. On March 7, 2019, the Premier stated in his budget speech — and I quote: “This ... Budget also provides \$1 million for a larger secure medical unit at the Whitehorse General Hospital...” The 2019-20 budget document goes on to state that this is for planning. However, on November 3, just about a year ago, the former Minister of Health and Social Services told media that the Liberals had actually delayed that \$1 million in planning to the following

year. So, can the Deputy Premier tell us how much has been spent on planning for the secure medical unit so far, and is this planning complete?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** The secure medical unit at the Whitehorse General Hospital is something that, of course, spans not only the health portfolio that I have the privilege of being in charge of, but also touches on the justice elements of that particular portfolio as well. We have been working closely with the Yukon Hospital Corporation. I know that they are expanding some of their engagement to determine what that unit should look like and how it should be operated, who it can serve, and how it can best serve Yukoners.

I also am aware that they are looking at secured-type medical units and psychiatric-type units in other places in Canada. Their research continues and our work with them continues. There is money in this year's budget for that work to continue. I look forward to the opportunity to provide this kind of service for Yukoners who deserve it.

**Mr. Hassard:** It is really unfortunate that the minister can stand here and tell us that it actually falls under two of her portfolios, yet she still doesn't know the answer to the question.

On April 11 of last year, the former Health and Social Services minister said that the current secure medical unit — quote — "... does not meet current client and patient safety standards." The Liberals are aware that the secure medical unit does not meet safety standards and is in dire need of upgrades. However, planning was supposed to be completed on this in 2019. As I stated, the Premier's Budget Address in 2019 claimed that \$1 million would be spent on this project. He was later contradicted by his former minister. In this year's Budget Address, he claimed that \$5.7 million would be spent on the secure medical unit this year.

Can the Deputy Premier confirm if this is for construction, and when will this construction begin?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** The secure medical unit at Whitehorse General Hospital is an incredibly important facility. It is an incredibly important evolution of the services that are being offered by Whitehorse General Hospital and — more importantly, in my submission to you — being offered for the services to help Yukoners. The individual budget items are, as noted by the Premier in Committee of the Whole, what are being dedicated this year to that project. As I have said earlier in my answer, research continues, work continues, and construction will begin as soon as possible.

**Mr. Hassard:** This was announced back in 2019. Now, we can listen to the minister tell us how important a project it is, but we still have no answers on where we are in the progress of this particular upgrade.

Can the Deputy Premier confirm the total estimated cost for the planning and construction of the new secure medical unit — what that number is?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** The Department of Health and Social Services, community partners, and the Yukon Hospital Corporation continue to work toward a new secure psychiatric unit at the Whitehorse General Hospital. For the past number of years, we have worked with the Yukon Hospital Corporation to plan for a new secure psychiatric unit and further define the

funding requirements. We have also worked closely with the Hospital Corporation and other partners, including psychiatrists, to ensure current psychiatric services at Whitehorse General Hospital are safe and effective. From 2021-22 and 2023-24, funding has been put into the capital budget to build a new unit, with pre-construction tenders to be released in the fall this year and construction anticipated to start in the winter of 2022.

In the 2021-22 main estimates, there is \$5.7 million for this initiative. In addition, the federal government is investing \$10 million in the project through the COVID-19 resilience infrastructure stream of the Investing in Canada infrastructure program. They announced that in August 2021.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** 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*

**Chair (Ms. Blake):** I will now call Committee of the Whole to order.

The matter before Committee is general debate on Vote 51, Community Services, in Bill No. 202, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2021-22*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

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

### **Bill No. 202: *Second Appropriation Act 2021-22***

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee is general debate on Vote 51, Community Services, in Bill No. 202, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2021-22*.

#### **Department of Community Services**

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

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** This afternoon, I am going to introduce my deputy, Matt. He and Phil are here to help us out this afternoon with questions.

I am sure we will have a vigorous discussion this afternoon. I am happy to add some context and some ideas and some clarity to what the Department of Community Services has been doing over the last year.

We have supplementary estimates this year totalling about \$12,089,000 in the operation and maintenance expenditures. Most of this has to do with flood response and recovery. We have all spoken about this, and I alluded to it in my introductory speech introducing this piece of legislation.

I know that there will be a lot of other issues to discuss this afternoon, and I know that my colleagues here are more than prepared to help me muddle through this afternoon, so I will open up debate with my colleagues from the opposition. I look forward to your questions.

**Ms. McLeod:** I thank the minister for being willing to get right into debate here, and I want to thank the officials from Community Services for joining us here and giving us all a hand.

I want to start this afternoon to have a bit of a discussion about land development. Obviously, that is an item that is very important to a lot of Yukoners, as we have all been hearing about from all of our constituents.

There are obviously new mayors and councils in many communities, and those municipal governments are important partners when it comes to land development. I would like to ask a range of questions about this issue in various communities, but we'll start with Whitehorse.

What is the status of the development at Whistle Bend? Which phases are currently underway? How many lots are currently available? How many are planned over what time period?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Lot development is absolutely critical to Whitehorse and to the territory as a whole. I have been on a community tour and I have heard this from municipal leaders across the territory. There will be a lot of new faces this fall, but I doubt this issue is going to change.

The territory needs more residential lots and more commercial lots, and it needs more land developed to keep up with our robust economy and to keep up with the demand for labour which is feeding that economic growth that we're seeing because of all the work that is going on in the territory.

I can say that, in 2020-21, 262 Whistle Bend lots and five country residential lots were released and sold in one lottery. There were 779 applications received for 147 single family lots. There were 91 townhouse lots, 11 multi-family lots, and eight commercial lots released. Construction is wrapping up for this building season and the lots have been completed. This will allow for the preparation for release by lottery later this year of 97 Whistle Bend lots, 70 phase 6A lots consisting of 38 single-family and 32 townhouse lots, and 27 commercial lots on Keno Way.

We will also be releasing four single-family lots in the Logan subdivision, right down the street from me, three lots in Mayo, and three in downtown Dawson City.

Whistle Bend phases 7 and 8 and lift station tenders are targeted for release in the fall/winter of 2021-22 — so that's this winter — and phase 9 in early summer 2022. Phase 6B — that's 101 lots — 7A and 8 — 80 to 100 lots are targeted for release in 2022, followed by phase 9 in 2023. When complete, Whistle Bend will include a town square, retail shops, schools, plentiful greenspace, and many kilometres of paved and

unpaved trails. The goal remains, as we pitched it in our platform this last election — we plan to build 1,000 lots in the territory over the next five years; 800 of those will be in the City of Whitehorse and 200 in rural Yukon. That is our goal and we are going to do everything we can to stick to it.

**Ms. McLeod:** Madam Chair, I found that response a little bit confusing in that the minister referenced 262 lots being released in Whistle Bend. I would like some clarification on the breakdown of that. Was that 262 residential lots — and I know that there were some townhouses in there — and eight commercial lots? Then the minister went on to say that there were 97 residential lots and 27 commercial lots — so, if he could just clarify those numbers for me.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I am happy to clarify for my colleague across the way. In 2020-21 — so that would be last year — 262 Whistle Bend lots and five country residential lots were released and sold in one lottery. We received 779 applications during that lottery. Released in that lottery were 147 single-family lots, 91 townhouse lots, 11 multi-family lots, and eight commercial lots. I hope that helps.

**Ms. McLeod:** Thank you for that. I understand, then, that this was in 2020-21. Was anything released this summer? Is that where the 97 lots come into play? Was that 2021-22?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** As I said earlier, construction is wrapping up for this building season, and the lots have been completed. This will allow for the preparation for release by lottery later this year — so in the next month or two or three — in the next few months. We are going to release 97 Whistle Bend lots this season, 70 phase 6A lots — so phase 6A was the one that we were working on all this summer. It consists of 38 single-family lots, 32 townhouse lots, and 27 commercial lots on Keno Way. That is where the 97 lots come in.

We will also be releasing four single-family lots in Logan, which is also in Whitehorse, three lots in Mayo, and three in downtown Dawson City.

Next year, we are going to continue with the next phases. Phase 6B is another 101 lots. Then we also have 7A and 8, which are 80 and 100 lots, for a grand total of 281 lots targeted for release in 2022.

Then phase 9 is going to be planned and put out to tender in 2023.

**Ms. McLeod:** I thank the minister for his information. I just want to confirm that phase 9 is 2023 and not 2022.

Aside from the lots that are currently under development for Whistle Bend, are there any lots for sale currently in Whitehorse?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** As the member opposite knows, we are in a time of high demand for housing. Currently, all of the over-the-counter lots in Whitehorse are sold. Demand for housing is such that all of the lots have been snapped up, but we will be releasing later this winter the lots that we have developed this year. There are 97, so 97 new lots will be released through lottery in a few months, putting more housing stock into the market for development next year.

We also do have some properties available over the counter in rural Yukon. We have a commercial property available in

Haines Junction. We have seven country residential lots in Mayo.

We currently have two multi-family lots — so to correct myself, two multi-family lots are available in Whistle Bend currently. So, we do have a couple of lots available in Whitehorse.

But that is not a lot. As we know, the economy is drawing a lot of people to the territory. They have discovered us. We have an awful lot of activity here. We are drawing a lot of people to the territory. Currently, there is a shortage, which is why we are producing as many lots as we possibly can to meet demand.

I know that my colleague, my predecessor in this role, set records for the number of lots that he was developing in the territory. He did a masterful job getting a lot of lots out to the public, and we would certainly be in a lot worse shape if he and the department hadn't done that work.

**Ms. McLeod:** Outside of Whistle Bend, are there any areas within the city that have been identified by the department or the City of Whitehorse for development, and is there any plan for a new residential neighbourhood in Whitehorse?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I can report that I have met with City of Whitehorse officials for a couple months now to discuss the progress on the official community plan and their plans for a new residential development site in the City of Whitehorse. That is a city responsibility. They have been working on a new official community plan. They have a draft plan that has to be considered by the incoming council, which is great news because we really do need to get on with it and find more residential development sites in the City of Whitehorse so we can begin that planning process to make sure there —

We have to try to work very, very closely together to avoid a gap between the completion of Whistle Bend and the actual launch of the next residential development in Whitehorse. That is going to be my goal — working with the new council to make sure that we work very closely, once the official community plan is done, to start planning and working toward that next development in the City of Whitehorse.

**Ms. McLeod:** I am glad that the minister raised the issue of OCPs, and I will get to that in just a minute.

Is the minister aware of any further plans to develop infill lots in Whitehorse on lands that are held by YG?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I do. As a matter of fact, they have created four — my predecessor did most of the work — infill lots right at the end of my street. That development has been mapped out, and they have done all of the underground work because there was a detour around my subdivision all summer. Those lots are now prepped and will be part of the land lottery coming forward. The infill process is happening on YG lots, and I will consult with my officials to see if there are any more to add to that answer.

**Ms. McLeod:** Now, the minister mentioned that some of these lots were in his neighbourhood. I wonder if he could be a little more specific on that one.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair, and I appreciate you helping to answer the question.

The four lots will be developed in Whitehorse West, which is a very small neighbourhood just surrounding, really, the French language elementary school — École Émilie Tremblay — bordered by Falcon and Finch. The actual lots are being developed in the Logan subdivision, which is just off of Falcon about 150 yards from the French school — maybe 200 yards. There are four lots being developed on Finch Crescent right down the street from Magpie. So, that's where those four lots are being developed.

Community Services works with the City of Whitehorse on infill lots inside the City of Whitehorse border boundaries. The actual infill is directed by the city's official community plan and by the city council.

Community Services will often serve as the land developer in conjunction with the City of Whitehorse. In this case, the City of Whitehorse identified these four lots and Community Services acted as the developer of the land inside the infill and will continue to do that. The city will identify lots for infill within their official community plan, and the council itself will direct which lots should be developed in the City of Whitehorse and when. They are the ones who hold that, as they should; they are the responsible government and they act on behalf of their citizens. As I have said here, I am here to support the government working on behalf of its citizenry.

**Ms. McLeod:** Of course, one of the big issues facing the business community in Whitehorse is the lack of commercial land. Can the minister tell us what is being done to make more commercial land available within the City of Whitehorse? I recognize that the minister mentioned that there were a number being developed in Whistle Bend, but I guess my question is about what is being developed outside of Whistle Bend.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Once again, we are developing Whistle Bend. We are leading that charge and that is where we have control over the commercial developments which were laid out by the City of Whitehorse. In other areas of the city, the City of Whitehorse has to lead that commercial development and dictate directly which lands are deemed commercial. Any other commercial development outside of this new development in Whistle Bend has got to be led by the City of Whitehorse. I will listen to their direction and then we will work to deliver on the commercial lots that they identify in new sites around the City of Whitehorse if we can play a role.

**Ms. McLeod:** I want to thank the minister for that clarification. If he can just move on now to have a short discussion about OCPs. The City of Whitehorse is preparing their OCP. What is the normal turnaround time for an OCP to be approved by the minister's office?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I have been Minister of the Department of Community Services since May — five months. I work very, very hard to get documents that arrive on my desk turned around very, very quickly. I think I have seen one OCP that came through, that landed on my desk, and I passed it off to the department for review. When it comes back from my department, I sign off as soon as possible. I am not an expert in this regard because I am relatively new to the role. I can consult with my colleague to see what an adequate time period is, but from my point, I can say that I will do it as quickly as possible

and I will learn as I go through this role how long it actually takes. Oh, there it is there: 45 days is the turnaround time. Thank you very much to my officials for helping with that answer. We have 45 days to respond to the OCP request once it's submitted.

**Ms. McLeod:** That is good news, of course. As you know, Watson Lake's OCP is in for review right now and so I know that we will all be happy to have that turned around in 45 days.

Since I have mentioned Watson Lake, I have a question regarding the supplementary budget, where rural residential land development is \$8.35 million. In previous discussion this Sitting, various ministers have referenced that some of this money is being spent on lot development in Watson Lake. My understanding is that work has not been tendered and is not likely to be undertaken before the end of this fiscal year, given that we are quickly moving into winter, so could the minister break down that \$8.35 million for me, please?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Just to follow up on the previous question about 45 days — the city or the municipality submits their plan to Community Services. It usually comes to me and I pass it off to Community Services. Community Services officials will do a compliance check, and if the plan is good and meets the *Municipal Act*, then I sign off on it. That process is set at 45 days. That is just a little bit more clarity on that answer.

Residential and rural land development — the member opposite referenced the mains — \$8.35 million for land development in rural Yukon.

I can report that, at the time when the mains came out, it was slated to have \$4.1 million spent in Haines Junction, \$750,000 in Dawson, \$500,000 in Carmacks, \$750,000 in Watson Lake, \$750,000 in Mayo and Keno, \$1 million in Teslin, and \$500,000 in Faro.

In our supplementary budget, we now have indicated that we are going to spend \$12 million and change on lot development, land development in residential and rural communities. So, the updated list now says that the Alaska Highway north is going to see \$450,000 in land development. Haines Junction is actually going to see \$5.75 million in land development. Dawson is actually going from \$750,000 to \$2.267 million in land development.

In Carmacks, it's going to stay stable at \$500,000. Watson Lake is actually going to see an increase in lot development to \$1.5 million. Mayo and Keno will see a decrease to \$300,000 in lot development. Teslin is actually going up by \$200,000 to \$1.2 million, and Faro and Ross River are actually going to see a decrease in land development to \$100,000.

That is a total change of \$3.7 million, with the largest increases being in Dawson, Watson Lake, Haines Junction, and on the Alaska Highway north.

**Ms. McLeod:** I thank the minister for those numbers. What is behind the increases in those numbers?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I believe we had a little bit of a gap there. I believe the question was: What's leading to the increased spending? It's more lot development, I guess, is what's happening. We have new projects coming forward. We know how important land development is, and we have actually

managed to advance some projects, so we will see an extra \$450,000 on Alaska Highway north.

**Chair:** Order. Can I please ask that when members are speaking, they speak into the microphone so members can hear?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Can you hear me? Is that good? I will raise my voice. I am very soft spoken. I am a soft-spoken individual, Madam Chair.

We are going to see an extra \$1.6 million in Haines Junction; another \$1.5 million spent in Dawson City; and in Watson Lake, \$750,000. I know that the member opposite has an interest in Watson Lake and I will get to that in a second. The north end development project is near tender-ready. We have some discussions. North end is one development in Dawson City. We have the Dome Road service residential development. We have industrial mixed-use infill projects in Dawson. Some vacant lots — we have completed assessments of multiple vacant city lots, and we are advancing three for release in this upcoming lottery. Dredge Pond No. 2 country residential — feasibility work has been completed as of September. With a new council in Dawson City, we will be working with it to get some of these projects going.

In Carmacks — Carmacks is staying stable. Those are the residential industrial development projects. We have a five-lot country residential lot for release in the fall of 2021 or the spring of 2022, so that's coming.

In some of the other places — what was the other big one?

Let's get back to Watson Lake, because I know that is an area of interest for the Member for Watson Lake. I had a great tour this spring as part of my community tour. Cam Lockwood took me around and actually showed me the Frances Lake properties in the community. They are apparently tender ready now and will be issued this year. That is the next project happening in Watson Lake. Because of the work that has been done and because they look like they are ready to go, we will be able to increase the development of lots in Watson Lake by doubling it to \$1.5 million from \$750,000. We are working with the Town of Watson Lake on several land development projects, including residential, commercial, and industrial areas. A community development work plan was established with the Town of Watson Lake to identify short-, medium-, and long-term development projects.

Projects include both serviced and unserviced residential development, commercial development, and industrial development. These projects are in various stages of the planning and development process, but, as I said, it is the Frances Avenue project that will be advanced this winter.

**Ms. McLeod:** I thank the minister for that, and I perhaps didn't hear what the minister said before we turned the volume up. One of my questions was: What is the reason for the increase in the budget amounts from the spring to today?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I guess the short answer is that we have identified and actually advanced a number of land development projects within rural Yukon that have actually come onstream faster than we expected. I know that it has been a priority for our government. We have been pushing pretty hard. Municipalities are responding. We actually have managed

to find another \$3.7 million of land development that could be advanced more quickly than we expected.

Land development is managed as an envelope. This is because land development projects can move more slowly or more quickly, based on a number of factors. The budget increases if more gets done in the season, and it is reduced if delays are experienced. The private sector does 95 percent of all the work under contracts.

We have an envelope. We recover the money that we invest in land development. It is recovered when we sell the lots through lottery. So, if we can get the work done and we have the ability to get it done, we will. In some cases, the contractor — or there will be development issues that will slow a project for whatever reason. We had rain last year. All these things can actually interfere with some of the development we have, perhaps. So, that may slow development and will reduce the budget, but this year, we have had a good year. We have actually managed to increase land development in the territory and that is good news for the people of the territory.

**Ms. McLeod:** Of course, I understand and appreciate the process, and I am happy to hear that some projects moved ahead faster than others. That may be a reason for the increase in that cost, but if we just take a look at Watson Lake, for instance, where no lots hit the market this year and the cost went from \$750,000 this spring to \$1.5 million in the supplementary budget, I am curious why that is.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I want to be clear that the project costs have not increased. What has increased is the number of lots that we are developing this year. We're actually advancing more lots this year. It's the actual development of the lots that is increasing the budget.

We had planned to spend \$750,000 on land development. That would have produced X number of lots. But, since then, we've actually advanced Frances Avenue. We're actually going to bring — 43 lots are tender ready and will be issued this year. That tender is going to go out. That's going to increase the budget by \$750,000, or a portion of that. That's what is driving the cost — actually getting more lots on to the market, which is important to the community. I heard that when I was down there. They showed me the Frances Avenue development. We drove through there. I got briefed on their water system and saw the lots.

As it turns out, we're actually able to advance that project quicker than we expected, so we're spending an extra \$750,000 to bring those lots to market much faster than we would have. That's what's driving the cost.

**Ms. McLeod:** I want to thank you for those answers on land development. So now, I'm going to want to move to solid waste for a bit.

Now, I have a few general questions that I would like to ask. My first one is about the current status of the Watson Lake regional agreement. How much money is provided to Watson Lake under that agreement? What physical upgrades were paid for by YG to allow for that agreement? Were the same metrics applied to Dawson City?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I am really glad to have a question on solid waste this afternoon. I didn't know if I would get one,

and I have. I'm very glad to have that this afternoon, so I am going to actually start talking about solid waste while my officials prepare the specific information for Watson Lake.

I think it's important that everybody understand a little bit more of the context around solid-waste management in the Yukon, where it has been and where it is going. I will take this opportunity while we prepare a much more specific answer for my colleague across the aisle to give a little bit of context about solid waste in the territory.

Community Operations manages 16 solid-waste facilities and supports 13 recycling depots and two recycling processors across the Yukon. We are actively implementing the recommendations of the Ministerial Committee on Solid Waste that my good colleague in front of me here helped shepherd in the early days. This committee consists of knowledgeable waste-management practitioners from municipalities and the Government of Yukon.

Sites in the Whitehorse periphery started charging tipping fees on August 1, 2020. This was phase 1 of the recommendations of the solid-waste plan developed by the ministerial committee. The goal is to move toward regional landfills with consistency between operations. That is, everybody pays a portion — a small portion, as a matter of fact — of the waste that they generate in the territory. The goal is to have a fee for service. There will be no more free rides in the territory. People will pay for the waste that they produce — not all of it, of course. It is actually heavily subsidized by the Yukon government and municipalities, but they will pay a small fee for the waste that they produce. That tension of actually having to pay something for the waste you produce will help people think a little bit more about it and reduce the waste that we produce in the territory, because we produce a lot of it. We are closing the loop on free waste disposal in the territory. That is an essential tenet of this, and this is what municipalities asked us to do.

Tipping fees help to ensure that everyone is equally responsible for paying to dispose of waste, encourage waste reduction, and make our facilities more financially and environmentally sustainable. Community Operations is currently in the process of negotiating landfill leases, liability agreements, and regional agreements with municipalities, which will allow us to turn municipal waste facilities into facilities that serve their whole region. I will say here that I have heard nothing but good things about the regional landfill in Watson Lake.

The Government of Yukon is working on banning single-use bags in order to reduce the number of single-use items disposed of in the territory. We are working with the ministerial committee and industry on exploring solutions for recycling in the territory, including extended producer responsibility.

Let me give a little bit more information on the Ministerial Committee on Solid Waste. We are working on improving solid-waste management within the Yukon with our municipal partners and the Association of Yukon Communities through the Ministerial Committee on Solid Waste. The Ministerial Committee on Solid Waste is composed of four representatives

from the communities, four Yukon government officials from the departments of Community Services and Environment, and one from the City of Whitehorse. The group is co-chaired by the Association of Yukon Communities and the Department of Community Services. Committee recommendations to improve the territory's solid-waste management system were fully endorsed by the Government of Yukon.

We are now working on implementing the priorities of the committee. This includes implementing a regionalization strategy to more efficiently concentrate landfill and transfer sites and adopting best practices for our solid-waste facilities. This is important too, Madam Chair: We are adopting best practices that are cutting edge for the territory, but what we are doing is actually implementing a program that is consistent across the country. This is not something that we're inventing on the fly; this is following best practices that the majority, if not all, municipalities across the country are already doing.

We are shifting the cost of waste management from taxpayers to waste generators in exploring how extended producer responsibility could work in the Yukon. Action items will take place in the short, medium, and long term, with the ultimate goal of making Yukon's solid-waste management system more efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable.

To answer some of the questions that I am sure are coming, Community Operations is also committing to supporting waste diversion programs that minimize environmental impacts and the burden on taxpayers while ensuring economic benefits are maximized wherever possible. I saw this recently in Mount Lorne where I toured the Mount Lorne waste management facility. The recycling operation is controlled. The gates are locked when it's closed; when it's open, they have people supervising the site. They have a really good compost system that they are just testing that may be applicable to other communities across the territory, which will again take and produce really good soil that can be used in a host of areas once it's done. I believe that the soil there actually hit 75 degrees, which is more than 25 degrees higher than the point at which pathogens and everything are killed. What they're doing down there is producing some very pure, very good soil for use by residents and other people who may need it.

Stewardship programs like the beverage container regulation and designated materials regulation, where the point-of-sale surcharges pay for a product's eventual disposal, are an effective and sustainable method of waste management, though less efficient than extended producer responsibility.

The branch has turned its efforts toward exploring the viability of implementing extended producer responsibility in Yukon. I'm not going to use the acronym — I hate acronyms — so I will say that extended producer responsibility is a model that gives industry control and management over end-of-life products. The model has been implemented across all provinces as a result of the 2009 extended producer responsibility action plan approved by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. BC and Ontario currently lead the country in the number of product categories managed under this system. Extended producer responsibility places the onus on industry to manage their products at the end of life. This leads to more

thoughtful manufacturing because it considers the production costs as well as the packaging materials and recycling costs at the end of life. Distance to market has a significant impact on the economics of recycling, so the branch is exercising due diligence in exploring the feasibility of implementing an extended producer responsibility model here in the Yukon.

I have more to say, but I believe that I have some answers here from my officials, so I will endeavour to get those to the member opposite right now. I can go on about garbage all afternoon and I look forward to doing so. There's an awful lot to discuss here, but in the main estimates, Community Services transfers \$273,000 to municipalities, including Watson Lake's and Dawson's regional agreements.

The new agreements will include post-closure liability, peripheral users, and capital upgrades. The dollars there are to be determined. We don't have a lot of detail here on the Watson Lake and Dawson transfer agreements. These are not in the supplementaries, but I can provide that information as a return. I do know that this branch has an awful lot of information at its fingertips, so I will endeavour to produce a much more detailed answer for the member opposite and bring it to the House.

**Ms. McLeod:** Thank you, Madam Chair. So, the minister tells us that there is \$273,000 to assist municipal dumps. Since the government manages 16 waste facilities, is that \$273,000 split over those 16 in some fashion?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I know that my officials are now looking into this a little bit further to get that information. While they do so, I will continue on this and talk. Actually, it's apropos that we ended there, because I do have some information here on regional planning and user fees which I will bring to the record and for the edification of the House and anybody listening this afternoon.

We are working with municipalities to implement regional solutions to waste management. Regional agreements provide for financial support to municipalities for providing waste management disposal services to unincorporated residents within a regional boundary around the municipality. The amount of support is based on groundwater monitoring costs and the unincorporated population within each region. Regional agreements require best practices to be implemented at each regional facility, including controlled access, attendants who monitor the site activity, and fees implemented for waste disposal. Again, control is everything, Madam Chair. We have seen in the Whitehorse periphery that if we have uncontrolled sites within quite a distance — 50 to 60 kilometres of Whitehorse — residents will drive that distance to dispose of nasty substances to avoid paying a tipping fee or get a restriction based on the ability to get rid of that substance.

Since putting those tipping fees in place and getting phase 1 done, we have not seen a lot of illegal dumping in the surrounding areas of Whitehorse. We have seen a dramatic decrease in the amount of uncontrolled waste going to — well, we haven't got any uncontrolled landfills, so it has been a boom. That requires, though, controlled access, attendants monitoring site activities, and fees implemented for waste disposal.



As we are seeing around Whitehorse, we now have a consistent application. You can't just go and dump stuff for free. You have controlled sites where you have to go through a gate that's monitored. They have regular hours. People are supervised and they pay tipping fees.

The challenges through COVID have slowed engagement in negotiations with municipalities. That has been unfortunate, but progress continues to be made with the Association of Yukon Communities as we work toward this regional model.

I have spoken with every single newly elected or re-elected mayor in the territory. I congratulated them, but we haven't begun deep discussions with them about this solid-waste planning, but I intend to do so as soon as they get their feet underneath them.

I am going to go into landfill closures for a minute. Landfill closures and environmental monitoring work are important components of responsible waste management. For example, groundwater monitoring continues for a minimum of 25 years after a landfill is closed and the final cover is in place. That means that monitoring of these sites has to continue, once they are mothballed, for 25 years minimum.

Community Services has closure plans in place for all sites that have outstanding closure requirements. A risk-based approach to prioritizing potential landfill closures has been developed and will be put in place over the coming years.

A big part of this, as well, is public education. Canadians and Yukoners generate nearly one metric tonne of waste per person per year. Let me say that again, Madam Chair: Canadians and Yukoners generate nearly a metric tonne of waste per person a year. This is among the highest waste produced in the world. We will continue to support Raven Recycling's zero waste campaign. We launched Yukon government's social marketing campaign, "Let's do the heavy lifting", in the fall of 2019. My predecessor did, and he is actually a wealth of knowledge in getting your garbage production down. There are no two ways about it: The guy is a master.

To encourage waste reduction among individuals, phase 2 of the heavy-lifting campaign was released in the fall of 2020. Community Services will continue to inform Yukoners of waste management issues using a variety of tactics, including signage at facilities, targeting messaging for communities, public outreach activities, and online campaigns. When we can, we partner with Zero Waste Yukon, Raven Recycling, and the City of Whitehorse to share waste information with residents.

All Yukoners, both private residents and businesses, share responsibility in waste management and waste diversion. I want to repeat that because that's very, very important to recognize: All Yukoners, both private residents and businesses — yes, including tourism businesses — share responsibility in waste management and waste diversion. We are pleased to be working with businesses and households on our shared responsibility in adopting best practices for solid-waste management. These are practices that we see across the country, and we are now getting on board to do that. We were asked to do that by municipalities, and we are going to follow through on that now.

With that, I can sit down and maybe ask the member opposite to see if I've answered a lot of her questions. I'll do that now and see if she has something that she would like to follow up on.

**Ms. McLeod:** The minister has said — told us in the House that he is close to reaching an agreement with Haines Junction — if the minister could update us on the status of that.

While I appreciate that, yes, we have all gone through elections and there are some new faces around municipal tables, I believe the work is ongoing, regardless of the elected people. If he can just give me an update of what is going on in Haines Junction in that regard.

I'm also interested in regional agreements with Mayo and Carmacks and any other community that is currently under negotiation.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** My colleague on the opposite side of the House is going to get a twofer. I believe that the earlier part of the question — and I did a lot of speaking about solid waste in the territory, recycling, and the whole bit. I really appreciate the House's willingness to hear what I had to say there.

The question was posed, though, about the \$273,000 that was going to Watson Lake and Dawson City. The estimates for the municipalities — \$50,000 of that \$273,000 is going to Watson Lake, and \$75,000 is going to Dawson City, for a total of \$125,000 of the \$273,000. These are the only two regional agreements in place to date. The rest of the money, I believe, will be distributed among the other regional landfills to compensate for waste that may be coming from the surrounding areas. Am I correct in that assertion? Yes, I am. So, that makes up the other \$150,000 that we are talking about.

The Government of Yukon spends, on average, approximately \$3.5 million per year on the Yukon solid-waste facilities and approximately \$4.5 million per year on recycling. Municipalities spend approximately \$4.5 million per year on waste management, including recycling. When we came into office, they approached my colleague and said, "We're spending a lot of money on garbage. We have to do better. Can you please do something?" We struck the committee, and that is the plan that we are now following.

As for the question that the member opposite just posed, we are working with the Association of Yukon Communities. We have a consultant, Dennis Shewfelt, who is fairly highly regarded among municipalities in the territory. Mr. Shewfelt is working with the Association of Yukon Communities to work through various issues, including shared liability, land tenure, and other issues. Right now, we have just gone through municipal elections, as the members opposite know. I have reached out to all elected mayors and municipalities and had opening conversations — really, congratulatory conversations. I will have an introductory session with AYC in early November.

I will be attending that, where I will have probably a little bit more to say and will get better acquainted with our new mayors and councils, and then we will continue to work with them to see what their priorities are. We will continue to work away on municipal waste management because it has always been a priority for municipalities. They are seeing an enormous

increase in the amount that they are processing and they have signalled to us — certainly the last council signalled to us — that it was a priority, and I hope that it continues to be because it is important to this territory that we get this done. So, I will work with them. Once I have a relationship with them, we will start to tackle some of these pressing issues.

**Ms. McLeod:** I thank the minister for that and, of course, inquiring minds want to know: How come there is a difference between the financial arrangement of Dawson City and Watson Lake? Dawson getting \$75,000 and Watson getting \$50,000 — is there a reason for that better negotiation?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Again, I have heard compliments on Watson Lake's regional landfill and how it is managed, so kudos to the community for that, and Dawson as well.

Again, these communities are ahead of the bell curve when it comes to management of their waste, and I think that they should be lauded for that. These are historic agreements. That is, they reached these agreements with the Yukon government ahead of other municipalities. So, they are, as I said, ahead of the bell curve. They realized earlier that this was important and they did this. These payments that they are receiving currently were agreements to deal with the peripheries of their communities. It is based on population and real-world costs, so Dawson is getting more money because they have more pressure from outside of their municipal boundaries on their regional landfill — they get more money. I have eminent confidence in the people of Watson Lake to strike a hard bargain, so I have no doubt that they are hard negotiators — as hard as Watson Lake. I think that these are real costs — meant to compensate these two municipalities for the amount of garbage that they are collecting — waste that they are receiving from the periphery of their communities. That is not to say that we are not willing to negotiate. As we do these new regional agreements with other municipalities, I am sure that we will take a good hard look and deal with the bare-knuckle negotiating skills of the people in Watson Lake and Dawson City to strike a fair deal for all. So, that is where we are at right now.

**Ms. McLeod:** I thank the minister for that, Madam Chair.

I have a couple of questions about recycling. What is the current status of diversion credits, and how much is provided?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** On this answer, I am going to be uncharacteristically brief. The City of Whitehorse maintains a diversion credit cap of \$150,000 per year, and most municipalities contribute to local recycling through staff, time, or direct contributions — or both. Government of Yukon provides \$750,000 to \$850,000 for diversion credits to recycling processors. The figure that I believe the member opposite is looking for is — between \$750,000 and \$850,000 is spent by the Yukon government for diversion credits to recycling processors.

**Ms. McLeod:** Are we still paying to have all of our recyclables transported to Whitehorse from rural Yukon?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** My deputy, Mr. King, has just added to my previous answer. I will say that, under the beverage container regulations that set out the amount of money that goes

to communities or to Whitehorse based on the volume of beverage recycling that they produce — we're talking about the \$850,000 number that I gave in the last answer — it will be bolstered by the beverage container regulation. They will send those recyclable bottles into Whitehorse to be compensated based on the volume that they submit.

Recycling in communities is brought into Whitehorse to be processed by the major processors here in this city. That is how it works. The recycling comes from rural municipalities into Whitehorse, and that prevents municipalities, which have a much lower volume of recyclables, having to handle their own. It really is an efficiency to have all of that material coming into Whitehorse for bulk management here in Whitehorse.

**Ms. McLeod:** If I could just flip back to diversion credits, because I am looking at my notes and I wrote \$150,000 per year. I might have got that wrong, though. Is that \$150,000 per tonne that is the cost for this diversion credit? Then, if the government has budgeted \$750,000 to \$850,000 per year for the processors, is that the budgeted amount or is that what was paid out? How is that calculated this year?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** In an attempt to provide some context and a little bit more information for the member opposite, let me go through a little bit more information about extended producer responsibility and the *Designated Materials Regulation*.

The beverage container regulation sets the surcharges that are collected on ready-to-drink beverages at the time of purchase. The amount that is returned is refunded when an item is taken to a licensed recycling depot in the Yukon. So, when I go and buy a can of Coke, I am charged a surcharge, and when that empty can is brought into a recycling centre, you get the refund, and then the difference between the surcharge and the refund is deposited into the recycling fund.

The *Designated Materials Regulation* sets the amount of surcharge that is collected on tires and electronic waste at the time of purchase, where the full amount is deposited into the recycling fund to pay for the item to be sent for recycling. When you buy a tire, the entire *Designated Materials Regulation* surcharge is put into the recycling fund and that helps to pay for the recycling at the tail end.

The recycling fund is administered by Community Services and is used for recycling and waste-diversion activities. Extended producer responsibility is a waste management policy that shifts the responsibility for end-of-life management of product and packaging waste from municipalities, government, and taxpayers to the producers and the consumers.

Extended producer responsibility has been in place for many consumer items in all provinces since 2015. Amendments to the *Designated Materials Regulation* were implemented on October 1, 2018. The amendments set up new surcharges on an expanded product list, including tires sold in the Yukon up to 39 inches, as well as a number of electronics such as computers, TVs, cellphones, microwaves, vacuums, hair appliances, et cetera. The charges mean that tipping fees for designated materials are not charged at any solid-waste facility or

recycling depot. So, when you take your hair dryer to the dump, you don't get charged a tipping fee.

The Association of Yukon Communities and municipalities are looking to the Yukon government to continue to fund recycling of non-refundables, to explore extended producer responsibility, and/or to expand the list of products on the *Designated Materials Regulation* — a recommendation that stemmed from the Ministerial Committee on Solid Waste report that was tabled in April 2018.

The Yukon government is committed to diversion credit payments to local recycling processors — Raven Recycling and P&M Recycling — in the short term. The Yukon government also makes full diversion credit payments to processors for the recyclable materials coming from communities and shares costs with the City of Whitehorse for materials originating in the city. The City of Whitehorse maintains a diversion credit cap of \$150,000 per year, and most municipalities contribute to local recycling through staff time or direct contributions and sometimes both. The Government of Yukon provides \$750,000 to \$850,000 for diversion credits to recycling processors, so that actually goes to the two recycling processors in the City of Whitehorse.

**Ms. McLeod:** So, staying on recycling then, does Yukon process any of the recycling materials itself, or does everything get shipped out? Is there ever a question on whether or not the environmental footprint of transporting recycling around the territory and then shipping it outside of the territory — does it ever outweigh the environmental argument for recycling them?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** We rely on local processors to develop and maintain relationships with southern processing facilities where they ship their recycling goods to be dealt with.

The member opposite was quite succinct. Is it better to funnel the recycling from rural Yukon into central processing units in the City of Whitehorse, compile all that recycling, and then ship it down to southern destinations? Is that more environmentally beneficial than the alternative — whatever that might be — dumping it in a pit in somebody's backyard or just burying it in the Klondike or in Watson Lake? We did a study on that issue within Community Services, and the results of that study say that the environmental benefits outweigh the liabilities in the way that we are processing waste. So, it is actually better for the environment to funnel all the waste into Whitehorse, process it, and then ship it south than the alternatives. That study was done by Morrison Hershfield. We can actually share that report if members opposite are interested. I think that it would probably be of educational value to the House.

**Ms. McLeod:** I thank the minister for that. It is actually a question that I get several times a week — about the way that recycling is done in the Yukon.

I am going to move on now to transfer stations. Of course, we know that the closing of transfer stations is a very painful process for the citizens. The minister has talked about meeting with the communities around the Yukon, so has the minister met with the citizens of Braeburn, Keno City, or Johnsons Crossing, and if not, is he planning to do so?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I can answer the question right off the bat. So, there are three communities — I have met with Keno, as has my predecessor. I have not yet met with Johnsons Crossing. I am in almost weekly contact with the mayor of Teslin. I have not yet done my community tour to Teslin. I am trying to set that up and we will, at a mutually agreeable time, have my community tour in Teslin, at which time, I will meet with the people of Johnsons Crossing.

I met with Keno. I met with Destruction Bay, as we all know. I have not yet met with Braeburn and I have not yet met with Johnsons Crossing, but I will meet with Johnsons Crossing residents on my tour of Teslin.

When it comes to the issue of transfer stations — and I've read into the record and answered some of the background, but I will continue on this. My colleague has met twice with Johnsons Crossing on this issue. I have not yet, but my colleague has.

We are modernizing and improving the territory's solid-waste management system to ensure our practices follow sustainable and nationally recognized standards in solid-waste management. We are committed to raising the standards at transfer stations and landfills across the Yukon. This means that all sites must have gates and facility open hours, attendance monitoring of what comes in and directing customers where things go, and charging similar tipping fees.

Currently, managing garbage and recycling costs Yukoners more than \$12 million every year. I've said this before on this floor. We are working to manage these escalating costs and reduce environmental risks. A metric tonne per individual in the territory is far too much, Madam Chair. We're working to reduce the amount of garbage that each individual in this territory creates.

I have recognized in public meetings and elsewhere and before councils in other municipalities that this initiative will mean changes to how some rural Yukoners manage their garbage and recycling. I understand how frustrating it must be for some people to have government make these changes. I have also pledged here on the floor of the House, and will do so again, to work with rural Yukoners to help them manage the transition to environmentally safe handling of waste in rural Yukon. I look forward to opportunities to discuss how we can support them through this period of change.

While every community will have different needs and realities, the transition could include things like provision of bear-proof garbage bins for cabins and residents, electric fencing, perhaps a trailer gifted to the community association where they exist to make it easier to organize the haul of waste from their community to a local regional landfill where tipping fees will be paid and the garbage monitored and compost bins to reduce waste. This is what many Yukoners have to do now already, whether they live at remote wilderness lodge areas, like Wolf Creek or Mary Lake, or other rural areas.

Residents need to safely store their garbage until they can arrange to take it to the nearest landfill. We cannot have a transfer facility in every neighbourhood. We all need to manage our waste as we best we can and make plans to haul it to the nearest waste-management site when convenient. The territory

has more waste-management facilities per capita than anywhere else in the country. We are working very hard to close four very, very small regional transfer stations to make sure that there are no openings where people can try to dodge tipping fees or dump noxious substances like waste oil or chemicals without any supervision.

That's the plan. In all these locations, there are regional landfills within a reasonable distance of those communities. We are asking all Yukoners to do their part to start managing and pay for some of the cost of the waste they are producing. We are going to continue to work with municipalities and with rural Yukoners to make that transition as easy as possible.

**Chair:** It being 3:45 p.m., do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

### *Recess*

**Deputy Chair (Ms. Tredger):** I will now call Committee of the Whole to order.

The matter before the Committee is general debate on Vote 51, Community Services, in Bill No. 202, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2021-22*.

Is there any further general debate?

**Ms. McLeod:** I am going to move on from waste issues for the moment. I have some questions for the minister about the regulations regarding physiotherapists in the territory.

Pre-COVID, physiotherapists were licensed by the department after completing two parts of an evaluation under the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators. Those two parts were a written component and a practical component which came in the form of a clinical exam. That clinical exam is a hands-on, in-person examination. For interim physiotherapists in Yukon, it meant travelling outside of the Yukon to complete the clinical exam in another jurisdiction. Unfortunately, since COVID, those in-person, practical components have all been cancelled by the national body, the CAPR.

The CAPR has been urging jurisdictions to complete their own province- or territory-specific exam. For instance, BC is looking at developing their own, in conjunction with the physiotherapy program at UBC. Other smaller jurisdictions like PEI and Manitoba have adopted assessments of clinical performance that can be done under a licensed physiotherapist in the workplace.

What this means here in Yukon is that physiotherapists aren't currently able to complete their licensing. We are aware of at least one person employed here — and I believe that person is at the hospital — who is caught in this limbo.

Will the minister ask his department to look at adopting a licensing model similar to PEI or Manitoba that allows for a clinical performance assessment at the workplace under supervision of a licensed physiotherapist? Furthermore, will the minister do this in consultation with the physiotherapists association here in Yukon?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I am going to begin this afternoon — as I did with recycling and solid waste. I am going to provide a little bit of background context for the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch within Community Services. The Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch protects the public by regulating professions through licensing professionals and professional corporations, providing standards and reviewing competencies where allowed, and managing complaints and discipline related to professional conduct. The branch works on development and amendments of legislation, regulations, and standards of practice by profession. The director acts as the registrar or superintendent for the professions it regulates.

The branch regulates and licenses 12 health professions in Yukon: licensed practical nurses, registered psychiatric nurses, midwives, pharmacists, rural permit holders, physiotherapists — as mentioned by the member opposite — optometrists, chiropractors, dental therapists, dental hygienists, dentists, and denturists. In conjunction with the Yukon Medical Council, the branch also licenses physicians. The branch regulates 11 other professions: insurance agents, salespeople, adjusters, brokers, collection agency employees, real estate salespeople, private investigators, security guards, funeral directors, pawnbrokers, and second-hand dealers. The branch regulates eight types of corporations, insurance companies, and exchanges, medical practice corporations, pharmacist corporations, dental corporations, physiotherapist corporations, collection agencies, real estate agencies, and security agencies. The branch is responsible for licensing charitable gaming, issuing licences to eligible charitable organizations seeking to hold raffles, bingos, and progressive lotteries, such as Chase the Ace and casino-type events. It also licenses Diamond Tooth Gertie's in Dawson City. I'm going to ask my officials to let me know how many staff we have in that branch, so if I can just get that information, please.

The Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch expects to license more than 5,700 professionals and 275 professional corporations in 2021-22. Let me say that again: The Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch expects to license more than 5,700 professionals and 275 professional corporations in this fiscal year.

The branch also expects to issue 50 charitable gaming licences this year. With the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the branch responded with temporary regulatory changes for pharmacists and physicians to ensure that Yukoners could continue to receive health services safely and so that professionals could continue to be eligible for licensure.

The changes were put in place to support effective and efficient health care during the civil emergency. However, with the repeal of CEMA, these temporary regulation changes are no longer in place effective September 25 of this year.

The branch has begun work to revise the *Health Professions Act* to improve how we regulate health care service professionals. This important work will support professional regulation overall and, in turn, Yukon's overall health care system.

The branch has standardized and updated more than 110 forms and webpages. The branch is now working to establish an online registration and licensing system. This is a two-and-a-half-year project that is expected to reduce red tape and introduce many efficiencies for the branch.

I can start there. There is much more to say about Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. I'm sure I will have an opportunity to go into this in more detail.

The member opposite has asked about physiotherapists. I too have been in touch with physiotherapists, especially the individual who has fallen through the cracks because of the COVID-19 pandemic. I will say that it is unfortunate that the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators has not delivered the exam through the pandemic and our staff will continue to emphasize to them the importance of finding ways to deliver this in smaller jurisdictions like the Yukon.

Unlike larger jurisdictions, the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch has limited capacity to develop alternative competency exams for the range of health professionals, as you have just heard, and for the most part does rely on national bodies and other provincial regulators to ensure licensing and entry to practice. To enable a Yukon-based exam would also require legislative changes. This is a lengthy process and the timelines would not address or resolve the situation the individual finds themselves in today.

In the short term, we are looking for solutions, including whether to possibly arrange for the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators competency exam to be administered in the Yukon or to allow someone local to administer it on their behalf. We are looking at all options to address this in the short term, if the exam continues to be unavailable.

I guess, to finalize this, in the long term, our intention is to make legislative changes needed to improve the regulation of health professions and to address issues. As I said, we are working on that. It's a year-long process to do it properly, to do all the consultations and actually draft that type of legislation. It's particularly difficult, because we are a small jurisdiction with very limited staff. We are registering and monitoring thousands of professionals and hundreds of organizations. The territory is really at an awkward stage. We're too big to be little and too little to be big. We are sort of in that between stage.

We are currently working with that individual and we will continue to do that. We are looking at how to better look after physiotherapists in the territory. I am very grateful that this individual came forward with her concern. It is certainly a problem and one we are working to fix.

**Ms. McLeod:** While the minister is having his colleagues look up how many employees there are within the department, I am particularly interested to know how many new employees were taken on in 2020-21.

The second issue I would like to raise on this topic is that of the Physiotherapists Advisory Committee. Can the minister confirm that this committee is not currently populated with members, and will the minister commit to moving quickly to appoint this committee so that this committee can provide advice on these types of regulatory issues here in the Yukon?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** In Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, we have 10 FTEs — one admin person, three licensing and intake officers, one policy program manager, three regulatory affairs officers, one director, and one board and committee coordinator. The size of the staff has not increased. As a matter of fact, because we are doing the *Health Professions Act* review, that has actually removed a resource out of this office who is currently working on the policy and legislative work to make sure that we update the act, which is part of the mandate letter that I received from the Premier. So, those 10 FTEs, including the one who is currently doing the act review, are handling the licensing of more than 5,700 professionals and 275 professional corporations.

They are doing an amazing job with the workload that the branch has. I really have to take a second to commend them for everything that they are doing under extraordinary pressure, which is only greater during COVID.

That, I think, answers the question. The other question that the member opposite had — I am going to come back to the FTE issue. We are constantly talking about FTEs and how many more we are going to get. We see the demand for services in this territory increasing exponentially throughout the territory and the community. The work doesn't get done through osmosis. It needs real folks to put their minds to it. I really have to say that the civil service works so very efficiently with the resources that they have. I really have to commend the folks working for government who have been doing extraordinary work on behalf of the citizens of the territory through extraordinary times.

I finally want to say, as far as the committee goes — physiotherapists. We already have made one appointment to that board. The second one is in process. I realize how important it is to have these committees working and advising my office and, of course, the government, so we are working to fill all vacancies in the committees that we have. We have taken active strides, and that work has already started. I believe that we have a chair for the committee now, and there are other people coming through the pike to be appointed. We are just doing the processing of the applications right now.

**Ms. McLeod:** I thank the minister for that. I am going to turn now to other professional licensing.

Of course, the minister outlined the number of very important professions that are covered by this department, but I want to have a bit of a discussion about pharmacies and pharmacists.

Can the minister provide us with an update of the development of pharmacy regulations? During the pandemic, the pharmacist regulation under the *Medical Profession Act* was somewhat changed through an emergency order, and pharmacists saw their scope of practice change. They were allowed to extend prescriptions, prescribe narcotics, and prescribe for minor ailments, as well as a few other changes. Now that the emergency order has been rescinded, pharmacists have lost some of that scope.

Is the minister willing to consider permanent changes to allow that broadened scope of practice for pharmacists?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I thank the member opposite for the question; it is a good one. We really do have to look at all of our medical professionals and how they are operating. In many cases, they are operating under regulations and rules that are antiquated and woefully out of date.

We are working to regulate pharmacies in the Yukon. So far, we have completed changes to the *Health Professions Act*, revisions to the *Pharmacy and Drug Act* and the *Pharmacists Regulation*, which was adopted in May 2019. The branch has since worked with the Pharmacy Advisory Committee to implement the new requirements, including finalizing standards and educating professions on the changes in establishing a jurisprudence exam. The team is now working to develop and implement a new set of pharmacy regulations guided by feedback already received from the sector. The policy work is well underway, and the department is working closely with an expert in the pharmacy field to advance this project to completion. Regulations will introduce clear standards for pharmacies and rural dispensaries that will support them in providing safe and quality services.

I want to add that we are grateful for the input of all health professionals who contributed to this project over the years, but I want to particularly thank the Yukon Pharmacists Association and the Pharmacy Advisory Committee for their invaluable contributions to this project, as well as rural permit holders in Watson Lake and Dawson City for their input.

We appreciate the efforts of our staff and pharmacists who advanced this project. Revisions to the *Health Professions Act* and the *Pharmacy and Drug Act* are complete, as is the *Pharmacists Regulation*.

The department has worked with the Pharmacy Advisory Committee to implement the new requirements, including finalizing standards, educating professionals on the new requirements, and establishing a jurisprudence exam, as I said earlier. The final phase of this long-term project is underway, and we look forward to concluding the standards of operation and regulation for pharmacies in the year ahead.

I will also say, though, that the scope-of-practice changes that some professions are asking for — we want to improve these things, but often they are not particularly easy to implement. They require regulatory or legislative changes. As we work through fixing the *Health Professions Act*, we would prefer to sort of funnel them into that process, which is underway and we hope that it will be concluded in a few years.

On a case-by-case basis, things pop up and maybe we can't wait. We are certainly willing to entertain and work toward some imaginative solutions to try to solve the problem, as we are doing, as I said earlier, with the physiotherapist issue that we recently received.

That's what I will say here this afternoon, and I look forward to the next question from my colleague opposite.

**Ms. McLeod:** If I understand the minister correctly, he is in favour of continuing the extended scope for pharmacists. I require nothing else if I am correct on that.

Just a question — my time is running short, and I am looking forward to Community Services being recalled to the Legislature for further debate.

I have a question about midwives. I know that this probably straddles two departments, being Community Services and Health and Social Services, but can the Minister of Community Services give us an update on midwifery from his department's point of view? I am looking for what the status of the regulatory development is. How have those consultations been going, and who is the lead on this file? Is it Health and Social Services or is it Community Services?

Thank you, and I want to thank the officials for being here today.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I thank the member opposite for the question this morning — afternoon. It feels like morning, but it is actually afternoon.

The branch has been working with the Department of Health and Social Services on regulating funding and integrating midwifery services into Yukon's health care system. On April 15, 2021, the midwifery regulation was brought into force, which was a key milestone in this initiative and the culmination of several years of collaborative work with the Department of Health and Social Services and external partners.

I will say — the good folks in the department have prepared some notes for me — that it is a culmination of several years of collaborative work, but I have to note that this has been an issue in the territory for darn near 30 years at least.

I was working in the media, and the midwifery issue was a hot topic in 1991. So, to have it actually come to fruition to be in the regulations stage and actually being implemented is really gratifying for me to be a part of, because it has been a long time coming.

Licensed midwives will be able to practise as they do elsewhere in Canada, supporting clients through pregnancy, birth, and the postpartum period. The branch developed licensing materials and processes and is prepared for licensing the first midwifery applicant. Our government, of course — which is to say that we remain committed to moving forward with the integration of funded and regulated midwifery services into Yukon's health care system. We continue to work toward launching the midwifery program this fall.

Successful implementation of midwifery takes the support of all our health care partners, First Nations, and individuals with lived experience, and we are pleased to be working with them to support this work. Our implementation plan for regulated and funded midwifery services is based on the recommendations of local and national experts, significant research, and feedback from the engagement processes that have been completed over the last few years.

So, we expect to be hiring the first registered midwives this fall to support a late fall launch of services. We are working closely with the Yukon Hospital Corporation to ensure that, whether registered midwives are providing services in a home or in the hospital, they are able work to their full scope of practice. Right now, Yukoners can get a referral to a midwife in another province or territory. The service is insured by our health care plan but not currently provided in the territory. Yukoners can access midwifery services for up to 28 days before the birth and for seven days after.

I have one little piece of information. Just to be clear, as I alluded to in my earlier remarks, as far as this is concerned, the branch has been working with the Department of Health and Social Services, which is to say that Health and Social Services is the lead on the implementation of the regulations. The regulations are complete. The regulations took force on April 15, 2021. I hope that answers my colleague's question.

**Ms. White:** I thank my colleague for Watson Lake. There are so many things to follow up on after those questions.

The first thing that I want to do, though, is go back to waste, specifically around the Destruction Bay area. In those meetings — when we talk about closing down those transfer facilities — so we are talking Silver City, Keno, Johnsons Crossing, and Destruction Bay — have any residents in those areas made suggestions about workarounds as far as closing down the transfer facilities?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I don't know if my colleague was in the House when I gave my earlier remarks, but we are not talking about Destruction Bay closing. There is actually a regional transfer station in very close proximity to Destruction Bay. It is in Burwash, but it's very close. I drove by it and had a look at it when I was up that way.

The transfer station being closed is at Silver City. I did the math — I don't have it before me now, but in round numbers, it is 50 to 60 kilometres from the regional transfer station, which is in line with the controlling of the dumpsite within the vicinity of Whitehorse.

The reason that we are doing this is to close a hole. The regional land use plan, phase 1, that was implemented within Whitehorse was to make sure that we had security, supervision, and a standardized tipping fee within all of the regional landfills, so we began to collect a little bit of money from local garbage producers. The same applies in rural Yukon.

As I said, we have more landfills, more waste facilities, in the territory per capita than anywhere else in the country, and we have four in particular — and they are Braeburn, Keno, Silver City, and Johnsons Crossing. Those four sites are slated for closure because we just cannot supervise the sites properly.

I have heard suggestions. I have heard suggestions from residents: "Well, just give us the keys and we'll manage it ourselves." I hear that. I mean, on some surface, I understand what they are saying, but that doesn't address the situation of a tipping fee. If you have an uncontrolled dump, or waste management facility, that you can then drive to with your key and open up and then chuck whatever it is in there without any supervision, it really undermines the whole purpose of the plan, which is to have a consistent approach to waste management throughout the territory where you actually go to a controlled facility, pay a tipping fee — the same sort of tipping fee that you would pay in Haines Junction, in Dawson City, in Watson Lake, and in Whitehorse. I think that this is something that has to be addressed.

The other issue is that, when you have an uncontrolled site and somebody has gone and changed the oil in their car, and they know that they can't go to the controlled site because the tipping supervisor, the dump supervisor, is going to say, "You are going to be charged" or "You can't bring this in this week"

— they are going to go to the uncontrolled site, and they will just throw it in the bins that are there and make use of it.

I did hear that suggestion, and I heard other suggestions from people up in that vicinity — I had phone calls with individuals who were running operations. They were concerned about bears. As I said in my earlier answer, we are prepared to bring in bear-proof containers for them to contain their garbage. We can work with Environment to get electric fencing erected in these places. In some areas where they have a community association, we can work with them perhaps. These are ideas that the department has formulated — to perhaps donate a trailer so that, as a community, they can actually bring garbage in communally. I just heard from Alexco in Keno, and they are anxious to sit down with me in the coming days to actually talk about local solutions to the Keno transfer station and fire delivery systems. That is the type of synergy that we are looking for as we try to solve the problems in these remote Yukon communities.

I am open and my officials are open to hearing these concerns and working with the communities as they transition to a new system that is in place across the country that actually puts a price on the garbage we are producing. As I said, we are producing an awful lot of garbage as a society — more than ever before. The municipalities have come to us and said, "We really need you to address this problem." We have been in negotiations with the municipalities to solve these problems. We have Dennis Shewfelt as an advisor to help shepherd us through the remaining issues with municipalities.

As the new city councils and municipal councils across the territory are sworn in and start to get their legs underneath them, we are going to resume these conversations so that we can actually finalize phase 2 of this plan and get a controlled system that is fair to all Yukon citizens and puts a price on the garbage that we produce so that we start to reduce the production of garbage. That is really the goal.

**Ms. White:** It's a relief to hear the minister talk about Keno and Alexco because, in the multiple times that I have been to Keno in the last 18 months, it has always been brought up. They were always wondering why the conversation hadn't happened there, so it's good to know that it is on its way.

There have been concerns raised in Destruction Bay, understanding that there is a gas station there and that it is one of the spots where people on the highway drop their garbage. The owner of the Talbot Arm Motel says, "When this traffic travels the Alaska Highway via Whitehorse the impact of the garbage is spread over the whole town. By the time they get here the traffic gets funneled down and all their garbage is dumped here at my place, the Talbot Arm Motel. I collect up to eight giant bags of garbage per day in the summertime at my pumps. I pay for the bags and I pay for the staff to maintain these bins daily." What is she expected to do with it?

The point that is being raised is: Has government thought about those unintended consequences? If a business like the Talbot Arm Motel is collecting that waste right now because they have the bins out, what is the Yukon government going to do to make sure that bins are available?

When those bins are available — making sure that there is a plan for the summer — has the minister thought about unintended consequences of closing some of these stations?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I appreciate the question from my colleague across the aisle. I'm very glad that we're discussing it this afternoon in a casual sort of conversational way. It's important that we do so.

In my last answer, perhaps it was not clear. So, let me continue.

The regional facility at Destruction Bay is not closing. There is no change. If the Talbot Arm has garbage containers, they can continue to take it to the regional facility that exists there; it exists. It's like, I don't know — the Member for Kluane may know the distance. It didn't seem like any more than 10 minutes away from the Talbot Arm when I drove it, but time may have warped. It's like right there in Burwash — it's right there. It's not closing. As a matter of fact, it is being improved through this regionalization plan.

We're going to have recycling capabilities at this site. We're going to have potential stuff for organic waste. The only difference is going to be that the dump, within very close proximity to the Talbot Arm Motel, is now going to be controlled. It will have a gate and it will have a supervisor. It will have tipping fees. When you bring your garbage to the site, you will have to pay tipping fees just like tourism operators here in Whitehorse have to pay tipping fees. It's fair. It will be a controlled site that tourism operators can use to bring their garbage, just like they do today. They will just have to pay a small fee. It's certainly not the full cost of garbage that is being produced by the tourists or by the business itself. It's somewhere between 10 and 20 percent of the cost of the production of garbage. This is the whole point.

The transfer station at Silver City is being closed, but the regional facility in Burwash is going to remain open. As a matter of fact, it is going to be improved and better managed for the benefit of all. I had conversations with people in the community of Destruction Bay when I was up there. I have had subsequent conversations with people who have reached out to me following that. In a respectful manner, I am following that and I really appreciate the input that they have given about how to control bears and those types of things. We are working within the department on how to ease the transition in this realm.

The thought of having an uncontrolled site where anybody can dump whatever they want in those bins is just not the approach that we are taking in the territory anymore. That, I hope, answers my colleague's questions this afternoon.

**Ms. White:** I appreciate the correction, but I still don't think that it actually addresses the issue. The example of a highway business that is doing what they suggest is the work of government — they go on to say that, in the springtime, they pay children to collect the garbage out of the ditches. I guess my point is that I hope that other things are being looked at. When we look toward Johnsons Crossing and Teslin — I was told that Teslin hasn't signed any kind of agreement at this point. Johnsons Crossing is being told that it is being shut down. Teslin is telling me that they haven't signed an

agreement at this point. Based on the minister himself saying that he hasn't met with residents out that way, I would urge that.

I think that it is an interesting point. This is the second Community Services minister in my time in this House who has had people ask for their resignation. The first was the Member for Lake Laberge by, I believe, the Mayor of Whitehorse at the time. A petition was brought forward from residents out on that part of the highway with concerns that they weren't being heard. There are lots of questions still there, and I hope that the minister and his department will continue to answer them. I do definitely urge a meeting sooner than later with Alexco to deal with the issues in Keno. It could go a long way in that community because that community feels like it has been forgotten,

I am going to switch courses a little bit. We are going to move to rural librarian rates. As we know, there is a wage disparity between rural library employees and those based in Whitehorse. We also know that libraries are an integral part of any community infrastructure. They are vital hubs for education and communication.

I want to know: What is the minister's plan to address these disparities between librarians in Whitehorse and rural librarians?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Yes, you are absolutely correct. I have heard of the petition. As a matter of fact, I have seen copies of the petition that my colleague was referring to, from my meeting up in Destruction Bay. I was up in Destruction Bay to hear from residents; that is why I went up there. I will be going up there again because, at the end of that meeting, other residents wanted to bring issues before me. It was suggested that they shouldn't do that, and they had things that they wanted to do. So, I will endeavour to get up there and discuss the issues that matter to Destruction Bay residents at some future time, beyond the shutting down of the Silver City transfer station.

As well, I will note for the record that I have a copy of the early part of that petition that my colleague, the Leader of the Third Party, referenced. I do note that there were two signatures on that calling for my resignation, including the Leader of the Official Opposition and the Member for Kluane as well. I know where they stand and I know what they were trying to do, so they have indeed added me to their list of heads that they want on a pole.

I will say, as far as the question for Yukon Public Libraries, as I have done with other questions earlier in the day — I have some background for libraries that may help provide some context and answer some questions. There are 15 public libraries located throughout the Yukon, and the pandemic has shown the necessity of libraries in communities. They provide critical public space to access technology, resources, and social interaction. I know that it is a passion of my good colleague in the Third Party. I share that, and I encourage her to look up the book that I have suggested to library goers for Canadian Library Month.

The Yukon public libraries offer Yukoners access to more resources than modernized library services and respond to the needs of the community. Library services are currently available in 14 communities and in Whitehorse — that is the



15. The Yukon libraries are fundamental contributors to the health and vibrancy of Yukon communities, serving all Yukoners, regardless of socio-economic status. I know that during the recent tribute to libraries, the Third Party certainly brought forward how socially important libraries are.

Libraries provide an important space for collaboration, for learning, and for leisure. They are safe and welcoming environments where people meet, read, learn, study, and play. The Yukon Public Libraries' social media presence is an active and direct link to patrons and provides current information about our resources and services. Wi-Fi access is available in all Yukon public libraries, as is access to computers. This continues to be one of the most common requests for library services. It transitions to this new age.

Whitehorse Public Library is once again open seven days a week, including evenings. I had an opportunity to tour it the other day. To see behind into the back rooms of the library, it was a delight to actually talk to the staff and to see all the work that they are doing on behalf of the territory's citizens. The interlibrary loan program is just marvellous. There is just so much going on there. Community libraries have returned to standard hours as well.

The 14 community libraries located throughout the territory are managed by the staff, as I have just mentioned, who are hired by volunteer boards. These libraries are mainly co-located with other groups, like schools, community centres, and municipal offices.

A formal assessment of the library facilities was done during the summer of 2019, and the resulting report is helping with long-term planning to ensure that community libraries keep pace with evolving library trends related to collection, development, technology, and programming.

Our response to COVID-19 was compatible with the assessment — for example, installing Plexiglass where requested. We are committed to ensuring that library facilities meet the needs of their communities. The in-depth work and analysis being done now will provide a solid foundation for decisions on library facilities into the future.

I hope that helps to address some of the questions from my colleague.

**Ms. White:** Not at all. I was asking about the disparities in the pay between librarians in Whitehorse and librarians in the 14 other libraries. Is there a plan to address those disparities?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I can report that, having learned about — I was waiting to get results, but we are currently looking at compensation, wages, functions, duties, education, training, et cetera in rural libraries. There is not much more to report. I actually asked for this to be done when I heard that there was a disparity in wages between rural libraries and the city library.

It comes down to how library boards are not unionized in rural Yukon and how they are here, so we are looking to reconcile the disparity in wages between those two areas. The department is working on a solution. That's all I can report at this time.

**Ms. White:** I appreciate that answer from the minister, and I am relieved to know that we are looking into those disparities. I am sure that rural librarians, who make sure their communities are connected, also appreciate that.

Last week in Question Period, we had a conversation about the residential tenancies office and about making decisions public.

There are many reasons why that is important. The example that I used last week was about a decision made in one of the mobile home parks. We've had three parks change the leases since the rent cap was put in place — unilaterally changed the leases, which is what was found to not be in order by the hearing that happened at the residential tenancies office. Interestingly enough, Yukon landlords are also interested in having those decisions made public.

Last week, the minister said that he would look into it. Here I am, following up. Is there any move for the residential landlord tenant office to make their decisions public?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Yes, indeed — and I wish I had the answer last week when the question first came up — the residential tenancies office is meeting an earlier commitment made to the landlord association by publishing a selection of its decisions online. Decisions are published on CanLII — a free searchable and legal database. Yukoners are able to access CanLII via a link on the residential tenancies office website. Since mid 2019, the residential tenancies office has published 51 decisions.

So, there's a huge array of decisions on the CanLII site, and they have been posted for a while. The reason that not every decision is done — I'll get into it in a minute here.

Well, let me just go into the background. Following its commitment under the 2021 confidence and supply agreement that we have with the New Democratic Party, the Yukon government implemented a rent index that caps rent increases to one percent between May 15, 2021 and May 14, 2022 at the rate of inflation. To date, in this year, the residential tenancies office has resolved 75 landlord and tenant matters through the formal resolution process. It resolved more than 130 in 2019-20. So, we're down to not quite half.

The office also worked with many landlords and tenants to reach early settlement of disputes so that formal hearings were not required. Since its opening in 2016, the office has formally adjudicated more than 600 disputes. The residential tenancies office provides information about the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* and regulations, as well as legally binding dispute resolution. When issues arise that cannot be resolved by landlords and tenants, decisions are issued by the office in a timely manner and orders are enforceable in the Yukon Supreme Court.

Minimum rental standards came into effect on January 1, 2017. The residential tenancies office enforces these important health and safety standards for Yukoners living in rental housing. Educating the public is a key function of the office as it helps to prevent disputes. In 2020-21, the residential tenancies office responded to hundreds of inquiries that were fairly evenly split between both landlords and tenants.

Common questions relate to issues such as security deposits, tenancy agreements, repairs, and rules on rent payment.

With more than 600 disputes resolved since 2016, there is a lot of repetition in the decisions that are coming down, so we post the relevant decisions that set precedents. The decisions that are posted are precedent-setting and answer questions that would be relevant to a number of different people in similar circumstances. That is what the residential tenancies office has been doing. Those decisions are public and are available on the CanLII site. I have that answer now. I'm sorry that I didn't have it for the member opposite last week.

**Ms. White:** I do appreciate that answer from the minister.

Just a quick question: Has the minister tried to navigate the residential tenancies website? The only reason I ask is that I like to think that I'm not the worst at computers. I am not great with them, but I'm certainly not the worst, and I spent a fair amount of time on this website. I do appreciate the direction because I did just find that, but at times — I don't know if it's necessarily as user-friendly as we would like it to be.

The next question around the tenancies office is understanding that, in some cases — and I appreciate the example of 75 that were about the rent increase. For example, he has talked about the importance of putting precedent-setting ones online, so I do appreciate that. But, knowing that the same argument is being brought forward by other tenants, is the office able to look at precedents? So, they have made a decision. Are they able to supersede those on other disputes?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I can report that yes, that is it exactly. The CANLII site is a place where you can find precedent-setting cases. It is referred to by the staff when they are in dispute-resolution mode. The office is guided by the precedent but not bound by it. That is, they can look at the specific incidents, the specific merits of the case, and rule based on the merits of that case. So, they are not bound by the precedent, but they are certainly guided by that and will rule on individual cases according to the merits of the case and the conditions under which the tenant, in most cases, is being treated.

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

Also, in recent time, I have asked questions about what happens after an incident. I talked about the Southern Lakes flood in 2007 and what we learned from that flood — like the recommendations that were made. I was lucky enough to track down the *Report to Yukon Protective Services Southern Lakes Flood 2007* document that does make recommendations. One of those recommendations relates to government communication with the public. The report states — and I quote: "... communications about the process: what decisions have been made; what is to be decided; what is known; who is likely to be affected and who will be making decisions would all have further enhanced public confidence that the situation is being handled."

My question is: So, when the flooding began this year, in 2021, did the government have a communications strategy in place that reflected this advice?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I see the member opposite has the report on her desk. I certainly read it and referred to it during the unprecedented flooding we saw in the southeast, Southern Lakes and the Laberge area, Carmacks, and in Teslin. The incident began, actually, just down south of us in the Carcross area. They were the first flood reports I got with tenants just on the south Klondike Highway. It then spread to Teslin and to Carmacks, where we nearly lost the sewage treatment plant, which would have been really difficult to handle. Then we got into the Southern Lakes and we saw water levels rise there. We saw it in Laberge as well.

The 2007 flood was unprecedented. At the time, it was called a 200-year flood. Of course, as we all know today, the 2021 flood was far worse. The department did bring that report to my attention; they did refer to it. Out of that report, the department created a dedicated roster of people who were trained to deal with emergencies such as this.

I would argue that the public information officers on the flood and the incident command teams on the flood did an absolutely remarkable job in saving residential homes throughout the Southern Lakes, Laberge, Teslin, and Carmacks regions this year. It was, in fact, the largest flood relief effort in the territory's history, as I said many times, and we didn't lose — to date, I don't think we've lost a single residence. That wasn't the case before. So, the success speaks for itself. Every incident is different. You can't really come up with some sort of generic template for an emergency. Every one takes place in different geographic situations, at different times, involves different people, and you have to integrate that into the whole through an incident command team using the public information officers. They were deployed through our incident command team. They set up at Elijah Smith school. They immediately set up radio communications in a central hub where they had Internet access. They set up mobile trailers. They had those communications going.

Now, we know that the member opposite has brought some questions about how the communication was rolled out during this thing and how it could have been improved. I have heard those concerns. We are having a debriefing on the whole incident on ways to improve, but on the whole, I think — and we will always do a post-incident assessment and try to figure out lessons learned. I think that's a process that I have engaged in with Highways and Public Works, working with highways crews last year during the floods and how we could have improved things in the construction zones. I am fully in favour of doing post-action incident analysis to figure out how we can improve.

That said, I will absolutely stand by and defend and laud the efforts of the incident command teams and the public information officers for all the incredible work they did informing Yukoners through e-mail, online, and in the open houses. It was just incredible, and the results speak for themselves. It was an extraordinary effort. Of course, we can always improve. We will look over those things and see how we can improve things, but nothing speaks louder than the success that we saw. I have to say that the efforts we saw from the Government of Yukon, Community Services, Highways

and Public Works, the teams from outside of Yukon — from Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the Canadian military, the volunteer groups who stepped up and protected homes throughout the territory, deploying more than 600,000 sandbags — it was just an incredible amount of effort put into defending people's homes at a time when housing is so critical to the territory. I can't thank them all enough.

**Ms. White:** I appreciate that. I think the minister misunderstood. It wasn't a criticism; it was asking about the debrief from 2007 and whether we went into this flooding season with a communications plan as was suggested in 2007.

Section 3.6 of the 2007 flood report talks about the role of volunteers in the flood response. During the relief efforts this past summer, there was confusion as to where volunteers could best be utilized. This saw large groups of volunteers arriving in one area, and it's important to know that this is after calls for help on Facebook — Facebook turned out to be one of the phenomenal tools to get help to individual properties — and leaving other areas to fend for themselves until the next Facebook post came out asking for help. People who weren't connected to social media and didn't have those capacities, in some cases, were only running into volunteers when they themselves were going to the sandbagging stations.

The report states a need to — and I'm quoting again: "Develop a policy to address the management issues for various types of volunteers." The reason why I am asking this is that I had sent an e-mail to the minister at one point asking for there to be signage at volunteer stations so that homeowners could sign up. They could say where they were at and what they needed and so that there would be information signs saying that a sandbag doesn't need to be filled to 95-percent capacity — because then it is very solid and doesn't fit with the other ones — and asking for a phone number to be posted for sand delivery and bag delivery. The reason why I am asking is: Was that 2007 recommendation followed? If we go through the debrief in 2021, and it says again that we need to have a volunteer plan, I am just hopeful that the next time around, we will have a volunteer plan.

Was a policy developed to have a volunteer strategy when the flooding happened this year?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I will say that things were moving incredibly fast. One has only to look at the video created and posted by my colleague, the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes, to see how much the water — he did an absolutely brilliant representation of where the water was in 2007 and where it was in 2021.

I will say that the initial focus of the incident management team — as I said, we all reviewed the earlier study — was getting the incident management teams up and running.

The Yukon is not that experienced in flooding, as it turns out. We had the big flood in 2007. After that, nothing much. That's a long time; that's 14 years and not an awful lot of flood experience. Places like Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan have fairly good experience in flooding, which is why we brought the experts up from those jurisdictions to help us out.

The document that the member opposite is referencing for communication plans — and if we had a communication plan

— is laid out by the document in 2007. Well, as I said, the take-away from 2007 was to have public information officers assigned to incident command teams that could assess the variable conditions that would happen with any emergency in the territory, be it fire, flood, or whatever — mostly it is fire — and they have a very good and robust system.

When it comes to flooding in such a situation like this, we were working to develop and recruit the expertise we needed to actually get the job done, and then we did it. It was incredible how fast we mobilized to get those half-million sandbags deployed in the territory, and it took everybody working together to do it and we did that.

The member keeps referring to the 2007 after-action report. We're doing an after-action report for this flood as well where we will learn lessons and put them down. We did take advice from MLAs and from volunteers in real time to try to improve the information flow to people reacting to the flood. Again, the public information officers were excellent in doing so.

Getting back to the old report of 2007, the world of 2007 is vastly different from the world of 2021. In 2007, Facebook was a year old and had about 100,000 businesses on it. It was like a shadow of its influence today. We didn't have cellphones — not like we do today. We didn't have an Internet like we do today. All of those things — the Internet in the territory was just about 12 years old or something. We had an Internet, but it wasn't the same as the Internet we have today. We didn't have the cellphone connectivity. I would have to go back in my notes, but we may have still been using mobile radios.

That is an old report. It is not reflective of the day today. Did we make improvements? Did we listen to people during this flood? Absolutely. It was an incredible summer. On top of everything else that we have been dealing with — with COVID and everything else — it was a very exciting and, I daresay, taxing time for the community, for the business community, for the community as a whole, for the volunteers, and for the civil service that has been so active.

They did an extraordinary job under the most trying of circumstances. We had fires, we had floods, and we had plague and pestilence. I commend the work that was done. We will do an after-action report to see how things could be improved. On the fly, as I noted, we certainly did take the advice and suggestions from the community and adapted on the fly as we provided the largest flood relief in Yukon history and saved, I daresay, every single house that was in threat of destruction.

**Ms. White:** I appreciate that from the minister. Again, looking back is the most recent debrief that we have. When the new one comes out and we have a next incident, I will be asking similar questions, which are: What did we learn from the previous one, how did we adapt it, and what have we changed?

The minister went on to point out that social media and Internet was way different in 2007. I absolutely agree, which is why so many sandbags were filled. Hundreds if not thousands of Yukoners came out to help. It's just about how we make sure that, next time, people are feeling more confident about what they're doing.

As we improve and learn and move on, we know that the next flood probably won't be 14 years away, so it will be in recent memory.

I am wanting to move on to psychologists in the territory. It's a really interesting thing that the profession of psychologists isn't regulated in the territory. It is regulated in every other province and territory in Canada — in both Nunavut and NWT. To be a psychologist in the Yukon, you just have to call yourself a psychologist. We are not tied onto Alberta or British Columbia. I am not suggesting that we start our own school of psychology, but I am wondering where the department is on the regulation of psychologists in the territory.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I will say this afternoon to the House that this is an issue of great importance to me. It's in my mandate letter, but beyond that, I have met with the psychologists in the territory. I have heard their concerns. I share the concerns raised by my good colleague on the other side of the House. I have initiated efforts to work with, or partner with, BC and Alberta schools in terms of psychology so that we can actually have some oversight over the profession here in the territory for the benefit of the profession and for Yukoners. It is not acceptable that we have no standards in the territory. It's a hole where people can just hang a shingle on their door and call themselves a psychologist, and there is very little we can do to regulate that. That's not acceptable to me. I know that it is not acceptable to my colleague across the aisle. I am working, and I have the department actively seeking a solution to this. The solutions that we are looking at are currently before the Yukon Justice department for review, and I hope to have an answer for Yukoners very soon on this issue.

**Ms. White:** I do appreciate that answer from the minister. In my time in this House — I was also here when oil-fired mechanics weren't a regulated trade in the territory, and we know that it was only addressed after a tragic death — well, five tragic deaths, honestly. So, knowing that psychology is intense and people can be hurt — so making sure that we put all of those protections in place. I'm relieved to hear that.

Two weeks ago, the minister tabled Bill No. 3, entitled *Act to Amend the Assessment and Taxation Act and the Municipal Act (2021)*. While the stated goals in the amendments are important, at this point in time, we have heard from the Association of Yukon Communities and the City of Whitehorse that they are not onside. Has the minister been able to provide any clarity to municipalities about what these changes will mean to their governments, and has he been able to get more onside since two weeks ago?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I appreciate the question from the Leader of the Third Party, and it is an important one. So, as everybody is well aware, and I have spoken about it this afternoon, we have just completed a municipal election, and we have a whole bunch of new city councils, mayors, and some existing ones, across the territory. I have reached out to every single mayor in the territory and started to familiarize, to create a relationship, to say hello, and to congratulate them on their post and their win.

Now, once they get their feet under them, we are going to have conversations about what is essentially the better

buildings program. As the member opposite knows, we are currently in a climate emergency. The City of Whitehorse has declared a climate emergency. I heard from constituents during the territorial election and the federal election — we had citizens, young people, in front of the City of Whitehorse demanding action. It is absolutely great to see that happening.

Just this week, there was a news story about how the retrofits to buildings are absolutely critical to start building more energy-efficient buildings in Canada to make sure that we get our greenhouse gas emissions down. We have heard that this is the last decade. We don't have any time to do it. We hear again and again and again that we have to take action or there will be no more time left. In spite of this, we keep dragging our heels — "It's too hard; we can't do it; we have got to put up — we have to study it a little bit more." Well, the time for studying is done.

We have an *Assessment and Taxation Act* before the House. We don't have a better building loan program; we have enabling legislation that allows the Yukon government to start designing a program that will enable Yukoners to get the cheapest money in the country to renovate their properties, to make sure that they can start those retrofits next spring.

There's no onus on municipalities. If they want to come aboard, they can. If they want to choose not to, they don't have to do anything. This isn't a program. This is enabling legislation that, at the very basic level, allows the territorial government to start to deliver this program in rural Yukon outside of municipalities.

Now, you can hear the passion in my voice because I am tired of dithering. I am tired of waiting. We have been trying to get this program off the ground for two years — that's two years wasted. This will, if fully implemented, save 12 kilotonnes of greenhouse gases in the territory. It is part of our green future. It is part of the future of the territory, and all I hear from municipal leaders is, "Well, it's an off-loading." Municipalities deliver this program across the country. We here in the Yukon government are offering to take on 90 percent of the work for municipalities and make sure this program goes.

It is a passion of mine. The legislation is before the House. We are going to push on with it. I'm working with municipalities. If they don't want to come on board, they can talk with me over the winter and design a program. We're willing to negotiate with them to make sure that the terms and this program are acceptable to them. But the enabling legislation will allow the Yukon government to proceed with this program and start the retrofits that are so critical to the Yukon government and the environment next spring.

We can't waste any more time. We hear this again and again. I think that, as legislators, it is incumbent upon us to do the right thing and start this program.

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

**Deputy Chair:** It has been moved by the Member for Whitehorse West that the Chair report progress.

*Motion agreed to*

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

**Deputy Chair:** It has been moved by the Acting Government House Leader that the Speaker do now resume the Chair.

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker resumes the Chair*

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

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

### **Chair's report**

**Ms. Tredger:** Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 202, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2021-22*, and directed me to report progress.

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

Are you agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** I declare the report carried.

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

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

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

**The following sessional paper was tabled October 28, 2021:**

35-1-25

*Yukon Public Accounts 2020-21 (Silver)*