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HANSARD

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Jeremy Harper

YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2025 Spring Sitting

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

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

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Brad Cathers	Lake Laberge	Patti McLeod	Watson Lake
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THIRD PARTY

New Democratic Party

Kate White	Leader of the Third Party Takhini-Kopper King
Lane Tredger	Third Party House Leader Whitehorse Centre
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Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Wednesday, April 23, 2025 — 10:30 a.m.

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

Prayers

Speaker's statement

Speaker: Pursuant to Motion No. 1272 adopted by the House yesterday, Committee of the Whole will now receive witnesses from the Yukon Development Corporation and the Yukon Energy Corporation. Therefore, I shall rise and the House shall resolve into Committee of the Whole.

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

Request for Acting Chair of Committee of the Whole

Deputy Chair: In order to take part in debate today, I am asking for a volunteer to act as Chair of Committee of the Whole.

Member for Takhini-Kopper King rises

Appearance of witnesses

Acting Chair (Ms. White): I would ask all members to remember to refer their remarks through the Chair when addressing witnesses. I would also ask the witnesses to refer their answers through the Chair when they are responding to the members of the Committee.

The Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes, I believe you will introduce the witnesses.

Witnesses introduced

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Yes, I would like to welcome back our witnesses. Appearing before Committee of the Whole today again are Douglas Janzen, chair of the Yukon Development Corporation Board of Directors; Rod Savoie, chair of the Yukon Energy Corporation Board of Directors; Gary Gazankas, president and chief executive officer of the Yukon Development Corporation; and Chris Milner, president and chief executive officer of the Yukon Energy Corporation.

They are here to appear as witnesses before Committee of the Whole and to continue to answer questions regarding operations of the Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation.

Acting Chair: When we last had the witnesses before us on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, the Member for Copperbelt South was asking questions of the witnesses, so I will ask the Member for Copperbelt South if he has any further questions.

Mr. Kent: Yes, thank you, Acting Chair; I do have a number of questions still.

When we left off, in reviewing Hansard from that day, we were talking about the *Building a Resilient and Renewable Energy Future* document and the report put out — chapter 1 on a reliable and robust grid". We were on page 7, talking about winter capacity gaps, so I had asked a question about the number of rented diesels that are in the fleet currently, and I wanted to move on to the winter capacity gap in 2035, and this is again at the bottom of page 7. It says that, in 2035, it will be supplied by around 85 megawatts of a mix of modular generation assets and rented diesel generators.

I am just wondering if the witnesses can tell us a little bit more — what that breakdown will be as far as what is going to be supplied by rented diesels in 2035 or what is anticipated for rented diesels in 2035 and what is anticipated by the modular generation assets in that same year. The sound had cut off last time, but my understanding of the modular generation assets is that they would be more of a permanent thermal solution.

Also in that question for the witnesses would be: Will the permanent modular generation assets be LNG or diesel, or will it be a biofuel mix?

Mr. Milner: Madam Acting Chair, thank you for the question.

I will start with — there are a number of questions there. I tried to capture them all, so I will just check to see if I get it correctly in the end.

In terms of the rentals, right now, we currently rely on 22 mobile rental diesels. We use the words "rental" and "mobile" synonymously right now, because they are really one and the same. We don't rent any other units other than the mobile units. The modular units we refer to in the plan are more like the ones that are being constructed in Faro and Dawson and soon to be constructed here in Whitehorse as part of the thermal replacement program. Those are engineered solutions. They sit on a foundation. While they can be moved, they are not mobile in that they are not sitting on a semi-truck trailer as the current rental program does.

It is drafted on page 7 in that manner because we recognize that there will be a need for mobile units into the future — flexible generation that can be moved as required to handle emergencies or be shifted throughout the territory for load balancing — things like that — but we also recognize that having engineered solutions on foundations affords us the opportunity to have specific units designed for our climate and our use. That's why it is drafted that way. There will be a mix of those two units. It's too early to say what that mix will look like; however, through the procurement processes it will go into in the coming years, we will be able to define the best economical solution and the best technical solution for Yukon.

The same can be said for the fuel part of the question that was asked. We will need to reassess. We are always assessing different fuel options for cost and use here in the Yukon. It changes; it's a very dynamic market, so having flexibility in fuel options moving forward will be important as well, and that will be assessed through the procurement process.

Mr. Kent: I wanted to move over to page 9. At the top right-hand side of that page is a graphic on renting versus owning diesels. It says there that a third-party analysis found

that renting generators is the most cost-effective option in the short term, while permanent thermal options offer similar cost effectiveness over the long term.

I am assuming that this is the Collier report that we have talked about on the floor here in the past, but I am just curious if the witnesses can tell us what exactly is meant by “short term” and what defines “longer term”. If the witnesses are able to define “short term” for me, that would be very helpful, because it seems like we have been renting diesels for a number of years now, and it looks like we will be renting diesels well into the 2030s. To me, that doesn’t seem like short term, but I’ll let the witnesses speak to what the Colliers analysis found about the timelines around what exactly that is.

Mr. Milner: Thank you for the question. There are a couple of factors that go into determining “short term”. Essentially, it takes about four to five years to build a facility from start to finish. We know that our immediate options are limited to a rental program. That’s where we’re focused right now just to meet capacity needs and backup needs today.

Moving forward, we have the option of going out to market for more modular options and, again, that takes three to five years. I’m seeking some information on the break-even in terms of when we start seeing cost comparisons meet each other. I’ll provide that information once it comes in.

Mr. Kent: I appreciate that.

I wanted to spend a little bit of time talking about the Whitehorse power centres and the location for those centres. There is one going into Whitehorse south and one going into Whitehorse north, so we’ll focus in on Whitehorse south first.

During Question Period, the minister responsible for YDC/YEC let us know that the Whitehorse south location that was being considered was near the current grid-scale battery project. But I think with further information, he mentioned to us this morning with House Leaders that Nav Canada has deemed that this will not be a location that is available given its proximity to the runway.

So, I’m just wondering if witnesses can tell us what locations for Whitehorse south they are now considering for what would be the rented diesel farm.

Mr. Milner: So, Yukon Energy is currently looking at a number of site options for each of the power centres here in the Whitehorse area. The sites will be determined based on discussions with First Nations, the results of the environmental and socio-economic assessments, and financial considerations.

In reference to the best site, it was one of the sites on the list up until very recently, as it met some of the key criteria that we’re looking for. It was close to electrical infrastructure, making it financially attractive for connecting costs. It was zoned correctly in that it had electrical infrastructure adjacent to it and proximity to residential areas. However, it did require approval of Nav Canada. An early indication from Nav Canada recently suggested that it’s just too close the flight pathways and we’ve been asked to look at other options.

Mr. Kent: So, just to follow up on that, what other options are being considered at this time? It’s something that I know constituents of mine in the south Whitehorse area will be quite concerned about. I think there was quite a bit of relief

from them when they had heard the proposed location off of Robert Service Way, but now there will be concerns. I’m just wondering what other options are being considered at this time.

Mr. Milner: We’re still early in the exploring options stage. We haven’t landed on specific options, but I can tell you that the attributes that made the battery site attractive are the kind of attributes that we’re looking for in future site options and for the reasons that the member suggested in his question.

Mr. Kent: So, it looks like, according to the report, the Energy Corporation is planning to be in front of YESAB this year with respect to this project in Whitehorse south and then begin construction of a 15-megawatt thermal power centre in south Whitehorse in 2026.

I am just curious then: Does this new information from Nav Canada adjust those timelines at all, or is the Energy Corporation planning to stick to the timelines that are laid out in the report?

Mr. Milner: We are working very hard to stay within those timelines just based on the duration of how long it takes to construct a project of this nature. We are working hard to stay within those timelines despite the Nav Canada information.

Mr. Kent: Do the witnesses have any sense, just given the recent experience with the YESA board on the Whitehorse Rapids relicensing for the existing hydro station there, of what sort of timelines they might be looking at with YESAB on phase 1, which is the rented diesel power centre in south Whitehorse?

Mr. Milner: Thank you for the question. Our commitment is to make the submission by the end of the year. We will be working with YESAB to move as quickly as we can to meet their requirements through their process.

Mr. Kent: Just sort of transitioning into the project — I have one further question about Whitehorse south and then I’ll ask a question about Whitehorse north. With the Whitehorse south power centre, it says in here that the capacity will come from existing rented diesels that will be relocated from other sites. Is that all of the rented diesels that are currently in the fleet — so, that’s the Whitehorse, Faro, and Mayo ones — or will there continue to be rented diesels in Faro and Mayo beyond the establishment of this power centre in south Whitehorse?

Mr. Milner: Thank you for the question. There will continue to be rental diesels in both Faro and Mayo moving forward.

What we are seeking to accomplish by suggesting that some of those rentals will come toward Whitehorse is that we need that generation near the load centre of Whitehorse so there will be some rebalancing of the system — the north-south system — to allow for us to better meet Whitehorse generation needs.

Mr. Kent: Do the witnesses have any indication at this point on how many of the rented diesels from Mayo and Faro will be relocated to Whitehorse south?

Mr. Milner: We do not have a specific number of units that will be relocated at this time.

Mr. Kent: We'll look forward to following the YESAB process to get a sense. I'm sure there will be a better indication at that time — when that application is filed.

When it comes to the Whitehorse north project, can the witnesses tell us what sites are being considered for that, or has a specific site been chosen for the Whitehorse north power centre?

Mr. Milner: Thank you for the question. Like the Whitehorse south options analysis, we are doing the same in the north. We have active conversations going on right now with First Nations regarding both north and south options, and that's where we're at in this stage of the process.

Mr. Kent: Do the witnesses have a timeline on when a short list will be developed for Whitehorse north? I guess obviously the location will have to go into the YESAB submission. What will be the extent of public consultation on location for that power centre?

Mr. Milner: Thank you for the question. The timeline that I can offer at this time is that the engagement will happen throughout this summer and that will define the short list of options.

Mr. Kent: With respect to the YESAB submission, will it be separate submissions for the Whitehorse south project and the Whitehorse north project and then the Whitehorse north expansion, or will they all be part of one larger submission to the YESA board?

Mr. Milner: We're working with YESAB on the best way to do that, actually — if it's one project with a specific project inside of it, like an overall plan approach — and we're working with YESAB on the most efficient way to submit that application.

Mr. Kent: The estimated capital cost of the Whitehorse power centres is approximately \$100 million. I have a couple of questions with respect to that. Is there a breakdown of the cost of each power centre? Plus, I'm assuming that there are some transmission upgrades required, so is there a cost breakdown of that, and is there any indication at this point of where that money will be coming from? Will it all be assigned to the ratepayer, or are there active applications to the federal government?

Mr. Milner: In terms of the cost estimates, a class 5 cost estimate based on the current projects that we currently have — so, price per megawatt — that kind of information is informing that estimate. In terms of how the costs are paid for, we are actively seeking support for all capital projects right now in close collaboration with government partners, and we will continue to do that.

Mr. Kent: If the witnesses don't have the information today, I would be happy if they could get back to us. But is there a cost breakdown of each separate project and the transmission upgrades required for these Whitehorse power centres — a breakdown of the \$100 million-plus?

Mr. Milner: There's no breakdown at this time of each independent power centre. That would come further in the design phase.

Mr. Kent: I wanted to jump over to page 18 in this report, which speaks to the Mayo hydro facility upgrades. The

estimated capital cost here is \$200 million. I know, looking at the Yukon Energy Corporation's website, there are a number of different projects, I believe, that are part of these facility upgrades. I'm just wondering about the procurement plans. Will procurement be done separately for each project, or will it be a bundle of the projects? What are the plans at this point? Are there additional YESAB assessments required for any of the work that is planned for Mayo?

Mr. Milner: The two main projects in the five-year capital plan are to repair the slope area in the surge chamber. That project has been out to tender already and is in process.

The second major project is the repairs to the spillway itself, and that project has been out to tender for design and will come out later in the summer or early fall with a separate construction process.

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Mr. Milner: The YESAB process?

There is a process for the spillway work that has been recently submitted.

Mr. Kent: So, with these two project spotlights — the Whitehorse power centres and the Mayo hydro facility upgrades — we're looking at an estimated capital cost of \$300 million. My understanding is that the overall project bundle is expected to cost \$500 million. I'm just wondering if the witnesses can confirm that and give us an idea of where the additional \$200 million will be spent if it is indeed that cost estimate.

Mr. Milner: Confirming that the overall target for the five-year capital plan is \$500 million — in excess of. The two main projects do make up the bulk of that — \$300 million — and the balance of \$200 million is made up of maintenance capital projects — a number of smaller projects.

There are quite a number of them, all aimed at system improvements and reliability. That's our main focus in this capital plan overall.

Mr. Kent: Appreciating that the witnesses probably don't have the information with them today, but if they can confirm that they would provide that to us — just a list of the projects. I am not expecting a cost estimate with each one. If they do have one, that would be great, but if not, that's also understandable at this point — but just a list of what those projects are, because it is a substantial amount; it's 40 percent of the entire funding request.

Mr. Milner: I can mention some of the projects to provide a little more detail. Finishing up the battery project is included in that five-year capital plan, finishing up the work in Dawson City, as well as the work in Faro that is underway around backup generators there and Whitehorse as well — to round out the list. We can provide that to you as well.

Mr. Kent: That would be helpful.

I wanted to move over to just a number of other general questions for the witnesses now. The first one is with respect to power bills for people in Dawson City and Mayo. My colleague the Member for Porter Creek North has heard from a number of Dawson City residents and Mayo residents about the estimates. I believe there was a gap in having someone to read meters in those communities, so power was estimated for a

number of months in a row. Then, once the meters were read, some residents were hit with fairly substantial electricity bills.

Can the witnesses confirm that there are full-time meter readers in those communities now? If individuals are having difficulty paying some of these power bills — upwards of \$1,000 to \$1,500. We have heard rumours that some were as high as \$3,000 for residents. Are there mitigations that could be put in place for individuals to work with the Energy Corporation to pay those excessive bills off over a period of time rather than all at once?

Mr. Milner: We hired field service representatives in January to catch up on the backlog of meter reading and true-up activities that people are commenting on now. It's important to know that if there are discrepancies in bills throughout this process or at any time, they can reach out to our customer service team. That's the same option that customers have with regard to your questions on the larger bills that they're seeing now.

Mr. Kent: I just want the witnesses to confirm that there are different charges for different tiers of use. It is my understanding that up to 1,000 kilowatt hours are charged at a specific rate and then 1,000 to 2,500 kilowatt hours are charged at a rate and then perhaps another rate beyond that 2,500 kilowatt hours of use. I just wanted to confirm that with the witnesses. If they have the different rates that are charged over those three tiers, that would also be helpful.

Mr. Milner: I will go back to the previous question and provide a little bit of detail for the House in confirming our payment plan options. So, if people were to reach out to the customer service team, they can work on options there through payment plans.

In terms of questions around tiers, yes, there are tiers. They are posted on the website with detailed numbers and where those thresholds are activated.

Mr. Kent: When electricity usage is estimated, as in the case of Dawson, Mayo, or even others where there is a gap — I will just use an example. If the estimate is for 1,200 kilowatt hours, is the 1,000 to 2,500 kilowatt rate — is it charged at the amount if it was normal usage or is it charged at the lower rate? I guess that is the question that I have. Again, when it's estimated, what rate is charged for the power usage?

Mr. Milner: The customer service representative reviews every bill and makes sure that the charge lines up with the estimated usage. It's corrected when there are discrepancies identified.

Mr. Kent: I just want to confirm then that if the usage is estimated at 1,200 kilowatt hours, the amount charged, even though it's an estimate, would be for what would normally be charged if it was a 1,200 kilowatt hour usage. I just want to make sure that I have that clear — that estimates are charged at the same rate as what actual usage would be charged at.

Mr. Milner: The answer is yes. If it's 1,200 kilowatts of estimated usage, it's charged in the 1,000-and-above tier. The opportunity to correct that and adjust that based on actuals happens in the subsequent billings.

Mr. Kent: I wanted to move over to a few questions about the Whitehorse hydro facility. Obviously, we heard

recently that a decision document has been issued for that project. Now the water licensing aspect is underway. I'm assuming that there are two different water licence applications. There is one that went in for the 60-day extension in early March — I think on March 12. Has the second application been filed yet for the longer licence period? I'll leave it at that and then I'll have some follow-ups.

Mr. Milner: Yes, both applications have been filed.

Mr. Kent: Can the witnesses tell us where in the process the 60-day extension is? Has it gone through the adequacy portion that the Water Board undertakes? Is it into the actual review? Is there a hearing of some sort scheduled with respect to that 60-day extension?

Mr. Milner: The 60-day application is currently in the public comment period.

Mr. Kent: Many Yukoners are concerned about how close we are to the expiration of the licence. It's my understanding that the licence expires on May 31. What are the plans? What does the Yukon Energy Corporation have planned if the licence expires and the 60-day extension is not in place or the longer extension is not in place by that time?

Mr. Milner: We are focused on achieving the 60-day extension to allow the longer term process to happen. We have been working closely with the Water Board in setting dates for public hearings and whatnot to allow the process to unfold, and that is our focus right now.

Mr. Kent: What contingency is in place if we get to May 31 and the 60-day extension isn't granted? Will the facility continue to operate without a licence or will the facility be shut down in absence of a licence?

Mr. Milner: We are focused solely on achieving the 60-day licence and allowing the longer term process to unfold and achieve the necessary authorizations to keep the facility running.

Mr. Kent: Sorry — is there a contingency in place if we get to the end of May? I understand where the focus is and I appreciate that. Obviously, that 60-day extension is extremely important, but sometimes the Water Board or water licensing process takes a while. What is that contingency plan if we hit May 31 and there is no 60-day licence extension in place?

Mr. Milner: We are monitoring this closely. It is a very important facility for all Yukoners. We are moving through the process as efficiently as we can. Currently, we are optimistic that we will achieve the licences that we need — required to authorize. In terms of contingency plans and options moving forward, we will have to assess those as new information comes in. The information that we are seeing in front of us now suggests that we will move through this process successfully.

Mr. Kent: I'm sure Yukoners — we heard the YEC official — many Yukoners heard the YEC official on CBC this morning mentioning that 75 percent of our summer power comes from that facility. So, shutting it down is a huge concern for many Yukoners. We're only a month and a week away from the expiration of that licence. So, we'll be looking at some point I would think in May for some contingency plans if the licence is not in place.

Moving upstream from the actual Whitehorse dam to the Marsh Lake control structure, there are some concerns from area residents about the boat lock there and what the plans are. Can the witnesses explain if there are any plans?

It's my understanding that the boat lock is not in place at this time. Are there plans to reinstate it in the future? If so, when?

Mr. Milner: The boat lock timeline is being assessed through the current YESAB process with the overall licensing, so we don't have a detailed timeline on it yet, but we have certainly been looking at the different design options that we can proceed with to maximize conveyance of water.

Mr. Kent: With respect to the decision document that was issued by the decision bodies and the mitigations that are contained there, has the Energy Corporation at this point done a cost analysis of what the prices will be to bring in those mitigations that are in the decision document?

Mr. Milner: We don't have detailed cost estimations on the detailed design options.

Mr. Kent: We will keep an eye on future GRAs, I guess, to see if those costs are inserted into general rate applications going forward.

I have quite a few more questions, but I want to also be respectful of the fact that my colleague from Whitehorse Centre wants to ask some questions, so I will conclude my line of questioning here today with some questions about the microgeneration program.

It has been paused on a couple of occasions. I believe that the latest pause has it into the first quarter of next year. Some of those who are engaged in the industry are curious if the Energy Corporation sees that there is a future for the microgeneration program when it comes to solar power generation and whether or not some of the IPP solar projects that are on grid that are paused as well — if there are any plans to move those forward.

Then, I guess the final question about that is with respect to what technical changes would be required for grid stability to allow the solar portion to proceed when it comes to microgeneration.

Mr. Gazankas: I guess I would really like to highlight that there was a significant uptake in that program, especially on the microgen side, where we saw over 10 megawatts installed. We achieved the 2030 targets of seven megawatts seven years ahead of schedule. I think that we all want to recognize and embrace that. However, due to that significant uptake, there were technical challenges with good stability, and as a result, you know, there was a pause decided in 2023.

Basically, just an update on the pause: We did initiate an engineering study; that study has been completed; the study doesn't recommend at this point in time that we move forward with the installation of more intermittent renewals. However, we didn't stop there; there are a few things that are happening. The study is going to go into a phase 2 component, which is going to identify solutions to look at reinstating the program in the future. The other aspect is that we are in the middle of inverter changes on the homes currently — technical changes to the inverter settings for the microgeneration program, which

should allow us — or should allow for more good stability, and furthermore, the battery energy storage system will come online later in the summer, be fully commissioned by the fall, and we anticipate that is going to add significant stability to the system as well. We do want to watch the system as these changes take effect, and then from there, we will incorporate those findings into that phase 2 study to see globally what the solutions are and then look at what the opportunities are for, you know, reinstating the program in the future.

Mr. Kent: This is my final question before I turn it over to my colleague.

With respect to that study, that phase 1 was complete and moving into phase 2, is that available publicly at this point, and if so, where can we find it? Is it on the Energy Corporation or Development Corporation website? Further to that, what level of consultation has been done or what level of input have the private sector suppliers of these types of systems had as we have moved through this process?

Mr. Milner: I am going to take the first part of that question, and my colleague will take the second part of the question.

In terms of public availability of the report, we can issue a summary of the report. There is some information in there involving private companies that needs to be managed carefully; however, issuing a public summary would be possible.

Mr. Gazankas: I would ask that the individual please repeat the second part of that question.

Mr. Kent: I am just wondering what level of engagement or consultation has been done with the private sector providers of these types of energy systems that have seen the whole process be put on hold.

I will also thank the witnesses for appearing since this will be the last time I speak during their appearance here today.

Mr. Gazankas: There have been a number of different consultations with the private entities, updating them along the way, updating them on the pause, and certainly informing them that we are in this phase 2 component of this study. We have gone as far as saying that the report will be available for them to review.

Furthermore, through those conversations, we also mentioned that there will be potential opportunities for private industry in the future as we look through these solutions as they come about and are identified.

MLA Tredger: Thank you so much to the witnesses for coming back a second time. I am really excited to have an opportunity to ask questions. I am going to try not to jump around too much, but it is probably a little bit inevitable.

I want to start and ask a question about the new thermal plants. Once they are online, is the intention that the current rented diesels will continue to be operated, and would they be in their same location, or would those be then phased out?

Mr. Milner: I guess the question is — could I get you to repeat the question, actually?

MLA Tredger: Yes, happy to repeat and clarify. The current rented diesels — is the intention that, once the new plants are up and running, those current rented diesels will

continue to operate, and would they do that in the same place that they currently are? In Whitehorse, I am thinking of the plant across from Riverdale.

Mr. Milner: As part of the overall load planning, there will be some rebalancing across the system just to bring generation closer to the load centre, particularly Whitehorse. The answer is a bit difficult to provide, because there will be some rental generators that stay where they are, and there will be some that are relocated to new locations.

MLA Tredger: So, specifically the ones that are currently in Whitehorse — would those continue to operate and would they be in the same location?

Mr. Milner: I apologize, Madam Acting Chair; I missed that question.

MLA Tredger: The rented diesels that are currently operating in Whitehorse — will those continue to operate, and will they continue to operate in the same location?

Mr. Milner: The best way to answer that question is to say that there will be generation in existing locations throughout this plan. So, whether they are rented mobiles as they currently are or reliance on more modular units, that is to be determined through the overall process in the coming years, but certainly, the sites that have generators in them today will have generation in them in the future as well.

MLA Tredger: Thank you; that did answer my question.

We have been hearing lots of concerns from residents of Riverdale about the noise from the generators throughout the neighbourhood. We have heard descriptions such as: It sounds like someone turned a vacuum cleaner on in my house and people saying things like it is interfering with sleeping.

Is there any plan to address the noise pollution that is happening, primarily in Riverdale?

Mr. Milner: Specific to Riverdale and the generation at the Whitehorse Rapids site, we are looking to have noise mitigation in place for 2026.

MLA Tredger: I was going to follow up on a couple of questions from my colleague. He had asked a question, I think, about whether there was going to be government funding coming for the various projects. I think the question was getting at to what extent it will have to go to the ratepayers. I believe that the witnesses said that they are working with government partners on the funding models.

When the corporation makes funding asks of governments, is there a public record of those asks? Are there meeting minutes that we can look at or formal letters, or does that all happen behind closed doors?

Mr. Gazankas: Yukon Development Corporation is actively raising awareness with federal funders regarding Yukon Energy's needs. We are both working together actively with the federal funding agencies to secure financial support for future energy projects.

We really believe that funding is essential in the future to alleviate financial pressures on the power corporation.

MLA Tredger: Thank you. Are the witnesses also seeking funding from the territorial government for any of the projects?

Mr. Gazankas: No specific funding has been requested through the territorial government; however, you know, this is essentially a publicly owned utility, and the profits are essentially reinvested back into the utility at this point in time.

MLA Tredger: I guess this is a pitch for as the businesses go forward. I know the Energy Corporation and the Developmental Corporation are under really incredible pressures and incredible constraints and I think that, as an entire society, we have to grapple with how we fund electricity and what our electricity future looks like, what our energy future looks like, and I believe that the public needs to be a part of those conversations. So, this is my suggestion or encouragement: that as those asks are made and those conversations about funding happen, that they happen as publicly as possible so that people can weigh in on how projects should be funded or what projects should happen based on the constraints of funding.

The next thing I wanted to follow up on is the engineering study that the witnesses and my colleague were talking about. I've had conversations a number of times with the minister about a grid-stability study that was happening in collaboration between, I think, YDC, YEC, ATCO, and EMR. Is that the engineering study that the witnesses were talking about?

Mr. Milner: I can confirm that is the engineering study.

MLA Tredger: Really exciting to hear that's done. I've been eagerly anticipating that. The witnesses had mentioned that they would be able to provide a public summary of the report. Could they provide some more details about when and where that summary would be released?

Mr. Milner: The report can be available on our website, so that will be accessible by — or a summary of that report. We're just going through it right now to produce the summary itself, and hopefully in the coming weeks, that's available, but we can update as time goes on.

MLA Tredger: Thank you to the witnesses for that. If it's possible to distribute that to perhaps myself and my colleague just so we don't have to check the website every couple of days to see when it's out, because I am very eager to read it; so, looking forward to reading that summary.

Based on the conversation with my colleague, it sounds like the intention is to not reopen the microgeneration program at present based on the results of that study. What would be the — and I know there's a phase 2 that would look at solutions — so, what sort of timeline would we be looking at to consider reopening the microgeneration program?

Mr. Gazankas: At this point in time, you know, the timing of when we would reinstate the microgeneration program is uncertain. We obviously want to take our time in looking at the solutions, and then, once we understand what those solutions are, we need to look at the cost of those solutions and then impacts to ratepayers as well just to make sure that, you know, they are not impacted significantly as we look to reinforce the grid.

Mr. Milner: I'll just add to my colleague's comments to suggest that the road map for Yukon Energy looking forward is really going to be emphasizing winter energy — winter power — and that is clearly articulated in our five-year plan — in our

long-term plan. Certainly, renewable energy plays a huge part in that but with a winter focus.

MLA Tredger: I'll come back to the winter piece in a minute, because I am really interested, but just back on the microgeneration — it sounds like it won't even be — like, the phase 2 of the grid-stability study needs to be done before it can even be sort of considered. How long are they expecting phase 2 of the grid-stability project to take?

Mr. Gazankas: At this point in time, we would be looking at Q3 for that stability — that phase 2 to be complete. We also have to take a look at, you know, the impacts to the system with respect to the battery energy storage system coming online as well as the inverter changes and really analyze events this summer and look at the stability at that point in time.

You know, I think that we would be looking at reassessing in 2026. I think that, outside of the microgen program, there are likely other initiatives in terms of energy storage systems that are going to be part of the solutions that industry can take advantage of. But again, the study will play out over time, and we'll see what that looks like, but there will be a stepped — a phased process. But in general, the assessment will happen — the reassessment will be in 2026 — January.

MLA Tredger: Just to make sure that I heard correctly, the witnesses are expecting that the phase 2 of the grid-stability study will be done in Q3 of this year, so we're talking about the fall to winter of 2025; is that correct?

Mr. Gazankas: That's correct.

MLA Tredger: I'm very excited to hear it. That's really cool.

I also wanted to talk about the standing-offer program. My understanding is that, based on the projects that have already been accepted into that program, the capacity is full and that no new projects, going forward, are set to be accepted; is that correct?

Mr. Gazankas: At this point in time, the IPP component of the standing-offer program is on hold. We're not accepting new applications as a result of the current studies that are happening and the reassessment of that program.

MLA Tredger: Thanks for clarifying. I always mix up the IPP and the standing-offer program language, so thank you for clarifying that.

I want to talk a little bit about the call for power, specifically the winter power, that Yukon Energy is looking at issuing, I believe, in the next 12 to 24 months. Maybe the witnesses can talk a little bit about what that call is going to look like. I know that it will be winter power — I assume with battery backup, but maybe they could talk a little bit more about what they are hoping to get out of that call for power.

Mr. Milner: I will just go back to the IPP question, because I think it's important that, as part of our road map, we recognize that there is going to be a need for more renewable energy and that we need to be analyzing options for what the next phase of an IPP program could look like to provide us with that power that we need, particularly with a winter focus. While we are looking at the current stability issues and engineering studies that are currently underway, we are keeping an eye to

what the next phase of these programs could look like and how to really support the electrical system moving forward.

That's a good segue into the call for power, because a call for power is a broader recognition that there is going to be need for more renewable energy into the future. There is a lot of work to do in this area in terms of a jurisdiction like ours. We are a small jurisdiction. We need to look at the technical realities around connecting larger renewable energy projects to the system. We need to put in place the grid-modernization processes and infrastructure investments, improved communications, controls — all the technical aspects that make the system strong and robust in order to accept larger scale projects. That's why we put a timeline into the future on what a call for power could look like. What we know that it is going to look like is: First Nation partnership — it's going to look like a program that has heavy collaboration with government to support the financial aspects of these projects and it is going to involve strong partnerships with the utility. The backbone of the road map going forward is how we bring on new renewable energy projects in a way that benefits the system.

MLA Tredger: That is really interesting. I have lots of follow-up questions.

Back to the IPP for a moment, is 2026 also the time that YDC and YEC would start considering what a new standing-offer program might look like?

Mr. Gazankas: Currently, YDC is looking at and working with EMR and, of course, with Yukon Energy Corporation to look at an IPP program redesign in 2025 — into 2026. At this point in time, we are working on what that looks like.

MLA Tredger: The witnesses referenced some technical work that needs to be done before large-scale projects can be accepted. Is that why the call for power isn't planned to go out for 12 to 24 months from now?

Mr. Milner: Through the Chair, the short answer is that there is technical and financial modelling that needs to happen in that time. It is certainly time to develop and grow partnerships and relationships with future partners. That is really the reason for the 12 to 24 months. Our road map is pretty clear in that we have quite a bit of work in front of us in the coming years, and we want to keep the emphasis on stabilizing the system and increasing its resilience today while planning for tomorrow in parallel. It really is going to take a bit of time to map that all out.

MLA Tredger: So, excluding the renewable projects that have already been planned and accepted — the ones finishing off the IPP — when would the witnesses anticipate the soonest date that new renewable projects might come online to be?

Mr. Gazankas: Through the Chair, at this point in time, I think that it is too early to say that. If you look at the renewable energy projects that have recently happened with Eagle Hill and the IPP program, it takes a long time — three to five years — for those from start to commercial operation. Starting today, we could anticipate new renewable energy projects coming online — wind and solar — in the next three to five years if we just look at the previous timelines. However, right now because of

the pause, we are still uncertain as to how much more can be applied to the system and what the other solutions look like.

MLA Tredger: So, would it be fair to say that we don't anticipate any new renewables coming online before 2030?

Mr. Milner: I mean, we are working on renewable energy projects today and, certainly in the off-grid communities, you will see those projects advance. While that's supported through the Yukon Development Corporation, the specific focus for the Yukon Energy Corporation and why it's important that we have this in our minds is that, when we work on our existing hydro facilities, we're working on renewable energy projects. We are investing significant amounts of time, energy, and financial resources into ensuring that the hydro facilities are reliable in the long run.

I mean, our single greatest diesel-reduction strategy is to maximize and optimize our hydro assets. Our five-year plan includes a significant investment into refurbishing and reinvesting in our hydro assets. So, we are working on renewable energy on a very large scale today and leaving processes open for the planning and integration of additional renewable energy into the future.

Mr. Gazankas: We will also see the Watson Lake solar project come online as well in the upcoming years.

MLA Tredger: I appreciate those clarifications. If I can just recap, there are still off-grid renewable projects being worked on. Some are currently in the pipeline, like the Watson Lake solar project that will come online, and there's work ongoing with existing hydro projects to make them better.

Does that encompass all of the renewable energy projects that will come online before 2030, or are there other renewable projects that could potentially come online before 2030 specifically connected to the grid?

Mr. Gazankas: I think it's worth noting that, through the IREI program — our innovative renewable energy initiative fund — coupled with the federal Canadian infrastructure program, we have seen approximately \$83 million invested in renewable energy projects since 2019. Some of these now delivering power are the Kluane First Nation, Haeckel Hill wind, Dome Road solar, Old Crow solar, Beaver Creek solar, Sunergy Haines Junction solar, Takhini solar project, and the Mount Sima solar project — so, a number of renewable projects that have come online.

In 2025-26, we have seen 13 projects now come in through the IREI program for initial front-end engineering funding. The total program is \$2.5 million. We were fully subscribed last year with a total of 13 projects that include wind studies, that include pump storage studies, and hydro studies as well.

MLA Tredger: I'm not trying to make a comment about the investment; I just wanted to make sure that I haven't missed anything in my understanding of what's expected to happen between now and 2030. So, we're expecting off-grid renewables, we're expecting the current ones in the pipeline to come online, like Watson Lake solar, and we're expecting continued work on existing hydro. If I have missed anything, maybe the witnesses can add it, but I think that's correct.

So, I'm going to ask a follow-up question.

I didn't see any mention in the plan of upgrading Whitehorse hydro. Are there plans for that?

Mr. Milner: Through the Chair, I'll add one additional project that will be commissioned later this year, and that's the grid-scale battery project — to the renewable project energy list.

In terms of the question specific to: Are there investments going into Whitehorse hydro? Certainly, a lot of maintenance and annual upgrades planned throughout the capital plan. Specifically, there is an overhaul program that will be in place throughout the plan, and that just looks at the turbine refurbishment, really, on a maintenance level — maintenance capital, really.

MLA Tredger: Thank you to the witness for adding the battery project. I actually did want to ask about that as well in addition to renewable generation. So, I'm really excited to see the battery project coming online. I think that's going to be — I know that has been an incredible amount of work, and it's very exciting. I notice that there aren't any mentions of new battery storage projects after this one is completed.

So, I know that there are technical barriers to connecting new renewable regeneration, particularly intermittent generation — sorry, I might not have used the right word there — but generation like solar and wind. Are there technical barriers to connecting new battery storage?

Mr. Milner: I mean, yeah, anytime you're connecting anything to an integrated system such as ours, there are technical challenges. The battery project at the top of the south access is going to really help us get a sense of how that infrastructure performs on the overall system, and it's going to help us a lot with solving many of our challenges.

We're as excited as you are about seeing that come to life and very happy to state that all of the equipment is in Canada and it's on its way here, and we should see quite a lot of activity in the coming months on that site and bringing commissioning forward later this year.

MLA Tredger: That's exciting. I know that it's very — a really difficult world landscape right now to be trying to navigate things around the world, and I really appreciate that's all in Canada, and I'm excited for the commissioning.

I notice that there isn't any mention in the next five years of Yukon Energy building new battery storage projects. Could the witnesses talk about why?

Mr. Milner: I mean, future investments in batteries are going to be linked to several things that are ongoing today. So, we have the grid-modernization process that's underway; we have a lot of electrical engineering studies that are underway, and that's really going to inform where, how, and when we utilize additional grid-scale batteries. It's going to be a consideration that's included as part of the call for power, and it's going to be considered throughout our overall planning process moving forward.

The current capital plan is really focused on some of the core — urgent — investments that we need to make right now, but certainly, the road map itself envisions the addition of new renewable energy, and the addition of new renewable energy is

going to have to include consideration for the balancing of batteries as well.

MLA Tredger: Is the reason for waiting to do more battery projects — is that because there is work that needs to happen before the battery projects can be integrated in the same way there is for renewable generation, or is it because the Energy Corporation can only work on so many things at once and they need to prioritize some of the urgent stability projects?

Mr. Milner: It's a great question, because — and this is exactly why we have laid out the road map the way we have in terms of focusing on core infrastructure, planning future renewables, and grid modernization. And really, the extent to which batteries play a role in our future is going to depend on these engineered solutions.

We have to look at the system in its entirety over the next five years and really make investments where they are going to carry the greatest amount of value. We know that battery storage and short-term storage and long-term storage such as pumped hydro — and the feasibility study is underway for pumped hydro — are really going to solve a lot of problems that our system faces in terms of seasonal demand and seasonal peaks. It's part of the conversation. It needs to be put into the plan. It's not really a matter of: Is there too much to do, or how do we prioritize in terms of batteries? They play a role, but it needs to be considered in an engineered way and a technical assessment way. Really, the work we are doing right now is informing those decisions moving forward.

Mr. Gazankas: I think, further to what Chris is saying, the system study that we have commissioned certainly will indicate optimizing our existing supply mix. We look at potential seasonal storage in the summer, et cetera, et cetera. We are still waiting for that study to be completed in Q3. Once that study is done, it will identify potential opportunities with respect to batteries and our existing fleet of renewable energy assets in service.

MLA Tredger: I actually have follow-up questions on that, but I know we are really short on time, so I am going to come back if I can and jump to something else right now.

As we talk about grid stability, most of the distribution infrastructure, particularly in Whitehorse, is ATCO. I am wondering about this problem where Yukon Energy upgrades their pieces of the grid. How is that going to work with ATCO, which presumably would also have to upgrade their pieces of the grid for it to work?

Mr. Milner: We work really closely with ATCO and the Energy branch on future planning. We are integrated in so many ways in terms of how the overall system works. So, the answer to your question is that we need to move forward together and in a very intentional way, and that is what we have been doing both at the working level and at a senior level.

MLA Tredger: I won't ask the witnesses to answer questions about ATCO, because those are probably better questions for ATCO.

I wanted to ask two related questions. On page 4 of the longer term plan, the energy road map to 2050, in the message from the chair, there is a quote that I thought was really — that I kind of really noticed — and I quote: “Our mandate is clear:

to provide Yukoners with reliable power today while laying the foundation for the innovations of tomorrow.”

I am wondering where that mandate comes from. Is it work that is done by the board? Is it a mandate that comes from YDC? I guess that a related question that I have is — I know that in the past there have been protocols between the minister responsible for YDC and YDC. The last one that I can find online is from 2021, and it is called: Protocol Agreement and Letter of Expectation. I am wondering if those protocol agreements are still being done and if there is a copy of the current one. The reason that I have tied these two questions together is that I am just trying to really understand where the strategic direction is coming from — to what extent it is from the board, to what extent it is from the minister, to what extent it is driven by the internal workings of the Yukon Energy Corporation.

Mr. Savoie: The mandate is the requirement to provide power under the conditions of the utilities act.

As for the second part of the question related to the protocol agreement, yes, there are protocol agreements. They are updated periodically, and the last one was signed in 2024. I believe that we will be due for a new one and an update soon.

MLA Tredger: Are the protocol agreements still shared online? I could find them for 2021 online, but I couldn't find any since that.

Mr. Savoie: I don't know the answer if they are available, but we can certainly make them available online.

MLA Tredger: I would really appreciate that. That would be really great.

I think that I am going to try to sneak back to my question about batteries. The question that I am trying to understand with batteries is: Why do we need to wait? For example, the independent power producer policy was really quite extraordinarily effective at getting what it asked for, which was renewables, online very quickly — far ahead of expectations.

I am wondering if it would be possible to do that for batteries and, if so, why that couldn't be done now instead of waiting until later. I know that there are a lot of questions about what the big overview of the plan is, but I can't imagine a future for that plan that doesn't include battery storage. I am wondering why that can't be happening right now.

Mr. Milner: So, a couple of key things — I mean, our immediate priority is around winter capacity. That's our focus in the immediate term. Certainly, when it comes to batteries, what we're doing in terms of next steps there is to really get through the engineering studies to find out their best application and how best they can optimize the system moving forward. Those activities are underway right now, so when we get that information back, we can start prioritizing investments moving forward.

MLA Tredger: Is the concern that if batteries were built right away without doing that work first, they might not be as efficient as possible and they just might be, I guess, less than optimal?

Mr. Gazankas: Just to reiterate, the microgeneration program uptake was phenomenal. However, we know that it caused issues with stability on the system. The uptake was

quick and, as a result, now we want to continue on with our renewable future; however, we want to just make sure that we have properly engineered solutions such that, if the uptake is significant again based on Yukoners embracing the programs, we don't want to have to pause more programs in the future. We just want to make sure that engineered solutions are solid as we move forward.

Mr. Milner: I'll just add in comments around some of the exciting things that are happening right now, because we are coming up to a year of information on the wind project and how that supports the system. We are about to get a whole bunch of information about how the battery energy storage system works online. We need that input in order to inform future investment decisions so that we're putting money where it's going to have the greatest impact on our overall system. There is a lot of information coming at us that we didn't have before. That's going to help us make good decisions moving forward.

MLA Tredger: My understanding is that the money from microgeneration and the IPP didn't actually come from Yukon Energy; it came from Energy, Mines and Resources. So, I'm wondering if there are ways to leverage budgets outside of YEC to start battery projects sooner and if there are technical reasons that are barriers to that or if it's just a desire to make sure that Yukon Energy's financial resources are used as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Acting Chair: Order. The time is now 12:00 p.m. The time designated for the appearance of witnesses pursuant to Motion No. 1272 has now expired.

The Chair shall, on behalf of the Committee, offer our thanks to Douglas Janzen, chair of the Yukon Development Corporation Board of Directors, Rod Savoie, chair of the Yukon Energy Corporation Board of Directors, Gary Gazankas, president and chief executive officer of the Yukon Development Corporation, and Chris Milner, president and chief executive officer of the Yukon Energy Corporation, for appearing as witnesses today.

Witnesses excused

Acting Chair: The Chair shall now rise and report to the House.

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

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

Chair's report

Ms. White: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Motion No. 1272 adopted yesterday, witnesses appeared today before Committee of the Whole to answer questions regarding the operations of the Yukon Development Corporation and the Yukon Energy Corporation.

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

Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

Pursuant to motions adopted yesterday in the House, we will now recess until 1:00 p.m.

Recess

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

DAILY ROUTINE

Speaker: We will proceed at this time with the Daily Routine.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Speaker: Introduction of visitors.

Visitors introduced

Speaker: Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of Association of Yukon Communities 50th anniversary

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Mr. Speaker, I rise to tribute the Association of Yukon Communities, which is celebrating 50 years of incorporation this year.

Mr. Speaker, in 1974, mayors Colin Mayes of Dawson City, Rennie Mitchell of Faro, and Paul Lucier of Whitehorse — our future senator — founded the Association of Yukon Municipalities. These three individuals saw the benefit of communities uniting on issues of shared importance and amplifying their presence by speaking with one voice.

On May 28, 1975, they incorporated their budding organization under the name that we know today, the Association of Yukon Communities. For half a century, the Association of Yukon Communities has been our steadfast advocate for the diverse communities that make up our beautiful territory.

I attended my first conference in 1990, if memory serves — 15 years after the organization's founding. I was just challenged by Bonnie Dixon about where the meeting was held. My memory escapes me, but I do remember that, at the time, Don Branigan was the Mayor of Whitehorse.

The Association of Yukon Communities' dedication to working with common purposes fostered collaboration, promoted local interests, and enhanced the quality of life for Yukoners. Since its inception, the AYC has played a pivotal role in shaping the future of our communities. It has ensured that the concerns and ideas of our towns, villages, cities, and local advisory councils are heard at the territorial level, contributing to making our communities attractive places for Yukoners to live, work, and play. Practically speaking, its advocacy ensures that local issues are top of mind as territorial policies are crafted. They speak; we listen.

As we celebrate this golden anniversary, we extend our gratitude to all past and present members and leaders of the AYC. Your passion, perseverance, and vision have made a lasting impact on our territory.

I also extend my gratitude to the Association of Yukon Communities staff. You have many priorities to juggle as you work for all communities, and you have done a tremendous job.

Mr. Speaker, the AYC is a partner in building a brighter future for Yukoners. Congratulations to them for reaching this auspicious anniversary. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with you all at the annual general meeting in beautiful Haines Junction this weekend.

Applause

Mr. Hassard: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to pay tribute to the Association of Yukon Communities, or AYC, as they celebrate 50 years as an established association advocating on behalf of all municipalities and associate local advisory councils in the Yukon.

Now, 50 years have seen a great number of people at the helm of AYC making up both the executive and the board of directors, and each of these individuals has taken a role within AYC in addition to their jobs and have done so because of their commitment and dedication to their communities. That dedication has been instrumental in the effectiveness of AYC, which has done so much to ensure that Yukon communities have a voice in the territory.

A key role for AYC has been to represent Yukon communities' interests when government programs are developed and implemented. For example, AYC helped to develop the original breakdown of the gas tax to benefit Yukon communities. That collaboration resulted in a program and guidelines that ensure that the fund remains flexible and is predictable, which allows Yukon communities to set their own priorities.

As part of the better buildings program oversight committee and working group, AYC has ensured that Yukon better manages the delivery of energy retrofits while easing the administrative burden on municipalities.

AYC has worked with the Yukon government to update the comprehensive municipal grant. That funding ensures that there is support for communities to address the challenges being faced and avoid service reductions and property tax increases. This work also helped to clarify how much investment is required to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

AYC works to strengthen the relationships between Yukon communities and all levels of government, as reflected in their work with the Council of Yukon First Nations to co-host the Chiefs and Mayors Forum, hosted biannually as a means in which to collaborate on matters of importance facing their respective communities.

The work that they continue to do within the territory has truly been a great benefit to all, and we look forward to seeing that momentum continue. This weekend, AYC will be holding their annual general meeting in Haines Junction under the theme "50 Years of Advocacy: Honouring Our Legacy", and I look forward to attending this weekend, as I believe that it will be my 15th or 16th trip to the AYC AGM. It looks like a

spectacular lineup of speakers organized and a lot of work has gone into this milestone AGM.

Thank you to the AYC executive, board of directors, and staff from over the past 50 years to the present. Congratulations on this huge milestone representing the interests of Yukoners and advocating on their behalf.

Applause

Ms. White: Mr. Speaker, I stand on behalf of the Yukon NDP in celebration of half a century of working together, achieving more.

Since 1975, the Association of Yukon Communities has done just that. The AYC plays an important role in giving all communities an opportunity to speak as one voice when lobbying the territorial or federal governments for better services or considerations for their citizens.

Municipalities are on the front line in all Yukon communities, and municipal governments are those that are closest to the people they serve and to the services that they provide. When you consider that it is this level of government that oversees our drinking water, our sewage, waste management, roads, recreation, fire protection, and so many more services that we take for granted, we have much to thank them for.

The AYC brings municipalities, local area councils, other orders of government, and other interested parties together to learn from each other. They advocate for the interest of their members, providing an informed and united voice on matters of common interest, and they support effective local government through training and information resources.

The AYC assists communities in their efforts to achieve and sustain strong and effective local government, thereby improving the quality of life for all Yukoners. As members of this Assembly, we will do well to make sure that we pay close attention to the spirit and intent of their recommendations that they will make at the AYC annual general meeting this upcoming weekend. We will do well if we can work together to bring them to life.

I look forward to joining the AYC and municipal leaders this weekend for their annual general meeting in Haines Junction and I look forward to the resolutions.

Applause

In recognition of Administrative Professionals Day

Hon. Mr. Silver: Mr. Speaker, early in my education career, I had the honour of meeting the absolute legend in education Rosemary Burns. She told me that, if you want a long and successful career in education, go introduce yourself to every administrative professional and treat them like gold. That was excellent, excellent advice.

I rise today on Administrative Professionals Day to honour and to celebrate the incredible contributions to our talented administrative professionals in the Yukon. Your dedication, efficacy, and unwavering support are the backbone of our government and many other organizations across the Yukon. You are the behind-the-scenes superstars who keep everything running seamlessly, consistently going the extra mile to ensure

that everything stays on course by managing schedules, coordinating meetings, handling communications, and solving problems with a smile. You do it and you make it look effortless.

Your meticulous attention to detail ensures that nothing is overlooked and every task is executed flawlessly. Your exceptional organizational skills enable you to manage complex schedules, coordinate numerous meetings, and maintain seamless operations with unparalleled efficiency. Furthermore, your ability to handle multiple tasks simultaneously, all with grace and professionalism, is truly remarkable.

You consistently demonstrate an impressive capacity to prioritize and to execute a wide range of responsibilities, making it look effortless and ensuring that everything runs smoothly. Your unwavering dedication and tireless commitment inspire us all. You are the unsung heroes who keep our organizations thriving and your contributions are invaluable. Thank you. Thank you very much for your extraordinary efforts and for making a significant difference every day.

Mr. Speaker, there are nearly 400 administrative professionals working within Yukon government, each fulfilling a wide variety of diverse roles.

Furthermore, there are countless administrative professionals in non-governmental organizations and the private sector across the Yukon who play a critical role in enhancing our territory's success and well-being. On this very special day, we want to express our deepest gratitude for all that you do. Your efforts to make a significant difference are incredible and we are so happy to have you as a part of the team.

To all the wonderful administrative professionals, a huge thank you for your dedication, your positive attitude, and your unwavering support. Happy Administrative Professionals Day.

Ms. Clarke: I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to recognize the important role that all administrative professionals play across the public and private sectors.

Administrative Professionals Day is currently recognized on the Wednesday of the last week of April. It evolved from National Secretaries Week, which was proclaimed in June 1952, to recognize the invaluable contributions of secretaries within the workplace.

The term "secretary" is rarely used today. It has evolved, as have the duties of the job, to reflect the expansion of responsibilities of the administrative workforce. But the mission has always been the same: to keep the wheels of every organization turning smoothly.

Administrative professionals play a crucial role to governments, businesses, and organizations. They are often the first point of contact for the public and help to ensure that all of those organizations run smoothly. It is a job with many hats, so to speak, as duties are wide-ranging, from answering phones and scheduling meetings to providing advice and taking minutes and, of course, the ever-elusive "other related duties", which can cover just about anything in the office. They work in

a variety of roles as assistants, office managers, coordinators, customer service and human resources representatives, and more. They keep the work flowing and keep the organization on track.

I spent 15 years as an administrative professional with the Yukon government before moving into a political role, so I can confirm that at the heart of every successful workplace is a team of administrative professionals. Like the backbone that gives the body its strength, they support every department and every initiative. Like the conductor of an orchestra, they coordinate countless details so that all the parts work in harmony. Without them, even the best laid plans would lose the rhythm.

We thank those administrative professionals who do so much to support their workplaces with tact, diplomacy, and efficiency.

Salamat po.

Applause

MLA Tredger: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP to celebrate Administrative Professionals Day. These professionals are the backbones of our workplaces, ensuring that everything runs smoothly and efficiently. Actually, forget that; they're the reason anything runs at all. Their contributions may fly under the radar, but they are vital to the success of any business or any organization and every level of government.

They are the heart of the office. They manage schedules, coordinate meetings, handle communications, and keep everything organized. Their ability to multitask and manage various responsibilities with grace and efficiency is truly remarkable. Let's be honest: Without them, we would all be lost in a sea of sticky notes and missed appointments.

Let's not forget their uncanny ability to find that one missing file that everyone swore was lost forever. It's practically a superpower.

They are often the first point of contact, representing an organization's professionalism and courtesy. Plus, they have the patience of saints, especially when dealing with the office printer, which seems to have a mind of its own.

Today is the day to honour and appreciate the incredible work that our unsung heroes do. Their dedication, skills, and positive impact on the workplace are truly deserving of recognition.

Let's take this opportunity to celebrate those contributions and express our gratitude for all the hard work behind the scenes. And who knows? Maybe one day they'll finally let us in on the secret of their impeccable organizational skills.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House recognizes the increase of \$45.7 million in building permits issued year to date in the Yukon in 2025, a \$34.1-million increase, or 292.6 percent, compared with the same period in 2024.

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

QUESTION PERIOD**Question re: Cellphones in schools**

Mr. Dixon: Mr. Speaker, over the past year, the issue of cellphones in schools has been a topic across the country. The impact of cellphones on the mental development of children, social media platforms with addictive algorithms, and interruptions and distractions in classrooms are all reasons that have been cited by other provinces in Canada that have enacted clear policies about cellphone use in schools. In Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan, cellphones are not permitted during class time across K to 12 students. In Ontario and Manitoba, there are tiers based on different grades of students. The list goes on.

Can the Minister of Education tell us: What is the current policy of the Yukon government regarding cellphone use by students in classrooms?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to rise today to speak about this particular question. The Department of Education is aware that many jurisdictions, including British Columbia, have recently announced personal device use restrictions in schools for the 2024-25 school year. The restrictions aim to reduce classroom distractions, promote well-being, foster online safety, and ensure consistency.

As of the fall of 2024, at least 14 schools across the Yukon have implemented similar policies, each tailored to their community's needs. The policies were implemented in collaboration with their school councils and communities where they established personal device rules and codes of conduct. The Department of Education plans to develop formal guidance to help all school authorities and their schools to manage personal device usage. This will reduce classroom distractions, foster student well-being, privacy issues, and enhance online safety while acknowledging technology's potential educational benefits when used appropriately.

Mr. Dixon: Mr. Speaker, many other jurisdictions across the country have taken clear action when it comes to cellphone use in schools. Of particular concern to many is the growing trend of the sharing of unwanted photos and a rise in online bullying and harm. In the Yukon, schools are currently each left to create their own policies without any guidance from the department. According to the government's website, parents are encouraged to check the school's website or information handbooks to see if their kid's school has a policy. There is no requirement to have a policy and there is no consistency across those policies in those schools.

Does the minister think that this is sufficient when so many other jurisdictions are taking clear action with consistent measures across all schools?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I think I just said that the Department of Education plans to develop formal guidance to help all school authorities and their schools manage personal device usage. This will reduce classroom distractions, foster student well-being, privacy issues, and enhance online safety while acknowledging technology's potential for educational benefits when used appropriately.

Schools determine the unique requirements to support staff and student well-being. Our rules, guidelines, and lessons about online safety are used to keep students safe in Yukon schools. This includes teaching students about digital citizenship and ethical online behaviour. Again, the Department of Education's priority is to create an environment conducive to learning in all Yukon schools. Of course, the safety and well-being of all students in our schools is one of our absolute highest priorities.

Mr. Dixon: Mr. Speaker, in BC, government addressed the issue by issuing clear policy direction from the top because consistency across schools was a stated goal of that government. They passed a policy in April last year that instructed all school boards to restrict digital devices in schools starting this school year. The goal of that policy was to reduce distractions in classrooms, focus attention on learning environments, and foster online safety.

Now, Mr. Speaker, naturally there may be instances when digital devices are necessary for medical or personal safety reasons, though, so it's important that a thorough public consultation be conducted.

The minister has committed that there will be some restrictions coming in starting next year, but can she commit to a thorough public consultation with stakeholders including families, educators, and the school communities about what's to come for restrictions for cellphones in Yukon?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, again, the Department of Education's priority is to create an environment conducive to learning in all Yukon schools. I know that the member opposite is aware that we now have three authorities within our school system, those being the Francophone School Board, the First Nation School Board, and the Department of Education. We will, of course, work with all of our partners if there were to be a policy that would apply to all schools.

The Department of Education, as I've stated, plans to develop formal guidance to help all school authorities and their schools to manage personal device usage. This will reduce classroom distractions, foster student well-being, address privacy issues, and enhance online safety while acknowledging technology's potential educational benefits when used appropriately.

Again, we will continue working with all of our partners, including our school councils and the other two school authorities, to continue having these discussions.

Question re: School traffic management

Mr. Kent: Mr. Speaker, in response to a question about traffic on Range Road resulting from the Liberal government's decision to relocate École Whitehorse Elementary to the backyard of Takhini Elementary, the Minister of Education said this — and I quote: “The other part of this is that we can work with the school council to make it a requirement that we have at least 90 percent of the students registered for busing.”

Can the minister explain what she meant? Is the government considering mandating that students be required to take the bus, and how will that be enforced?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to rise today to talk about this important project, the replacement of the École Whitehorse Elementary School, which is one of our oldest schools in the City of Whitehorse. We are currently in phase 2 of that project. We recently conducted an open house and had professionals from the departments of Highways and Public Works and Education and the main primary consultant, Kobayashi and Zedda Architects, along with the technical folks who conducted the traffic study come and talk to community residents and others who are interested in the project.

We talked about a number of mitigations that could be part of this project, including changing the start of the school day and the end of the school day to mitigate traffic concerns. They also talked about criteria for attending the school and that this would be one of the considerations — that students take the bus. Right now, for the current École Whitehorse Elementary School, we have approximately 80 percent of the students taking the bus now.

Mr. Kent: So, Mr. Speaker, I want to go back to that question again. The minister made this statement yesterday — and I will quote again: “The other part of this is that we can work with the school council to make it a requirement that we have at least 90 percent of the students registered for busing.”

I will ask again: Will the minister please explain what she meant by this? Is the government considering mandating that students be required to take the bus, and how is the government planning to enforce that?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, again, we are working with all of our partners. We have a project advisory committee. We will continue working with the school council as this project progresses. One of the considerations, of course, is to encourage students to be registered to take the bus. Right now, we currently have — out of our 453 enrolled in École Whitehorse Elementary School — a total of 356 students who are registered to take the bus, and we have up in the range of 80 percent of the students taking the bus now.

We will continue — and this is what I said — that I would work with the school council. The Department of Education will continue to have those discussions with the school community to determine any specific criteria that would be required to be registered to attend École Whitehorse Elementary School. Certainly, traffic has been a topic of discussion; we have conducted a thorough traffic study, and we will continue to update that study as the project continues to evolve.

Mr. Kent: So, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't look like we're going to get an answer on how the minister intends to force students to ride the bus when they attend the new École Whitehorse Elementary School.

But the minister also made a number of comments about traffic mitigation measures that will come with the new school. She said that Takhini already has traffic issues and that the mitigative measures that would accompany the school would actually help to address the traffic rather than make it worse. She called it a win-win for the Takhini neighbourhood.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that the residents in that community will see it that way. Does the minister actually think that adding the Yukon's largest elementary school on Range Road will actually be a win-win for the traffic issues that are already creating issues on that street?

Hon. Mr. Clarke: Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to answer and address this question. As I stated yesterday, the downtown Whitehorse Elementary School is a feeder school for the entire Whitehorse catchment, and the Takhini site for the new Whitehorse Elementary replacement school will also be a catchment for the entire Whitehorse catchment area. As I indicated, there will be extended school zones on Range Road and University Drive, new bike lanes and pedestrian crosswalks along Range Road, a detailed parking plan to ensure safe drop-off and pickup areas, and mini-roundabouts at Range Road/Normandy Road and Range Road/University Drive to slow traffic and improve safety.

But I would just ask: Which is it? Are we building schools or are we not building schools? Yesterday, with respect to Whistle Bend, it was: Build more schools in Whistle Bend. But now it's like: Well, no, don't build in the Takhini land reserve.

So, here we go. Lessons on building schools in the Yukon: We built CSSC Mercier, Whistle Bend —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Clarke: Well, too small — F.H. Collins, too small — okay. I guess there was lots of “too small”.

And we are planning for Kéts'adañ Kù School as well. We will not take lessons from the Yukon Party on building any schools.

Question re: Social assistance rates

MLA Tredger: Last October, a survey of people experiencing homelessness was done in Whitehorse. This is called the “point-in-time count”, or PIT count, and it found that at least 145 Yukoners were without safe, stable housing. The count is just a snapshot and we know that it doesn't capture everyone. Even so, it shows the enormous challenges that Yukoners face with housing.

According to the report, the most common reason Yukoners lose housing is because they can't afford it. Three-quarters of people who responded to the survey were on social assistance. The fact that so many people on social assistance can't afford a home makes it clear that the rates are too low. That's why the NDP made reviewing and updating social assistance rates a CASA commitment, but it has been years since the reviews started and no changes have been made.

When will the Liberals publish the results of the social assistance review and update rates to make sure that Yukoners can afford a place to live?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, we have made the commitment as no other government has done for many years to, in fact, review social assistance rates. We have, as part of our affordability projects — initially as part of COVID and then over the period of time since that — made increases to social assistance as a \$100-per-month levy, as an opportunity to make those increases while the review of social assistance is completed.

I know that our government is committed to working to alleviate poverty and to reduce the cost-of-living impacts for low-income Yukoners. We have a number of opportunities to provide assistance for lower income Yukoners, not the least of which is early learning childhood subsidies for less than \$10 a day for daycare.

In addition to basic social assistance, the Yukon offers a supplementary allowance, social work supports, connection to employment and training programs, and approval-based prescription drug and optical coverage. We have instituted a dental program, all of which are designed to and do assist lower income Yukoners.

MLA Tredger: Yet despite all that, three-quarters of the people facing homelessness are actually on social assistance.

The PIT count found that many youth are facing homelessness. More than one in 10 people surveyed were under the age of 25. The PIT count also reported that 43 percent of those surveyed had either been in foster care or group homes. Additionally, 57 percent stated that they had first become homeless before the age of 20.

When this many youth are leaving government care only to face homelessness, it is clear that there is a problem with the supports that this government is providing. Other places have dedicated teams and caseworkers who support youth transitioning out of care and finding housing, building employment skills, attaining post-secondary education, and building a community network.

How is this government improving supports for youth transitioning out of government care so they can find and keep housing?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, Yukon's social assistance rates are among the highest in Canada and are indexed to inflation. However, we continually monitor programs and rates to make sure that the assistance that is being provided is actually assisting lower income Yukoners as part of inflation relief, as I have noted. We are including a \$100-per-month increase for social assistance recipients until more comprehensive rate enhancements can be considered.

We committed to a social assistance rate review in the 2023 confidence and supply agreement. It was completed in 2024. We began by engaging with social assistance clients back in late 2023. The focus of the initial engagement is on rates which prescribe or authorize the amount of assistance eligible to Yukoners. This work continues to determine what is in the best interests of Yukoners. The “what we heard” report is being prepared to reflect the results of the 2023-24 engagement, and

the additional payment of \$100 per month, as I have said, will remain in place while the recommendations are properly considered.

MLA Tredger: Of the people who responded to the PIT count, 75 percent reported struggling with substance use. It was also one of the top three reasons that people lost housing. Everyone deserves safe, stable housing regardless of whether they are using substances or not. We have recently heard of the Premier's plan to turn the Housing First units above the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter into high-barrier housing. If that happens, people who struggle with substance use wouldn't be allowed to live there anymore. This is the exact population that the count tells us is most in need.

It is true that there is a need for more sober housing, particularly for people returning from treatment. The Liberals have been ignoring that need for years, but the solution is not taking away housing from Yukoners who need it.

When three-quarters of Yukoners in need of housing struggle with substance use, will this government correct course and ensure that the units above the shelter remain low barrier?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: The quick answer is no. We're sitting down as well with First Nation leaders on this who have called — as well with our team — to look at a different model.

Now, what's important to note is that for individuals who are suffering from addiction, it doesn't mean that they can't live in these units. What we're talking about is making sure that there is absolutely no substance use in those units, making sure there are supportive services in eliminating that.

There are a lot of things that were said today by the member opposite that I think we need to touch on. In the point-in-time count, one of the items was that a large number of individuals are youth and that the systems failed them, as they have now been seen to be in a homeless situation.

I think it's very important to note that we have seen an influx from other territories and provinces of youth in that particular age group. So, it's not necessarily the structures and system and the great public servants here who are doing good work that have let folks down, but what we're seeing are systems in other places in Canada that have failed and those individuals are now coming here because of the programs and services that we have, which also can be another challenge.

Some of those programs would be things like a rent subsidy program. I want to touch on that; that's 200 current households that are receiving top-ups right now so that they do have affordable housing — or the gender-based violence subsidy, another program. So, I think that we're doing a lot of good work across a number of different areas — maybe not what it seemed from the questions today.

Question re: Health care services in rural communities

Mr. Hassard: Mr. Speaker, last week, the Selkirk First Nation informed residents of Pelly Crossing about a closure or reduction of services at the Pelly health centre. When asked about this in the Legislature, the minister had no response as to why government was not the one to let people know about the

potential closures of community health centres. This information can be vital to the health and well-being of rural Yukoners.

Can the minister tell us if there are any other service reductions coming to any other rural health centres throughout the Yukon?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, our government certainly recognizes the essential role that health centres play in communities and the impact that service reductions or fewer services in place in communities have on our communities.

With respect to the Pelly health centre, I think there is clearly a characterization of this process that is not terribly accurate for Yukoners. It happens to be that early on, some three weeks before the concerns would have arisen, we made notification of that to the First Nation in Pelly Crossing.

We indicated that there would potentially be service disruptions during this period of time because we were aware of it and that we were working diligently to make sure that the coverage for that particular health centre was intact and that we would have paramedics available. Community nursing in health centres does not prescribe or dispense medications, but it is important to make sure that communities are aware as soon as possible. As a result, the First Nation put out a notification and we were pleased that they did; we continue to work with them.

Mr. Hassard: Mr. Speaker, last evening, a child in Ross River was rushed to the health centre only to find out that there was no coverage. The child then had to be taken to Faro by ambulance and medevaced to Whitehorse.

My question for the minister is very simple: Why was there no health care service in the evening in Ross River, and why was there no public communication with the community about this reduction in service?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, on the evening of April 22, the phones at the Ross River Health Centre were temporarily forwarded to 911 emergency response due to staff illness. That was not something that was known ahead of time. Any adverse impact that this situation had on families is deeply regrettable. We always work to have those illnesses or vacancies or vacation time or time that needs to be taken away from community health centres covered. We are not able to do that sometimes in that the illness arises quickly or the situation arises quickly.

We look forward to making sure that community health centres are fully staffed at all times.

Question re: Yukon University Polaris project funding

Ms. Van Bibber: Mr. Speaker, last fall, officials from the Yukon University confirmed that there was a \$5.2-million funding gap for the new science building called the “Polaris project”. When they appeared in the Legislature, they indicated that they hoped to have that gap closed before the contract for the work was awarded.

Can the minister update us on whether the Yukon government was able to provide additional funding or whether

Yukon University was able to secure further funding from another source?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I’m happy to rise to talk about Yukon University. We are so proud that we were able to support our Yukon College to transition to the university. We continue to support the success of the Yukon University.

The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting Yukon University and has identified \$13 million through our five-year capital plan. The Department of Highways and Public Works and the Department of Education continue to work collaboratively with the Yukon University on next steps. In fact, last week, I was invited to be part of a ground blessing for the new Polaris building. I attended along with many community members, including those involved in the early days of self-government. There was a lot of reflection there from the chiefs of Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta’an Kwäch’än about how important this new building is.

The Yukon University — my understanding is that the fences around the site where the Polaris building will be built were being put up on Monday or Tuesday of this week and that work would be commencing. What an important project. We are happy to be a partner in it. I look forward to more questions.

Question re: Rural communities funding and support

Ms. McLeod: Mr. Speaker, this weekend, the Association of Yukon Communities will host their AGM, and I have some questions about issues the AYC has raised over the past year. At the AGM last year in Dawson, the Premier made a clear commitment that the deputy minister of ECO would lead a newly established deputy ministers committee to work with Yukon communities and municipalities to identify rural land development opportunities.

The Premier also said that support would be provided to help municipalities access other funding sources, such as those available through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. So, can the Premier provide an update on this new DM committee? How many meetings has this committee had with municipalities, and what new land have they identified for development since the Premier made that commitment at last spring’s meeting?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that you have heard through the last number of days here that you have seen some of the biggest investment in rural land development that we have ever seen. We have heard about work being done in Dawson, Watson Lake, and Haines Junction — I think that there is going to be a bit of tour this weekend where folks are going to get to go out and see that new subdivision — so again, I think part of the goal here and the intent was that we were hearing from municipalities and the former president of the AYC asking to ensure that there was rural land development. That is the first part of the question.

The second part was: Is there some funding that was available from the federal government? AYC was having some challenges with the application process.

I leaned in on that actually myself; it was Minister Fraser at the time who was in charge of it, and not only had DMs tried

to help out but also tried to do that work. To be open, I can go back and talk to our DMs. I think a lot of that work actually was accomplished before there needed to be a sit-down with deputy ministers. But maybe when the member gets up for the second question, let me know if there's work that was unfinished that AYC wanted to do. I think most of the key items have been moving forward, but I look forward to see if there are any gaps in our work.

Ms. McLeod: Mr. Speaker, at last year's AGM, the AYC passed a resolution calling on the Yukon government to immediately lead the development of comprehensive evacuation plans in collaboration with Yukon communities, including First Nation governments, facing potential full-scale evacuations due to the threat of disaster, such as wildfires. Can the minister tell us if this work has been initiated, and if so, what is the status? Can he confirm whether or not all communities currently have evacuation plans in place?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Mr. Speaker, there is an awful lot of work — an awful lot of work — that has gone on with all of our municipalities with regard to planning for emergencies. We are in — I'm meeting with municipal leaders on a weekly basis to discuss the actions going forward. Every municipality is being assisted in developing those plans, because as I've said on the floor of this House so many times, municipalities are the experts, they know their municipalities better than anyone, and they're the ones who will develop the plans. We're there to support the plan-making, and we have done that.

The work that the member opposite — Resolution 24-AT-08 — is ongoing. The Emergency Measures Organization is assisting municipalities in developing, practising, and updating emergency plans and will continue to support community-based evacuation planning and response. This includes work within the City of Whitehorse on evacuation planning and practice, which is currently in process. We have made this offer to every municipality in the territory; we have Emergency Measures Organization staff who are on those calls helping with those municipalities on any questions they have, and we will continue to do that work, because it is important that Yukoners feel safe in their communities, and we want our municipalities to take the time they need to develop those emergency plans.

Ms. McLeod: Mr. Speaker, another resolution from last year's AGM was in relation to end-of-life vehicles. According to the resolution, the Yukon government previously facilitated the removal and disposal of end-of-life vehicles in communities and has since deferred responsibility to municipalities. They called for the Yukon government to work with them to create an action plan to address, manage, and pay for end-of-life vehicles, including electric vehicles, across the Yukon.

Can the minister provide an update on the development of this action plan?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Mr. Speaker, it is an issue that was brought to me by the Village of Haines Junction. It is serendipitous that we are working — we are going to Haines Junction this weekend for the next AYC annual conference. When it comes to end-of-life vehicle responsibility, we are

leading that response with the municipalities, with Highways and Public Works, which is also involved.

We acknowledge that there are challenges in managing end-of-life vehicles that the AYC has done. As I said, I heard about this from Haines Junction last year where they had an awful lot of vehicles being dumped there, because their landfills were not controlled. The change that has happened is that we now have — our new landfills are being managed much differently than they were in the past. We have a lot of controls. We have paid staff, which YG is helping to fund in these municipalities and in unincorporated communities, so that they are controlled and they will last longer and people will have to pay to dispose of their garbage, including vehicles that they wish to dispose of.

We are currently continuing to work with the Association of Yukon Communities to develop an environmentally and financially sustainable plan, with further discussions to take place at the meeting this weekend.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

The matter now before the Committee is continuing clause-by-clause consideration of Bill No. 50, entitled *Inclusive Yukon Families Act*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

Deputy Chair: Order. Committee of the Whole will come to order.

Bill No. 50: *Inclusive Yukon Families Act* — continued

Deputy Chair: The matter before the Committee is continuing clause-by-clause consideration of Bill No. 50, entitled *Inclusive Yukon Families Act*.

We are currently considering the amendment to clause 53 as proposed by the Member for Riverdale South.

Request for Acting Chair of Committee of the Whole

Deputy Chair: In order to take part in debate, I am asking for a volunteer to take the Chair.

Member for Takhini-Kopper King rises

On Clause 53 — continued

On amendment — continued

Acting Chair (Ms. White): Is there any further debate?

MLA Tredger: In the time since we last discussed this amendment, I want to thank the government for providing a briefing for me and for the Official Opposition on this amendment and how it will affect the original clause. The briefing resolved the concerns that I had, and my party will be supporting this amendment.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I think first I will welcome back Assistant Deputy Minister Jen Gehmair and Caitlin Kerwin, who is the director of Strategic Policy and Planning. So, thank you to both of them for supporting our discussion here today.

As I understand it, the amendment to clause 53 that I have introduced is on the floor. I'm not sure if, in addition to the member opposite for Whitehorse Centre, there are any other comments or submissions to be made, but should there not be, I am pleased for us to proceed to considering the amendment to section 53.

Acting Chair: Is there any further debate on the amendment to clause 53?

Some Hon. Members: Count.

Count

Acting Chair: A count has been called.

Bells

Acting Chair: All those in favour, please rise.

Members rise

Acting Chair: All those opposed, please rise.

No members rise

Acting Chair: The results are 16 yea, zero nay.

Amendment to Clause 53 agreed to

Clause 53, as amended, agreed to

On Clause 54

Clause 54 agreed to

On Clause 55

Clause 55 agreed to

On Clause 56

Clause 56 agreed to

On Clause 57

Clause 57 agreed to

On Clause 58

Clause 58 agreed to

On Clause 59

Clause 59 agreed to

On Clause 60

Hon. Ms. McPhee: The purpose of section 60 of this bill is to permit the registrar to amend the birth registration with the particulars of gamete donors after the child's birth has already been registered. In order for the registrar to be able to

amend the birth registration and add the information of a donor that was not listed on the original birth registration at the time that it was registered, the registrar would have to be satisfied that the information received is accurate. Without section 60, the *Vital Statistics Act* only allows the registrar to correct errors in the birth registration as it is currently written, such as perhaps the spelling of a parent's name.

Both opposition parties were briefed by the staff and officials at Health and Social Services and our office this morning with respect to section 60. Some discussion ensued — the parties — that has resulted in an amendment that I would like to bring to section 60.

Amendment proposed

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Madam Acting Chair, I move:

THAT Bill No. 50, entitled *Inclusive Yukon Families Act*, be amended by replacing clause 60 at page 23 with the following:

“60 Section 28.01 added

The following section is added after section 28:

28.01 Addition of particulars to registration of birth

If, after the birth of a child has been registered, the registrar becomes aware that the particulars of a person whose reproductive material was involved in the conception of the child are not included in the registration of birth, the registrar may add the particulars of the person to the registration, on receipt of the following:

(a) information satisfactory to the registrar that includes the particulars of the person;

(b) the consent of every other living person whose name appears on the registration as a parent.”

Acting Chair: The amendment is in order. It has been moved by the Member for Riverdale South:

THAT Bill No. 50, entitled *Inclusive Yukon Families Act*, be amended by replacing clause 60 at page 23 with the following:

“60 Section 28.01 added

The following section is added after section 28:

28.01 Addition of particulars to registration of birth

If, after the birth of a child has been registered, the registrar becomes aware that the particulars of a person whose reproductive material was involved in the conception of the child are not included in the registration of birth, the registrar may add the particulars of the person to the registration, on receipt of the following:

(a) information satisfactory to the registrar that includes the particulars of the person;

(b) the consent of every other living person whose name appears on the registration as a parent.”

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I am bringing forward and proposing the amendment to section 60 of the bill that is before us today to provide greater clarity as to information required for the registrar to add a person's information to an existing birth registration.

As I have noted, the purpose of section 60 of the bill is to permit the registrar to amend a birth registration with the particulars of a gamete donor after the child's birth has already been registered. The proposed amendment does not change the intent of section 60, but instead, it provides exactly what information the registrar must have in order to add the particulars of a person whose reproductive material was involved in the conception of a child to an existing birth registration.

This amendment will provide certainty as to what information must be provided to the registrar to permit the addition of the gamete donor's information to the child's birth registry. This includes, firstly, information about the person, including their particulars, that is satisfactory to the registrar and the consent of every other living person whose name appears on the registration of birth as a parent.

The proposed amendment is in alignment with supporting the rights of the child to access vital information about their genetic and familial connections while also supporting the interest of Yukoners whose family formation involves gamete donors.

I look forward to any questions there may be, but I also hope that there will be support for this clarification to section 60, which will amend the *Vital Statistics Act* to be more inclusive and more usable by Yukoners.

MLA Tredger: What this amendment does in terms of my concerns is that it ensures that the parents have to consent to have information about a donor or someone with a genetic relationship to their child added to their child's record after the registration. That parental consent is really important.

We talked about some different scenarios last time we debated where that could go really wrong without that piece. I am really grateful that the Liberals brought that amendment forward, because it's necessary for the NDP to support this clause, and I do want to move this clause and the bill forward. I appreciate them bringing forward the amendment. We will be supporting the amendment and the clause.

Mr. Dixon: The minister's office provided us with this amendment in advance this morning. We appreciate that and we will support the amendment.

Acting Chair: Is there any further debate on the amendment?

Amendment to Clause 60 agreed to

Clause 60, as amended, agreed to

On Clause 61

Clause 61 agreed to

On Clause 62

Clause 62 agreed to

On Clause 63

Clause 63 agreed to

On Title

Title agreed to

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Madam Acting Chair, I move that you report Bill No. 50, entitled *Inclusive Yukon Families Act*, with amendment.

Acting Chair: It has been moved by the Member for Riverdale South that the Chair report Bill No. 50, entitled *Inclusive Yukon Families Act*, with amendment.

Motion agreed to

Acting Chair: The matter now before the Committee is general debate on Vote 11, Women and Gender Equity Directorate, in Bill No. 217, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2025-26*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

Bill No. 217: First Appropriation Act 2025-26 — continued

Acting Chair: The matter now before the Committee is general debate on Vote 11, Women and Gender Equity Directorate, in Bill No. 217, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2025-26*.

Women and Gender Equity Directorate

Acting Chair: Is there any general debate?

Hon. Ms. McLean: It is my pleasure to rise today to debate, in Committee of the Whole, the Women and Gender Equity Directorate's budget for 2025-26.

With me today is Deputy Minister Sierra van der Meer and our new director with the Women and Gender Equity Directorate, Ketsia Houde McLennan. Welcome so much — I'm happy to have you here today.

The work of the Women and Gender Equity Directorate is more vital than ever. Internationally and here in Canada, we are seeing efforts and rhetoric that will negatively impact equality for all. In the United States, we're seeing the new federal administration roll back initiatives that support equity for women and the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

Canada is not immune, as we see an increase in not only political rhetoric but also legislation that fails to respect the rights of transgender people. At the same time, our country and territory continue to face high rates of violence against women and the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. The statistics are quite grim. In 2024, 187 women and girls were killed by violence across Canada. Over 10 years, between 2011 and 2021, 21 percent of gender-related homicides of women and girls in Canada were Indigenous even though Indigenous women only represent five percent of the female population. A 2024 Statistics Canada report shared that 77 percent of sexually and gender-diverse youth had been the target of bullying in the previous year.

Earlier this year, Canada's intelligence agency also warned against a potential increase in violence against 2SLGBTQIA people in Canada. Given this current context, I want to assure

my colleagues that our government remains as committed as ever to ensure equitable outcomes for all Yukoners.

The work of the Women and Gender Equity Directorate is integral to government realizing this commitment.

The directorate works in three main areas. The first is providing strategic leadership to other departments and partner organizations on major equity-related initiatives. These initiatives currently include: the *National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence*; the sexualized assault response team, also known as SART; the LGBTQ2S+ *Inclusion Action Plan*; and the Yukon's missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit+ people strategy. The directorate's secondary area of focus is providing funding to our territory's equity-seeking organizations. The third area of the directorate's work is researching and analyzing issues related to gender equity. This includes ensuring that gender-inclusive diversity analysis is used across government departments as well as advising on policy issues and the development of legislation and government programs.

In the 2025-26 fiscal year, the directorate's total budget will be just over \$5 million, and this coming year, the directorate will continue to lead and partner on several complex initiatives. All have the potential to effect real change in the Yukon and to further advance equitable social, legal, and economic outcomes for the gender-diverse, those who may face discrimination because of their sexual orientation, and women.

As I mentioned, one key area of our work for the directorate is to support equity or provide funding to equity-seeking organizations. This fiscal year, the Women and Gender Equity Directorate will provide \$3.3 million in operational and project funding. This funding will help organizations provide services such as drop-in meals, peer support, violence prevention projects, systems navigation, support for victims of sexualized assault, safe community spaces for 2SLGBTQIA+ Yukoners, and participation in the implementation of Yukon's missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls strategy.

As I mentioned, the directorate's mandate includes leading equity-seeking initiatives across the government and with external partners. One of the key initiatives that the directorate is leading is the Yukon's work on the *National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence*. In 2023, the government signed a four-year agreement with Ottawa as part of the 10-year national plan. Under the agreement, the federal government will invest close to \$16.4 million over four years to carry out the national action plan in the Yukon. The Yukon government is cost-matching this amount.

We have now ended the second year of implementation of the national action plan. The directorate is leading this work alongside the departments of Justice and Health and Social Services in collaboration with external partners. The goal of the national action plan is to create a country and territory where everyone can live free from gender-based violence.

The key accomplishment from this funding was supporting the Yukon Women's Coalition to conduct a review of equity-seeking organizations — the sector. This review is now complete and its findings will help guide the final two years of Yukon's implementation of the national action plan. A key

consideration going forward will be responding to the calls from gender-equity seeking organizations for increased core funding.

The Women and Gender Equity Directorate is analyzing the reviews, findings, and recommended framework for allocation of operational funding. In 2025, the directorate will allocate \$1.61 million to support Yukon's implementation plan of the national action plan on gender-based violence. This includes \$1.3 million, which I mentioned earlier. This will provide funding directly to third-party organizations in the Yukon. It also includes funding to support the directorate's coordination of the national action plan, including personnel, research, and evaluation. The \$1.6 million is fully recoverable from the Government of Canada.

Another key initiative for the directorate is to lead work on ensuring that our government services and programs are inclusive of 2SLGBTQIA+ people. In 2025-26, the directorate's budget will include \$495,000 toward 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusion. This includes the \$375,000 in operational funding for Queer Yukon Society and funding for one full-time 2SLGBTQIA+ coordinator to lead the directorate's coordination and implementation of the LGBTQ2S+ *Inclusion Action Plan* across government.

This five-year plan was released in 2021 and it continues to guide our government's work to make programs and services more inclusive and accessible to the LGBTQ2S+ community. It includes over 100 action items representing programs and services in several key departments across government.

The directorate has worked closely with Queer Yukon to help guide the development and implementation of a plan. We will continue to do so going forward. I am pleased to share that we have just released the "what we heard" report on our progress from the action plan and I am sure that we will be getting into some of those details today.

The directorate also continues to lead our government's work on the multi-partner missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit+ strategy and implementation plan. This past fiscal year marked a significant one for our territory's work on this strategy. Strategy partners moved further into the implementation plan. I am pleased with the progress happening on this critical work. Last year, key accomplishments included holding the third annual accountability forum and the release of the first annual report on the implementation. The first annual report gave us an invaluable snapshot of the work that all strategy partners have underway. As of October 2024, 52 percent of all milestones are in process, 11 percent are ongoing, four percent are complete, and 33 percent are not yet started.

I am also pleased to share work that has either begun or is completed under each of the 12 priority actions in the strategy. As we enter into the 2025-26 year, the Yukon advisory committee on MMIWG2S+ is also continuing its evolution into a new governance structure. This evolution is intended to better support implementation and accountability. Going forward, the committee will move into three separate bodies: an accountability body led by Indigenous women's organizations; a collaboration circle made up of government and

non-government representation that will support coordination and report on implementation work; and a leadership committee made up of key elected officials.

In 2025-26, the directorate will allocate the following to support the strategy: \$217,000 for the annual accountability forum and technical gatherings; \$63,000 for the Yukon advisory committee on MMIWG2S+ to continue their work; and \$600,000 for the Indigenous women's equity fund. The budget also includes funding for two full-time staff to support the implementation of the strategy.

Our government looks forward to continuing to implement the strategy this year in the spirit of decolonization and in partnership with Indigenous women's organizations, Yukon First Nation governments, and other strategy partners.

I'm also pleased to share with my colleagues that the directorate's work to establish the ministers advisory committee on women and gender equity is now complete. In the 2023 Spring Sitting, amendments to the *Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues Act* were passed. The act was renamed the *Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity Act*. The changes to the act included updating its mandate and membership criteria to include gender-diverse people. The act allows the council to give advice to all government ministers on policies, programs, and legislation related to gender equity, sexual orientation, and women's issues.

Work to update the consequential regulations and to recruit new members has been completed. The chair and six members have now been appointed and an initial meeting of members was held. We are looking forward to this board beginning its work.

Another important item that the directorate has been involved with is supporting the work of the sexualized assault response team, also known as SART. SART is a network of agencies that provides safe, comprehensive support for victims of sexualized violence. Available services include a 24/7 support line — connected, of course, to the hospital and RCMP — the 24/7 on-call physicians at the Whitehorse General Hospital, and priority access to counselling through Mental Wellness and Substance Use service hubs. Our government has committed to expanding sexualized assault response services to Yukon communities. This is also a milestone in the Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy. The directorate continues to work with the departments of Justice and Health and Social Services on this expansion. Our government is making progress in several areas, such as providing travel assistance for rural victims of gender-based violence and improving navigation and pathways to access forensic care from rural communities.

Our government remains committed to working closely with all partners so that all victims of sexualized violence can access the services that they need.

I would like to end by touching on the work that the directorate does on gender inclusivity and diversity analysis, also known as GIDA. This analysis is a process that helps government departments work to achieve equity in its programs and services. The directorate continues to promote and advise

on the use of GIDA at the Yukon government, with the support of the Public Service Commission.

The 2022-25 GIDA action plan continues to guide our government in this work. The directorate works to implement GIDA at the interdepartmental committees or when departments request GIDA advice. The directorate has begun work to review Yukon government's GIDA training for staff.

On that note, Madam Acting Chair, thank you for allowing me to give some highlights from the Women and Gender Equity Directorate's budget and the important work that this small but mighty part of our government does. I look forward to answering questions that you may have.

Ms. Clarke: I would like to thank the officials for joining us here today and for the briefing that they provided.

We have heard concerns about the adequacy of core funding for some women's groups funded by Women and Gender Equity Directorate. They have not seen an increase to their core funding for several years. Can the minister explain why she has not provided more predictable and consistent core funding to those groups?

Hon. Ms. McLean: I think I'll start by — and I know that we provided a pretty detailed legislative return. I believe I had tabled it last week in response to written questions from the Member for Porter Creek Centre that actually spoke directly to the question that is being asked today. Maybe I will start by giving the total amount that we have provided to equity-seeking groups, which is just a very small amount — under \$2 million — in the last year.

The Yukon Women's Coalition has completed a sector-wide engagement and program review to address gaps and opportunities in programs combating gender-based violence in the Yukon. Preliminary findings indicate several core gaps and barriers to achieving a healthy gender-based violence sector. This includes reliance on project-based funding, lack of collaboration, rural/urban divide in services, lack of focus on addressing root causes, limited shelters, insufficient counselling, and lack of services tailored for rural 2SLGBTQ2S+ individuals — male and youth populations.

Findings from the review will inform the updated implementation plan and priority actions for years 3 and 4 of the *National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence*. The preliminary findings reiterated the need for enhanced operational funding. The Women and Gender Equity Directorate is analyzing the findings and recommended framework for allocation of operational funding. We were in receipt of this report in early April and will continue to work with the Women's Coalition on these findings and to move toward the new allocation model.

Ms. Clarke: I have a few questions in regard to the Yukon's implementation plan on the *National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, 2023-25*. Can the minister elaborate on what services will be provided by the criminal/family law navigator? Can the minister share what the government is doing in regard to First Nation-led responses to gender-based violence? And can the minister explain what actions have been taken by the government regarding the Yukon's MMIWG2S+ gender-based violence initiatives?

Hon. Ms. McLean: The first two initiatives that the member mentioned are being led by Justice. The criminal/family law navigator is a pilot program of criminal/family law navigators to support victims of intimate-partner violence of all genders who are navigating both systems to increase accessibility of the justice system and advocate for the coordination of information and courts and orders. Again, this is an area that is being led by the Department of Justice.

The First Nation-led responses to gender-based violence — this is, again, being led by Justice and is a partnership model that supports community capacity-building to respond to incidents of gender-based violence rooted in First Nation customs in culturally inclusive ways. It's being led by community leaders and introducing or reinvigorating traditional practices and knowledge, such as parenting, sacred teachings, role of elders, and different genders.

Over time, this model aims to build response capacity, resilience, and sustainability by engaging more partners and more people in the community in response to gender-based violence. Again, that is an initiative that is being led by the Department of Justice.

The first one I had spoken about has an allocation of \$100,000 for 2024-25. In the last year, for the First Nation-led responses, there was a total of \$487,000 — just over that amount.

In terms of the Yukon's missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit+ strategy, the gender-based violence initiatives, Yukon's strategy — we have included actions to prevent and address gender-based violence perpetrated against Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit+ people in the Yukon.

The Government of Yukon developed a plan to identify items that require YG participation as well as related work that is underway in response to Yukon's advisory committee on MMIWG2S+ and within the implementation plan. I would also note that we've also allocated to three Yukon First Nations a total of \$300,000 for project-based funding that comes directly out of the *National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence*.

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

The *National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence* is funded by the federal government. We have heard concerns from women's groups that the Yukon government's budget did not supplement that funding. Can the minister confirm this funding is all from the federal government? Does the Yukon government have plans to add additional funding in the future for initiatives such as actions to prevent and address MMIWG2S+ gender-based violence?

Hon. Ms. McLean: In my opening comments, I did talk about a whole section — within my opening comments — regarding the work on the national action plan. The member will recall that we signed an agreement for \$16.4 million over four years. We are matching those dollars through our various funds and initiatives that we had underway directly to equity-seeking organizations, including our shelters. This was all included in the legislative return that I spoke about earlier and that outlines the exact amounts that we have provided, both from Government of Yukon and the federal government. That

is part 1 of the requirements of the agreement that we have with the national action plan. We will continue to implement — and I have already talked about the review that we have done and how we are working with the Yukon Women's Coalition as we move into year 3 and year 4 of the funding.

I'm thinking this is specific to the missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit+ people as I understand some of the questioning today.

I would like to just say that the Official Opposition did sign on as a signatory to that strategy. We would always welcome more discussion with the opposition parties around specific briefings or helping to create understanding around all of our obligations within this strategy that we are committed to implementing in the Yukon to really change that story, to uphold dignity and justice for missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit+ people.

Ms. Clarke: Last year, the budget included a transfer payment to the prevention of violence against aboriginal women project fund. That fund was launched in 2004 and provided assistance to community-based violence prevention projects that are designed and developed by and for Indigenous women. It appears that \$200,000 for that fund has now been cut from the budget. During the briefing, officials indicated that the *National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence* funding is being used instead. I would just like to ask the minister why the government has decided to rely on the federal funding for this programming. What is the plan once the federal money is no longer available?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Again, the majority of our funding from the Women and Gender Equity Directorate does go to equity-seeking groups. We certainly are committed to supporting, as I have outlined, the areas that we are responsible for in women and gender equity — not to say that organizations are not also receiving funding from other departments within the Government of Yukon. Our total budget this year will see 65 percent of it being allocated in transfer payment agreements to equity-seeking groups, which is a pretty significant amount of funding.

In terms of the prevention of violence against aboriginal women, this is a fund that was regularly undersubscribed to. It was very administratively difficult and had low maximum allocations, so we were not allocating all of the funding.

First Nations, through the work particularly on missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, requested changes. I have already talked about the funding that is being allocated through NAPGBV with allocation from Government of Yukon as well. We have now allocated this year \$300,000 — that is \$100,000 to three First Nations — for projects related to ending gender-based violence.

When we established government in 2016, one of the commitments that we had made was to establish funding for Indigenous women's organizations. At that time, it was very sporadic. We have three Indigenous women's organizations in the Yukon that received very low amounts of money, and it was never consistent. We worked then with the federal government to establish the Indigenous women's equity fund, which now sees \$200,000 go to each of the Indigenous women's

organizations in the Yukon. That fund is now entirely funded by Government of Yukon, so that is one of the areas where we are contributing to our matching dollars as well with the federal government.

Yes, we have made some adjustments to the program so that they can better meet the outcomes that are desired with the work to end gender-based violence. Again, the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls strategy and implementation plan works parallel to the *National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence*.

These are complex issues that we are working to change the outcomes of in terms of safer communities and safer populations. As I said today already in my opening comments, the level of violence against Indigenous women and girls is up and probably beyond three times higher than anyone else experiencing gender-based violence.

MLA Tredger: Thank you, Acting Chair; thank you for having the debate today; thank you to the officials for being here and to the minister for answering questions. I will just also say that my son, Bowen, is with us here in the debate today, and he has had a few things of his own to say, so I really appreciate all the support and acceptance from everyone on that.

I want to start by actually just following up on my colleague's question that the minister was just answering about the change in the prevention of violence against aboriginal women fund. From what I understand, that is a good change that it's not being administered in the same way anymore, that it was quite inaccessible, but I share my colleague's concern that it has gone from a program that is funded and has the ability to be funded in an ongoing way by the Yukon government to time-limited funding from the federal government. I am wondering what the plan is at the end of the four-year NAPGBV for that funding. I might be wrong about that and maybe the minister can clarify.

Hon. Ms. McLean: We have done extensive reviews in terms of the funds that we are currently administering. This one was not effective in terms of the way that it was structured. This time that we have gives us a chance to re-profile and work with our partners to make sure that we are getting this right. Again, so much of it is tied to the missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit+ community and with our partnerships with First Nations. I am thrilled that we have those partnerships underway with First Nations. A couple of them are focused on men and boys, and that is a priority area that we had identified in MMIWG2S+ and the 12 priority areas. That was one of those priority areas.

In terms of our commitment, again, I mean, we have moved dollars around so that we are able to better meet the needs and to really maximize the funding that we have now — certainly looking to the future of the 10-year action plan to end gender-based violence. We are in the first part of that agreement right now with the federal government. We will see how things unfold over the next weeks as we go through change in our country. We believe — I believe in the commitment that was made to the — in the declarations that were signed by all jurisdictions in Canada that this will remain a priority for all of the jurisdictions in Canada and the federal government. I think

those are — that is work that we look forward to working on with our federal partners once we are through this election period.

MLA Tredger: Thank you to the minister for that. I look forward to seeing what happens, and I hope, if there is a time when that money isn't available from the federal government, that it is able to come from the Yukon government

I want to ask some questions about the 2023-24 annual report on the implementation plan for Yukon's missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit+ people strategy for *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice*. I was really very impressed reading this implementation plan. It's clear that there has been an incredible amount of work to gather all of this information and that there is so much work going on with this plan. It's really an extraordinary document, and it has — there is so much in it that I can't ask about all of it, so there are just two pieces that I wanted to ask about.

One of the things that appears a number of times through the document — it talks about mental health and counselling support services and in particular — and I understand that the same services are going to apply to a number of those commitments. So, I'm just going to ask about one in particular, and that's in 1.2.a., which is on page 21 of the annual report. It talks about dedicated counselling services and support for family members of MMIWG2S+ people. Then in the summary, it talks about providing funding through the family information liaison unit to provide dedicated counselling services and support for family members and survivors.

I'm wondering if that program has a wait-list.

Hon. Ms. McLean: That program, also known as FILU, is administered by the Department of Justice. We can get back to determine — to look at that information if there is a wait-list, but I know that there were some adjustments to the program, and this was one of the areas that we felt, when we were working on the strategy and implementation plan and as we dug into all of those particular actions — we believed that this was an ongoing need to have this type of position. It is administered by Justice, and we can certainly find out about that, but we know that it is utilized regularly by families.

MLA Tredger: Thank you; I would be very interested to know that. My goal is to support from opposition in that program and in any way that the program needs to be extended or if it is meeting needs as is or if it needs to be expanded, how I can support with that.

I also wanted to ask about a commitment under 1.7.c., which — and specifically, I'm looking at the commitment to establish a Yukon First Nation lodge to meet the needs of Yukon First Nation families accessing Whitehorse-based health care services. I believe that's to happen in the next one to five years. I'm wondering if I can get some more information on the progress on this. I'm not sure if this department is leading it or if it is happening with Health and Social Services or Highways and Public Works or a cross-government collaboration. I would just be really curious about any details the minister can share about this commitment.

Hon. Ms. McLean: There was a lot of discussion when we were working on the implementation plan around the need for these types of services. It was directly taken from *Putting People First*. It is identified there as well. It's not an area that would be led by the Women and Gender Equity Directorate. We would, of course, support the work to happen, but again, the entire strategy really is not a Government of Yukon strategy; it's a whole Yukon strategy. So many of these areas, we would see working together with all of our partners to achieve them. This would be an area that would be led by the health sector and, of course, infrastructure would be needed as well. It remains a priority.

There are so many aspects of this that are a priority, and this one is one that, recalling back to the direct discussions around establishing this implementation plan, we certainly had a lot of passionate discussions about these types of services. We can bring more information as we are able to obtain it.

MLA Tredger: Thank you to the minister for that. I asked about it because the Government of Yukon is listed as the lead on this one. The way I understand this, it would be done in collaboration. I am also eager to see work on it start, because five years is a long time in some ways, and it's not a long time in terms of establishing a program like this. So, I imagine, to meet that timeline, it's going to have to start pretty quickly. I do think that it's very important, as the minister mentioned. It has been a need that has been identified in many ways many times, so I look forward to updates on those as they come.

I am going to ask now about some other things that will be related but are not directly linked to points of the plan — or at least I am not going to directly pull them from the plan. The minister talked about the expansion of the sexualized assault response team to communities. I am wondering if she can give an update on what that expansion is going to look like and what the expected date for that to start is.

Hon. Ms. McLean: Again, the sexualized assault response team is very related to both the *National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence* and the missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit+ people. It is a network of agencies that provide safe, comprehensive support for victims of sexualized violence.

As I have stated many times, we are committed to expanding this service to Yukon communities. The expansion of services is guided by findings and recommendations of the “what we heard” report that is informed by leading practices and approaches from experts in the field. The departments of Justice and Health and Social Services and the Women and Gender Equity Directorate are working closely with all of the SART agencies to develop the action plan. It is well underway and I note that meetings are happening. Today, we have had some of those really specific meetings. I am excited to see this work move forward, knowing what it will mean to folks who experience sexual violence in our rural communities. As soon as we can share more about that specific plan, we will be happy to provide even a briefing to the opposition if that is of interest.

We are definitely making progress in several areas, including strengthening relationships with rural service providers, providing travel assistance for rural victims of

gender-based violence, providing navigation and pathways to access forensic care for rural communities, expanding access to training for community service providers, updating communication materials to better reach victims in rural communities, enhancing awareness and understanding of sexualized violence and existing services such as the 24/7 toll-free support line, and priority access to counselling through the Mental Wellness and Substance Use community hubs.

Again, both the Minister of Justice and I have worked on this since we came into government in 2016, and we are very committed to seeing this work go forward and be a reality in our communities so that folks who experience this unfortunate type of violence are supported in the way that they need to be.

MLA Tredger: Is there a sense of when the next steps will be happening or a goal, a timeline, or a target date for when the action plan will be ready and when those expanded services might start being present in the communities outside of Whitehorse?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Some of these service areas are happening now, so there are areas that are being implemented now that you will see in the plan — but really, looking towards late summer into fall for the full implementation of these services. Again, I think discussions can happen as well in Committee of the Whole with the Minister of Justice and of Health and Social Services, because this is definitely the three departments working together as we have since 2016 to realize the work of SART.

MLA Tredger: That's actually a really helpful sense of the timeline. I wasn't sure whether we were talking about months or years or how long, so knowing that it's expected later this year is really exciting.

The minister mentioned that there are transportation options — or “transportation assistance” was, I believe, the phrase — for people experiencing sexualized violence outside of Whitehorse. I'm wondering if she can she tell me a bit more about what that looks like. I think that in the past, we've heard about it being funding that's available to cover things like gas costs to get to a bigger centre to where people need to go to access supports. So, I'm wondering sort of what that support looks like, and in particular, is that funding available up front to people or do they have to travel and later collect the reimbursement?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Again, Government of Yukon recognizes that victims of gender-based violence in rural communities may need to travel from their community to access services or to seek safety from a perpetrator. Government of Yukon has lowered barriers for intercommunity transportation for rural victims of sexualized assault, intimate partner violence, and anti-LGBTQ2S+ violence with funding through the *National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence*.

Travel assistance for victims of gender-based violence includes support to leave violent situations or access time-sensitive clinical, legal, or support services to another community. In addition to offering support through the victims of crime emergency fund for emergency or immediate needs, Victim Services is funding five non-governmental

organizations to provide victims with lower barrier travel assistance to seek safety from a perpetrator, access services, and return to their community when they are ready. A campaign to increase awareness of these new transportation supports is happening. Information on how to access support is available on yukon.ca

An inventory of transportation services for each community has been shared with the service providers, and we are building a roster of on-demand transportation providers for use by agencies delivering the travel assistance program to victims in rural communities who don't have access to a private vehicle or appropriate public transportation options. So, that's what is happening now and we will see more of those details in the program as it continues to build and develop and have a formal launch into the communities, but these were areas that we knew from what we heard — that this was an immediate need. We were able to support that through our resources within the Government of Yukon and also through federal funding through the *National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence*.

MLA Tredger: I appreciate that from the minister and I found the inventory of travel services, which is really helpful. I hadn't seen that document before. I am specifically looking at, in that document, the travel assistance for victims of gender-based violence. I can't find the answer to the question about whether that funding can be provided up front or whether it can only be claimed after as a reimbursement.

Can the minister clarify that?

Hon. Ms. McLean: This is an area that is being administered and led by Justice and Health and Social Services. The providers are third-party providers. We can get that very specific information, or certainly it will be flagged to the Minister of Justice when it is time to debate their budget. I am happy to provide that back to the member opposite or to the House in a legislative return as well.

MLA Tredger: I appreciate that. I know that it is a specific detail, but it is the sort of detail that can fundamentally change a program and whether or not it is accessible to people who need it.

One group of Yukoners at very high risk for gender-based violence is new immigrants to Canada and to the Yukon, and I am wondering if there is any work happening within the NAPGBV or other work done by the government to really target the needs of this group of people.

Hon. Ms. McLean: Again, I think that I would refer back to the *National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence* program review that was just conducted. We are in receipt of that report, and you know, part of that work was to really — it's completed now on a sector-wide engagement, and the program review addressed gaps and opportunities in programs combating gender-based violence — safe to say, of course, that this would be an area that we would be looking to have identified through this review so that we are working from the same understanding in terms of the identification of those gaps and where opportunities will be to provide services to all Yukoners. That is always our goal: to end gender-based

violence for all Yukoners and, of course, that would be those who are new to the Yukon or new to Canada.

MLA Tredger: That actually leads really beautifully into my next question, which is about this report. I understand that this is the report of the — that looks at the entire, I guess, equity-seeking sector and was going to make recommendations about how best to administer the NATGBV funding to the organizations working in that sector. It sounds like — I know that report was due by the end of fiscal, so it sounds like it might be done already, and I'm wondering if the minister can share it.

Hon. Ms. McLean: We were in receipt of the report in early April, so we now have that. It is a report that was done by the Yukon Women's Coalition. We have certainly relayed — based on the budget briefing — that there is some desire to have that report released. We conveyed that, and we'll wait for the Women's Coalition to advise on the release of that document, but we are in the process now of reviewing and working with them on how we move forward with the very specific recommendations in terms of looking at the findings from the review, which will help to inform the updated implementation plan and priority actions for years 3 and 4, and, of course — as we have already talked about today — this is a 10-year plan. Our desire, of course, is to continue working with the federal government on the remaining six years.

MLA Tredger: I understand that there is no concern upon the part of the department on releasing it — it's just a question of whether the Yukon Women's Coalition is comfortable releasing it. I just wanted to confirm, because what I might do in that case is reach out to them directly to see if they're comfortable sharing it with me. In that case, would there be any, I guess, barriers from the department to doing that?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Again, there is no concern from the Women and Gender Equity Directorate. I think that they are — my understanding is that they are just going through their internal process to work with their governance body to determine the answer to that question.

MLA Tredger: Thank you; that's helpful. I won't rush their internal processes, but I am eager to read the information that they are able to share.

So, I was writing down numbers while the minister was talking in her opening remarks, so please correct me if these are the wrong numbers, but I think she said that there is \$1.3 million through the NAPGBV in funding that will flow through to organizations in the current budget. Is that the correct number — \$1.3 million?

I know that she said that \$300,000 of that specifically goes to Indigenous women's organizations. I'm wondering if she has more of a breakdown about where the other million — if I have those numbers correctly — where that other million is going.

Hon. Ms. McLean: Again, the \$1.3 million to Yukon organizations through the national action plan will be determined through this review that we have just concluded.

I think though, notably, when you look at the highlights from the funding to equity-seeking organizations, it is a total of \$3.3 million. The \$1.3 million will come from the national action plan. We also have \$716,000 to support partners in the implementation of the Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy,

\$375,000 to Queer Yukon, and \$100,000 for the crisis hotline funding agreement, which is also fully recoverable. That's a separate agreement with the federal government, so it makes up that \$3.3 million.

MLA Tredger: I am trying to wrap my head around those numbers.

One of the things that I understand is that there is a decrease of \$50,000 to the crisis hotline agreements. Can the minister comment on that?

Hon. Ms. McLean: This agreement was a response to COVID-19, so it was actually a three-year agreement that started the first year with \$200,000, then reduced to \$150,000, and is now at \$100,000. It was a response to the increased need to have access to shelters and emergency services. It was a time-limited agreement and certainly something that I will be taking up, once we have some certainty around the post-election, with the minister or parliamentary secretary responsible.

MLA Tredger: So, I know that the way that \$1.3 million — so, if I understand correctly, there is \$1.3 million in the wages budget to distribute to organizations from the NAPGBV funding, but there is more in other budgets, mostly I think Justice and Health and Social Services but others as well. Please correct me if that's wrong.

I understand that \$1.3 million — the way it's distributed is going to be decided by the report, which has been completed, but decisions haven't been made yet. I know that the amounts aren't known yet. Is it known which organizations will receive funding from that pot?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Again, I did submit a detailed accounting of the 2023-24 NAPGBV funding, and generally, these would be the same organizations that we would be looking to be part of the funding allocations, so that would be the Yukon Women's Coalition, les Essentielles, Liard Aboriginal Women's Society, Queer Yukon, Skookum Jim Friendship Centre, Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle, Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council, Yukon Status of Women Council, Yukon Women in Trades and Technology, and then we have our three official shelters.

These three are co-funded through Health and Social Services, and that would be Help and Hope for Families Society, Dawson Shelter Society, and the Yukon Women's Transition Home Society. There may be some changes based on this review, but generally, those are the organizations that we currently work with and we will continue to do that. We're happy to, for 2024-25, provide the list of groups and the amounts of money received, as we're finalizing those numbers now, so we will be able to provide a table much like the one that I provided in the recent legislative return based on written questions that were given from the Member for Porter Creek Centre.

MLA Tredger: She said that the three shelters are co-funded with Women and Gender Equity. Is there money in Women and Gender Equity's budget that goes to them? I thought that it was all from Health and Social Services, but I might be wrong.

Hon. Ms. McLean: The three shelters are funded by Government of Yukon through Health and Social Services, and then we have the NAPGBV dollars that are being provided as well, so that's how we matched some of the funding to make up our — and we're over the amount that was required within the agreement with the federal government, so we're more than matching our amount to the \$16.4 million.

MLA Tredger: I was just looking through the legislative return that the member opposite had submitted. It was really helpful — thank you. So, there were 13 organizations in 2023 that received NAPGBV — I didn't quite manage to match it up with the ministers list, but I suspect it's basically the same list or very close if not — and then three of those are under Health and Social Services, so that leaves 10 organizations to be funded, I believe, with this \$1.3 million through this department. I'm just doing some kind of fast math in my head. That would have about \$130,000 for each of these organizations. I know that it's not decided how it will be split up, but that's kind of approximately how much it would be per organization. I don't know how far that's going to take them, to be honest.

I know that it sounds like a lot of money, but that's about one position — give or take. I'm wondering if that is the intent. I guess I'm wondering if the minister feels like there is enough budgeted through this for those organizations.

Hon. Ms. McLean: Again, if you look at the table that was provided, you'll see that the total at the bottom of the line is just under \$2 million. So, when we look at these new dollars — the \$1.3 million — it's in addition to the women's equity fund. It's in addition to the Indigenous women's equity fund and the women's equity fund — so those two funds — plus there are dollars in here that are being matched through Health and Social Services.

When you look at all of the organizations, all of these organizations receive funding from other departments, from other governments.

That's why we entered into this program review that was led by the Yukon Women's Coalition — so that they could help us make those determinations, because our organizations do different things. They don't all do the same thing. For instance, when you look at Skookum Jim Friendship Centre, the Government of Yukon provides \$93,000, the federal government provides \$96,600, and they have funding from a lot of other different sources, so this was in relation to the *National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence*. There is something to be said about each organization, and I think that we wanted the Yukon Women's Coalition to do that work, do that review, and tell us what the barriers are. So, that's what we have now. We'll be working with them to determine the allocation of dollars from this particular fund. But again, we do have our other funds and that is how we are matching those dollars with the federal government.

MLA Tredger: Yes, it's difficult to have a conversation about a hypothetical allocation, so I won't ask too many more questions about it now. I'm excited to read the report from the Yukon Women's Coalition. I will be very surprised if that report doesn't talk about the difficulty of receiving program

funding instead of core funding. It's something that I have heard from them often; it's something that I have experienced myself in the non-profit world. I think that the minister probably has too, and we have talked before about the difficulty of having many program funding streams that all fund really specific things and then trying to figure out which stream can handle winter tires or new cellphones or a repair person for the roof. It's very, very difficult, when you have very restricted program funds, to run an organization with those.

I look forward to reading that report, and I hope that the concerns and the barriers identified in that report will be taken seriously as decisions about how to allocate the funding are made and in what form to allocate the funding, in particular, program versus core funding.

At this time, I'm not going to ask any more questions about that, because it would be a lot easier to have the conversation when we have actual members in front of us. That will wrap up my questions for today. I would like to thank again the minister and officials for coming to answer the questions, and I look forward to seeing the work that happens in the next year.

Acting Chair: Is there any further general debate on Vote 11, Women and Gender Equity Directorate?

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

MLA Tredger: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 11, Women and Gender Equity Directorate, cleared or carried, as required.

Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 11, Women and Gender Equity Directorate, cleared or carried

Acting Chair: The Member for Whitehorse Centre has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 11, Women and Gender Equity Directorate, cleared or carried, as required.

Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Acting Chair: Unanimous consent has been granted.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$5,084,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of nil agreed to

Total Expenditures in the amount of \$5,084,000 agreed to

Women and Gender Equity Directorate agreed to

Acting Chair: The matter now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 51, Department of Community Services, in Bill No. 217, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2025-26*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

The matter now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 51, Department of Community Services, in Bill No. 217, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2025-26*.

Department of Community Services — *continued*

Acting Chair: Is there any further general debate?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Good afternoon, everybody. It's great to be here answering more questions on the budget for Community Services. I have with me the deputy of Community Services, Damien Burns, assisting me; Marie-Alexis is nearby feeding us information as well, and I'm sure we have other staff as well. Without any further ado, I'm going to open up the floor to questions from my good colleagues across the way, and I look forward to a spirited discussion this afternoon.

Mr. Dixon: When we left off last time, I had asked the minister about the process for identifying projects under the CHIF. The minister was in the process of responding to that, but I didn't quite get an answer.

The question I was asking was: What will the process be for municipalities or other proponents to apply for this funding? Will the process for selecting these projects and the eligibility for these projects be something that the minister consults with municipalities, the AYC, or other stakeholders on? If so, when will that process for identifying projects under the CHIF be available?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I thank the member opposite for the question this afternoon. We were indeed talking about the Investing in Canada infrastructure program — that's ICIP; sorry. We were talking about the recent program. I'm sorry; I had the wrong program here. Let me get my stuff together; I apologize to the member opposite.

Here it is here. It was the Canadian housing infrastructure program, I believe, that the member opposite was talking about — the Canadian housing infrastructure fund, rather.

In the federal budget of 2024, the federal government announced \$6 billion for the Canadian housing infrastructure fund to support housing growth and densification through construction and upgrading of core public infrastructure. There is a two-pronged approach to the delivery of this program. \$1 billion over eight years is going directly to municipalities to support urgent infrastructure needs and will directly create more housing. There is \$5 billion for agreements with provinces and territories to support long-term priorities.

The Yukon signed this agreement in March of this year — so, just basically last month. Spending should be wrapped up in fiscal 2033-34.

Through this agreement, Yukon will receive \$74.2 million from Canada, and we'll contribute \$24.7 million to address housing-enabled infrastructure. The purpose of the program is to support governments who own and operate water,

waste-water, storm-water, and landfill infrastructure. The program is not aimed at for-profit, private sector recipients.

We are currently in the process — as I said, we just signed this off a month ago. We are in the process of developing criteria and ways that municipalities can access and feed into the programs that they want to select for this funding. That hasn't been built yet, but the program is brand new, and we're going to work with municipalities to develop that programming — onboarding — over the coming weeks and months.

Mr. Dixon: So, is it intended that municipalities would apply to the Yukon government, or do they need to apply to Canada for this funding?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: It depends. There is a two-pronged delivery. \$1 billion over eight years is directly available to municipalities. So, that money is direct to municipalities.

The other one is through the Yukon government, where we have access to \$74.2 million from Canada, and we'll contribute an additional \$24.7 million to address housing-enabled infrastructure. We are currently working on what criteria will be used for the municipalities to feed into that. It hasn't been developed yet. The program is a month old. There is more to come on that.

I certainly won't be making that announcement here during this debate this afternoon, but there will be more coming in the coming months as I work with municipalities, through the Department of Community Services, on the criteria that we will use to feed into this, but they will be applying to us with their projects. For that fund, it will come through the Yukon government.

Mr. Dixon: Can the minister give us a little bit more information about the timing for this? I ask because municipalities' budgetary cycles require them to complete their budgets on the calendar year. We know that obviously, if this program is not up and running yet, they will be looking to make applications for them in 2026.

Is the minister confident that the applications will be available in time for the municipalities to begin planning for their next budget?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I appreciate the question from the member opposite. We are currently developing the criteria — the methods — through which the municipalities will feed into this. As I said, the program is scarcely a month old. I am certainly aware and my deputy and the team at CS are aware of the budgeting cycle for municipalities. We are going to work with municipalities to make sure that this money and the priorities get identified as soon as humanly possible. We are not there yet, and we will work with our municipalities to get this money accessible to municipalities as soon as we possibly can.

As I said, it is scarcely a month old, and there is a lot of work to do on that.

Mr. Dixon: While the program is relatively new, I think that there is a lot of demand among Yukon municipalities for that funding, so I would urge the government to move quickly to make that program and that funding available to them. I will move on.

Earlier today, we asked about some resolutions that came from AYC's AGM last year. The first one that was asked about

was the commitment that the Premier made in his speech in Dawson about the creation of a deputy minister committee that was intended to work with municipalities to identify rural land for development.

I would just like to ask — the minister has the Deputy Minister of Community Services here, so I am sure that the answer is at hand. How many meetings has that deputy ministers committee that is chaired by the Deputy Minister of ECO had so far?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: That committee, I'm told, has met five times since last fall.

Mr. Dixon: I appreciate that. What have the results been from that? The committee was envisioned to meet with municipalities as well to seek their feedback. Have there been any tangible results as a result of the deputy ministers committee that was announced last spring?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: This is a committee of deputy ministers that was struck. I certainly wasn't sitting at those tables, but they did meet five times. We are working very, very hard, as the Premier said recently — just this afternoon, an hour and a half to two hours ago — to the member opposite. We are seeing tangible results on rural lot development across rural Yukon even since last year's AYC conference when this first came up. We're seeing more than 40 lots built in Watson Lake; we have seen lots developed in Haines Junction; we're seeing lots developed in Dawson; we're seeing lots coming onstream in Teslin. We are in the process of — I'm hoping to get a tour going of the lots in Haines Junction just this weekend. We're building a record number of lots in Whitehorse and across the territory. There is certainly more demand — absolutely. We have a committee that has met five times to deal with this.

I talk with municipalities on a regular basis, both in Whitehorse and in rural Yukon, about these issues. Those rural mayors all have my number and can phone me on this issue whenever they come across an idea or some issue that they need to address with lot development. We are going to continue to provide lots for Yukoners, be it in Whitehorse or rural Yukon, over the coming months and years.

Mr. Dixon: The reason why I ask about this committee is not because I have a huge fascination with the internal workings of the deputy ministers committee; it's because the Premier identified this as a key priority in his speech at the AYC AGM. He stood up in front of the entirety of the conference and made this a key commitment that he was making to the audience. One of those commitments, of course, was the creation of this committee, and it was meant to engage with municipalities to identify new areas in rural Yukon for development.

All of the projects that the minister just listed, from Haines Junction to Watson Lake, were all projects that were underway already well before last year's AGM. So, I'm just wondering if there are any specific areas that have been identified as a result of the work of that committee that he can point to as an example of that committee having success.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: As we have said, the deputy ministers committee was convened to ensure coordination and a focused approach to rural land development in the Yukon. I

believe that is what the Premier was getting at last year. The initiative was launched in response to discussions, as I said, last year. This important work is supported by officials across the Yukon government — improving coordination between departments and identifying opportunities in support of rural land development.

Since the fall, officials have established an interdepartmental land coordination committee to drive these efforts, as we committed to in the last AYC. We identified key areas of focus, including the development and review of official community plans, land use and land development training, and public and land use authority information. We identified tools and resources to support land development efforts such as: a detailed outline of the development process and training materials to clarify roles and responsibilities; a fact sheet explaining the Yukon government's process and legislative considerations for lot pricing; and collaboration with municipalities to establish clear roles and responsibilities in the land development process, such as ensuring that sufficient land is designated in official community plans.

Officials have recently shared an overview of all this work with AYC and have begun engaging municipalities to provide additional details about these initiatives. The department will continue working closely with AYC to keep municipalities informed and ensure alignment as this work progresses. I hope that answers the member opposite's question.

Mr. Dixon: My question was whether or not there were any tangible areas that had been identified for land development. I think that the answer speaks for itself.

I will move on to the resolution that AYC passed last year with regard to evacuation planning.

The resolution that was put forward at the AGM last year called for the Yukon government to work with municipalities to ensure that each and every community had an evacuation plan.

Can the minister confirm that every municipality does indeed have an evacuation plan in place now?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: As I have said in Question Period no more than 90 minutes ago or a little bit more than 90 minutes ago this afternoon, it is the Department of Community Services, certainly through Emergency Measures, who is working with municipalities to develop emergency plans. We have been doing that work over the last couple of years since the fires in Yellowknife revealed some gaps in planning for that community and which certainly brought a public focus to that issue across Canada and certainly in northern Canada. We have been working with our municipal partners. They are responsible for emergency planning within their jurisdictions. I have been very clear about that. The reasons are clear. They know their municipalities and what their needs are — the citizens'. They are duly elected governments, and that is their responsibility. We have been working with them, certainly on demand, when they have asked for our help. I am not aware of any communities in the Yukon who don't have emergency plans, but I will endeavour to get a firm answer for the member opposite.

Mr. Dixon: The minister is correct that this responsibility is one of the municipalities', but as they noted in their resolution last year, they feel that the Yukon government has an important role to play as well. They noted in the resolution itself — there is a clause in the resolution that notes that community government staff may lack the emergency measures expertise or time to develop these plans but have significant local knowledge and insight to offer evacuation planning.

It goes on, but I think the point is that they were sincerely asking for help from the Yukon government. They wanted the Yukon government to lead that work. That's why they passed that resolution asking for the Yukon government to take a leadership role in the development of evacuation plans.

I'll close with a specific question, then. The minister said he's going to get back to us on the list of communities, but can he confirm that Dawson City has an evacuation plan currently?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I said that I would endeavour. I just got word from the department that all communities have plans in place. We are working with all municipalities to — on request — when they reach out to us and say: We need help, we are stepping in and helping where we are asked to. CS has been certainly — I have made that known. CS has been more than willing to do that with EMO. So, when municipalities reach out to us, we step in, and we will help them with their emergency planning.

At the moment, I'm told that all municipalities have do have such plans.

Mr. Dixon: I appreciate that response from the minister, and I look forward to following up.

I'll move on to some comments that the minister made earlier this week in regard to Robert Service Way and the application that the City of Whitehorse has made to the federal government for the DMAF funding — that's federal funding.

The minister, earlier this week, made a comment in Question Period that I wanted to follow up on. This was earlier this week in Question Period. He said that there is an issue with this tranche of money, that we can't stack it with other funding sources from other governments. I found that surprising, because I reviewed the DMAF criteria on their website, and it says very clearly that DMAF can be stacked against other levels of governments' funding, including municipalities and territorial governments.

So, I'm wondering if the minister can clarify his comment and answer the original question, which was: How much has the City of Whitehorse requested from the Yukon government to address the issues with Robert Service Way?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I appreciate the question from the member opposite, because yes, I did misspeak the other day, for sure. When we were talking, there are two programs that the city and I have been talking about: One is the water treatment plant, which the member opposite also asked about recently, and the escarpment project. The escarpment program is a disaster mitigation and adaptation fund; it can have other monies from the territorial government, though not monies that we get from the federal government but our own money that we can do — so, the member opposite is correct, and I appreciate

the opportunity to correct the record, because I did misspeak — did give a wrong answer on that.

The City of Whitehorse was successful in its application for DMAF funding in May 2024. The federal government is investing more than \$45 million into this project. The Infrastructure Development branch has offered a \$150,000 transfer payment agreement for Robert Service Way owners' engineering contract. What's happening now is that the city is scoping out the project and seeing what the final cost will be, so we haven't gotten an actual request yet from the City of Whitehorse — we don't know how much this project is going to cost, but we are working with the city closely to map out the scope and scale of the project, and I'm sure that, once they know exactly where they're going with this project themselves, they will put in a request for funding — but I haven't gotten a firm request from them yet about how much they would like.

Mr. Dixon: Prior to the last municipal election, I had met with Mayor Cabott about this issue a number of times, and she indeed shared a letter with me that was sent by the mayor and cc'd to the city council, to the minister, where they make a clear ask for funding under this program. There was a letter sent on September 26, 2024 where they request specifically \$12 million, which represents the balance of the 25 percent that they needed for that amount. The remaining \$4 million, they would contribute themselves or they would seek further funding themselves, at least.

So, my understanding is that they have asked for \$12 million. Does the minister's response to me right now before this indicate that the initial answer was no and that they have gone back to do further work? Or was the minister not aware of the request for \$12 million that was sent to him in September of 2024?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: It is indeed correct; however, my response to the city at that time was that they needed a better and more detailed design to know exactly what the scope of the project is. Hence, we agreed to continue working with the City of Whitehorse on this project, which resulted to \$150,000 being given for design work so that they could better scope out and lay out a schedule for the project going forward.

We are working with the City of Whitehorse; we haven't said yes or no. We need a better analysis of the project itself, and we are working with the City of Whitehorse to get that.

Mr. Dixon: Can the minister give us then some sense of timeline for that? Is he aware of when the city might be in a position to make a formal request beyond the one that they made last September following the minister's response to that letter of September 6? Is he able to tell us whether or not that change in scope of the project affects in any way Canada's contribution?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I would encourage the member opposite to talk to the city. We have given — it is a transfer payment to the city for the engineering contract. They are doing the work. It is their project. They actually applied to Ottawa directly for this money, so I am not even sure if the terms of their deal are with Ottawa for this funding. It was a direct City of Whitehorse-to-Ottawa request for funding through the

disaster mitigation adaptation fund. This is a City of Whitehorse project entirely.

We have had requests and we are working with them to hone their proposal. I don't have any direct information on it, because it was a direct-to-Whitehorse contract, so I don't have the specifics of that deal.

Again, this is something that Ottawa has said: Municipalities can apply directly to Ottawa. Whitehorse has done that in this case; this is their project. If they have questions about the scope or how long it is proceeding for refining this design, he should ask the mayor of Whitehorse.

Mr. Dixon: I will indeed do just that.

I will move on then to some further questions that I had about phases 12 and 13 of Whistle Bend. Phases 12 and 13, as the minister surely is aware, have been completely clear-cut down in Whistle Bend. They are quite dusty. We have heard from a number of residents in that area who are affected by the dust that they have some concerns.

I went back and looked at the YESAB recommendation initially that was put forward. CS was actually the decision body and the proponent was the City of Whitehorse. I am just trying to understand where to best direct this question — if it is to the government or to the city — but residents have expressed concerns about the amount of dust flying around down there as a result of phases 12 and 13. I did note that YESAB made a recommendation of a number of measures to mitigate dust being spread in Whistle Bend from phases 12 and 13, including watering and other measures to address dust pollution or dust in the area affecting people in that area.

Can the minister just tell us whose responsibility it would be for the dust control in Whistle Bend? Is it the city? Is it the government? Or would it be the contractor who is doing the work? Where does the responsibility lie for following up on the recommendation from YESAB to impose dust mitigation measures?

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Mr. Kent: Madam Acting Chair, I would just like to take a moment to introduce visitors.

Visitors introduced

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I am told that the dust issue is entirely Community Services' issue. We have instructed our contractor, now that we are into the spring, to please deal with dust mitigation measures. I guess we will see how successful the contractor is on that site.

Mr. Dixon: I appreciate that response from the minister. I also noted that YESAB had made a recommendation that the site not be cleared all at once and that it be progressively cleared so that this kind of thing doesn't happen. Is that a responsibility of CS or is that the contractor?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Our contractor is our responsibility. We have instructed the contractor to follow the rules laid out by YESAB. To the best of our knowledge, the contractor has been following those rules. We will certainly look into this.

Mr. Dixon: I am sure that the residents in the adjacent area would appreciate that.

My last question on phases 12 and 13 was just a follow-up on the timing. I went back and checked the contract on the Bids and Tenders site and it said that the completion date was July 2025 for that work. Can the minister confirm that this is on track right now and that phases 12 and 13 will be completed by July of this year?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I am told that the contract is on track.

Mr. Dixon: Sticking with Whistle Bend, I had some questions around landscaping of the boulevards.

The first question is in relation to the main boulevards on Casca. I believe that they are still under warranty from the original contractor, but I have heard that they too are being impacted by the significant dust issues in Whistle Bend and that the dust being blown on the grass is making it hard for them to maintain the level of quality of grass that they are expected to as a part of their warranty.

Does the minister have any response to the responsibility that the department may have with regard to dust and the impact that it has on those contractors who installed the grass on the boulevards?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: So, the member opposite is correct that there is an active landscaping program completing the installation of Casca Boulevard and phase 4 boulevards and phases 4 and 5 green streets. The landscaping maintenance for phases 4 and 5 green streets will continue into 2025.

I don't have specific information about dust inhibiting or impacting the growth of that, but we are maintaining it this year and I'm sure that if there are problems, we will take action. It is under warranty, so we will work on that.

I think you're getting into pretty specific territory for me. We will flag it for the discussion this afternoon, but we are maintaining it this year.

Mr. Dixon: I appreciate the minister's response. If he can provide further information in the future, I would appreciate it.

Another specific question relates to the installation of grass in phases 5 and 6. This is also, I believe, referred to as a "boulevard", but it's not the Casca Boulevard. This is the area between the sidewalks and the curb where the Department of Community Services is responsible for the installation of grass and landscaping.

For houses in that area, they are required to have their houses landscaped within two years, and it has been pointed out to me by a number of residents — and to the MLA for Porter Creek Centre representing Whistle Bend — that the government isn't held to that same two-year standard — that they don't have to install the grass in the same time frame that homeowners individually do.

I'm wondering if the minister can comment on the discrepancy in requirements on individual homeowners to have grass installed within two years when the Government of Yukon doesn't get the grass into the area on the other side of the sidewalk in any similar timeline. As well, are there plans for the completion of that grass installation in phases 5 and 6 this year?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: As I mentioned in my previous answer, we do have an active landscaping program going on in

Whistle Bend this year. We have contracts for landscaping and delivery of that landscaping with the owner — the City of Whitehorse — and we work with the City of Whitehorse to meet the timelines that they give us. So, we are working with the City of Whitehorse on the timelines for landscaping within its subdivision.

Mr. Dixon: I will move on to a different issue — in relation to Whistle Bend, though. My understanding is that the City of Whitehorse had planned a new fire station in Whistle Bend — I believe it's known as "Fire Station 3" — and that they required a piece of land that belonged to the Yukon government to be transferred to the City of Whitehorse. Can the minister tell us if that land has indeed been transferred from the Yukon government to the City of Whitehorse for the creation of a new fire station in Whistle Bend?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Yes, I met with the Mayor of Whitehorse just recently, in the last couple of weeks, on this very issue. We pledged together to work to find a suitable site for the new fire hall in Whistle Bend. The land has not yet been transferred to build the fire hall.

Mr. Dixon: Can the minister tell us where that land is?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Sorry, could the member opposite repeat? I missed the question.

Mr. Dixon: Can the minister tell us where that land is?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Yes, I certainly can. We sat down and we talked. The mayor and I discussed the issue. We agreed that we need a fire hall in Whistle Bend. We said that we would work together on a site for that location. We haven't landed on a site yet. The land has not been transferred.

Mr. Dixon: I am sorry; I misunderstood the minister when he first answered. I thought that they had selected a site and it hadn't yet been transferred, but it sounds like they haven't yet selected a site and therefore no land has been transferred to the City of Whitehorse. I appreciate the clarification.

I am going to move on now to Dawson City. I will start with the sewage lagoon. I know that the Yukon government was going to lead consultations on the location of the proposed sewage lagoon and that they had chosen two locations to consult on. Can the minister provide an update on the consultation on the sewage lagoon's location, and can he provide some information about how the two sites that they have chosen to consult on were chosen?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: We know that lagoons are the way to treat waste water in northern Canada, that it's the most reliable and most proven way to do it. The City of Dawson, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and the Government of Yukon, through the Department of Community Services, is working to identify a new site for the sewage lagoon in Dawson City. This current facility operates at full capacity to treat Dawson's waste water. Two potential sites were identified in collaboration with the municipality and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. These sites have planned geotechnical work and water studies to help advance an eventual site selection.

Placer mining operations overlap these potential sites. We recognize that placer mining is a key part of the Yukon's economy and contributes to the prosperity of people and

businesses in many Yukon communities, particularly Dawson, and we will have conversations with any affected placer miners and can confirm that the geotechnical work and water studies will not affect any active mining in the region.

We have information published on the City of Dawson's website and our own Government of Yukon site. That happened on February 6. This helps the public learn about the project and informs them. An information session was held on February 25 to provide the community with an update on the project's progress. I hope that answers the member opposite's question.

Mr. Dixon: Between now and the creation of a lagoon, the government will continue to treat waste water in Dawson with the existing waste-water treatment plant. Can the minister tell us if the City of Dawson provides any funding toward the management of waste water in Dawson?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: This plant must be near and dear to the member opposite's heart. I know that he was responsible for the plant for a while. I think that he was the one who cut the deal on the O&M costs with the City of Dawson.

It currently costs about \$1 million a year to operate this plant; it hasn't been a stellar success, but we're making — we have done some improvements to it, and it's actually working as well as could be expected under the circumstances. Currently, I believe that the City of Dawson contributes roughly a little bit north of \$200,000 to the cost of operating that plant.

Mr. Dixon: I'll move on to the Dawson rec centre. Obviously, the point of discussion that is very significant in Dawson these days is the cost of the O&M of that facility. When I had met with the mayor and council a few months ago, we had discussed it, and it was my understanding that they were waiting to hear back from either Wildstone — the contractor — or the Yukon government with regard to plans for the operation and maintenance budget of the proposed facility. Can the minister provide an update on that work? Has the government submitted any material to the town of Dawson in regard to the proposed operation and maintenance budget of the new facility?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: The member opposite and I are having similar conversations with the Town of the City of Dawson on the recreation centre. We are working very closely with the City of Dawson and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in on the design. It's a progressive design that is a collaborative approach to bringing this to completion. I believe that the site work has just begun recently — actually, in the last couple of weeks. So, that's really exciting; we're actually getting some work done.

All parties are at the table for collaboration and decision-making on this project. O&M is certainly — has been an issue that has been raised by the municipality, and we're working very closely with the design team to make sure that it's as cheap to operate as we can possibly get it. As I said, they're at the table for all of these design decisions, so they're — the contractor is aware of the City of Dawson's concerns, and they are at the table making the recommendations to make sure that it's a building that we can all afford.

Mr. Dixon: Just to be clear then, as far as the minister is concerned, there is no outstanding information from the Yukon

government that needs to be provided from Dawson; it's strictly in the hands of Dawson and the contractor; is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: As I said, the City of Dawson, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the contractor, and the Yukon government are all at the table. We are all working together. It's not just between the City of Dawson and the contractor; we are at the table as well. We are all working together on this design to make sure it's affordable for the municipality.

Mr. Dixon: Can the minister tell us what the next milestone is in this process? It's a progressive design/build contract. It has been awarded to the contractor. For people in Dawson or for those listening, what is the next main milestone upon which a decision will be made where it will have a go or no-go point in this process?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Madam Acting Chair, the design team is working together to get the next phase of design. We expect that to be presented to the community in the spring, and we will have a much greater opportunity to see where we are at with this project. Once — if that design is acceptable to the municipality and to the citizens there, we will go to actual budgeting and make sure that it comes within the \$65-million budget.

Mr. Dixon: If I understood the minister then, the design team will present to the municipality next at some point this spring; is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Yes, the project team will make that presentation to the municipality this spring.

Mr. Dixon: Okay, I appreciate that response. I will move on to flooding issues in Dawson as well. We had heard previously that there was going to be some study work done around flood mapping in the Dawson area, and I believe that the minister had told me in a previous Sitting that there had been some sort of study done on the dike in Dawson. I am wondering if the minister can provide an update on that.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: We are doing an assessment of the dike and we plan to have a report submitted to us sometime at the end of May or into June.

Mr. Dixon: Can the minister just tell us a little bit more? Who is doing the assessment of the dike? Is it a private contractor who they have a contract with? Is it someone within the Department of Community Services? Who is actually doing the work, and what kind of report is it?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Our Infrastructure Development branch procured an engineering firm to do that assessment of the dike. The deadline is coming up fairly soon, as I said — May or into June.

Mr. Dixon: I appreciate that response from the minister. I'll move on then to some other issues. I would like to follow up on the MOU that the minister signed with Softball Yukon in regard to the replacement of École Whitehorse Elementary School. I just want to understand whose role is what here. There is a commitment in that MOU between the Yukon government and those sports organizations for a number of pieces of sports infrastructure. There is a third field within the Pepsi complex, there are upgrades to the Robert Service diamonds down here on Robert Service Way, and then there is, of course, the field that will include four children-size

diamonds on grass at the school. As well, I believe that there is a commitment to what the minister called a “Kelowna-sized gym”. So, I’m just trying to understand: Is the entirety of that work going to be done in the budget of Education, or will the Department of Community Services play a role in that funding and support as well?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I thank the member opposite for the question. I thought we had discussed this the last time. I think I said the last time that this is in our five-year capital plan. The project for the replacement school is in the five-year capital plan. The budgeting process is no different. We’re involved to make sure the sporting groups are engaged in the process and they know what’s going on.

The budget will be delivered, as is typical for any school project, through Highways and Public Works, which is working with Education on designing the school project. All the work associated with the school will be captured through that budget. That will be delivered through Highways and Public Works. My good colleague is in the wings waiting to discuss these matters with you, and I encourage you to ask him. He’ll have the same answer, though.

The Government of Yukon Management Board will sign off on the final design and approve the funding, and it will go through Highways and Public Works. That is generally how these things go.

Mr. Dixon: I appreciate that process for the school, but my question was about upgrades to infrastructure that has nothing to do with the school. For instance, the diamonds over here on Robert Service Way are very much removed from the school construction. I was just trying to understand: Is the budget for those infrastructure upgrades that were committed going to be found in the line item for the school replacement, or will the upgrades to Robert Service Way’s diamonds be in a different line?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I think that is a good question for Highways and Public Works, as they will be handling the budget for this project, as far as I know. We are there to interface with the sporting groups which I worked with on this project. I think we are into a hypothetical next-budget thing and we will see how that plays out, but I think that the questions are better placed with the person who will be building the school facility, which is that. To my mind, I think that the costs associated with the school and the disruptions to some of these sporting groups will be captured in the cost of the school.

Mr. Dixon: I appreciate that answer from the minister. That does clear things up from my perspective, and I will follow up with the Minister of Highways and Public Works when it is appropriate.

I would like to quickly move on to just an update on a question that my colleague asked a few weeks ago with regard to the Ross River pool. The minister had indicated that it had come to its end-of-life and that there were going to be some discussions with the community.

Can the minister provide an update on the discussions that Community Services has had with the community of Ross River about the replacement for the Ross River pool?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: As you saw me slink into my chair trying not to trigger a response too early — as I said last we spoke, the pool itself has been evaluated by the Department of Highways and Public Works, which confirmed that the severe foundation and structural issues have really undermined the facility. Permafrost has degraded it. It’s another example of how our changing climate is costing our government an awful lot of money.

As a result of these findings, the pool will remain closed this summer. The Ross River Recreation Society has been contacted and is aware of the ongoing efforts. The Ross River Recreation Society serves as the local authority for recreation in Ross River, receiving an annual contribution of almost \$111,000 from the Sport and Recreation branch to deliver a range of community recreation programs.

To support the recreation society, the Sport and Recreation branch is partnering with community organizations to offer Ross River residents access to aquatic activities this summer. This could include hosting a swimming clinic at Jackfish Lake focused on water safety as well as collaboration with the Town of Faro to provide access to its community swimming pool.

Mr. Dixon: Are there plans to replace the pool?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: At this point, no. We will have to work with the community to see where their priorities are going forward.

Mr. Dixon: Madam Acting Chair, I am cognizant of the time, and I do want to clear CS today, so I will try to be rapid here and I hope the minister will as well.

My final question was just on the Marsh Lake flood mitigation. I was just curious if there was any money in this year’s budget for work to be done on the south M’Clintock or Army Beach area with regard to flood mitigation. I know that the minister met with the LAC a few weeks ago and I presume received an update from the water committee, which is a subcommittee of the LAC. There is eagerness in that community to see some flood mitigation measures put in place in the Army Beach or south M’Clintock area — if the minister could provide a brief update on that, please.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: We have consultant reports expected on this Marsh Lake work by the end of May that will support our understanding of the appropriate next steps for flood mitigation in the region. We have also worked with consultants to better understand surface-draining constraints in the M’Clintock peninsula. Community Services is reviewing the results of the study in partnership with our colleagues at Highways and Public Works. The water committee has been actively engaged in this work, and we appreciate its continued efforts on this file. The local knowledge is very important as we work together to better manage and mitigate floods in this region of the territory.

Acting Chair: Is there any further general debate on Vote 51, Department of Community Services?

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

Mr. Dixon: Madam Acting Chair, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 51, Department of Community Services, cleared or carried, as required.

Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 51, Department of Community Services, cleared or carried

Acting Chair: The Member for Copperbelt North has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 51, Department of Community Services, cleared or carried, as required.

Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Acting Chair: Unanimous consent has been granted.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$121,442,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$100,490,000 agreed to

Total Expenditures in the amount of \$221,932,000 agreed to

Department of Community Services agreed to

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Madam Acting Chair, I move that you report progress.

Acting Chair: It has been moved by the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes that the Chair report progress.

Motion agreed to

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

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

Chair's report

Ms. White: Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 50, entitled *Inclusive Yukon Families Act*, and directed me to report the bill with amendment.

Also, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 217, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2025-26*, and directed me to report progress.

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

Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

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

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

Motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 5:26 p.m.