



# Yukon Legislative Assembly

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## HANSARD

Wednesday, March 16, 2022 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Jeremy Harper

# YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## 2022 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 — Emily Tredger, MLA, Whitehorse Centre**

### CABINET MINISTERS

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

### OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

#### Yukon Party

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

### THIRD PARTY

#### New Democratic Party

<b>Kate White</b>	Leader of the Third Party Takhini-Kopper King
<b>Emily Tredger</b>	Third Party House Leader Whitehorse Centre
<b>Annie Blake</b>	Vuntut Gwitchin

### LEGISLATIVE STAFF

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

**Yukon Legislative Assembly**  
**Whitehorse, Yukon**  
**Wednesday, March 16, 2022 — 1:00 pm.**

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

*Prayers*

**Withdrawal of motions**

**Speaker:** The Chair wishes to inform the House of a change made to the Order Paper. The following motion has been removed from the Order Paper as it is now outdated: Motion No. 284, standing in the name of the Member for Copperbelt South.

**DAILY ROUTINE**

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

Introduction of visitors.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I would like to ask my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly to welcome several guests whom we have here today for the tribute. We have with us Joe Mewett, the president of the Whitehorse legion; we have Inspector Lindsay Ellis, officer in charge of the Whitehorse detachment of M Division; we have Superintendent Dak Dara with M Division; we have Terry Grabowski, a recipient of a community safety award; we have Chase Blodgett, a recipient of a community safety award; and we have Melvin Lagersson, who is also is a recipient of the awards. With him is his son and his mother who is visiting here from Sweden. Welcome, everyone.

*Applause*

**Ms. White:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I ask for your indulgence and the indulgence of my colleagues, but it is not often that we get to invite someone and welcome them in a different capacity. Chase Blodgett has given so much of himself to make sure that we change the very rules that we govern ourselves with — especially when we come to human rights recognition and how that is there. It is so lovely to see him here in a capacity of not having to defend those human rights, but he is being celebrated for the human that he is. It's so delightful to have him here in such a happy capacity.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Tributes.

**TRIBUTES**

**In recognition of Community Safety Awards recipients**

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I rise today to recognize the 2020-2021 recipients of the Minister of Justice Community Safety Awards.

The Community Safety Awards were created to recognize Yukoners for their dedication to improving community safety through various initiatives, including activism, community outreach and support, excellence in emergency and first response, and volunteerism.

These awards were established in 2012 in response to the *Sharing Common Ground* report, which highlighted a need to recognize the contributions of Yukoners who promote community safety.

They are awarded every two years, upon the recommendation of the Community Safety Awards Nomination Selection Committee. Here in the Yukon, we are so fortunate to have many individuals and organizations who work tirelessly to build safer communities and are nominated by their fellow Yukoners.

Usually, we are able to host a lovely dinner and a community ceremony, but COVID-19 has forced us to be a bit creative. We delivered framed certificates and a personalized plaque to each recipient, and I had the pleasure of personally calling and congratulating each one of the spectacular individuals. It was so great to talk to each person about their award.

It is my true pleasure to speak here about each of these recipients.

Gerry Crayford, a volunteer with the Dawson City fire department for 46 years and three months, received the award for a lifetime contribution to community safety. Gerry has shown exceptional commitment to his community and as a role model and mentor.

Corporal Cameron Long received the outstanding community policing award for his incredible bravery in being dropped by a helicopter into Marsh Lake — not once, but twice — in the middle of a storm to rescue two people whose boat had capsized. The helicopter was piloted with exceptional skill by Melvin Lagersson, who was awarded the first responders award. Melvin's actions in operating the helicopter through a storm and locating the people resulted in this heroic rescue.

The mentor for youth award went to Willow Brewster, a long-time lifeguard and paramedic. Willow identified a need and developed a summer water safety skills program that was delivered in Old Crow and Teslin with the hope that these critical education day camps will be expanded to every Yukon community.

Our bridge builder award for human rights activism was given to Chase Blodgett for his continued efforts to promote safety and justice throughout our community and his efforts with recreational hockey and transgender inclusion. There are truly too many other achievements of Chase to mention here.

Angela Miller and Sue Rudd were awarded our exceptional project award for the Watson Lake system navigation project, which provides much-needed outreach and navigation services for individuals living with neurodevelopmental disabilities.

A volunteer award was given to John Moses, who works with Emergency Medical Services in Watson Lake. John is someone who takes action in his community in so many ways to help everyone, with a focus on the most vulnerable people and children.

Sergeant John Mitchell of the Dawson Rangers has been awarded the volunteer award for his 30 years of service. Sergeant Mitchell was integral in bringing new life to the unit in the early years and helped grow the Rangers into a community force.

Terry Grabowski, a veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces and community policing, works with the legion and the community to identify veterans and families who are in need. His work is truly outstanding. He provides information and help on local and national resources that enable veterans in need to access specific help.

First responder awards were presented to Corporal Tim Anderson, Constable Greg Tillack, Constable Eric Parent, Captain Scott MacFarlane, and Ryan Miller for their quick and heroic efforts to save people who were engulfed in a burning building in downtown Whitehorse in January 2021. Despite the considerable risk to themselves, their teamwork, as RCMP officers and firefighters, avoided serious tragedy.

Another first responder award went to Jesse Craig for his location and rescue of two men from Schwatka Lake. Jesse called 911, followed his training, and took quick action. He saved their lives.

A first responder award was given to Claude Vallier. While working as a CEMA officer, Claude came upon a person who appeared to be overdosing. Claude had 911 called, administered the Naloxone, and ultimately administered CPR, going above and beyond, and saved this person's life.

Scott McDougall, co-owner of Kanoe People, received a first responder award as well for his quick actions to save a man from the mighty Yukon River. Without hesitation, Scott used his considerable skills to launch a canoe and pull the man to safety. His courage and calm approach inspire us all.

Mr. Speaker, I'm so grateful to each and every Yukoner who contributes to our territory's safety. These Yukoners were nominated by their peers and have shown leadership and dedication to improving safety in their communities. We are all in their debt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*Applause*

**Mr. Cathers:** I rise today on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to recognize and to thank the recipients of the 2020-2021 Community Safety Awards.

The Community Safety Awards recognize Yukoners who, through their work, volunteerism, leadership, or acts of courage, contribute to community safety, and 18 people and one project have received awards.

I will not repeat what the minister said in listing some of the details of those awards, but I do want to recognize, beginning with Scott McDougall, co-owner of Kanoe People, for acting quickly to save a person from drowning in the Yukon River. He launched a canoe and reached the man, pulling him back above water and transferring him to an RCMP boat when it arrived. It's clear that his skill and quick response saved the man.

As a mentor for youth, Willow Brewster deserves recognition for her work to bring water safety and rescue skills programming to Old Crow and Teslin.

Helicopter pilot Melvin Lagersson, who is here in the gallery today, received an award for his contribution as a helicopter pilot to the rescue of two people from a capsized sailboat.

For the same rescue, Corporal Cam Long received the Yukon policing award. Corporal Long entered the water to assist both people.

Having personally seen Cam's professionalism in the field during a search a couple years ago, I would also like to thank him for his ongoing work on behalf of all Yukoners.

John Moses and Sergeant John Mitchell have both received volunteer awards. Mr. Moses goes above and beyond in his volunteering for Watson Lake EMS, and Sergeant John Mitchell led the Dawson Rangers for 30 years, until 2021. In addition to playing a key leadership role in developing capacity and skill of the Rangers and the Junior Rangers, Mitch has contributed to the Yukon in many ways, including breaking thousands of miles of trail for the Yukon Quest and Percy DeWolfe over many years.

Terry Grabowski received a well-deserved award for his work with the legion to identify and help veterans and families in need of assistance, and Terry himself, of course, is a veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Angela Miller and Sue Rudd received an award for the Watson Lake system navigation project, which provides outreach and navigation support for people with disabilities.

Chase Blodgett received the bridge builder recognition award for his efforts to improve safety for Yukoners who may be marginalized due to gender identity or sexuality.

Gerry Crayford was recognized for a lifetime contribution to community safety, as a firefighter and assistant fire chief in Dawson with service of over 45 years.

A number of awards were given to first responders in recognition of courageous actions, including Corporal Tim Anderson, Constable Greg Tillak, Constable Eric Parent, Captain Scott MacFarlane, and Ryan Miller. They all received awards for their role in assisting people during the Ryder apartment building fire in January last year, including two unconscious people who required first aid.

Claude Vallier assisted in saving the life of a person who was determined to be overdosing through CPR and the use of Naloxone.

Jesse Craig assisted two people who had flipped a canoe on Schwatka Lake in frigid temperatures, helping one to shore and helping both stay warm until help arrived.

On behalf of the Official Opposition, I would like to thank all of these people for their contributions to their communities and to their fellow Yukoners.

*Applause*

**Ms. Blake:** I rise today on behalf of the Yukon NDP to pay tribute to the recipients of the 2020-21 Community Safety Awards. From paramedics to activists, to community police and firefighters, the list of recipients shows the many ways we can increase safety in our communities and how many Yukoners are there and ready to do the work.

When I think about safety, I am reminded of the small communities across the territory that rely on the heroic acts of volunteers. Every day, these volunteers go above and beyond their roles to support neighbours and friends.

I want to congratulate the recipients on their hard work and on protecting Yukoners across the territory from harm. Each of you have exemplified what it means to be a community builder. In the last year, you provided your services, you have dealt with a pandemic, historic flooding, and more, depending on where you are in the Yukon.

Thank you for the dedication that you have shown Yukoners and for continuing to protect us in all our communities across the territory.

*Applause*

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

### TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Hon. Mr. Clarke:** I have for tabling the Highways and Public Works *Fleet Vehicle Agency Business Plan 2022 to 2025*.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I have for tabling a CBC article showing the Yukon Party and its leader's support for rent controls.

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

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

THAT this House supports the continued transition away from fossil fuels by investing \$1.7 million to electrify the Government of Yukon's fleet vehicles in this year's budget.

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

THAT this House urges the Alaska Senate committee on education to vote down Bill No. 140 as it would negatively impact transgender athletes and the transgender community.

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

THAT this House urges the Premier to ensure that his ministers follow the law, including the requirements of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, by taking actions including directing them to immediately provide a copy of the video from the meeting on November 9, 2021 between the Deputy Premier, the Minister of Education, and Hidden Valley school parents in response to an outstanding ATIPP request.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to increase housing options for Yukoners by reviewing the size and purpose of the Government of Yukon's involvement in the housing sector.

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

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### Macaulay Lodge site redevelopment

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I rise to speak about the future of the Macaulay Lodge site. Macaulay Lodge opened in Riverdale in 1969 and was the only continuing care facility in Whitehorse for many years. It provided a place for senior residents to call home. It was a vibrant and well-loved key area of our community for many decades.

In 2019, 50 years after it opened, Macaulay Lodge closed its doors for the last time. All of the residents have moved to other long-term care homes, including Copper Ridge Place and Whistle Bend Place.

The building itself has come to the end of its life and is slated for demolition this year. The demolition contract has been awarded to a Yukon First Nation business, United North Construction Group, and the demolition is expected to begin next month with completion slated for this upcoming fall.

The Macaulay Lodge site holds exciting opportunities for redevelopment and, in particular, new housing for Yukoners. Despite historic levels of new housing construction over the past year, as the Yukon's population continues to grow, there is still a need in our territory to build more homes for Yukoners.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to announce that the Macaulay Lodge site will indeed be redeveloped to build homes. Located at the intersection of Lewes Boulevard and Klondike Road, it spans a total of five lots within the established residential neighbourhood of Riverdale. The Macaulay Lodge site is within walking distance of services, is on major bus routes, is close to a neighbourhood park, and is near the bustling heart of Riverdale.

An expression of interest for the development of housing on the Macaulay Lodge property will be released in the coming days, and this announcement builds on our recent work to increase the availability of homes in the territory.

In 2022 alone, several new affordable homes will come online, including: the 4th and Jeckell Street community housing project; the Challenge Cornerstone supportive, an affordable housing project; the Normandy Living seniors residence; and the Boreal Commons rental project in Whistle Bend.

The development for the Macaulay Lodge site aligns with the goals laid out in the housing action plan for Yukon — in the Yukon Housing Corporation's strategic plan — by providing a rare opportunity to develop higher density housing in central Whitehorse.

We need to keep the housing development momentum going in the territory, and we must now plan for the needs of tomorrow. Redeveloping the Macaulay Lodge site for housing is part of that vision.

Thank you to the Yukon Housing Corporation, the Department of Highways and Public Works, the City of Whitehorse, and the United North Construction Group for their hard work to advance this project and create new homes for Yukoners.

**Ms. Clarke:** Thank you for the opportunity to speak to this today, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for re-announcing that the site of Macaulay Lodge will be used for housing. Of course, this was announced yesterday by the Minister of Highways and Public Works in response to a question from the Official Opposition. Of course, we support the development of new housing, as prices continue to increase.

This is why we thought it was important to announce this yesterday. I do have a question for the minister with respect to his plans for the site. In his remarks, he referenced that the site spans a total of five lots. I assume these details will be captured in the expression of interest. So, will the EOI be asking for the five lots to be developed individually, or will it be looking to have the lots developed as a single project? Also, the lots are currently zoned for residential, multiple housing. Will the minister be specifying that they remain as that type of zoning, or is the government open to different types of housing development to be explored on these lots?

I am also wondering about the value of the land. The most recent publicly available assessment of the value for each of these lots is just over \$2 million each. Does the minister know if that is still current? Also, is the plan to sell the land at market value to the potential developer?

Finally, I have a question for the sixth lot that is adjacent to Macaulay Lodge. Currently, this lot is made up of greenspace and runs adjacent to the backyards of several Teslin Road homes.

Does the government have any plans for that lot? Or is it planned to remain as greenspace?

Once again, thank you to the minister.

**Ms. Tredger:** Since 2019, people have been asking about what comes next for Macaulay Lodge — and with good reason. When the last resident was moved out, Yukon was already in a housing crisis. There were calls from my colleagues to use it as temporary housing, but they were told that the building was too old, too run down, and too toxic. When my colleagues asked when it would be demolished, there was never a clear timeline given.

I've heard from Riverdale residents questions as to why the lights have been kept on for the last three years, which begs the question: If the lights were on, has the water and heat also been kept on? If so, how much has it cost Yukoners to keep a building that will soon be demolished heated for three years?

We're glad that today's announcement is confirming what we had all hoped — that housing will be built in its place. Despite the new lots and projects that we have seen opening, and that are opening soon, the Yukon is still a long way from having enough housing for everyone who needs it — but we look forward to seeing folks being able to call this convenient location home once again.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** First, in response to the Official Opposition, I appreciate that it was felt that it was important to announce our project yesterday. Thank you.

Concerning the five lots, the reason that we're going through an expression of interest versus an RFP is because it actually gives us that ability to have very innovative submissions. At this point, we're not putting hard lines on what can possibly be there; we're looking for a plethora of different opportunities for housing in that spot.

Again, we'll continue to work with the City of Whitehorse, which of course controls zoning in that particular area, and based on what the submissions are, and working very collaboratively with them on all of our future projects in these areas and downtown Whitehorse, we have committed directly to the mayor and the city manager that we would make sure that we're sharing the ideas that come in and the work that can be done together.

Before we can talk about valuation on the five lots, one of the major concerns — and partially why we didn't look at demolition and then potentially have the same company or joint venture look to build to make it more efficient — is that there is a potential of contamination from some hydrocarbons. I think, at this point, we'll wait and see what the potential contamination is and if there has to be remediation before we look at a current valuation.

Again, there are no plans for that greenspace area, and that might let us move past having any public use dedication with the developer, but again, we will work with the city on those particular items. Concerning the O&M, we're saving about \$100,000 per year by not having that in place.

I can look for the conversation about the lights over the last three years. I am not sure about that one in particular, but I will endeavour to come back with a written response to you.

We continue to leverage multiple tools to address housing availability in the Yukon. We are ensuring strong, collaborative relationships with municipalities, private land owners, developers, and First Nation partners to speed up the development, approval, and construction processes. We are excited to see First Nation land being developed into residential lots. We applaud the Kwanlin Dün First Nation for leading the Yukon in residential lot development and creating new opportunities for homeowners.

We are moving forward in partnership with the City of Whitehorse to get both the Macaulay Lodge lot, the 5<sup>th</sup> and Rogers land parcel, and the tank farm property out to residential housing development while looking at both densification and mixed-market options, inclusive of home-ownership opportunities.

In addition, we are excited by the creative work underway by the Northern Community Land Trust — I look forward to speaking more about that in budget debate — which has received concept funding through the Yukon Housing Corporation's housing initiatives fund project concept stream. This project represents a new and innovative approach that will bring online affordable home ownership and housing for many Yukoners.

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

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: School replacement

**Mr. Dixon:** This year's capital budget for the Department of Education includes \$200,000 for what it calls "School replacement 1". Yesterday, in our briefings with officials, the deputy minister told us that this will begin the process of design and naming for a Whitehorse-area school that will be demolished and replaced. We were told that it is likely between three schools — Takhini Elementary, Selkirk Elementary, and École Whitehorse Elementary. Can the minister tell us which of those three schools is slated to be demolished and replaced beginning next year?

**Hon. Ms. McLean:** I will start by saying that we continue, of course, to work with school communities on planning for their short-term, medium-term, and long-term facility needs. We are pleased that work is underway on a new school in Whistle Bend and Burwash Landing. I talked about that yesterday in the reply to the supplementary budget. I am really happy that those two projects are going ahead.

We have a number of projects that are slated in the Government of Yukon's five-year capital plan. That includes school replacement and renovation projects to ensure that all buildings are safe and suitable for many years to come. The plan is based on current information and facility assessments. Should needs change, this plan is flexible and may be adjusted if, for example, safety issues are identified.

The priority for renovating or replacing schools is based on criteria such as building age, seismic mitigation considerations, operational needs, and enrolment growth. Some Whitehorse schools are nearing capacity, for sure. I have certainly had a chance to speak with almost every school council in the Yukon, and we have talked extensively in each of those discussions about infrastructure needs. I will continue to build on my answer.

**Mr. Dixon:** I think that the school councils and the school community at large would like to hear a clearer answer from the minister. Officials made it clear yesterday that an announcement was forthcoming, and if they have already begun the process of naming and initial design, they must know which school it is that they are demolishing. If this work is going to begin this year, as the budget indicates, they will need to engage with the school communities immediately, so I don't see why the government won't just tell Yukoners which school it is.

So, let's start with the most rumoured of those, Mr. Speaker. Is the school that the Liberals are demolishing or replacing Whitehorse Elementary — yes or no?

**Hon. Ms. McLean:** As I stated in my previous answer, I am working with all of the school communities and having discussions with them. I talked to nearly every school council throughout the Yukon. I have also been meeting with First Nation partners and discussing with them educational needs overall, and infrastructure certainly comes up on a regular basis.

We have allocated \$200,000 in the capital plan for preliminary consultation and initial design of an existing, aging Whitehorse replacement school. Conversations with Yukon school communities and the future First Nation School Board about longer term planning for their facility needs will be ongoing as decisions are made about future school projects, planning, and development.

I think that what is really important to note, Mr. Speaker, is that we are really doing the research, gathering the data, and making decisions based on that information. This is a new practice. The previous government did not take those steps. Their decisions were purely political in nature.

**Mr. Dixon:** It is a bit surprising that the government is being so secretive about this. Construction is set to begin next year, according to the budget, and so it seems unlikely that they haven't decided which school will be chosen.

For a government that ran on a promise of openness and transparency, they sure seem to be pretty secretive about something that will deeply affect so many families. But if they want to start construction next year, as the budget suggests, then they will at least have to have picked a location and secured the land and zoning. So, where will this mystery "School replacement 1" be located?

**Hon. Ms. McLean:** I think I have been clear that I'm having discussions throughout the Yukon with our school communities and, for sure, our schools within the Whitehorse area. Our government is working on evidence-based decision-making. The Government of Yukon has a five-year capital plan that includes a school replacement and renovation projects to ensure that all buildings are safe and suitable for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the preamble to this question really has the Yukon Party spreading rumours and speaking in ways that suggest things that are other than what we're doing. Our government is working with school communities. We're doing consultation. We're working with our partners, and when it is time to make an announcement, we will do that in the right way.

### Question re: School replacement

**Mr. Kent:** I have some more questions about this mysterious "School replacement 1" that is in this year's budget. We know that there's \$200,000 in the budget this year for designing the school, but let's take a step back to the 2018 budget that the previous Liberal government tabled. In that budget, the Liberals told us that they would be spending \$2 million for a scalable, generic school design.

At the time, we asked the Liberals about this, and they claimed that this was going to create a generic school design for the government to use in future school replacements. They claimed that this project would ultimately save Yukon taxpayers up to \$7 million as a result of not having to come up with new designs for each new school.

So, can the minister confirm that the generic school design that the Liberals spent millions on back in 2018-19 will be the design used for the mysterious "School replacement 1"?

**Hon. Ms. McLean:** I will again talk about our commitment to the work that we are doing around infrastructure and actually building new schools. That's something that our government is doing. We're really proud of the new Whistle Bend school, which is the first new elementary school in the City of Whitehorse in a few decades.

I'm really proud, of course — I talked yesterday at a bit of length about the Burwash Landing school, which is an exciting project that we are committed to working on with the Kluane First Nation and the community at large within the Kluane area. This is a long-standing request of the community that we're happy to be fulfilling. This government has a five-year capital plan that includes school replacement and renovation projects to ensure that all buildings are safe and suitable for many years to come.

Our commitment is also to building schools that create modern learning spaces. This is something that our government is committed to, and I'll continue to build on this answer as we go forward.

**Mr. Kent:** I'm not sure if the minister heard the question, but it was about a generic, scalable school design that was announced in 2018. Again, when we asked about that generic design in 2018, the former Minister of Education said that the Liberals were planning on spending up to \$3 million on this generic design, but they thought it was a good investment because it would save taxpayers as much as \$7 million in the long run. But now we know that they are spending \$200,000 on a design for this mysterious "School replacement 1" that they will not provide any details on.

So, can the minister tell us what the point of the generic design was and how much was actually spent on it?

**Hon. Ms. McLean:** Again, as the Minister of Education, I am very committed to working with our school communities and planning these facilities based on what the needs are in our educational community. Our designs going forward are designs that are creating educational spaces in a new and modern way. I think that the school that was built for the francophone school board is a really beautiful example of a modern learning space that takes into consideration ways of learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century model.

I'm very excited about the Whistle Bend school and the advancement of this project. Again, I am excited about what this will bring to our community and Whistle Bend, the fastest growing neighbourhood in the Yukon, and I am happy that we are investing in new schools.

Again, we are basing our decisions on research and evidence, and working with our partners, and we will continue to do that.

**Mr. Kent:** Again, this was a very specific question about a generic, scalable design for schools that the minister's colleague, the former minister, championed back in 2018.

So, on March 27, 2018, the former minister said — and I quote: "With respect to the scalable school design — potentially, it will cost up to \$2 million or \$3 million and will save approximately \$7 million, by our calculations, in the total school design costs over the next 10 years." She went on to say that this school design is — and I will quote again: "... to be

used for upcoming school replacement planning as we go forward."

So, can the current minister confirm that this so-called "generic, scalable school design" will be the one used for school replacement one in Whitehorse next year?

**Hon. Ms. McLean:** I will reiterate, as I have a couple of times already today, that we are working with our school communities. We are making decisions based on evidence and research and making sure that our schools meet the needs of Yukoners. We know that our population is growing, and this government has made a commitment for replacement of a Whitehorse-based school. We committed in our five-year plan to build the Whistle Bend school, which is underway. We are building a school in Burwash Landing. We have a number of other projects within the five-year capital plan that are based on facility assessments. Should needs change, of course, this plan is flexible and may be adjusted — for example, if there are safety issues and whatnot that may arise. The criteria for new buildings are building age, seismic mitigation considerations, operational needs, enrolment, and growth.

We are, again, continuing to work with our partners and to build modern, 21<sup>st</sup> century schools.

#### **Question re: Affordable housing and land development**

**Ms. Tredger:** Despite the housing crisis, this government has made it harder to build a house. Banks don't offer traditional mortgages to individuals for the construction of a home. When someone buys an empty lot, they can't just get a five-percent down, 25-year mortgage to build the house. Down payments are extremely high, and terms are short.

Up until 2020, all Yukoners wanting to build a house could apply for financing through the Yukon Housing Corporation's owners' building program. The government would finance the construction, and when the house was completed, the owner would get a traditional mortgage and pay back Yukon Housing Corporation. But in the midst of a housing crisis, the Yukon government has made that program unavailable to people in Whitehorse.

Will the minister commit to reversing his decision to exclude people living in Whitehorse from applying for the Yukon Housing Corporation's owners' building program?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** First, I would like to touch on the work that we have done with the Association of Yukon Communities for Yukoners. What we saw in our rural communities, first of all, was that when you took into consideration the mortgages that we made available, and you took into consideration the cost of land and the cost to build homes, it was capped at \$500,000.

I do appreciate the direction from the mayor of Teslin, Mayor Curran, as well as the members for the Association of Yukon Communities who spoke with me in September. We then made those adjustments so that you actually could go out and leverage more dollars through our program.

I think that's one of the key items. It was very difficult for people in rural Yukon to be able to access funds. In answer two, I'll speak to the situation with mortgages in the Whitehorse area.



**Ms. Tredger:** If the minister wanted more funds available for people living in rural Yukon communities — a laudable goal — there are a lot of options to do that, instead of restricting access of more than 75 percent of the Yukon's population to this fund.

Two weeks ago, this government announced that 42 single-family lots were being released to the public for a lottery this spring. The minister has gone on record saying that he will, for the first time, enforce the rule preventing developers from bidding on these lots. He hasn't told us how he plans on doing that. We have all since heard challenges and concerns from both individuals and developers about what this means.

Will the minister consider making some of these lots available exclusively to individuals and others to developers?

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** What I said last week in the Legislature, and what I also said in the media, was that we have released 78 lots. Most of them are in Whitehorse. There are several lots that are in Mayo. We had released, just recently, 26 commercial lots.

Of those lots here in Whitehorse, there are 42 lots that are designated as single-family residential lots. Those are meant for homeowners to bid on. Then they can turn around and hire contractors to do the development work on those lots.

There are also 32 townhouse lots, and those lots are meant for private sector developers. They develop them in blocks of five or six. That is the arrangement we have in the land lottery right now, and we are excited to be getting those lots out for Yukoners. It is very important. This is the work that the departments of Community Services and of Energy, Mines and Resources are doing to accelerate the number of lots we are creating for Yukoners across the territory.

We have quadrupled the budget in land development compared to the Yukon Party government, and we will continue to develop lots for Yukoners.

**Ms. Tredger:** On one hand, this government has restricted access to the government bridge financing for individuals to build a house in Whitehorse. This means that only people with hundreds of thousands of dollars up front will be able to build a house in Whitehorse. On the other hand, the government is also saying it will restrict developers — the very people with access to cash and financing — from building on available lots.

Can the minister tell Yukoners how he expects people to purchase these Whitehorse lots and build homes after he has cut the program that would help them access the affordable financing that they need?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Just for the record, we are not saying that; the member opposite is saying that.

Yukon Housing Corporation's loan and grant programs are designed to target the highest need in the territory, providing support to Yukoners with core housing without competing with traditional lenders. Our loan and grant programs are designed to complement federal initiatives and support fiscal responsibility.

However, it can often be difficult to secure adequate financing from traditional lending sources, and our loan and grant programs include, first, our developer-build loan, which

supports developers of new rental housing with bridge financing for construction. We also have our home-repair loans and grants, which include our home-repair loan and accessibility emergency repair grants for eligible Yukoners and our rural home ownership loan, which we talked about earlier, which aims to help Yukoners in rural Yukon to buy a house through a first mortgage or to build a home.

Speaking to the existing programs in Whitehorse, we want our loan and grant programs to be complementary to existing new federal opportunities. For example, we have taken into consideration that there is now the first-time homebuyer incentive program, which launched in 2019. It fills the housing gap previously covered by our down payment assistance program.

Again, the Government of Canada of launched this first-time homebuyer incentive program in September 2019, and the program provides an incentive for down payment to first-time homebuyers.

#### **Question re: Ventilation systems in schools**

**Ms. Van Bibber:** The Public Health Agency of Canada states that proper and upgraded ventilation in schools can help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. Since the onset of the pandemic, has the Government of Yukon upgraded any ventilation systems in our schools?

**Hon. Mr. Clarke:** Thank you for the question. The Yukon government continues to ensure that all Yukon government buildings, including schools, are safe during this time. Highways and Public Works maintains all government buildings' ventilation systems to the industry standard and performs regular inspections and maintenance. Prior to the start of the school year, all school ventilation systems were inspected and had maintenance completed, including having the filters replaced.

The government stays up to date on health recommendations and guidelines in order to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19. I can advise, Mr. Speaker, that every ventilation system in a Yukon government building, including schools, was designed to the ASHRAE standard of the day. All systems have been maintained to the standard that they were designed for.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** The Government of Ontario spent \$550 million upgrading ventilation systems in their schools last year to help stop the spread of COVID-19. How much money did the Government of Yukon spend last year upgrading ventilation systems in our schools?

**Hon. Mr. Clarke:** I will return to the member opposite with a specific answer to the amount of money that has been spent on ventilation assessment and ventilation upgrades in all Yukon schools, but I can assure the member opposite that, once again, the government stays up to date on all health recommendations and guidelines to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

I can also advise the member opposite — who will also know — that generally speaking, Yukon has been able to maintain full-time attendance of its students in all schools, with some exceptions, but certainly, an above-average number of

schools stayed open during the entirety of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Of course, we know that this impacts the mental health of students in an incredibly positive manner and that the results of having extended absences from school and extended Zoom sessions have led to fatigue and mental stress, so our schools are healthy.

**Question re: Kluane school relocation**

**Mr. Istchenko:** In the spring of 2018, the Liberals said that they were going to build a new school in Burwash Landing. At the time, they had \$50,000 in the budget for planning and design of the school. The minister at the time told the House that, in the following year, the government was planning on spending \$500,000 on the new school. At the time, the government said that the work on the school was to be completed by 2020. Of course, here we are, four years after it was first announced, two years after it was supposed to be completed, and there is no Burwash school.

Can the minister explain why this project has been significantly delayed?

**Hon. Ms. McLean:** Thank you for the question. I am happy to rise and talk about the exciting project that we're working on for a new build in Kluane. As I said yesterday and a little bit earlier today, this has been a long time in the making. It is a request of over 100 years for Kluane First Nation to have such a school built. We are certainly committed to working with the Kluane First Nation and the entire Kluane school community to ensure that the school is built in the way that they would like it. I am excited to get out to the community soon to see the site that has been selected. I will be excited as well when we get going on the building of it to do a proper blessing ceremony, as we did with the Whistle Bend school. We are really working in a different way with our school communities to ensure that our learning centres and communities are healthy and done in such a different and good way.

**Question re: Capital plan for schools**

**Mr. Kent:** I have some questions, again, regarding Education capital projects. Early in the last mandate, the former minister told this House that she would produce a 10-year capital plan for schools. Of course, that document has never been made public or, perhaps more likely, it was never completed.

Can the current minister update us on the status of the Education department's 10-year capital plan for schools and when we can expect to see that document?

**Hon. Ms. McLean:** I am happy to rise again today to talk about capital projects — again, a huge commitment from our government to build new, modern learning spaces and to look at the short-term, medium-term, and long-term facility needs. Before us we have a five-year capital plan that includes school replacement and renovation projects to ensure that all buildings are safe and suitable for many years to come.

What is included in this five-year capital plan is a new elementary school at Whistle Bend, the replacement of an existing, aging school here in Whitehorse, modular classrooms

in different places within the territory, including Selkirk school, Hidden Valley school, and Robert Service School. We are building the new Kluane school. There is ongoing stabilization work with the Ross River School. We also have done smaller upgrades to ensure safety in various parking lots at different schools throughout Whitehorse, and we continue to work closely with our school communities to ensure that our schools are safe and that we are making good decisions that are based on evidence.

I am happy to answer more questions about this.

**Mr. Kent:** I am not sure if the minister heard the question. Again, it was about the 10-year capital plan for school replacements that was promised by the former Education minister. So, it is clear that this minister is either unwilling or unable to answer that question.

But let's take a step back to 2018 again when the government tabled a five-year capital concept, and in it, they listed the Holy Family School and Christ the King Elementary School as being replaced. The former Minister of Highways and Public Works even confirmed that Holy Family was slated for replacement. In the following year's five-year capital concept, both of these projects mysteriously disappeared. One of the first five-year capital concepts tabled by this government in 2018 again listed Holy Family and Christ the King Elementary in the project list for Education.

So, can the minister tell us why the Liberals cancelled plans related to both of these schools?

**Hon. Ms. McLean:** The member opposite may not like the answers that I'm giving, but this is where we're at in terms of our planning and what we've been working on in our five-year capital plan, which includes a number of projects that I just listed. I'm happy to list them again.

We're excited about these projects. I've had discussions throughout the territory with school councils — and, of course, working government to government with Yukon First Nations. I know that these are new ways of working with our school communities. I'm excited to be doing that work on behalf of our government to ensure that our schools are safe and positive learning environments for all Yukon children.

We have had a lot of change in education recently. We do have a new First Nation School Board, which is exciting. We will be having a lot of really great discussions with Yukon First Nations about what that means in terms of capital and other work down the road. I'm happy that we're building the first new elementary school in Whitehorse in a number of decades, and we are going to replace another Whitehorse school soon.

**Mr. Kent:** So, unfortunately, the minister's responses are totally unrelated to the questions that we're asking here. That's where we have the problem.

The first Education annual report tabled by the previous minister in 2017 stated — and I'll quote: "... the goal will be to upgrade or replace one school building approximately every three years." Now, that was five years ago. According to that promise by the Liberals, we should be well on our way to having two existing schools either upgraded or replaced. Of course, the actual number is zero when we know that some

schools, like the Ross River School, desperately need replacement.

The planning documents tabled with this budget suggest that the first replacement will not be completed until 2026. Instead of a replacement every three years, it's actually every 10 years. Unfortunately, another missed timeline and broken promise by this Liberal government.

Can the minister please tell us why the Liberals have not prioritized replacing the Ross River School?

**Hon. Ms. McLean:** I'm happy to shift the focus a little bit and speak specifically about one of our schools. The health and safety of students across the territory is, of course, our top priority for the Yukon government. The Ross River School continues to be inspected quarterly by a multi-disciplinary team that includes an architect, a structural engineer, a geotechnical engineer, and a surveyor, so I thank the Minister of Highways and Public Works for continuing this good work to ensure that our schools are safe.

The latest building condition inspection report completed on December 15, 2021 confirmed that the school remains safe for occupancy. Work will continue on the existing school to keep it safe and to help prevent structural movement. I'm happy that we are working, of course, as I've said earlier today, with all of our school communities, having discussions and doing consultation and ensuring that we are keeping the pulse of our school communities. I will continue to do that work on behalf of Yukoners.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker leaves the Chair*

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Chair (Ms. Blake):** Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is continuing general debate on Bill No. 3, entitled *Act to Amend the Assessment and Taxation Act and the Municipal Act (2021)*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

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

## Bill No. 3: Act to Amend the Assessment and Taxation Act and the Municipal Act (2021) — continued

**Chair:** The matter now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Bill No. 3, entitled *Act to Amend the Assessment and Taxation Act and the Municipal Act (2021)*.

Is there any further general debate?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** We have talked an awful lot about this. We are already three and one-half hours into this discussion about a seven-page piece of legislation. I think I will just open the floor at the moment and then let the questions flow.

**Ms. White:** Just before we get started, because obviously I am not the leader of the Yukon Party, and for anyone who is listening, I obviously sound different.

I want to take us back, because the minister did just say it was three and a half hours of debate, which is true, but it means that I am coming in three-plus hours in.

The first thing I want to do, actually, is thank municipal leadership. I want to thank the mayors from Dawson, Mayo, Carmacks, Whitehorse, Teslin, Watson Lake, Haines Junction, and Faro. That is Mayor Kendrick, Mayor Ellis, Mayor Bodie, Mayor Cabott, Mayor Curran, Mayor Irvin, Mayor Tomlin and Mayor Bowers.

I say this because, last fall when this bill originally came forward, it wasn't going really well, to be honest. There was concern from the municipal level. I spoke to each of those mayors when I was negotiating with the minister in trying to put a stop on it and bring it forward.

I want to thank those mayors, because they trusted me enough to go through with the process. They trusted the minister enough to go through the process. Full credit to him and his department. We sat down — not me, I wasn't involved — but there were working groups created. They sat down and hashed out these details, and I think that is really important.

I want to say thank you to mayors Cabott, Irvin, and Kendrick, because they were at the leadership table of those discussions. They worked with their counterparts from the Liberal government — the ministers of Community Services and of Energy, Mines and Resources — to get toward where we are today. I think that is a really successful thing.

When we had this discussion in the fall, I said that I was committed to this, and I was, and I am. It's great that the minister got the letter from the Association of Yukon Communities in support. I appreciate that, yesterday, the minister tabled the letters and the plan and the recommendations, because I think that is really important to the clarity of the conversation.

I also hope that, when he does write that letter of confirmation that the Yukon government is accepting the recommendations from the working group, he tables that also so we can make sure that, in his words, the "full clarity" is available.

I just wanted to start our conversation with grounding it in the fact that there was a willingness from all sides to work together to get to this point. That is really important, because municipal leaders are committed to climate action, just as is the

Yukon government. Everybody worked hard to get us here, so I just want to thank those mayors.

I want to thank the Association of Yukon Communities because they also had to trust, when I reached out to them, that we could get to this point. I think it's really important that there is that acknowledgement that we can push pause on things and that we can all work together, because we're all trying to do it for the right reasons.

The minister is right that it's not a big piece of legislation, but the one thing I think that we have seen in the last number of hours is that what the possible program looks like is really what the conversation is right now. The reason why that conversation is happening around this possible program is that this is the opportunity where we have that ability.

But, maybe before I get into some of that, I want to know: Is the minister willing to have the opposition briefed just ahead of the release of the program or once that program has been created and is ready to be released?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I want to welcome my colleague across the floor to this debate — after three and a half hours of talking. The Leader of the Third Party was not part of those initial discussions, and it's great to have her voice on this issue because I know how important it was for her and we have worked together on this file.

I have also thanked the municipalities, the Association of Yukon Communities, the mayors, and the committee that did just an exemplary job working together to come to this agreement that we've come to — the recommendations. It really was fruitful work. It created a depth of understanding of municipal life and government life that I think was invaluable. It was a good process, and we are here.

It is a small bill, and I think the member opposite had asked whether I would provide a briefing to opposition before the program launches. Of course, I would be more than happy to do that. I think it certainly behooves us to let them know what the actual details of the program are once we have them better fleshed out because, at this point, there are some variables. We are working through some things. We have had that discussion over the last three and a half hours. Of course, I think that would be only right to have that type of briefing for the opposition.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that confirmation that the opposition will be briefed about this program.

I do want to talk about some of the goals that the minister highlighted initially when he announced that this program would be available. I just want to understand some more things.

Unlike my colleague from the Yukon Party, I recognize that there are many houses in Whitehorse that would qualify for this program — given the fact that I live in a house that was built in 1958.

When we talk about the property assessment over the market value, which I do think is really important — the property assessment for my house at this point in time has just crested \$100,000, which would mean that if I was to have access to the money at 25 percent of that amount, it wouldn't be very much money, is the honest truth.

So, when the minister talks about those metrics, has there also been a discussion of the cost of doing these retrofit

programs? Again, I will use myself as an example. In 2012, I insulated my house, and I accessed the Yukon Housing loan at that point in time — the home repair program. I accessed the full \$35,000 to insulate three sides of a house — I live in a duplex. So, I insulated three walls and added siding, so that was \$35,000, which would be more at this point in time than I could access through the better building program, based on the assessed value of my house.

When those numbers were calculated — has the minister thought about the cost of actually doing those upgrades?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I really want to thank the Leader of the Third Party for the question. It is a good one.

What the folks at Community Services and at Energy, Mines and Resources have done is that they have gone through and assessed all of the properties in the territory and taken out a number of things, such as properties with grants-in-lieu from YG or from the federal government, exemptions, and Yukon Housing Corporation, Yukon Energy, and Yukon Electrical properties — all of those things are taken out — those that are vacant as well. We have also taken out properties that are less than \$40,000 in assessed value, because that is sort of the tipping point where it just isn't useful to do this program on a property of that value.

When we did that calculation and looked at all the properties, we found that there are probably more than 2,200 properties in rural Yukon that would be eligible for this program or where it makes sense for it to be done. In Whitehorse, the estimate is more than 3,300 properties that are eligible for the program and where it would be worthwhile to get it done. In rural Yukon, in every community, there are literally dozens of homes in every rural community that would be eligible, given the property assessment, given the age of the home, given the condition of the home and everything else. We are looking at probably more than 6,000 homes across the territory — and commercial properties as well — that would be eligible for this program as it stands. We are looking to do 1,000 of them. There is an awful lot of work to be done here.

I guess the case could be made that if this program is successful, maybe we should keep going, but at this stage, we're going to stick with the 1,000 and see what we can do. And it looks like there's — in every single community, I think the smallest community — the community with the least amount of eligible properties under the assessed value is Carmacks with 28. So, you still have 28 properties in Carmacks that would be eligible for this, if they wanted to come forward. So, there's a lot here.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that. I apologize. I don't think I made myself clear, and so I will try again.

My house — I live in Takhini North. Its property assessment is just over \$100,000, which means at 25 percent, I could qualify for \$25,000 under the proposed building program. It cost me \$35,000 to insulate my house. I have not replaced my windows; I have not put insulation into my ceiling. That's just the wrap. I accessed initially the Yukon Housing Corporation housing and home improvement loan — or the repair loan or whatever it's called now — for \$35,000. I paid some of that down. By 2016, that program had been increased to \$50,000. I

went back, and I accessed the additional money, because I put in a heat pump. It's great, because now Yukon government has a heat pump program, which is 30 percent up to \$8,000 of a rebate. It cost me \$23,000 for the heat pump — to have it installed. It cost \$5,000 to have my house upgraded to 200-amp service, and I had to install a power pole for \$2,000.

So, I appreciate that there are many homes that qualify. I live in a neighbourhood full of homes that qualify. I live in a neighbourhood of homes that were built by the army in the 1950s, and I have mentioned it before that the army didn't care about energy efficiency or the cost of oil when they built these houses. They are drafty if they haven't been insulated. They are drafty, let's just say. My house was drafty before I insulated it.

One of the concerns that I have is that no one, even at my house, where my neighbours are selling their houses for substantially more than my assessed value — if I could only access \$25,000 through this program, it doesn't meet the \$35,000 it cost me to insulate it. So, my question is that — when we're talking about this program, I understand the goals. I think it's really, really important, and there's no dispute about it. The concern that I have is that it costs a lot more to energy retrofit a house than what that 25 percent of that assessed value is.

So, when we talk about those numbers — and if I lived in rural Yukon and my property was assessed for \$50,000 and I could only access 25 percent of that amount, that is not going to insulate the house. I just wanted to know if, within the department, there had been conversations about that.

I'm just putting this out there. Prior to its development — I'm trying not to be critical; I just have questions, because I'm trying to understand. So, this is just to put it out. I know that there are people behind the scenes who are doing all this work, and this is just to have that conversation with them through the minister and his official.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** We spent a couple of minutes consulting, because your point is excellent, and we understand that. The construction costs are rising, and how much are you actually going to get done for this? I think that, in some cases, there may be ways to stack — we will have to — when we are building a program, is there a way to stack this on a federal program or on a territorial program and actually gain leverage — so, more monies that people have — bearing options?

How much capital are the homeowners willing to put in themselves? So, this is a start, but maybe it is \$80,000 to wrap your home or whatever it is. This will cover \$50,000, and you will have to come up with an extra \$30,000 in some way, shape, or form, or maybe you just do three of the sides and live with it — come up with the money later. These are all fairly technical questions that are going to have to be worked out as we build the program and work with the Energy Solutions Centre to actually do this, and then there will be more details when we work with municipalities and try to deal with how the program rolls out to their properties, which will be different, probably, in places like Carmacks, Watson Lake, and Dawson than it would be in Whitehorse.

So, I am certainly as interested as the member opposite in the details. They haven't quite — there are a lot of moving

parts, and what happens federally in the five years? There are all sorts of things to come.

So, I will take her question seriously. I will say that, as we do these projects, as we do these programs, we implement them, we see how they react in the environment in which we are living. How much are building costs going to be in the wake of whatever tumult we have on the planet? And then we adjust, and we will try to readjust as this goes along. I don't think, at this point, that you can say the program will land and be set in stone. It will be a continual improvement, both with municipalities — in terms of how much their costs are and how it is working with them — as well as from the government, whether options come out in terms of energy efficiency loans and improvements and also in terms of the person obtaining the loan. It will be adapted.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that. I am glad to hear that the program will be flexible. Again, the minister referenced the \$50,000. I am saying that I wouldn't hit the threshold of the \$50,000 to this program. Then the question is: How many houses in the territory will actually hit the \$2,000 of the property assessment to qualify for that \$50,000? I will just put that out there, because again, I do not access it. I will just continue talking about myself, which is not comfortable, but I am an expert in what I have done to my house.

I actually did not get the energy assessment or the blower test done until 2020. In 2013, I insulated my house. At that point in time, the Energy Solutions Centre wasn't advertising the services of the energy audit folks who could come in and help you directly, so I didn't have a pre-energy assessment of my house. So, I did not have an energy assessment of my house before I did the insulation work in 2013, which means that I have an energy assessment that I did in 2020. I was given two things that I could do: I could replace all my doors and windows and I could insulate my basement floor. But if I did those things, I wouldn't meet the 20-percent energy savings that I probably would have had I had done it before these things, so I just wanted to know if the minister and the department are contemplating people being able to do these in steps.

This would be encouragement for anyone anywhere in the territory who may be thinking about home renovations. Get your energy audit done. There is a great rebate program right now, and it only costs you \$50 of the \$200, but it will help you in this case, because then you will know when you improve. Has there been contemplation within the department in the creation of this program for people like me, who have done a substantial amount of work and have been told that there are things we can improve on, but we will not have the energy audit that will say that it is a 20-percent improvement from those projects?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** The member opposite's personal experiences are informative. It's always great because you get real-world scenarios — real-world information, I guess, that is coming to the floor of the House.

I don't want to sound like a broken record, but we are talking about a lot of questions that will be coming before the Energy Solutions Centre, which is housed within Energy, Mines and Resources, and my good colleague can give me

some anecdotal information, but we don't have the officials here who are actually building the program. I will certainly, as I said, give the member opposite a briefing on this program once it comes forward.

I believe that what we're looking at is — there will be a point in time at which we say that this is what the program is, and we're trying to do 1,000 homes and trying to get a 20-percent reduction in both greenhouse gas emissions and energy savings.

Those are the broad parameters of the program. I don't know, at this point — if you had an energy audit done in the past X years, what is the threshold? I don't know, and I don't know what and who did the audit — if they are authorized or whatever. It's done through an official channel — whether we can use it. Have you had the actual work done or is it sitting there? Can we use that? It might help streamline the process, but I don't know how this will work. If it's staged, do we stage it from this point going forward? Everybody else who has done it is great, but we can't — that has already been done and we're looking to hit 1,000 new homes and hit the threshold.

There are a lot of these types of questions that will be worked on in the next few months with the Energy Solution Centre to see what happens.

As I said earlier today, we are looking at an eligibility list of almost 6,000 properties, which, to our eyes, have not seen any retrofits yet and have not done anything and are ripe for the picking. They sit in a pocket in all communities. They have the proper assessed values. They haven't got any encumbrances. They look like they would be prime candidates — more than 6,000 homes already — to hit that potential 20 percent and fully pull on this deal.

There are a lot of things to work out yet, but I take the insights from the member opposite to heart, and we will certainly bring them to the Energy Solution Centre's attention when they are starting to work with this program. We can get more information to you once we have that briefing.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that response. Again, in full disclosure, I am taking this opportunity to lay out different experiences because the program won't be created with input from people like me in it. There won't be that opportunity. I am just sharing my own energy journey because it has been an extensive one. I think, at this point in time, I am close to \$75,000 into my house to make it the most energy-efficient 1958-constructed army duplex in the world. It has the energy wrap, and it also has a heat pump because that is something I did.

Does the minister contemplate that these programs could be stacked? Could someone access both the stream for the heat pump and the thermal wrap?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** A few things I just want to hit on here — and I did miss a point that I was going to bring up in the last question with respect to energy audits. I hope everybody can hear me.

So, with energy audits with this program, we expect that there will be an energy audit as part of the assessment at the front end to determine whether or not the house is eligible and what sort of benefits they can see through a retrofit. There's

also a possibility at the end to see exactly how the retrofit went and what sort of savings were actually entailed. So, there's some sort of quality assurance process that we're going to work through for this. There will be, I imagine, certainly an assessment at the beginning and perhaps an assessment at the end, but whether it is every — or we'll do a sampling of people. We have to figure it out, I'm sure. So, just to be clear, there will be an energy audit component to this.

By the way, everybody, this is Matt King, my deputy minister. I don't think I did a good job of introducing him at the beginning, so this is the marvellous Matt King. Thank you, Matt.

So, there's that.

As far as the stacking goes, I hinted at this the last time, but there is an opportunity — we think there will be an opportunity — and that's what we have to do, look at this when we're building it. I think that will be interesting to see.

The other point as well is that the Energy Solutions Centre has been doing a lot of retrofits for a long time. They have a lot of experience in this field. They may not have been brought up to speed on your particular experience with your army duplex, but they will have had lots of experience with other army duplexes, we have to assume, and will be pulling on that experience to implement this program. That is to say, though, that, right now, I'm sure we have folks listening in and who are taking notes as you gave your experiences, so that will actually become part of the DNA of this as well. It is useful, and I thank you for that. I think that, for now, this covers off most of the points that I was going to say. I think that's enough.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that. Just to be clear, it was through the Energy Solutions Centre that I've done all this work, including trying to make a decision — do you replace the heating source ahead of insulation? The answer is no. Insulate your house before you change your heating source, because otherwise it's all for naught.

I understand the process, and I am happy to have the conversation with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources about this during budget debate, but this is just partially having these conversations in a public way only because we won't have the opportunity in a different way.

There are the two streams. There is the thermal wrap for a building, which is the insulation, the window replacement, and things like that. The second one, as I understand it, is the heat pump, which is the heating source. Can the minister let me know if there is any requirement — for example, if a community like Watson Lake, which is a diesel community, would be able to access things like heat pumps, or are they excluded from this stream?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I don't know. I will get back to the member opposite on that question. It's a good question. I am not sure. It may be that there are other alternative forms of heat that we might be able to do, perhaps biomass. This is where I think we have to get down to the discussions with each municipality to see what works for them, based on their community energy profile. Maybe that comes into that, as well. I hope that I'm not causing any consternation with the officials,

who are wondering what the heck this guy is saying. Anyway, we will work on this.

I will say that the member opposite did have a heat pump installed in her property — did she not? I think she mentioned some price. I will say that the estimate that we have for heat pump installation at the moment, which will provide a 200-percent improvement from oil, is approximately \$20,000. I believe that there is an \$8,000 rebate that you can actually access from the Energy Solutions Centre. Understand that I don't have those officials here with me today, but I am getting this information. If the price is \$20,000, there is a rebate that is available, so there would only be \$12,000 onto your local improvement charge. That would be a stacking, so there is some indication that might happen when we build this.

I just heard from Energy, Mines and Resources officials — thank you very much — from the ether — that Watson Lake is eligible for heat pumps, so there is your answer.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that. He alluded to the ability of possibly looking at different solutions in different communities. Again, through the Energy Solutions Centre, there are incentives or programs available for getting a more efficient, for example, wood stove. So, for some communities, if there is any community that doesn't qualify for the heat pump program, maybe looking at doing that and supporting better wood-burning things for biomass would make a lot of sense. Again, in some cases, it might even make sense in a community like Whitehorse, if you are already on a really efficient system — in my case, a heat pump — and you want to put in a wood stove, then maybe that is the thing.

I appreciate that the quote for the heat pump installation is \$20,000, but that doesn't take away the part where you have to get your other furnace removed and your oil tank removed. If you are lucky and you are in a house that has 200-amp service, then you don't need to do that upgrade. If you are in a house that does not have 200-amp service, you have to get it upgraded. If you are in an older neighbourhood where it is above-ground lines, you might actually have to install a power pole. So, I appreciate that one portion of that is \$20,000, and I can say from my own personal experience that it was more.

So, I just want to thank the ministers, because it has been a group affair across the way for having this conversation with me today, and really, it was me and my efforts to have this conversation with the people designing the program so they could hear from someone who has kind of been down the road a bit about my own experiences.

With that, I think that is it for questions about a program, understanding that today's debate is actually on the mechanism for communities to collect that money, which I am in favour of.

So, I wanted to take the opportunity today to talk about this program that doesn't yet exist, hoping that I can provide some feedback, and I do know that today's legislation is actually about a municipality's ability to collect this money in the future.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I do appreciate the context, the experience, and the questions from the Leader of the Third Party. I have enjoyed the conversation this afternoon. I will say, as well, just as sort of a footnote, that the Yukon government is

working with First Nation governments to see diesel communities incorporate renewable energy systems over the next five to 10 years. The better building program is part of the picture as an action toward the big picture. We know that, when we make our houses more efficient in the face of rising inflation, it's one of the actions we can take that is tangible and puts more money in people's pockets, reduces our reliance on fossil fuels, reduces our greenhouse gas emissions, and takes a step toward perhaps mitigating floods, wildfires, and the rest of it. So, it is all part of the big picture. I know that the member opposite knows that, and I really do appreciate her questions this afternoon and the conversation we have had.

**Chair:** Is there any further general debate on Bill No. 3, entitled *Act to Amend the Assessment and Taxation Act and the Municipal Act (2021)*?

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

*On Clause 1*

*Clause 1 agreed to*

*On Clause 2*

*Clause 2 agreed to*

*On Clause 3*

*Clause 3 agreed to*

*On Clause 4*

*Clause 4 agreed to*

*On Clause 5*

*Clause 5 agreed to*

*On Clause 6*

*Clause 6 agreed to*

*On Clause 7*

*Clause 7 agreed to*

*On Clause 8*

*Clause 8 agreed to*

*On Clause 9*

*Clause 9 agreed to*

*On Clause 10*

*Amendment proposed*

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Madam Chair, I move:

THAT Bill No. 3, entitled *Act to Amend the Assessment and Taxation Act and the Municipal Act (2021)*, be amended in clause 10 at page 6

(a) by replacing in the text of the new subparagraph 271.12(1)(b)(i) of the *Municipal Act*, as enacted by that clause, the expression "July 15" with the expression "October 1";

(b) by replacing in the text of the new subparagraph 271.12(1)(b)(ii) of the *Municipal Act*, as enacted by that clause, the expression "30th day" with the expression "45th day".

**Chair:** The amendment is in order.

It has been moved by the Member for Whitehorse West:

THAT Bill No. 3, entitled *Act to Amend the Assessment and Taxation Act and the Municipal Act (2021)*, be amended in clause 10 at page 6

(a) by replacing in the text of the new subparagraph 271.12(1)(b)(i) of the *Municipal Act*, as enacted by that clause, the expression "July 15" with the expression "October 1";

(b) by replacing in the text of the new subparagraph 271.12(1)(b)(ii) of the *Municipal Act*, as enacted by that clause, the expression “30th day” with the expression “45th day”.

**Ms. White:** I maybe just stole the thunder from the minister. This is a really important amendment. This is the one thing that municipalities said that they had a lot of anxiety about — being able to make the remittance at the same time that they collected their municipal taxes on July 1. This is an example of that working group and governments both working together. So, to have it move from July 15 to October 1 checks all the boxes that the municipalities needed to make sure that they had the opportunity to meet the requirements of the law.

I thank the minister for this amendment. This goes to strengthen this piece of legislation.

**Mr. Dixon:** Can the minister provide an explanation for why this wasn’t included in the original bill?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** The original legislation just mirrored, almost in its entirety, the wording from the initial program we had for rural wells.

In the conversations we’ve had with municipal leaders, we learned that they would really like to have this extended out. I believe those discussions happened through the fall last year. We heard from municipal leaders, and we weren’t sure at the time whether or not it was a fairly substantial amendment or not. We had to do the research. We did that over that time. I had committed to municipal leaders that I would look into this, and I did.

Thanks to the great work of Community Services, Energy, Mines and Resources, and Justice, we were able to get this amendment done since the House last sat. We weren’t sure if we would be able to do it. We did. We had a lot of consternation around some of the other programs, like the municipal well and electrification programs. We have worked on fixing those problems.

I really do want to thank the Leader of the Third Party for the comment. She is absolutely right. There has been a lot of collaborative work here, not only with municipalities, but also with these three government departments working on behalf of Yukon municipalities to improve something that has obviously been an issue for the municipalities. We are happy to have done that work in such short order.

**Mr. Dixon:** I am pleased to see this amendment come forward. It is clear that the consultation that occurred between the Fall Sitting and now was very important to address the concerns of municipalities. Quite frankly, this amendment wouldn’t have come forward if that work had not been done.

Of course, as we know, this is a case where this work should have been done before the bill was first tabled back in the fall. If it were not for the overtures of the opposition — both the Third Party and Yukon Party raising these concerns — this amendment likely wouldn’t have come forward. I would like to thank those folks in the working group for the work that they did between the Fall Sitting and now, which brought forward the recommendations that inspired this amendment.

We will certainly be supporting this amendment and note that it is the work of the thorough consultation that the

government conducted after tabling the bill that brought this forward. We are happy to support it.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** Actually, the wording of the bill has always been about enabling for municipalities. From before the bill was ever drafted, in our conversations with municipalities, we talked about working with them and working to develop the program that the Minister of Community Services has now done. We have always committed to them that we would see how the program worked and do continuous improvements, so that commitment had been there all along. I am happy that, working with the municipalities, they raised a specific question that they would like to see changed, based on the previous program they had with the rural well program, which was brought in by the previous government. That is great, and I’m happy that we’re able to get there now.

I think that we should note, though, that the commitment that has been made to municipalities is that we will continue to work on the program. If other improvements need to be there, we are committed to working with municipal partners so that the program will be of benefit to their citizens and not a burden to their government, and that has been the commitment all along.

**Mr. Dixon:** I just have one final question for the minister: Can he confirm then that this amendment is the only one necessary to implement any of the recommendations of the working group and that, once this amendment goes through, all of the recommendations of the working group will be satisfied in terms of the requirements of legislation?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** To this very, very specific and, it seems, somewhat leading question from the Leader of the Official Opposition, I will say that, yes, the amendment in this legislation allows local improvement charges to be levied. It is enabling legislation. It allows for energy-efficient retrofits to be charged as local improvement charges and for it to be administered and collected by the taxing authority. All other recommendations contained in the document are for framing by the program and program agreements with the municipalities. This is the only legislative change necessary to enable those recommendations — I am told by my legal experts at Community Services.

I would like to correct the record because I think that there is a little bit of revisionist history happening here, and I just want to make sure that the record is clear. I really do — I sense that the leader of the opposition is in favour of the program now, and I really do appreciate that support.

I will wait for the vote, but I appreciate the overtures of support for the program.

I will say that the Leader of the Third Party certainly has been a champion and has worked very closely with me on this file from the beginning. The opposition voted against this at second reading. So, they voted against this. If the opposition had its way — that’s the action we see in this House. They can say that they support it all they want, but the action that is recorded in the House was a vote against this legislation, which, had it gone down, would never have seen the light of day.



I just want to make that point — that hard point in the ground — because I do appreciate the support. I think it's a great program for Yukoners; I always have. I think it's great for the environment; I always have. I think it's supported by the labour, business, and the environmental groups and now municipalities. I think that's all great.

I think it's a great win for the territory. I believe in it, and I fought very, very hard to get it to this stage. I know we have worked with our colleagues in the NDP, but it was the Yukon Party that voted against this at second reading and this wouldn't be here today had that gone down to defeat.

I will say that, to the opposition leader's question, yes, this amendment to the legislation today does make good on all of the recommendations that the report had.

**Chair:** Is there any further debate on the amendment to clause 10?

Shall the amendment to clause 10 carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Count.

### Count

**Chair:** A count has been called.

### Bells

**Chair:** All those in favour, please rise.

*Members rise*

**Chair:** All those opposed, please rise.

The results are 15 yea, nil nay.

*Amendment to Clause 10 agreed to*

*Clause 10, as amended, agreed to*

*On Clause 11*

*Clause 11 agreed to*

*On Title*

*Title agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I move that you report Bill No. 3, entitled *Act to Amend the Assessment and Taxation Act and the Municipal Act (2021)*, with amendment.

**Chair:** It has been moved by the Member for Whitehorse West that the Chair report Bill No. 3, entitled *Act to Amend the Assessment and Taxation Act and the Municipal Act (2021)*, with amendment.

*Motion agreed to*

**Chair:** The matter now before the Committee is general debate on Bill No. 203, entitled *Third Appropriation Act 2021-22*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

### Recess

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

### Bill No. 203: *Third Appropriation Act 2021-22*

**Chair:** The matter now before the Committee is general debate on Bill No. 203, entitled *Third Appropriation Act 2021-22*.

Is there any general debate?

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I am very pleased to rise this afternoon to begin Committee of the Whole debate on the *Third Appropriation Act 2021-22*. Bill No. 203 is a second supplementary estimate for the fiscal year — third appropriation, second supplement. This is for the current 2021-22 fiscal year.

As members know, the supplementary budgets exist to provide spending authority for unforeseen events that could not have been anticipated at the beginning of the year. Traditionally, this has included funding to respond to natural weather events, like flooding, forest fires, or even record snow levels. In the last two years, however, these adjustments have also been needed to make sure that Yukoners and our economy remain healthy and strong during the global pandemic.

This year, our government took early steps to forecast this evolving situation. We did our best to deliver a budget that continues to support Yukoners and Yukon businesses over the year, while also trying to minimize the fiscal impacts of these very unpredictable events.

In the 2021-22 budget, this government introduced a COVID-19 contingency fund for the first time. This tool allowed us to remain flexible in the face of unexpected variants, necessary public health responses, and funding to support Yukoners as well. By building this into the spring budget for the year, debating the use of funds, and voting on the appropriation, we demonstrated our commitment to remain transparent and accountable for where these dollars are spent. In the fall, we made use of this fund in order to absorb \$4.5 million in costs. This allowed us to support the Yukon tourism sector to ensure that Yukoners could continue to access the COVID-19 call centre and, lastly, to make sure that Yukon government buildings were effectively cleaned and sanitized for the safety of those who not only work in them, but also visit them.

Today, we are once again drawing on this fund to respond to new challenges and to reduce the fiscal impact of the pandemic on the territory. I will get to these items in a moment.

First, I want to state for the record that it is partly thanks to the COVID-19 contingency fund that we are able to present the improved fiscal picture for the 2021-22 fiscal year that members see today. With that, I will get into the numbers included as part of the supplementary estimates.

So, this year, the *Third Appropriation Act 2021-22* forecasts an increase of \$30.3 million in new operation and maintenance and capital spending. This is made up of \$24.7 million in gross new operation and maintenance spending and just \$5.6 million in gross new capital. On the capital side, this increase in new expenditures is offset by a decrease of \$16.5 million, resulting in a net decrease of \$10.8 million in capital. On the O&M side, there are no decreases to note.

There is also an additional \$58.1 million in revenue included in this supplementary estimate. The bulk of those revenues, as I mentioned yesterday, is the result of additional taxes and general revenues, as well as a recent grant from Canada. These changes are forecast to result in a revised surplus of \$25.5 million, which reflects a significant improvement in the government's fiscal picture from the first supplementary estimates. Year-end net debt is forecast to be \$96.6 million, which reflects a reduction of \$86.6 million from the first supplementary estimates.

As I mentioned during second reading, this is the result of adjustments following the tabling of the Public Accounts back in October, as well as the improvement in the surplus deficit position.

With respect to O&M, in addition to the \$24.7 million in new expenditures, the government will also see an increase of \$3.1 million in new recoveries. Again, this is approximately the same amount of O&M expenditures that we saw for the same period last year. Of the total expenditures, \$11.4 million is COVID-19-related funding, while the remaining \$13.3 million is directed toward other areas of need.

I would like to provide a further breakdown of this funding beginning with the COVID-related spending. The largest funding initiative by cost is \$5 million from the Department of Health and Social Services. Funds included as part of this appropriation bill will support ongoing costs related to testing, vaccine rollout, rapid testing, implementation, and self-isolation costs. It will also go toward supporting additional needs within the Yukon Hospital Corporation. All of these requirements under the Department of Health and Social Services are being funded using the COVID-19 contingency fund. This means that the \$5 million in funding required for these initiatives can be allocated without impacting the government's overall fiscal position.

A total of \$4 million in operation and maintenance funding for the Department of Economic Development's COVID-19 supports is also being funded from the COVID contingency fund. This money will ensure that funds are available for both the Yukon emergency relief program and the vaccination rebate program.

This also includes \$3 million under the new stream of the tourism non-accommodation sector to ensure that local businesses have the support that they need to remain open and provide the products and services that Yukoners rely upon. This drawdown of \$9 million also means that the COVID-19 contingency fund leaves a balance of \$1.5 million in additional capacities.

Moving on to COVID-related spending outside of the emergency fund, this second supplementary estimate includes \$2.4 million for phase 3 aviation supports. This funding is a flow-through transfer and is therefore entirely recoverable.

Turning now to the non-COVID funding, again, the largest individual expense is for the RCMP member wage and contract increases as a result of the requirements in the new collective bargaining agreement, and \$3 million in O&M is budgeted for this item.

The Department of Justice will also see increases for initiatives that enhance access to Justice services. This includes \$1.1 million for judges' pensions and salaries, based on the 2019 Judicial Compensation Commission's recommendations. It also includes: \$625,000 for strengthening safety, access, and justice for Yukon victims of crime; \$150,000 for the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court project; and \$590,000 for increases related to outside counsel expenses for COVID-related legal challenges. The first two initiatives are entirely recoverable.

The Department of Education will also see increases as part of this supplementary estimate. The two most notable items are \$1.6 million for the new Yukon Association of Education Professionals collective agreement and \$1.3 million for universal childcare, based on average monthly program costs.

The department also has \$213,000 in the supplementary budget related to the enrolment changes formula and for costs associated with organic waste collection.

Moving now to the Public Service Commission, we are requesting O&M increases of \$629,000 and \$711,000 for the post-employment benefits and post-retirement benefits respectively. The commission has also included \$630,000 in their supplementary budget to meet WCB premiums.

Finally, in the Department of Economic Development, there is a \$500,000 increase in funding for the film location incentive fund, due to an application from Raw TV.

This second supplementary estimate also brings along with it \$3.1 million in new O&M recoveries. As mentioned earlier, the largest O&M recoveries outside of the aviation supports come from the work we are doing to support Yukon victims of crime, as well as work on the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court project in the Department of Justice. The other O&M recoveries included in this supplementary budget are allocated to work being completed in the Women and Gender Equity Directorate. \$90,000 in recoveries will offset funding for the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council, for the Sally & Sisters program, included in the first supplementary estimates and under the prevention of violence against aboriginal women fund.

I would like to move to the capital side of the second supplementary estimates. On a net basis, this supplementary estimates includes \$4.5 million in new capital spending, when offset against corresponding decreases. In terms of increases, this bill includes relatively few, though those that are included are worth noting.

The single largest capital expenditure included in the supplementary estimates is for the Safe at Home Society under the Yukon Housing Corporation. This \$5 million in funding will go toward renovating and refreshing the former High Country Inn, adding a total of 55 supportive housing units to the community. Also, within the corporation is a \$300,000 increase to the rural home ownership program, due to higher demand and higher rates of home ownership programs in the communities. Both of these items are fully recoverable.

These increases within the Yukon Housing Corporation are offset by a \$1.1-million decrease to the northern carve-out funding agreement with CMHC. This decrease in costs is due

to delays in progress on this project, as only the scoping and design phase have been completed in 2021-22. The remaining funds will be deferred to the 2022-23 fiscal year to match the project completion timeline. This spending decrease also results in an \$825,000 decrease in associated capital recoveries.

The only other increase in capital is under the Department of Justice, where the work being done to support victims of crime also includes \$60,000 in capital, and \$70,000 is also included for work on the new morgue in Whitehorse.

Other capital decreases would include \$2.6 million for the Dempster fibre project, due to earlier than expected winter weather, and \$12.5 million in Yukon Development Corporation projects, including the Arctic energy fund and the investing in community infrastructure program, or ICIP for short. The latter carries a corresponding decrease in recoveries, as work in these areas will shift to the next fiscal year.

Finally, in capital, there are also some changes to projects within the Department of Education. There is an increase of \$204,000 for modular classrooms. It's offset by a \$420,000 decrease for the Selkirk parking lot project and \$85,000 for the Burwash school as a result of supply chain issues. The resulting change is a net decrease of \$375,000 in recoveries.

Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to speak to the changes in revenue as part of the bill. As I mentioned earlier, this supplementary estimates includes a significant increase in revenues. This \$58.1-million increase is primarily the result of a large increase in tax revenue. Tax revenue in the supplementary estimates is expected to increase by \$33 million. This is made up of \$19.7 million in personal income tax increases and \$12.8 million on the corporate income tax side. This is primarily a result of an improved outlook for total and average personal income in the territory and reflects the strength of growing salaries for those working in the Yukon.

Previous forecasts were conservative and assumed that the COVID-19 pandemic would negatively impact personal income, both in terms of total income from all taxpayers, as well as the average income of taxpayers. This increase is partly due to temporary emergency federal income supports, but a large portion of the increase is expected to continue in future years, as well, which is good news.

Insurance tax premium increases are expected to bring in \$875,000 in additional revenue, while tobacco tax and fuel tax revenues are expected to decrease slightly by \$25,000 and \$331,000 respectively.

Finally, the Government of Yukon will see \$25 million in federal funding from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada — CIRNAC. This funding was received late in the fiscal year and will go toward meeting our commitments as part of *Our Clean Future*. As noted during second reading, this grant has a corresponding impact of \$25 million on the Yukon government's surplus deficit position.

This concludes my overview of the changes included as part of the 2021-22 second supplementary estimates. I would like to once again thank the department officials who worked to support this budget process and also to my official here today, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Scott Thompson. He is

ready to go and inform me as we go through this debate. I invite members to request further details on any of the areas, including the supplementary estimates, and to direct department-specific questions to respective ministers during their departmental debate part in Committee.

With that, Madam Chair, thank you, and I will cede the floor to the opposition.

**Mr. Cathers:** I am pleased to rise in debate as the Official Opposition Finance critic on the *Third Appropriation Act 2021-22*.

As I mentioned in my speech on the 2022-23 budget, the pandemic has created a lot of strain on people and on our society. It is important to remember, especially as we talk about Yukoners who we are elected to serve, that we may not always agree with each other, but we don't have to agree with people to care about them. We can respect citizens who disagree with us and with whom we may disagree. As their elected representatives, that is what people expect us to do — to show them the respect that they deserve and to not lose sight of the issues that are important to them.

This winter has been tough on many Yukoners. I have heard from a lot of people who are really not doing okay right now. Government needs to rise above differences of opinion and the politics of division and recognize the importance of helping all Yukoners and listening to them. This is a time to recognize the importance of leaders across the country showing respect for citizens and focusing on unifying our country. Some have chosen to use very divisive rhetoric during the pandemic, both at a national level and in this Assembly, but that rhetoric is not helpful. Polarization in our society is causing real damage to families, friendships, and people. We need to unite our society, not divide it.

As we stated in the letter that the Leader of the Official Opposition sent to the Prime Minister last month — and I quote: “We also urge you to recognize that there are deep divisions in Canadian society right now, and it is time for all leaders to show respect for citizens, including people with whom they disagree, and to focus on unifying our country. We need to come together as Canadians again, and jointly find a path forward.”

Madam Chair, I would like to talk about some of the issues that we are hearing from Yukoners that are affecting their lives. In addition to the pandemic, and in some cases made worse by the pandemic, these issues continue to be raised by Yukoners. Over one-fifth of Yukoners don't have a family doctor. We have repeatedly urged the government to reinstate the physician recruitment position that they cancelled and to work with the Yukon Medical Association on improving recruitment and retention of doctors. Unfortunately, there has been a disturbing lack of action in this area. The family doctor shortage crisis is adding to the wait-time crisis. We have heard repeatedly from Yukoners that they are waiting too long for specialists, for surgeries, for MRI appointments, for other appointments, and for other important health services.

We've heard from our hospitals and health care professionals about the unacceptably long wait times. Tragically as well, families and communities are dealing with

the loss of loved ones due to drug overdoses right now. The government's actions in dealing with the opioid crisis to date have focused heavily on harm reduction and have not put enough emphasis on prevention, treatment, and enforcement.

Now, Madam Chair, we do want to again emphasize that we support effective harm-reduction programs, but it is also very important for government to focus on prevention, treatment, and enforcement and on the number one goal of any strategy of this type, which should be trying to help as many people who are addicted to break free of their addictions and to lead healthy lives free from that addiction and the health risks associated with it.

On an international stage, Yukoners, Canadians, and people around the world are seeing images and videos from Ukraine resulting from Russia's illegal invasion and watching that tragedy on television and online. Homes are being destroyed, innocent people are dying, others are being injured, and still more innocent people's lives are severely impacted as a result of Putin's illegal and immoral invasion. There's a growing refugee crisis with millions fleeing already. Ukrainian armed forces and volunteers are showing the world what courage looks like as they face the Russian invaders, fighting for freedom and democracy in their homeland. Yesterday, President Zelensky addressed the Canadian Parliament and today he addressed the US Congress to ask for more help. The crisis in Ukraine is world-changing. It will affect a number of things here. It has already affected prices of fuel and many other goods, and it affects the supply chains in ways that people did not anticipate before it occurred.

Germany has announced that it is doubling defence spending and there are growing calls for NATO countries, including Canada, to increase defence spending. This world situation is not of our choosing, but we must rise to meet it. As members will recall in the first day of this Sitting, the Leader of the Official Opposition and I both expressed support for sanctions on Russia, support for helping Ukraine with resources, including weapons and equipment, and urged support for refugees leaving the conflict. We again urge the Government of Canada to recognize the importance of making protection of our Arctic sovereignty a top priority by taking immediate action to modernize and strengthen our air force, navy, army reserves, and Coast Guard. I have also heard Yukoners raising the issue and suggesting that we should have a reserve unit stationed here in the territory.

Few people are driving a vehicle made in the early 1980s, and likely no one here in this Chamber or listening in the Yukon is using a computer that was made then, but Canada's newest fighter jets were made in the early 1980s. The navy, army, and Coast Guard have also been neglected. As Canadians, we need to recognize the importance of ensuring that we can protect our country and come to the assistance of our allies. I should also note, in expanding on the point that I made earlier, that an important part of protecting our Arctic sovereignty also includes our Canadian Rangers and also reconsidering whether, potentially, the size of that force should be increased to deal with a potential growing threat.

I would like to thank the Member for Kluane and others who serve in the Rangers for their service to the country.

As Canadians, we need to recognize the importance of ensuring that we can protect our country and come to the assistance of our allies, as well as asserting our sovereignty.

I urge the Premier and his government to make Arctic sovereignty a high priority and to work with the federal government, territories, and provinces on this important issue, as well as with the State of Alaska. To that end, I would ask the Premier whether he has contacted the Governor of Alaska to discuss Arctic sovereignty. I would also ask him what steps the government has taken to prepare to welcome and help refugees from the Ukraine.

Madam Chair, I have had people contact me wanting to help refugees, including offering housing supports for Ukrainian refugees if and when they arrive here in the Yukon. I would ask the Premier if he could indicate who they should contact, either in government or in another organization, to offer this help.

Madam Chair, as I draw my introductory remarks and questions to a close, I do want to note that yesterday when we began debate on this additional spending by government for the current fiscal year ending on March 31, I kept my speech at the second reading stage brief, noting that I would save my questions for Committee of the Whole today. In response, the Premier spent a surprising amount of time going through a long list of grievances — both real and imagined — with the Official Opposition and me personally.

I'm not going to waste much time responding to that, but I will say this: Ordinary Yukoners really don't care whether the Premier dislikes the Official Opposition Finance critic. Yukoners want us to focus on the issues that are important to them. If the Premier wants to spend his time in this Assembly taking shots at me, have at it. I have broad shoulders and thick skin.

I'm going to focus on issues that are important to Yukoners. I will continue to ask tough questions, even if the Premier and his colleagues don't like them.

I should also advise them that, if the Premier and his ministers refuse to answer questions or give unrelated non-answers from their talking points, they should absolutely expect us to continue to call them out on it. That is our job.

Demanding accountability from ministers is what people expect the opposition to do, including when the government would prefer not to answer a question or prefer to not answer it directly.

On that note, I have a number of questions for the Premier about spending in this supplementary budget. I am going to start with a short list of five questions.

First of all, can we get a breakdown of the \$9 million in additional COVID spending in Health and Social Services? The Premier made reference to that amount and what it covered, but we didn't actually get dollar amounts indicating what the breakdown was for each of those amounts. We would appreciate that in the interest of public transparency.

Second question: How many government employees will still be on leave without pay after April 4?

Third question: On April 4, will unvaccinated EMS and fire volunteers, who are covered by the vaccination mandate, be allowed to return to work and serve their communities?

The final question that I will ask, number five on the list, is: How much total revenue did the government receive in the fiscal year that we are finishing now from the insurance premium tax?

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I will start — probably not in a surprising fashion for the member opposite — by disagreeing with him. I don't dislike the member opposite at all, actually. I have been on record with friends and colleagues and others talking about the work ethic of the member opposite. Anytime that we are ever at public events, I make sure that I get out and say hello to him and see how he's doing. I always have, and the member opposite can correct the record, if he feels, but that has always been my approach to him. I have heard people from his riding talk about his diligence as an MLA in his riding, how quickly he gets back to folks. Even if he might not necessarily agree with them politically, he gives them the time of day. The member opposite is wrong; I don't dislike him at all. I actually have a lot of respect for anybody who puts their name forward for political service — absolutely. I don't take any of this personally.

However, if the member opposite is going to start something by saying something on the record, I really do have to defend myself, and that is what played out yesterday. But, if the member opposite keeps it to questions that are pertinent to the debate, I will too. I will make that commitment to anybody in the opposition. I always have. You can read through Hansard and see that.

If provoked, I will definitely react. But, at the same time, I would rather talk about these things in Committee of the Whole that are pertinent to the bills and the responsibilities that we all have as legislators, not only to present bills, but to do the research necessary to do the critique of these bills as well. I will give credit to those as well who are well-researched and have questions that are based on the reality of their constituencies.

I completely agree with the member opposite with his comments about politics of division. Maybe when the member opposite gets to his feet, he could give us examples of some of the conversations that he has had internally with his party as to his strategies for opposition members when it comes to being a little bit divisive and working across political lines. We've said it for — well, I have said for my whole political career that there are good ideas from the left and from the right, and our moderate party on this side is made up of people from — you can't even draw just one linear line as far as left or right politics. The folks on this side of the House bring forth a representation of their ridings, and we know very much on this side of the House that ridings are not made up of one side or the other, although I'm sure there are lots of ridings in the Yukon that have a political population that is overwhelmingly for one party or the other, for sure. We've seen that historical trend, but I don't think that anybody in this House should ever, as a political figure, only concentrate their efforts on the votes that they know they got.

So, again, politics of division, whether it's local or international — this is the time to have those conversations. As we see the world around us and the trauma and tragedies that are playing out on the national stage, it does beg the question internally here: How are we going to, in our small but very significant part of this world, contribute to a kinder, gentler political world? Amen to that. I will agree with the member opposite on that — absolutely.

The member opposite started by talking about family doctors. Again, I will leave a lot of the conversation to the Department of Health and Social Services when they are up on their feet. In terms of nurses and physicians, the *Putting People First* report found that approximately 21 percent of Yukoners don't have access to a family physician. As we implement the recommendations from the report, we remain committed to expanding Yukoners' access to primary health care services.

We live in very interesting times, Madam Chair. The specific nature of cancers that we're seeing in younger populations across the world, and specifically in Canada, is a real issue for the medical community right across Canada. Finding those specialists, as well, and being able to partner with other jurisdictions is very challenging.

We are so blessed in the Yukon with our partnerships that the Department of Health and Social Services and the minister have created through regular times, and in COVID times, with partnering with BC and getting us to the front of the line for COVID testing.

Also, in these conversations, it really does help to kind of paint the picture to what I see as a whole new mindset of young doctors. It's about balancing their lives. It's about having more ability to get out onto the land. If you're going to move to the land, you're going to want to get on the beautiful lands that we do have.

This is something that we're seeing right across the country. Doctors are balancing their lives out. Being in a family that has doctors in it, these folks have chosen a profession that monopolizes all of their lives. Whether it's through the studying phase or into the first few years, it takes a lot out of you, that's for sure, and there's a real strain on the family. So, to have a mindset that "I want to balance my life out" — that's kind of what we're seeing in the numbers right now.

Our government is aware that some local physicians have chosen primary care practices and transitioned to our acute care facilities, or moved out of territory, and recognize that this has an impact on both the walk-in clinic in Whitehorse and also Yukoners who receive that primary health care from these providers. We completely recognize that. Unfortunately, the pandemic has impacted recruitment efforts as well. It has resulted in some additional staffing pressures in Yukon, for sure, but it has right across the whole country, as well.

Here is a good example, Madam Chair. Between 2017 and early 2020, there was a five-percent vacancy rate among primary health care nurses within the Community Nursing branch. During that period, no agency nurses were required — none. Now, due to the pandemic, there is difficulty recruiting, and the vacancy rates are fluctuating higher than five percent now. The pandemic has specifically impacted our ability to

recruit nurses, physicians, and other care providers. There currently is a national and global shortage of health care workers.

We have continued to recruit through national and online forums, and we have supplemented staff with agency nurses and also out-of-territory resources, as well.

I'm not going to go too much farther down this road. There is a lot to be said about it; it is a complicated issue, not just here in the Yukon, but also right across the country and the world. But as we go out and recruit, to explain the progressive world that we live in here in the Yukon — the mosaic of communities that we have, the partnerships in our communities and our efforts on reconciliation, our beautiful vistas, our mountains, our trails, our opportunities to get out on the land and to enjoy the land — this is something that professionals really have in mind. It is also something that people have in mind these days with eco-tourism, as well, recruiting either doctors or getting people up here to visit on a tourism basis — we have so much to offer.

So, past the pandemic, we will get back to, hopefully, better numbers as far as recruiting, as far as the economy, as far as moving around our communities and enjoying our land and meeting with the people in communities again who we serve.

I do know that the department — the last I will say on this — has been exploring opportunities to contract additional nurse practitioners to service some existing clinics. Additionally, work is underway to expand access to virtual physician services. I will leave the rest of these details to the minister responsible, as she gets to her feet.

The member did start with COVID-19, as well, talking about the needs of Yukoners, and we recognize that. We recognize that COVID-19 has been extremely difficult on everybody — on absolutely everybody. I don't know of anybody — let me go back and say it this way. I can remember the first days of Bell Canada's "Bell Let's Talk", and you know, being a politician and the MLA for Klondike for going on 11-plus years now or more, almost 12 years, those original campaigns before the pandemic — it was interesting to see who was advocating, who was coming out for those volunteer days to help volunteer with Bell Canada, or anybody else who was doing any initiatives, when it came to mental health and wellness, and it wasn't the whole community. The last campaign — it was the whole community.

There is not one person who is not affected by mental health because of this pandemic, from very small to very large ways — very profound ways. That is absolutely true. We put things in perspective. We take a look at where we are in Yukon compared to the other jurisdictions in Canada. We have it so good here — we really do, comparatively, but that is not to say that we haven't struggled mentally, financially, emotionally, and physically.

It has been a strain on everybody — it really has — since the day that this pandemic started. Every single politician and every single MLA who is in this building here never signed up to be a representative of their community during a global pandemic. That was a very daunting task for every single one of us. I commend everyone in this room. I can't imagine the

number of phone calls, the support, concerns, and travel that you've done in your communities. I just know what I have done and what our team has done here. It is extensive, and it is a 24/7 job to represent communities during a global pandemic, and I commend you all for the work that you do.

In terms of the supports that we have offered — our economic support and our economic initiatives — we balanced a budget before we got into a pandemic. That helped out extremely. The former Minister of Tourism and Culture, the current Minister of Education, and the current Minister of Economic Development worked tirelessly in those first few minutes, to hours, to weeks, and to months to engage with the business community to make sure that we had supports in place. Since the start of the pandemic, watching the significant impact on the economy and watching the economies around the world in context, the economic supports in the territory have helped dampen the impact of this economic disruption locally, as we watched the perils of the economic markets and the world through this time.

Yukon support programs — like the Yukon business relief program, the regional loan relief program, paid sick leave rebates, and programs under the tourism relief and recovery plan — have significantly helped in reducing the economic harm to Yukoners and to businesses. Under these programs and other COVID-related spending for health care and public health responses, the Yukon government budgeted \$201 million in support of Yukoners since the start of the pandemic. Nearly half is related to mitigating the financial and economic impacts on Yukoners. Most of the remaining funds went toward costs associated with public health measures, including vaccinations, while a portion of it went toward COVID-19 initiatives, like education and sport supports.

Now, context is always important when we discuss and talk about how we budget the people's money. The Yukon's economy has performed much better than many have expected, given the significant challenges of the last two years.

I mentioned that in my opening speech today about revenues. We forecasted conservatively. At that time, that was the proper way to forecast. We saw, whether it's the placer mining community, the mining community, or quartz mining as well with Victoria Gold, or whether it's the construction industry, we saw Yukoners come out and do their utmost to be safe and to work. We're in a very good place because of that.

Not only right now with doing much better, given the significant challenges of the last two years — territory estimates of gross domestic product, a growth rate of 5.2 percent for 2020 — again, that's the highest in the country. Strong mineral production — obviously a primary driver. To that, we hear the opposition saying that, no, it's the growing of your government that's a strong — no, I'll disagree; it's mining.

It used to be in their minds that mining was the strongest growth. They seem to not recognize that now that we're in government, I guess, but that's extremely important to recognize.

Also, the real GDP is expected to show very robust growth of 9.6 percent for 2022. Now, I have been on both sides of the House here, and I have said that forecasts are just forecasts, so

take them all with a grain of salt. But with growth in mineral production — again, what's forecasted on the horizon, announcements from Newmont — there are some great things going on in the Yukon.

We're expected to return to near-normal levels in tourism-related activities in 2024. I have been talking to providers now and, as far as booking, they are really excited about how many bookings they are seeing right now right across the industry. That bodes very well for this season.

I'm hearing some great things from the federal government right now about testing at the borders — another great indicator that this is going to be a good summer for a tourism industry that has been through it for two years. Again — I said this quite a few times — as thankful as folks are in the business community for the reliefs that are the best in Canada, they want to make their own money. They want to get back to work. They want to do the jobs that they clearly are passionate about and have sunk investments in, and they want to start seeing that investment flourish over the long term, probably through the next generations as well.

Going forward, the pandemic and its economic repercussions will continue to bring some levels of uncertainty, for sure, that will affect the broader fiscal picture. However, we entered into this pandemic with a strong economic momentum and solid financial footing. Throughout the disruption, we have monitored and adapted our supports to meet Yukoners' challenging needs, from the immediate relief to adaptation and investment as well.

I will leave it at that. The member opposite asked an awful lot of questions, so I am trying my best to answer every one of his notes. I am looking at my notes from him talking.

The member opposite talked about the breakdown for the \$4 million and the details of the COVID contingency and the total. They are: Economic Development, \$4 million; Health and Social Services, \$5 million, containing the testing of vaccines and the other health measures — I spoke about that in my beginning notes, and I am not sure if you heard that or not. As far as the COVID response, the increase of \$4 million — that is the emergency relief program. If you break that down, it is \$820,000 to reimburse fixed costs of businesses directly impacted by the state of emergency declared on November 8, 2021. Then there was the vaccine verification rebate, which was \$157,000 to rebate a portion of the cost of technology required to verify vaccine status where required by CEMA orders. For the tourism non-accommodation sector — TNAS for short — \$3 million was out to support bars and restaurants. That is the breakdown from there.

I am not sure how much more time I have. I am trying my best to chronologically answer what he was asking. I might run out of time and he might have to re-ask some of those other questions.

I will go to Ukraine. The member opposite spoke about Ukraine.

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

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Okay, maybe I won't. I will leave that for another time because that is a bigger response, but he did

speak to the Yukon government employees on leave without pay.

So, some of the breakdown for the member opposite — 92 full-time employees, as of March 2, and 294 in total — of course, the 92 being the full-time employees.

**Mr. Cathers:** I would just also ask the Premier to remember, when he rises again, that I had also asked about whether EMS and fire volunteers who chose not to be vaccinated will be allowed to return to work. That is something that I have heard from volunteers who are off, including in communities — that my understanding is that they are actually without that service right now. I asked the Premier how much total revenue the government received from the insurance premium tax.

On the topic of Ukraine, I would just like to note that I actually received a message from a constituent, while the Premier was talking, in follow-up to a request that she had made earlier, wondering where they can reach out to if they want to provide help to families from Ukraine, indicating that she and her family would like to help a family from Ukraine make it to Canada and can provide housing, as well as assistance, to them. And that is just one, of course, of the many Yukoners who have indicated a desire to help people from the Ukraine.

I would just ask on that, if the Premier can provide information about who they contact to provide those resources, whether it is for once a family is here in the Yukon or actually getting from Ukraine, or wherever they have left, as a refugee — how and who people can reach out to, to effectively provide that help, either through government or through reputable organizations. There is, of course, a strong desire to help, but there are also people who are not necessarily familiar with all of the organizations involved and just aren't quite sure where to offer that assistance. I would just ask the Premier to provide that information.

I would also ask, regarding the supplementary budget, with the Arctic energy fund and the investing in renewable energy fund, we did have a briefing with officials on this, but it was clear that they didn't actually have the green light to share a breakdown with us in response to our questions.

So, the Premier can certainly make the decision to provide that information. I would just ask, with the Arctic energy fund and the investing — the IREI fund — I guess they use the acronym. We haven't received a breakdown yet of what projects are being funded in the current fiscal year and how much is going, particularly under that roughly \$8.5 million, under the Arctic energy fund. We understand that it's going into three projects, but we don't have a breakdown of the dollar amounts going to those projects.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I will start with the *Insurance Premium Tax Act*. I do believe I mentioned this right up front in my opening comments, but the insurance premium tax revenues that were voted to date in 2021-22 were just over \$6.4 million, and the *Supplementary Estimates No. 2* was \$875,000, and the revised vote is \$7.286 million. So, insurance premiums are market-driven and can fluctuate for a variety of reasons. There is no indication that the changes that we

announced in 2020 have any material impact on insurance costs in the Yukon.

This spring, the member opposite brought up an issue that he brought up in the past from the KPMG insurers. At the time, I thought that he was bringing something new to the forefront, and, no, this was the January 12, 2021 release that they put out. We talked about this in general debate in the past, so I'm not going to go too far down. I've explained in the past as well — the member opposite is still asking the same question. When we changed the tax rate, it was in recognition that our rates were out of line with other jurisdictions. Today, three jurisdictions still have higher insurance premium tax rates, five jurisdictions have the same rate as the Yukon, and there are only four jurisdictions in Canada with a lower rate. The four jurisdictions with lower rates all have rates above the Yukon rates in 2020.

Now, that KPMG report referenced an extremely rare situation where insurance coverage is obtained from an insurer who is not licensed to operate in the Yukon. This situation is so rare that it does not appear to have applied to any individuals in the Yukon for the 2020 tax year, which is the most recent year for which the data is available.

So, I said in answer to the question in Question Period that I think the member opposite is connecting two points that don't get connected by anybody else but him, so I won't go too much further into that. I think the Minister of Community Services did a great job, as well, of talking about the extreme conditions that we have been seeing right across the world and Canada when it comes to increases in insurance rates, but I won't go into that very far.

So, with EMS workers, this is an interesting one. We stated today — and I'll stand by this as well, obviously, but working with our most marginalized individuals, our policy will be, moving forward, that those health care providers will be required to be vaccinated. Entering into a hospital, there need to be requirements there. We need to make sure that the most marginalized — I mean, if you are a patient, you are coming in vaccinated or not vaccinated. That's one thing. But the people who work and support and supply these facilities — we have to make recognition of the importance of vaccination status when it comes to working with our most marginalized individuals.

That puts an EMS provider as a volunteer in a precarious situation. You could still volunteer as an EMS provider, but you are very limited in your scope of practice in that volunteer situation. As a requirement, if the ambulance is coming into the hospital, those employees or volunteers need to be vaccinated to enter into these facilities. That doesn't limit an EMS person who is not vaccinated from volunteering and working in the EMS department or getting training. A lot can be done, but I do admit that this would be problematic if that individual volunteer was hoping to do a ride-along and support as the EMS approaches our facilities. It is part of an ongoing evaluation of high-risk settings. We will definitely have more to say about this at a later time as well.

There is no budgetary line item that I can point to here when it comes to the EMS workers, but we did speak to this today at our press conference and outlined our considerations for vaccine requirements for our health care providers working

with our most marginalized Yukoners — also the non-governmental organizations that we fund and that have responsibilities for the most marginalized as well — but also welcoming back the public servants who don't work in these settings but didn't sign the attestation to begin with.

With Ukraine, I know that there has been unbelievable support locally. To have someone who is listening right now reaching out and asking how they can help out is extraordinary and such a very Yukon thing to do. Right after the Yukon Forum, ministers and chiefs gathered at the cultural centre in Whitehorse here, and gifts were exchanged with the Ukrainian community. Financial support and emotional support from First Nation leadership was profound. As profound as both of these statements about someone calling in and also the First Nation communities and other Yukoners wanting to do more, it's profound but not surprising. It's just our nature. It is great to see.

We started a Ukraine family support desk, and we launched that to help Ukrainians seek residency here in Yukon and Canada. For the person who is listening in online, if you go to yukon.ca and just type in "Ukraine family support desk", you will get some information there. I'm taking a look right now on the Internet at it. There's a publication there from March 3 basically talking about what this desk will do. The support desk will provide information on federal programs to assist with immigration and family reunification, connect employers who want to offer employment to Ukrainians arriving in Yukon, and also guide Ukrainians looking for employment opportunities in the territory. Please also inquire if you have space for folks in your home; that's fantastic. The good folks on the other side of that phone or that e-mail will definitely help you out.

I could also say that, if that person is still listening in, you can get more information online. It would be yukon.ca/en/immigrate/yukon, or you could also call 456-3920.

We obviously stand in solidarity for the people of Ukraine. Our government stands with all of the western allies in condemning these actions of this illegal war against Ukraine in the strongest possible terms. We are very supportive of the federal government's sanctions against Russia, and we will continue to work with partners to support people of the Ukraine, including here in Yukon. I know that all members of this Assembly stand united in support of Ukraine and the Ukrainian people in the face of unbelievable Russian aggression in that area that hasn't been seen since World War II and, subsequent to that, in the 1930s with the starvation of millions and millions of Ukrainians.

The northern premiers — we had conversations at the beginning of this conflict. Last week, we met and spoke with Canada's defence minister. She will be coming to the north very soon to talk about improving the North American Aerospace Defense Command following a request from us, the northern premiers.

We will be discussing Arctic security, as well, at the Council of the Federation this summer and in the meetings we have subsequent to that. The Council of the Federation has been very supportive of northern concerns throughout the pandemic.



It's important that we have a united voice when it comes to the north. The premiers are very supportive of these discussions.

The last time that I was at these tables and brought up Arctic sovereignty was over climate change and the changing ice floes. We have a minister on this team who has done a thesis on this type of stuff — the Arctic ice floes and glacier movements. It is very concerning to him, and it is very concerning to us. As we started our climate action plan and then talked to the federal government and our provincial and territorial counterparts, we talked about Arctic sovereignty in the context of everyone seeing economic opportunity with the opening up of the northwest passages — plural — and we are concerned, because sovereignty starts with healthy rural northern communities, right across the north.

That was the last time that we brought up Arctic sovereignty. Now national and international security beget a further conversation with the premiers and with the Prime Minister. We want to work with the federal government to help strengthen the security of the Canadian Arctic for the benefit of all Canadians. There is a specific chapter in the Arctic and northern policy framework dedicated to safety and security. We have been pushing the federal government to put money to these chapters, so that is part of the conversation. The message that I sent in our conversation with the federal ministers last week about investment in critical infrastructure, highways, airports, energy, digital security, telecommunications — all of these things are how we support healthy, vibrant, and growing northern communities and contribute to a stronger and more resilient Canada as a whole. Hopefully, we will get more information from the federal government as we continue these conversations.

It was mentioned as well — I am going to go in order here, in case I miss something. I believe that the question was looking for information on the Arctic energy fund.

So, the member opposite asked about the Arctic energy fund. This provides funding until 2027-28 to projects that will result in more efficient and reliable sustainable energy over the long term. The funding is part of a larger federal Investing in Canada infrastructure plan, which aims to build modern, resilient, and green communities for all Canadians. So, to date, the projects that have been approved and announced funding — there are three. You have the Haeckel Hill wind project, which is \$13.07 million; the Dome Road solar project, which is just under one-half million — it is \$486,000, to be specific and concise; and the Kluane wind project is just under \$5 million, which is \$4.935 million.

As members will know, the objectives of the program align well with our focus on renewable energy through the Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative, the microgeneration program, and also the independent power production policy. Other projects being considered for funding include two solar projects that are both located in off-grid communities.

Yukon's total budget under this fund is \$36.5 million.

I am going to cede the floor at this point just to see if the member opposite has any other questions or if I missed anything. I am trying my best to keep track of the questions that he is asking.

**Mr. Cathers:** I do appreciate the answers, and I would just note that I was pleased to hear that there have been some conversations with other premiers about Arctic sovereignty, and the Premier mentioned the Northwest Passage as well as made some reference to other areas there. It is important for us to keep in mind that what Canada claims as our Arctic territory does, in some cases, conflict with what Russia claims and what they have designs on. So, it is important that we recognize the importance, both militarily and economically and through research as well, to take a multi-faceted approach to assert our sovereignty in the Arctic. Military capacity is absolutely key to that. I don't want to dwell on that at length this afternoon, in light of the other items on my list, but I do encourage the Premier, when he is talking to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence, and premiers about it, to be aware of this and to discuss the importance of having fighter jets, patrol aircraft, the modern distance early warning system, ships, icebreakers, submarines, reserves, Rangers, et cetera, that meet the needs of today, not the needs of 20 years ago or 40 years ago, in many cases.

I want to, on that topic, just move on to one very much related to the increasing Russian aggression — the issue of cyber protection. I raised that earlier in Question Period. I don't expect the Premier to get into a lot of details here today. I, of course, don't want him to get into sensitive details, but again, I would urge the government to take action to ensure we're working with all of the necessary experts to ensure that we're doing what we need to, to follow the warning of federal agencies and prepare for the very real risk of cyber attacks that could affect areas, including our health care sector — as happened in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Government systems themselves, online registries, banks, and also the electrical system have been ones that have been identified as being at risk in many parts of North America. I would urge them to take action on that, as well as, in addition to any information the Premier can provide here today, to consider providing us more information later via legislative return or letter. I would note that if there are matters that are particularly sensitive from a security perspective, we would also certainly be open to considering whether some of those details would be provided confidentially to MLAs, out of respect for the importance of cyber security.

I just want to move on to another couple of areas on my list.

Also related to the Arctic energy program and IREI and the spending under the Yukon Development Corporation this year, there's the grid-scale battery project. One thing that we had asked officials, but they didn't appear to be at liberty to make the decision to provide us with that information, was information about the financing structure for that battery and what the arrangement is regarding the development corporation that has an interest in it, what that structure would be, what the rate of return would be, and what funding they were required to provide, if any, as part of that. At this point, we haven't had a clear picture on that and would appreciate receiving it.

I'm going to just also touch on an area that the Premier mentioned earlier — that being self-isolation facilities and

costs. We understand, throughout this, that in Whitehorse, through most of the time, the High Country Inn was being used as an isolation facility for people who required it and that now, according to what officials indicated, it has gone to the Yukon Inn in Whitehorse and I believe they indicated the Big Horn in Watson Lake. I would ask whether there was a competitive process for making that choice, and if not, why not?

The last question I'll ask before ceding the floor to the Premier is: With a significant number of employees — hundreds on leave without pay, due to the vaccination mandate — there would have been presumably some financial lapses in planned personnel spending within departments.

Could the Premier provide us information about what those lapses were within departments — what the total amount is and a breakdown by department?

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I appreciate the member opposite's understanding of the security and considerations when it comes to some of the information shared about Arctic sovereignty or any of the cyber security issues. There is some stuff I can share, for sure.

We can start with the fact that Russia's actions are a threat to global security and the international rules-based order that we enjoy as democratic societies. They have caused disruptions to the economy right across the globe, and everyone is very nervous as we look to the coming days, weeks, and months; that is for sure.

We are definitely keeping a watchful eye on Russia's actions in the Arctic. There has been increased attention on, and investing in, the Arctic over the last several years, as I have mentioned in the past. It's time that Canada starts doing the same. That was the message that I brought when I was on *The National* on Monday. That was the part that they used, but we were going into a longer conversation of exactly that.

We will continue to remain in close contact with high-level Canadian officials on this. The Russian invasion of Ukraine will affect the Arctic Council and its working groups as well. Such an egregious violation of international law calls into question the possibility of cooperating among council membership, especially since Russia is the chair until May 2023. There was aggression in the Arctic by Russia in 2019 when they changed their stance and brought their argument right to the 200-mile limit of Canada. We are in conversations with Canada — because that was the year that both Canada and Russia made their submissions, so we will see what Canada does in response to that.

I know that, as key partners in the Arctic Council network, our government and the other northern premiers have called on the Government of Canada to recognize that cooperation at the Arctic Council is being jeopardized, given the current realities. We are looking to the federal government to respond, and we will continue pressing.

When it comes to cyber security specifically, we are aware that cyber attacks have occurred in relation to Russia's aggression in Ukraine. The Yukon government is in regular communication with the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security. Through that relationship, you would receive notices of threats

to enable us to immediately act on any known digital vulnerabilities.

That's the scenario; that's the arrangement. The Canadian Centre for Cyber Security assesses that the threat to critical national infrastructure is paramount — to have the assessment done. We are advised that the threat from Russian state-sponsored actors — that assessment right now — is low, but they are remaining very, very vigilant on this file, not surprisingly.

Our Government of Yukon has defences in place that include redundancy, third-party security, monitoring, and an agreement with Microsoft as well for accessing a quick reaction time if required. That's about all I will say right now in general debate on that.

I'm going to have to ask the member opposite to repeat some of his other questions, but he did ask about the Yukon Inn being used for isolation and if that was a competitive process. The answer is no. Due to the urgency, the need, and the fact that the High Country Inn was sold, it didn't go through a competitive process.

I will beg the member opposite's forgiveness and ask him to repeat his other questions. He had a specific question, I believe, about Yukon Development Corporation and energy projects there, but I just don't remember the question.

**Mr. Cathers:** I do appreciate the answers that the Premier provided.

The question that I had asked specifically about the Yukon Development Corporation was regarding the battery project, which is included in both the year that we're closing off and then the next year. At this point in time, to the best of my knowledge, I don't think that the government has provided clarity on exactly what the financing structure is there and, with regard to the Yukon Development Corporation that has a stake in it, how that has been set up in terms of what investment was required from them and what the rate of return they would be receiving is and how that is set up. If the Premier could provide that detail, that would be appreciated.

As he will recall in proceeding with the development of the LNG facility that Yukon Energy has, we made a joint announcement with Kwanlin Dün about investment by their development corporation and did share information about the details of what they were providing and what they would receive in return. We are just asking for the same level of transparency and information as we provided during that announcement that we made jointly with Chief Bill.

Moving on to another area, Madam Chair, with the electric vehicle charging stations that the government has already proceeded with, as well as the ones that they have in the works, one question that I have received from a number of Yukoners is about the structure and whether people are having to pay for that power at this point in time, whether they are expected to have to pay for it, and, if so, how that is all being set up.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** As far as the charging stations, nobody is paying at them now. It is free to use that service now. We will get there, and I will rely on the minister responsible to get more details as far as the timing on that. But, to answer the member's question, no, there is not a charge for the users of

those facilities. Of course, if you are charging at home, you are paying for it there, but not for the publicly accessible ones.

Again, with the grid-scale battery project, I will leave most of the details to the Minister responsible for the Yukon Energy Corporation to answer much of that questioning. Again, in the supplementary debate for the *Third Appropriation Act 2021-22* — it is not a line item that I can necessarily speak to in this supplementary budget, but as far as the ownership structure, I can say that it is 100-percent owned by the Yukon Energy Corporation, however, with First Nation investment opportunities as well. This is very similar to what the member opposite mentioned — similar opportunities as with the LNG project.

As far any form of payment from YDC to YEC for the battery project, the payment is not alone, and it is funding that is made available through ICIP, which is ultimately recoverable from Canada.

I'm not going to go on about that too much more. I know that the minister has, in the Legislative Assembly during Question Period, talked about the benefits of not borrowing and being able to apply this to some of the flexible funding that we got out of the ICIP funding over the years, but I will leave it at that and let the minister, who is probably champing at the bit to give a whole bunch more details on this because it's something that he is very passionate about as we move toward a more non-fossil-fuelled future for our energy needs here in the Yukon.

**Mr. Cathers:** I do appreciate that partial answer. I still don't have the clarity on what the financial structure is in terms of the interest that the development corporation has. Do they have to pay for it? What do they receive in return per year? How is that structured?

Again, much as with the announcement that we were proud to make with Kwanlin Dün regarding their investment in the LNG project, it may be a good news story. We're just asking what the details of that story actually are so that we can understand it and so that people can understand it.

I want to move on to Health and Social Services and to some of the questions that really are kind of big picture questions and not just ones that would have been made by the minister herself. There have been some significant changes within the department itself. It seemed odd that insured health is no longer part of Health Services, or the renamed branch, but has moved in with Social Services. I would ask why that decision was made.

Secondly, we have heard reports that big changes are coming in that area and that, following the hiring of two deputy ministers, the government is actually planning on splitting that department in two.

Can the Premier confirm if these reports are accurate? If so, when is the Department of Health and Social Services actually going to be split into two?

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I am not going to get into too many details about speculating and forecasting for the member opposite, as far as the split of a department or anything like that. What the member opposite can look to is *Putting People First*. That is our guideline. That is the document that will show what

we hope to accomplish, and are accomplishing, when it comes to a health authority.

Moving from acute care to a person-centred, collaborative approach is something that this Yukon Liberal government has been extremely passionate about. When it comes to a complete change in how we provide health care here in the Yukon, I would urge folks to go back and take a look at the Office of the Auditor General report way back when that spawned into the Peachey report that really, to me, as I sat in opposition, started conversations where we wanted to make sure that we had an authority that did its best to be more collaborative, as the Office of the Auditor General Peachey report told us to do, but also to be more inclusive. There is an obligation under the *Health Act* that every Canadian can enjoy the same level of care and services. We know that even through insured health benefits, compared to other streams, there are so many different areas where we can do better to make sure that we have supports in place for Yukoners that are parallel and equal.

As far as any rumours of splits, I am not touching those leading questions from the member opposite, but feel free to ask the minister responsible when it comes to insured health, or anything else, as far as the department structure and status, moving forward.

I will answer a little bit more of the member opposite's questions when it comes to the energy projects, I guess as they relate to the supplementary budget. The changing invoices and timing for Yukon Energy projects — the Mayo transmission line and the battery grid — did lead to increases of \$3.7 million in the budget that we are looking at today. I can say that there is no increase in the total funding for the project and also that funding is accessible in future years and is 100-percent recoverable from Canada, which is great, as far as moving forward into a future for the Yukon that is less dependent on fossil fuel, which is extremely important to this side of the House, the Yukon Liberal government.

The new grid-scale battery is a critical investment in Yukon Energy's ability to meet the growing demand for electricity in Yukon. The project is an excellent example of how Yukon Energy is working with First Nation governments to displace fossil fuel, diesel, and secure Yukon's clean energy future. When this is completed, I can say that the battery project will replace the need for four diesel generators each winter. I also know that Yukon Energy has selected SunGrid Solutions to build its off-scale battery in Whitehorse, and the decision follows a year-long competitive process that first pre-qualified battery vendors and then rated vendors' proposals after that.

So, SunGrid Solutions is a Canadian company with a proven track record of building battery storage and solutions right across North America, which is great to see moving forward. This is an extremely important investment. Last year, Yukon Energy estimated that the battery was going to cost about \$31.7 million, plus or minus 30 percent, and that the proposal for the battery has been received and that Yukon Energy's final cost estimate for the battery project is \$35 million. With the additional time that Yukon Energy invested in the procurement process this past year, the battery is now expected to be operational in the spring of 2023.

That is what I can share with the member opposite. I would urge him to ask more specific questions about ownership and the specifics about that to the minister responsible.

I can say, as well, that this timeline is about three months longer than originally planned, and it is taking more time — the procurement phase of this project, which was critical to ensuring the best battery and the best price, as well, was secured for Yukoners. That can explain a little bit of the delay as well.

That's about it. I would say, just for the record as well, that it was this past January that the Yukon Energy Corporation signed a lease agreement with Da Dan Developments, a subsidiary of Chu N'ikwān Development Corporation, for a 25-year lease of land needed for the battery. That lease rate secured for the land is competitive with prices that are comparable in other vacant lots here in Whitehorse.

**Mr. Cathers:** That still wasn't actually an answer to the detail on the battery project, but I'll look forward to hearing either the Premier or the minister provide that later.

Again, I just want to emphasize that, for everyone listening, we're not saying that there is anything wrong with the structure that they have; we just want to know what it is and believe that transparency is owed to taxpayers as well.

I want to go back to the question about — I had asked the Premier about what we had heard, that the Department of Health and Social Services is going to be split. The Premier refused to comment. Now, government is either planning to split the Department of Health and Social Services into two or they're not. The Premier should know. It's a yes-or-no question. Or perhaps, if they're discussing it at Cabinet, maybe "maybe" is the answer. But, is it a yes, a no, or a maybe?

We've heard those reports from sources that we consider reliable enough to ask the question, and it's a department that deals with about a third of the government's budget — about half a billion dollars. And the Premier and the Minister of Health and Social Services know the answer to it. They're either planning to split the department or they're not. So, if you're planning to split the department, then tell us when that is scheduled for, when the announcement is being made, and what the effective date of that would be. If you're not planning on splitting it, then just tell us that, too.

So, it's a pretty simple question affecting a large number of employees and many Yukoners who depend on that system.

Is the government indeed planning to split the Department of Health and Social Services into two? What is the effective date of that split?

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Again, just because the member opposite doesn't like the answer doesn't mean that I'm avoiding the answer. I can't recall him ever, in the five years that I watched the member opposite as a minister, waiting to make new announcements or announcements in the Legislative Assembly that weren't previously announced outside of the Assembly. He is asking me to speculate. He is asking me to answer questions. Really, as I said in my answer, the pathway forward for the health authority is written in the pages of *Putting People First*. The member opposite is making it seem like there is some kind of conspiracy here or something; whereas, really, the pathway forward is a document that went

through years of consultation with health care providers, different levels of government, and independent reviews. It came with a document that shows the future of the authority. There is nothing to hide here at all.

I remember hearing the Leader of the Third Party, when this report first came out, saying, "If they don't implement this, we will; this is a great report." I am paraphrasing, obviously, but it was something along those lines. Again, we are committed to establishing a health authority — absolutely. We now are making moves already. The members opposite can tell what we have been doing so far, so as the announcements become ready to come out, as far as the pages of that document and how we implement them moving forward, there is no mystery there. It is there; it's written in the pages of *Putting People First*.

We have made announcements already about what we have done so far and about the creation of a health authority and the transfer of the territory's health services into a health authority. We have made no bones about that. It's exactly from the *Putting People First* report. The independent expert panel recommending the establishment of "Wellness Yukon" — again, written in the pages of the documents here — a new arm's-length statutory agency that will develop a whole range of health and social services.

Drawing down a bit more on that, this authority may also contract with non-governmental organizations or other providers to deliver some services there, as well. Again, it is all written in the pages of this document. There is no mystery here. Park the mystery van. In response to the *Putting People First* report's recommendations 1.2, and as part of our commitment under the 2021 confidence and supply agreement to implement *Putting People First*, we are working on policy options to establish a health authority in the Yukon.

We have been very forthright as far as how that will work out. That authority is going to take significant time to develop and, as the department, through consultation — again, you are not just talking about one department; you are talking about a department that has non-governmental organizations and responsibilities to First Nation governments, and so announcements will be made about the future plans for wellness as they become available.

I will say — not much of a departure from the question, although the question really is not based upon the budget that we are debating here — that, as far as those partnerships go, we are about to enter into the debate of a bill in the Legislative Assembly that was — I think "co-developed" is a good word, as far as the work that has been done with the First Nation governments on a concern through Health and Social Services — that is extraordinarily important — responding to a 2019 report and moving forward into partnerships where those partnerships with the Yukon government and First Nation governments have never been before. So, I don't know if the member opposite expects me to make some new announcements about what is coming down as we implement *Putting People First* or the health authority, but this will take significant time to develop. Our intention is to do this in partnership with the Yukon First Nations. We are more than

well into the initiation phase of these conversations, including conversations through the Yukon Forum as well.

We will always ensure that we work with all of the affected partners in health care before we make announcements, including the Yukon Medical Association, the Yukon Hospital Corporation, nurses, physicians, and also Yukoners who access health services.

I can say as well that the initial conversations have begun with physicians and the hospital, as well as the Yukon Employees' Union, as far as drawing down on the health authority and also that further work awaits with the finalization of the partnership structure with Yukon First Nations. So, this is an exciting time in health care — it really is — in Yukon.

We have done a paradigm shift since the previous government as far as moving from acute care — which focuses more on “Wait until you get sick and then we will do our best” — to a people-centred and wellness approach. We have talked a lot about our investments in wellness, mental health, supports with the hubs, and clinical supports offered therein. All jurisdictions around Canada, except for Yukon and Nunavut, have some form of a health authority, so we were starting from a deficit here. The time had come a long time ago to make this move, and the establishment of that health authority is foundational for all of the things that we're doing. It's foundational for almost every single page of *Putting People First*.

Again, the member opposite wants us to speculate about departmental shifts and switches. I guess he has — on some good authority, something that he won't share with us, I guess — but I will say that, on this side of the House, we will make announcements — as it is pertinent to our partnerships with the organizations, agencies, and governments that I mentioned. I am not going to speculate, as the member opposite will, but I will say that moving service delivery outside of government will also allow for increased agility and accountability for service delivery. We are focusing in on this as an oversight function.

I think that this is about all I am going to mention right now. I know that the day is coming to an end, but I will give the member opposite the opportunity to close the day, ask more questions, or respond to my answer.

**Mr. Cathers:** I thank the Premier for the partial response and look forward to actually hearing more information about what they are doing in Health and Social Services later.

In wrapping up here today as we reach the end, I would just ask the Premier to provide more detailed information to the House on what the status is of the discussions regarding the development of the health authority. We understand from officials that they have reached out to First Nations, asking for feedback on the oversight model and structure for a working group on the health authority, but I would appreciate clarity from the Premier about what exactly has been offered to First Nations and what the government is hoping to hear back.

I have also heard and understood from officials that the government doesn't plan to have any health professionals on the oversight group, board, or whatever the structure is — that they would just be on working groups. It is something that —

if I understood that correctly from the briefing from officials — is concerning to me that, when embarking on major systemic change, government would not ensure that health professionals are represented at the table as those discussions are occurring — not on some sub working group, but right as part of the major discussions. I would appreciate it if the Premier could clarify what the intention is and whether what we understood from officials is indeed correct on that.

Finally, I would just ask what work has started on drafting the legislation or developing the structure for the health authority.

Last but not least, as the Premier will recall, the Yukon Medical Association had previously passed a resolution at one of their AGMs urging government, instead of developing new legislation, to consider making use of the *Hospital Act*. It was envisioned, when it was drafted and passed in this Assembly, that it would allow the Hospital Corporation to eventually become a health authority — whether the government is considering listening to that request from the Yukon Medical Association to do that instead of developing another health authority through different legislation — and if they are not considering that request from the Yukon Medical Association, indicate why they have ruled that out.

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

**Chair:** It has been moved by the Member for Lake Laberge that the Chair report progress.

*Motion agreed to*

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker resumes the Chair*

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

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

### Chair's report

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 3, entitled *Act to Amend the Assessment and Taxation Act and the Municipal Act (2021)*, and directed me to report the bill with amendment.

In addition, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 203, entitled *Third Appropriation Act 2021-22*, and directed me to report progress.

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

Are you agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

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

*The House adjourned at 5:27 p.m.*

**The following document was filed March 16, 2022:**

35-1-51

*Fleet Vehicle Agency Business Plan 2022 to 2025*

(Clarke, N.)