Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 54	1st Session	36th Legislature

HANSARD

Tuesday, November 3, 2026 — 1:00 p.m.

Whitehorse, Yukon

Speaker: The Honourable Yvonne Clarke

YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
2026 Fall Sitting

Speaker: Hon. Yvonne Clarke
Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committee of the Whole: Patti McLeod
Deputy Chair of Committee of the Whole: Tyler Porter

CABINET MINISTERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PORTFOLIO
Hon. Currie Dixon	Copperbelt North	Premier Minister of the Executive Council Office; Finance
Hon. Cory Bellmore	Mayo-Tatchun	Minister of Community Services; Minister responsible for the Yukon Lottery Commission
Hon. Linda Benoit	Whistle Bend South	Minister of Highways and Public Works
Hon. Brad Cathers	Lake Laberge	Minister of Health and Social Services
Hon. Jen Gehmair	Marsh Lake-Mount Lorne-Golden Horn	Minister of Economy, Tourism and Culture; Public Service Commission; Minister responsible for the Yukon Liquor Corporation
Hon. Wade Istchenko	Kluane	Minister of Environment
Hon. Scott Kent	Copperbelt South	Government House Leader Minister of Education; Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation
Hon. Laura Lang	Whitehorse West	Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for the French Language Services Directorate; Women and Gender Equity Directorate; Workers' Safety and Compensation Board
Hon. Ted Laking	Porter Creek Centre	Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources; Minister responsible for the Yukon Development Corporation and the Yukon Energy Corporation

GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS

Yukon Party

Doris Anderson	Porter Creek North	**Yvonne Clarke**	Whistle Bend North
Adam Gerle	Porter Creek South	**Patti McLeod**	Watson Lake-Ross River-Faro
Tyler Porter	Southern Lakes		

OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

New Democratic Party

Kate White	Leader of the Official Opposition Takhini	**Lane Tredger**	Official Opposition House Leader Whitehorse Centre
Carmen Gustafson	Riverdale North	**Brent McDonald**	Klondike
Linda Moen	Mountainview	**Justin Ziegler**	Riverdale South

THIRD PARTY

Yukon Liberal Party

Debra-Leigh Reti	Leader of the Third Party Third Party House Leader Vuntut Gwitchin

LEGISLATIVE STAFF

Allison Lloyd	Clerk of the Legislative Assembly	**Logan Ockenden**	Acting Deputy Clerk and Clerk of Committees
Bhreagh Dabbs	Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel	**Joseph Mewett**	Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms
Karina Watson	Sergeant-at-Arms	**Deana Lemke**	Hansard Administrator

Published under the authority of the Speaker of the Yukon Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

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

Prayers

DAILY ROUTINE

Speaker: We will proceed at this time with the Order Paper.
Introduction of visitors.
Tributes.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Statement — Yukon Party government's first year

Hon. Currie Dixon: One year ago today, Yukoners decisively chose change. They elected a strong, historic Yukon Party majority government with a clear mandate. After years of unsustainable spending and borrowing and difficult decisions delayed, we were entrusted with a mandate to deliver change, get our economy back on track, and deliver measurable results for Yukoners. We're getting back to basics: transparent priorities, responsible investments, better planning, stronger accountability, and improvements to essential public services.

Today, more Yukoners are connected to health providers than one year ago. We're putting students back at the centre of our education system. More land is available for home builders. Police have more resources to keep our communities safe, and we're advancing reconciliation and government-to-government collaboration with Yukon First Nations. We're also strengthening partnerships with industry, municipalities, community organizations, and others to deliver on the commitments we were elected to achieve.

There is much more work to be done, but I'm proud of my colleagues and our accomplishments so far. We're optimistic for the future, and I thank them for their dedication to this work —

Speaker: Order.

Statement — Electoral reform plebiscite

Kate White: Today marks the first anniversary since Yukoners voted in a territorial plebiscite on electoral reform. Not only did Yukoners show up to vote, but a majority voted in favour of electoral reform and moving beyond the first-past-the-post system. They supported a ranked ballot following recommendations made by the Yukon Citizens' Assembly.

One might say that supporting electoral reform is part of our Yukon identity. Numbers matter. In total, 18,867 Yukoners voted in the last election. There were 18,091 Yukoners who participated in the plebiscite, while 776 Yukoners who voted in the territorial election chose not to participate in the plebiscite vote. There were 15 ridings across Yukon that voted in favour of the ranked ballot; six ridings voted against the change. In the plebiscite, 10,268 Yukoners voted yes, while 7,823 Yukoners voted no. In fact, more Yukoners voted to move to a ranked ballot than all the votes received for the Yukon Party during the last election. Sadly, Yukoners who voted for a ranked ballot will have to wait —

Speaker: Order.

Statement — Electoral reform legislation

Debra-Leigh Reti: Yesterday in this House, I introduced Bill No. 300, the *Act to amend the Elections Act (2026)*. During the November 2025 territorial election, for the first time in over 100 years, Yukoners voted in a territorial plebiscite on electoral reform. The results were very clear: 10,268 people said yes to electoral reform.

Despite the wishes of Yukoners, the Yukon Party government has been very clear about its refusal to act on the plebiscite results. Given their inaction on the matter, I have decided to bring forward this bill, as I believe that it is important to respect the will of Yukoners. This is what they voted for and the action that I believe that they were looking for.

Statement — Appreciation for election candidates

Patti McLeod: A healthy democracy depends on people who are willing to put their names forward and represent their communities. Seeking elected office requires courage, commitment, and a willingness to serve the public. Every candidate, regardless of their affiliation or the outcome, contributed to an important public conversation about the future of our territory. Throughout the campaign in 2025, candidates attended events, spoke with voters, shared their ideas, and worked to earn the trust and support of Yukoners. By stepping forward, they helped ensure voters had a choice and a meaningful opportunity to participate in the electoral process. On behalf of the Yukon Party caucus, I extend my sincere appreciation to all candidates who stood for election last year.

Statement — Vern and Janice Gustafson's 47th wedding anniversary

Carmen Gustafson: I rise to recognize my parents, Vern and Janice Gustafson, who are in the gallery today as they celebrate their 47th wedding anniversary.

My parents were young when my brother and I joined their lifelong love story. They made sure that we had all the opportunities our small town could throw at us, whether that meant countless hours at the hockey rink, helping with Brownies, Girl Guides, or Scouts, or making sure we practised the piano.

My parents have always been a team and complemented each other. Where my dad taught us about trees, wildlife, and how to drive a gnarly bush road, my mom taught us about finances, planning, and making things happen. They have run businesses together and worked harder than most people I know. They provided good jobs to people they treated like family. Retirement looks good on them, although my dad's recent re-election to village council sounds like he's back to work again.

My parents have built a life and family to be proud of. I thank them for working through the rough patches and never wavering in their support of family. Happy anniversary, Mom and Dad.

Statement — Election volunteers

Adam Gerle: Today I rise to recognize and thank the hundreds of Yukoners who stepped forward to volunteer during last year's election campaign. Regardless of political affiliation, our democracy depends on people who are willing to give their time, energy, and commitment to the electoral process.

Volunteers knocked on doors, made phone calls, put up signs, delivered information to voters, and worked long hours behind the scenes helping their candidates and parties connect with Yukoners across our territory. Elections would not be possible without the dedication of volunteers who encourage others to exercise their democratic rights.

To every volunteer who gave their time during the election campaign: Thank you. Your willingness to get involved strengthens our communities and contributes to a healthy democracy.

On behalf of the Yukon Party caucus, I extend my sincere appreciation to all election volunteers across the territory.

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Justin Ziegler: I have for tabling an article from the Canadian Climate Institute entitled *A Hidden Benefit of Net Zero? Cleaner, Healthier Air* and its equivalent in French.

Speaker: Are there any committee reports to be presented?

Are there any petitions?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Justin Ziegler: I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT it is the opinion of this House that generative AI images should not be used in caucus or government communications.

Kate White: I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to endorse the recommendations of the Yukon *Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy* and work with partners to develop an implementation plan and timeline for their completion.

Debra-Leigh Reti: I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to work with justice and health care stakeholders to launch a pilot program to expand the options available to sentence offenders to appropriate addictions treatment, mental health care and aftercare as it committed to do in its 2025 election platform.

Speaker: Is there a statement by a minister?

This then brings us to Question Period.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Question — Social assistance rates

Kate White: One-bedroom apartments in Whitehorse are regularly listed at $1,800 a month or more, which highlights a significant gap when comparing the amount that social assistance covers for shelter and utilities. Because at its highest, social assistance provides a maximum of $1,346 a month for a one-bedroom unit, finding a safe place to live for that amount, including utilities, is already next to impossible. Yukoners who rely on social assistance can't even work to make up the difference, because that would be clawed off their cheque. The current amounts leave them short hundreds of dollars every month.

Will the Minister of Health and Social Services raise the housing and utility amounts in the social assistance rates?

Hon. Brad Cathers: As the member knows, we've undertaken a review of the social assistance program, and once we've completed that, we will look forward to announcing the outcomes.

Kate White: The Minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation said the government adjusted the Canada-Yukon housing benefit because rents have risen 32 percent since the rates were first set in 2020. But people on social assistance and disability can't access that benefit. Their rates were set in 2012 and have only been adjusted for inflation since then. These amounts are far behind the real cost of rent. This government recognized that the Canada-Yukon housing benefit was no longer adequate because of the rising housing costs and they increased it.

When will this government do the same for social assistance rates?

Hon. Brad Cathers: I would point out that the social assistance rates are adjusted to reflect the increase in the consumer price index, and SA rates increased by 5.7 percent in 2022, by 6.4 percent in 2023, by 2.4 percent in 2024, and by 2.8 percent in 2025. Again, they are adjusted annually based on the current consumer price index.

Kate White: The Premier said that he's willing to look at further changes if changes are needed, and I think this is a perfect example.

I'll note again that the Minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation said the government adjusted the Canada-Yukon housing benefit because rents have risen 32 percent since their rates were set in 2020. I'll note — not the same increases for social assistance. People on social assistance and disability can't access that benefit. Their rates haven't seen any significant changes since 2012. The amounts supplied for housing are far behind the real cost of rent.

The Minister of Health and Social Services has indicated that a review of social assistance is ongoing, but he's been light about the details. A review with no timeline won't keep a roof over a person's head.

Will the Minister of Health and Social Services commit to an interim increase to the social assistance housing amounts ahead of his promised social assistance rate review?

Hon. Brad Cathers: Well, the answer to the member's question is no. SA rates are adjusted by CPI annually.

They were adjusted in November of 2022, November 2023, 2024, and 2025. We are committed to a review of the adequacy of the program, but I would remind the member that rates have been adjusted based on the consumer price index every year, and that is a common measurement used in other areas where matters are adjusted based on CPI. That's a fairly standard approach, but we have committed to a comprehensive review of the social assistance program, including areas that the member neglects, which include helping people transition into the workforce and reduce their dependence on social assistance.

We are again doing the work that is necessary to determine what the infrastructure should look like and look forward to making announcements when we're in a position to do so.

Question — Chasàn Chùa Territorial Park

Carmen Gustafson: Chasàn Chùa, also known as McIntyre Creek, is an important ecological, recreational, and culturally significant corridor running through Whitehorse in the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. After decades of advocacy and efforts to secure official protection, Chasàn Chùa has been designated as a territorial park and is protected from new staking.

However, it does not prevent activities on existing mineral claims. This includes a block of mineral claims that cover roughly 30 percent of the Chasàn Chùa area and part of the Whitehorse Nordic ski trail system. Gladiator Metals and the owner of the claims have made commitments to relinquish them to support the protection of the park. When asked in debate last week whether the claims were still active, the Minister of Environment said the question would be better directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

I'll ask now: Have the mineral claims within Chasàn Chùa Territorial Park and overlapping the Whitehorse Nordic ski trails been relinquished?

Hon. Ted Laking: Obviously, the member opposite is aware that this park is a really exciting thing. When I was on city council, it was exciting to see it get developed. As the member opposite asked about the status of those claims, as far as I'm aware, they still belong to the proponent.

Carmen Gustafson: Designation of Chasàn Chùa as a territorial park was announced on June 19, 2025, including a permanent withdrawal from any new mineral staking. The news release at the time mentions Gladiator Metals is working through the relinquishment of certain claims within the park.

Chasàn Chùa is a vital and cherished corridor that supports wildlife and rich ecosystems. It is beloved by Yukoners, as it provides access to recreation such as hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, and birding. It has allowed Yukon First Nations to thrive for generations and continues to hold cultural significance. Protecting the area has been and continues to be a priority of Yukoners.

In recent submissions to the City of Whitehorse, Gladiator Metals again referenced agreement to voluntarily relinquish claims to support Chasàn Chùa Territorial Park.

When can Yukoners expect that existing mineral claims will be relinquished to ensure protection of Chasàn Chùa?

Hon. Ted Laking: If the member opposite has questions for the company and what their plans are, what their claims and their timing is, they would be best directed to them.

As for what was said or submitted as part of the official community plan process, I wasn't part of that process. If the member opposite has questions for the City of Whitehorse, those questions would be best directed to the City of Whitehorse.

Carmen Gustafson: A new steering committee for Chasàn Chùa Territorial Park was to begin management planning for the park's future uses following its designation. This process was to include opportunities for First Nation citizens and beneficiaries, stakeholders, and the public to be involved in the planning. Management plans are important documents guiding future uses of protected areas. As Chasàn Chùa is used and appreciated for a variety of values, this will be particularly key to ensuring the long-term protection of the corridor.

Can the minister tell us about the status of the steering committee and the management planning process?

Hon. Wade Istchenko: What I can tell the member is what I discussed when we were in general debate the other day. The steering committee has met, and I believe the last time they were in correspondence was last September.

Question — Indigenous staffing at Whitehorse Emergency Shelter

Debra-Leigh Reti: I have some questions for the minister of health about First Nation hiring practices at the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter. One of the recommendations that came out of the coroner's May 2024 inquest into the deaths of individuals at the shelter was regarding staffing priorities. The coroner recommended: "Immediately, Connective Support Society will give priority to hiring Indigenous employees and persons with lived experience when posting positions for the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter."

Can the minister tell Yukoners how many staff at the shelter are Yukon First Nation people, and has that number increased since May 2024?

Hon. Brad Cathers: I do not have information about the exact numbers of staff of Connective. Of course, they are staff of that entity.

My understanding, as I indicated before from the department, is that all of the recommendations of the coroner's inquest, including prioritizing Indigenous recruitment and lived experience at Connective, have been implemented. But I don't have the specific numbers that the member asked for nor the numbers from a previous year that the member made reference to.

Debra-Leigh Reti: The contract with the current operator of the shelter expires in March 2027. The minister of health has told Yukoners the government is currently working on an expression of interest to see who might want to operate the shelter after that contract expires.

The government can, if it chooses, insist as part of the expression of interest that First Nation hiring be part of the evaluation of the bids. In other words, a commitment to hire more First Nation people would give someone a better chance of getting the contract.

Will this be one of the criteria the government uses to evaluate the next contract for the shelter?

Hon. Brad Cathers: I appreciate the question and suggestion from the member at this point. The expression of interest to select the next operator or operators for the services currently provided at 405 Alexander Street is in development. It has not yet been finalized. It will be shared with the 405 advisory committee before it goes public.

As indicated, what is currently envisioned is that it would provide for the ability for the housing units, the food services, and the emergency shelter services all to be addressed separately. As indicated, we are actively looking at the possibility of relocating the emergency shelter services to another location or locations. But again, final decisions have not been made, and the expression of interest structure has not

been finalized. I will take the member's suggestion under consideration.

Debra-Leigh Reti: Another recommendation from the May 2024 coroner's inquest was to ensure that Connective work with interested Yukon First Nations to identify ways to attract, support, and retain Indigenous employees to work at the shelter.

Can the minister tell Yukoners if that has happened and if that condition will also be included in the upcoming expression of interest for the new shelter contract?

Hon. Brad Cathers: Again, the information I have is that the recommendations from the coroner's inquest were all implemented, including those relating to staff training and hiring as well as recruitment. As mentioned, I don't have the specific information about Connective's current staffing numbers. I'll have to take the member's suggestion under advisement.

As I noted, the expression of interest right now is nearing finalization, but it has not been finalized, and it will also be shared with the 405 Alexander Advisory Committee before it goes public. I'm not in a position to make the specific commitments that the member asked for at this point in time. We'll take her suggestions under advisement.

Question — Climate change action plan

Justin Ziegler: When it comes to climate change, every jurisdiction can say that it is too small to matter. But if everyone waits for their neighbours to act first, nobody acts. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions isn't just about climate change. Reducing emissions contributes to cleaner air and water for Yukoners and wildlife. It can improve our health and help reduce cost and pressure on our health care system.

Last Thursday, I asked the Minister of Environment whether the Yukon Party's new climate plan will do anything to reduce the Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions. He told this House, "I don't think the Yukon's the problem." When I asked whether the government would still try to reduce emissions, he said he had already answered. However, in fact, he had not.

We'll ask again: Will the government's new climate plan include actions to reduce the Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions? Yes or no?

Hon. Wade Istchenko: Developing a climate change action plan focused on achievable actions and community resilience is what this government is doing. We're committed to developing this plan rooted in practical, achievable actions that will benefit our communities now and for generations to come. This plan will help ensure Yukon communities are prepared for climate change and better equipped to respond to its impacts. Our focus on this side is to develop realistic, tangible actions that aim to protect our homes, our communities, and infrastructure and support a more resilient Yukon.

Justin Ziegler: If the answer is not yes, I will assume it's no.

The minister also told Yukoners that a draft plan already exists and that the engagement will be targeted. This means that meetings and discussions will only take place with selected partners. When I asked if all Yukoners would have a say, he pointed to past consultations on the previous plan. But we know that this plan and the previous government's plan are not the same.

Yukoners deserve to have input on the plan this government is putting forward. Yukoners see the fires, the floods, and the smoke during summer. They have solutions and ideas, and they want to be heard. Yukoners need to be part of the solution, and for this, they must be included in the building process from the start.

Will the government ensure that there is open public engagement with Yukoners on their climate plan before the plan is final?

Hon. Wade Istchenko: Significant work has already informed the draft climate change action plan, including public engagements, climate risk assessments, departmental input, and actions that were already underway in previous plans.

We're engaging with Indigenous governments, organizations, municipalities, environmental non-governmental organizations, industry, research representatives, local advisory councils, and renewable resources councils to gather feedback on practical actions and identify opportunities and strengthen the final plan. This is a targeted engagement focused on gathering input from partners with direct experience implementing or responding to climate-related risk and impacts on the Yukon. Feedback received will help refine the plan and ensure the final actions are practical, achievable, and responsive to Yukon's needs.

Justin Ziegler: Last week, I asked the minister why the government still measures greenhouse gas emissions, and he said because other jurisdictions do.

A doctor who takes your temperature every year and never treats the fever is not doing much for your health. Measuring emissions only makes sense if the numbers lead to action. The fever is real. When fuel is burnt, it releases greenhouse gases and the smoke and pollution that people breathe. In my riding, the diesel generators remind Yukoners of this every winter.

This government repealed the law that committed the Yukon to reducing emissions. If this new plan has no written commitment to reduce greenhouse gases, nothing will stop emissions from going up year after year.

How will Yukoners know this government's new climate plan is working if there are no clearly stated emissions reduction targets?

Hon. Ted Laking: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the member opposite for the question.

It's timely, actually, because just last week, I was in Ottawa and I was advocating on behalf of Yukoners for significant investments in renewable energy. When we talk about the Mayo hydro facility and the $400 million of investment that it requires to extend its life so that we can still rely on that 15 megawatts of clean hydroelectric energy or when we're advocating for the Atlin hydro project and for the federal government to partner on that clean hydro energy that would power up to 2,500 homes in the Yukon, it is great news for the environment. It's great news for the economy. It's great news for the territory. We would hope that the NDP would start to support these initiatives.

Question — Yukon Party government's first year

Adam Gerle: One year ago, Yukoners elected a new government with a clear mandate for change. They were frustrated by the challenges building over many years: growing fiscal pressures, increasing debt, housing shortages, pressure on the health care system, delays in decision-making, and a sense that the government had lost focus. Yukoners wanted a government that would get back to basics, strengthen accountability, improve planning, and focus on delivering results.

Can the Premier tell us what steps have been taken over the past year to get the Yukon back on track?

Hon. Currie Dixon: We inherited a government that lacked focus, delayed decisions, and struggled to deliver on its priorities. We restored clear direction by publishing mandate letters and implementation plans so Yukoners can hold us accountable and departments can focus on results, not process.

We strengthened financial management by bringing greater discipline to government spending and focusing resources on the priorities that Yukoners elected us to deliver. We implemented a new fall capital budget to provide earlier certainty for communities, industry, and government to make the most of our short construction seasons.

At the same time, we have focused on strengthening relationships with Yukon First Nations through regular Yukon Forum meetings and collaboration on shared priorities, including health transformation, the development of new minerals legislation, and addressing the energy and infrastructure pressures facing this territory.

Our focus has been getting government back to basics: clear priorities, better planning, stronger accountability, and better results.

Adam Gerle: Over the past decade, Yukoners have watched pressures build across our health care and education systems. Families struggle to find primary care providers. Schools face growing enrolment pressures, and many people felt government was not keeping pace with the needs of a growing territory.

Can the Premier tell this House what progress has been made to improve health care and education in the territory?

Hon. Currie Dixon: In our first year, we have delivered on 25 platform commitments, making meaningful progress on the health care and education priorities that Yukoners told us matter most. We've recruited more doctors, expanded access to primary care, and cut the primary care wait-list by 60 percent. We are advancing the Whitehorse General Hospital expansion and investing in health infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing Yukon population. We expanded health care bursaries by more than 50 percent, helping train the next generation of Yukon health care workers.

We've launched an independent review of the education system to drive improvements and strengthen student outcomes. We strengthened classroom focus and learning by banning personal smartphone use during the school day, and we abandoned the unilateral decision to build École Whitehorse Elementary School in Takhini and are moving forward with a new site in Valleyview following consultation. We're upgrading and expanding school infrastructure, addressing maintenance needs, improving safety, and creating space for growing enrolment.

Together, these improvements are helping to address long-standing challenges and strengthening essential public services.

Adam Gerle: Over the past decade, Yukoners have watched economic challenges build across the territory. Businesses struggled with limited access to commercial and industrial land, lengthy approval processes, and growing uncertainty. Communities looked for investment and job opportunities needed to support long-term growth.

Can the Premier tell this House what progress has been made to strengthen the Yukon economy and create the conditions for businesses to invest, grow, and create jobs?

Hon. Currie Dixon: In our first year, we have taken action to strengthen the economy and create opportunities for Yukon businesses and workers. We're advancing staff housing, residential lots, and new housing projects to increase supply and support growth across the territory. We're getting more commercial and industrial land out to support investment, economic growth, and job creation.

We're making it easier to work with Yukon Government so that businesses can spend less time on red tape and more time growing and hiring. We took action to improve procurement, and we're getting ready to review the Yukon First Nation procurement policy and broader procurement practices.

We're tackling the energy crisis by expanding generation and reducing pressure on the grid. We're working with industry, Yukon First Nations, and communities to advance responsible development and strengthen investor confidence in the Yukon economy. A sale agreement for the Eagle Gold mine has been secured that could bring more than $1.5 billion in future investment in the Yukon.

Our work is far from finished, but after one year, Yukoners can see measurable progress and a government that is focused on delivering the commitments that we were elected to achieve.

Question — 2026 employee engagement survey results

Linda Moen: The 2026 employee engagement survey results were released this September. The government has stated these surveys help improve service delivery, foster innovation, support employee well-being, and strengthen the public service. Yet the results also identify several areas where employees are looking for greater support and improvement.

Can the minister describe what concrete actions the government will take to address the concerns raised by the employees and improve their experience in public service?

Hon. Jen Gehmair: I appreciate the opportunity to speak to this survey. We have indeed embarked on a survey that does a measure of the engagement across the organization, which is a good temperature check on where we're at and what we're doing.

I think the results of this survey demonstrated that 65 percent of employees had completed the survey, and the reports have become available on yukon.ca. The 2026 engagement survey gives Yukon a confidential and organization-wide view of employees' experiences and supports evidence-based decision-making across the workplace.

Linda Moen: One of the most consistent concerns across the 2026 employee engagement survey results was staffing practices. Employees expressed concerns about whether hiring processes are fair and whether critical knowledge is being retained when employees leave their roles.

What concrete steps is this government taking to improve hiring practices, strengthen workforce planning, and ensure important institutional knowledge is not lost when employees leave the public service?

Hon. Jen Gehmair: The 2026 employee engagement survey identifies areas of strength as well as areas that require further attention. Higher scoring areas provide a foundation to build on, while lower scores highlight opportunities for improvement. Drivers for supervisory-level management, job suitability, and teamwork were reported as being very positive, while attention is needed in senior leadership, stress and workload, and recognition.

The results will be reviewed carefully by the departments to better understand these factors that contribute to the employees' experiences and identify areas for further action. Leadership is committed to listening to employees, building on strengths, and addressing areas of concern. Survey results will inform ongoing efforts to strengthen employee engagement and the workplace experience, with progress monitored over time.

Linda Moen: Another recurring theme in the 2026 employee engagement survey results was concern about senior leadership. Employees identified issues related to communication, transparency, timely decision-making, and confidence that senior leaders are genuinely interested in employee well-being. These concerns appear across multiple departments and suggest a significant gap between employees and senior leadership.

What actions is this government taking to build employee confidence in senior leadership and improve communication through the public service?

Hon. Jen Gehmair: I think that while this survey is a good temperature check on the state of the public service, it also must be recognized that how these results are interpreted can vary across departments as well as by those interpreting it. I think it's important to note that there are areas we identified that require improvement, looking at the surveys over multiple years and finding trends and addressing those going forward. But ultimately, supporting the public service in their efforts to attract and retain employees and ensure that they have an engaged workforce going forward is our priority, and we will endeavour to do that alongside public servants working through the Public Service Commission.

Question — Government actions and priorities

Patti McLeod: Over the past decade, Yukoners have raised growing concerns about public safety in Whitehorse and communities across the territory. Families wanted safer neighbourhoods, stronger policing resources, and a government prepared to respond to organized crime, drug trafficking, and community safety concerns.

Can the Premier tell this House what progress has been made to strengthen public safety in the Yukon?

Hon. Currie Dixon: In our first year, we have taken action to strengthen public safety and support safer communities. We funded 10 additional RCMP positions in Whitehorse and Yukon communities, strengthening front-line policing across the territory. We directed police resources toward the issues Yukoners care most about: public safety, organized crime, and drug trafficking. We've invested in new policing equipment and upgrades to RCMP facilities, ensuring officers have the tools that they need.

We stood up for responsible firearm owners by introducing the *Yukon Firearms Act* and establishing a Yukon firearms advocate upon passage of that bill. We continued to advocate for stronger measures to address repeat violent offenders and tougher bail laws that keep dangerous criminals off our streets.

We're advancing a new approach for 405 Alexander by considering decentralizing services, expanding support options for vulnerable Yukoners, and creating a safer, more vibrant downtown core. Together, these actions are strengthening public safety and helping build safer communities across the Yukon.

Patti McLeod: Over the past decade, Yukoners have seen first-hand the growing impacts of climate change and the increasing threat of wildfires and other emergencies. Communities wanted a government that would take practical action to protect people, homes, and infrastructure while improving preparedness for future emergencies.

Can the Premier tell this House what progress has been made to improve environmental stewardship and community preparedness?

Hon. Currie Dixon: In our first year, we have taken action to protect the environment and strengthen emergency preparedness. We've expanded opportunities for Yukoners to access the land while protecting the natural resources that make our territory unique. We've strengthened renewable resources councils and local decision-making by filling long-standing vacancies on co-management boards. We've advanced Yukon River chinook recovery efforts and supported healthy wildlife populations.

We've expanded FireSmart and fuel reduction work to better protect homes, critical infrastructure, and communities from wildfire threats. We partnered with Yukon First Nations and local governments to advance wildfire protection, risk reduction, and community resilience initiatives. We've strengthened emergency planning and response capacity by supporting local preparedness initiatives and investing in critical protective infrastructure. Together, these actions are making Yukon communities safer, more resilient, and better prepared for the future.

Patti McLeod: The government has spoken today about the work that has been completed during its first year in office.

Yukoners elected this government because they wanted action on the issues that matter most to them, including housing, health care, affordability, economic development, energy security, and public safety. While important progress has been made, Yukoners expect much more action.

Can the Premier tell this House what Yukoners can expect to see from this government in the months and years ahead?

Hon. Currie Dixon: As we reflect on the one-year anniversary since the 2025 election, we're proud of the progress made during our first year, but we know that there's much more work to do. We've already delivered 25 platform commitments, and another 35 commitments are actively underway or in development across government. Those commitments are focused on the priorities Yukoners have told us matter the most.

Yukoners can expect action to increase housing supply, improve access to care, expand continuing care, strengthen rural health centres, and advance the expansion of Whitehorse General Hospital. They can expect continued work to strengthen energy security, support responsible resource development, grow the economy, and build new opportunities in partnership with Yukon First Nations. They can also expect us to keep reducing red tape, improving accountability, and ensuring that taxpayer dollars are focused on results.

Our first year was about restoring focus and building a stronger foundation. The work is now underway to deliver lasting improvements for Yukon families and communities over the next months and years.

Question — Supportive and transitional housing

Lane Tredger: I'd like to ask about money coming from the federal government for housing projects in the Yukon through the Build Canada Homes program. In a press release about the funding, it says the initiatives will support a number of housing priorities, including "the integration of supportive and transitional housing, which will help to address homelessness and provide housing stability for vulnerable people." This is an excellent goal as supportive and transitional housing have been consistently identified as a major gap in the Yukon.

However, when the minister spoke about how the Yukon Government will spend the money, he said that it will fund Yukon Housing to build more employee and rent-geared-to-income housing and fund private partners to build more affordable housing. These are all worthy projects, but they don't sound like they include supportive and transitional housing.

Can the minister tell Yukoners how the Build Canada Homes money will be used for supportive and transitional housing?

Hon. Scott Kent: I appreciate the question from the member opposite. Yukon Housing is working with Build Canada Homes to finalize a partnership to support significant investment in the territory's affordable housing stock. The multi-year partnership will support the construction of a portfolio of deeply affordable and affordable housing units across the territory over the next five years. These housing units will include both Yukon Housing direct builds and partner-led builds delivered by First Nations, municipalities, the private sector, and non-profit organizations.

Build Canada Homes is replacing the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation as the primary federal funding mechanism for affordable non-market housing developments across Canada. We look forward to finalizing this agreement with the federal government on Build Canada Homes. As the member referenced, we did make an announcement earlier this year with the federal minister on this exciting project, which will bring up to 500 new homes over the next five years into the system.

Lane Tredger: I'm looking forward to more details once that's signed, and I do hope that it does include the supportive and transitional housing piece, because that's an enormous gap in the Yukon. It has been identified over and over as a major barrier to everything from improving health care outcomes to reducing homelessness. There's been great work done by Safe at Home to open The Hearth, but there are many, many more people in need.

The Yukon's lack of supportive housing also puts enormous pressure on the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter. Right now, there are people staying at the shelter for long periods of time because they have nowhere else to go. It would be far more helpful, ethical, and cost-effective to quickly transition people to longer term housing, but for most of these Yukoners, there just isn't any longer term supportive housing available, and as a result, they are trapped in homelessness.

Does the Yukon Party have any plans to create new supportive or transitional housing in the Yukon?

Hon. Scott Kent: The Government of Yukon is working with partners to strengthen coordination and improve how people connect to housing and support. Yukon Housing supports this work by providing buildings and funding for partner-led housing and by providing 20 percent of its housing units in Whitehorse for those experiencing homelessness on the by-name list.

The Department of Health and Social Services provides operational funding to support several partner-led supportive and transitional housing initiatives. Yukon Housing and Health and Social Services support partner-operated supportive housing projects in Whitehorse, including 408 Alexander, 17 units there; 5131 5th Avenue, which has 16 units; 190 Olive May Way, which has 18 units; and Yukon Housing also contributed $12.9 million to the renovation of the former High Country Inn space here in Whitehorse for the recently opened Hearth project, which is bringing 67 units into the market for supportive housing.

There is much to do in this space, and we'll continue to work through it. But as you can see, there are a number of initiatives that Yukon Housing and the Department of Health and Social Services have collaborated on to address homelessness as well as transitional and supportive housing for Yukoners that need that type of housing.

Lane Tredger: A specific type of supportive housing that Yukoners desperately need is sober supportive housing. It's critical for people who are returning from addictions treatment, but it's almost impossible to find in the Yukon.

The Yukon Party talks a lot about focusing on treatment and recovery, but they can't just say they want people to recover from addictions; they have to actually create the conditions that would make that possible, and that has to include housing.

Imagine coming back from treatment, eager to start a different chapter of your life, but having nowhere to live. Stable, sober housing is one of the most important ways to prevent relapses, and right now, it's almost impossible to find. Unless the Yukon Party addresses that gap, all that talk about focusing on recovery is nothing more than words.

What is the Yukon Party doing to make sober supportive housing available for Yukoners who need it?

Hon. Brad Cathers: As my colleague the Minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation noted, there are a

number of initiatives, a number of supports provided by Yukon Housing as well as Health and Social Services.

The supportive housing provided by Health and Social Services includes 405 Alexander Street above the shelter. It includes 5131 5th Avenue, the former Housing First supportive housing unit. It includes the Cornerstone Community building, which provides supportive tenancies run by Opportunities Yukon. It includes 408 Alexander, which is supportive housing, and it includes The Hearth, which has opened but is not fully occupied now, as they're bringing people on in a phased approach.

Altogether, the total transfer payment value to support those supportive housing units is $11.4 million annually. Again, as I noted, there is additional capacity in The Hearth to take on more people. We'll continue to work together along with our partners, including Yukon Housing Corporation, to provide housing to meet the needs of those who are not served through market housing.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

Notice of Opposition private members' business

Debra-Leigh Reti: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3)(b), I would like to identify the items standing in the name of the Third Party to be called on Wednesday, November 4, 2026. They are Motion No. 51, standing in the name of the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin; and Motion No. 191, standing in the name of the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin.

Lane Tredger: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3)(b), I would like to identify the items standing in the name of members of the Official Opposition to be called on Wednesday, November 4, 2026. They are Motion No. 196, standing in the name of the Member for Riverdale North; Motion No. 195, standing in the name of the Member for Whitehorse Centre; and Motion No. 193, standing in the name of the Member for Takhini.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Scott Kent: 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: Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

Bill No. 204 — *Second Appropriation Act 2026-27 — continued*

Executive Council Office — *continued*

Chair: The matter before the Committee is general debate on Vote 2, Executive Council Office, in Bill No. 204, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2026-27*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

The matter before the Committee is general debate on Vote 2, Executive Council Office, in Bill No. 204, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2026-27*.

Hon. Currie Dixon: I'm pleased to return to Bill No. 204 and the Executive Council Office line in that bill today in debate. I'm joined by Julie Desbrisay, the Acting Deputy Minister of the Executive Council Office, and I'm looking forward to answering questions from members opposite.

I would note that before we left last time, I was asked about the list of major projects, and I'd start by providing that list in response. The Government of Yukon generally considers major projects to include projects that require executive committee screenings or panel reviews under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*, and that list using those criteria includes the following: BMC's Kudz Ze Kayah; Talamore Mining's Coffee Gold; Western Copper and Gold's Casino; Hecla Mining Company's Keno Hill extension; Selkirk Copper's Minto project; Fireweed Metals' Mactung project; Snowline's Valley gold project; the Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership's Mount Nansen mine remediation project; Chance Oil's Eagle Plains exploration project; the Government of Yukon's Poison Lake timber harvest plan, which has been identified as meeting the threshold of executive committee — although I would note that we perhaps aren't sure that we agree with that; the Government of Yukon's North Canol infrastructure improvement project; and a number of projects under the Yukon Energy Corporation, including the Mayo generating station, Wareham spillway replacement, Whitehorse Rapids generating station, Aishihik generating station, Whitehorse Power Centres project, and the Tlingit Homeland Energy Limited Partnership's Atlin hydro expansion project, as well, of course, as the ongoing discussions about the grid connection to British Columbia.

Those are the projects that we consider major projects under the Major Projects Yukon gamut, which all meet the threshold of requiring an executive committee screening or above in YESAA.

Kate White: I appreciate that the Premier just reminded us that we had been here before, because at this point in time, it feels like it was maybe 19 million years ago and I had forgotten that we had already discussed this. I'm excited to be back. Welcome, of course, the official to the Chamber.

I just want to start with asking questions about some of those major projects that the Premier just listed. Can the Premier walk me through a bit of an overview of Chance Oil and Gas and their North Yukon project?

Hon. Currie Dixon: I don't have specific information with the project itself, but I would note that Major Projects Yukon acts as a way to bring forward or bring about Yukon Government's views through the assessment process. In the

course of that assessment process, Major Projects Yukon would work with affected departments to provide input into the environmental and socio-economic assessment process.

Where that specific project is in the process is something I'll have to return with, but the exact details of the project and its relation to the department would be something that Energy, Mines and Resources would probably be better placed to respond to. But in the role of Major Projects Yukon, we're a collection and a clearinghouse of Yukon Government's input into that process.

Kate White: If memory serves me correctly, Chance Oil and Gas is what it's called now, but it had a previous name not that long ago, including court cases. At the time, if I remember correctly, there were YESAB applications for unconventional extraction, which, of course, means fracking or what is commonly known as fracking.

The Premier will remember in his time as Minister of Environment in his go-around between 2011 and 2016 that the idea of hydraulic fracturing in the territory was not supported by Yukoners. In 2016, the then-government put a moratorium on. Where does this Yukon Party stand on unconventional extraction practices?

Hon. Currie Dixon: We have not made any policy changes on that front.

Kate White: Can the minister just confirm — support, don't support? I'm just looking for more clarity than the answer I just got.

Hon. Currie Dixon: If a First Nation that had oil and gas resources in their traditional territory was interested in considering change, we'd be willing to talk about it. But at this point, we've made no policy change from the previous government.

Kate White: For the Whitehorse Trough, which was obviously a big deal at the time — I imagine it would be a big deal again. There was lots of discussion between 2011 and 2016 about oil and gas exploration, extraction, and unconventional extraction in the Whitehorse Trough.

Where does the Premier stand on that issue?

Hon. Currie Dixon: I'm not sure if the member is asking about a specific claim or lease or right that exists currently. If so, I would direct the member to the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

But in terms of a broad policy discussion, like I said, whether it's Whitehorse or Eagle Plains or anywhere else, we haven't made any policy changes with regard to that issue from the previous government.

Kate White: Then just to confirm that the moratorium still stands on hydraulic fracturing in the territory?

Hon. Currie Dixon: I'm not sure that the previous government ever brought in any formal moratorium. If they did, I'm not aware of in what context it was brought forward. I'll have to double-check the records to see if there was something that I wasn't aware of. But I obviously wasn't paying close attention to it between 2016 and 2021. I'll have to go back and look at the debate at the time. But I'm not aware that the previous government ever actually formally brought forward anything on that front.

Kate White: Same bone I have to pick. They made lots of statements about a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing but no actual action. I guess, does this government follow suit? So, it's a moratorium in words against hydraulic fracturing in the territory?

Hon. Currie Dixon: Again, our policy on this particular issue hasn't changed from the previous government. I'll have to go back and look to determine if there was any work done by the previous government. My understanding is that they had a broad policy framework around this but no actual capital-M moratorium or legislation or regulation was passed to the effect of that. I stand to be corrected, and I'm happy to go look back over the previous government's tenure to see if something did pass. But to my knowledge, there was no formal legislation or regulation that was passed.

Kate White: Just going back to actually something that was discussed today in Question Period, knowing that we're a year out from the last election, I'll note that there was a response from the Yukon Party to the Whitehorse Nordic Ski Society in response to questions that they had sent. Their question was, "Does your party support the relinquishment of all mining claims under the Whitehorse Nordic Centre's trail network? If so, what do you commit to do to ensure the mining claims and within what timeline?"

The response was, "A new Yukon Government would need to speak with the proponent to understand their interest and plans in order to explore the possibility of relinquishing mining claims under the trail network. We commit to having these conversations should the Yukon Party form government."

I'm interested to know where that commitment was. That was a letter dated October 23 to the Whitehorse Nordic Ski Society.

Hon. Currie Dixon: I broadly say that we stand by the letter that we wrote during the campaign.

When it comes to the ongoing engagement between the mining industry and the government, when it comes to claims and the management of claims, that will be something that will be handled by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Kate White: One of the reasons why I'm asking is I actually had questions about mineral staking or the development of minerals legislation during the briefing, and one of the complicated things was trying to figure out where questions should go, because I appreciate that Energy, Mines and Resources was the department behind minerals and such, but one would think that the Executive Council Office would have a leadership role to play. I did ask questions and sometimes was shut down pretty firmly.

The reason why I'm bringing it up now is I'm going through the briefing notes from the spring, and there are lots of things that talk about minerals in the minister's briefing notes. I'm going to ask some questions around that, because I'm interested and I tried to ask in the briefing and then I was told that we should direct them to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and I'll just note that there are briefing notes, so I'd like to ask some questions about that.

First of all, there are mineral staking prohibitions that have been in response to litigation, so can the Premier walk me

through what areas are currently unavailable for mineral staking and the timelines for that?

Hon. Currie Dixon: The member is correct that the Department of the Executive Council Office does play a role in engaging with Yukon First Nations vis-à-vis the First Nations Relations and Treaty Implementation (FNRTI) division. So, on projects like the new minerals legislation, we are engaged, but the lead for that work has been the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and the technical staff who are representing Yukon Government in that process report to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

I would note that we had 3.5 hours of debate on Energy, Mines and Resources just a few weeks ago, and none of these subjects came up when the member had the opportunity to ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources these questions, so I can't help but note that. When it comes to areas that have been excluded from mineral staking, there's been no broad change there other than the fact that we've maintained the previous staking withdrawals.

I may miss some specifics here, but there's the work in the City of Whitehorse, there's the work in Kaska traditional territory, we have a staking withdrawal in the lands that are the overlap of the Taku River Tlingit along the Atlin Road, and I believe that's it, but I would have to defer to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in that debate to provide further clarity on that.

Kate White: I'll just note to the Premier that the debate ended and we haven't had a chance or won't have a chance to go back, I don't think, until the spring, and I'll note that my colleague the Member for Riverdale North has more questions and probably very similar to some of the ones I'm going to be asking now.

Can the Premier let me know if there are any areas currently that have staking prohibitions in place for land use planning purposes? For example, looking toward Dawson — do any areas right now have prohibitions for staking because of land use planning?

Hon. Currie Dixon: I would note again that the lead for the land use planning process in the Government of Yukon is the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. There's nothing in my budget, Bill No. 204 that we're debating here today, that is impacted by that. When it comes to the implementation and engagement of land use planning, those questions will be best suited to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Opposition did have well over three hours to bring these questions up during that debate, and they did not.

But I would note that yes, I believe that there are staking withdrawals in the Dawson land use planning area. But again, the responsibility and detail for that would be better provided by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources during debate on that department.

Kate White: *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* — where do the Premier and the Executive Council Office stand on that?

Hon. Currie Dixon: Our government is committed to advancing reconciliation and working in partnership with Indigenous governments. Some Yukon First Nations and transboundary First Nations have engaged with us on a range of issues, but our view is that the best way to engage in reconciliation in this territory is through the implementation of the treaties, and that's what we've done. We work with treaty nations to implement the treaties, whether they're the land claims or the self-government agreements themselves.

In non-treaty areas — areas with the Kaska, the Liard First Nation, the Ross River Dena Council, and, of course, with the White River First Nation — we're exploring opportunities to have those First Nations express self-determination in other non-treaty ways. One example that I would point out that we announced just yesterday was the establishment of a collaborative wildlife stewardship agreement between the Yukon Government and the Ross River Dena Council. That allows our two governments to work together in the field of wildlife management in a way that doesn't happen anywhere else in the territory. I would note that it's similar in concept to the renewable resources councils that are outlined in the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and the First Nations that have final agreements processes, and we are optimistic that is a step toward a type of self-determination that's unique and fitting with the agreements that we have with the Ross River Dena Council.

When it comes to the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, we believe that the best way to move forward with reconciliation in this territory is through the treaties, and in areas where we don't have treaties, we work directly with First Nations to advance self-determination.

Kate White: Has the issue of UNDRIP been brought up at Yukon Forums at all, and if so, what has the response been in that situation?

Hon. Currie Dixon: No, it has not come up.

Kate White: In tab 2 from spring 2026, it says, "Although the Declaration has been raised at multiple past Yukon Forum meetings and by individual Nations, there has been no consensus to prioritize working jointly on a Yukon approach to it."

I think I'll ask again. It hasn't been long that the Premier has been at those Yukon Forums, but now — knowing that it says in his notes that it has been raised multiple times in the past — how will these conversations happen with the Yukon Forum?

Hon. Currie Dixon: I'm sure that there were a lot of things raised over the decades of Yukon Forum's existence, but in terms of what I have heard from chiefs expressed at the Yukon Forum, it's not a topic of great conversation. It's possible that it could have come up in conversation on some issues, but what we've done with the Yukon Forum is work very closely with First Nations to develop a strategic plan for the issues and topics that we bring up at the forum, and to my knowledge and recollection, that has not been something that's been identified by First Nations as something that needs to be addressed as a specific agenda item.

Kate White: The last time a progress report was released on implementing the TRC calls to action was in the fall of 2023. When will there be an updated progress report on the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action?

Hon. Currie Dixon: That's something we've been thinking about very closely since the member raised it in the Spring Sitting. At that time, all I noted was that there was the 2023 report and that we would consider what to do. To be honest, the answer still is that we're thinking about how best to report on that.

Individual departments do have some sense of the responsibilities and actions that they have taken. I note that earlier this Sitting, the Minister of Justice tabled a legislative return to questions about the way that the Department of Justice is implementing the TRC recommendations. There's one little piece of that.

But when I looked at the 2023 report and the following debate in the spring, I note that was quite a document. It was a glossy report that was done with great thought. I'm not sure that we need to do another report like that on this, although I certainly haven't ruled it out. But what I would say is that we're very conscious of the fact that we have obligations and commitments that have been made under the TRC and the recommendations made therein and are very much committed to those. But when it comes to reporting publicly on that, I'm giving some thought still as to how best to do that.

I would welcome suggestions from the Opposition if they have some about whether another report like the one done in 2023 should be done. If there's something more basic and if there's something else we're missing that we could do, we would certainly be willing to consider it.

But the answer to the member's question is I've been thinking about it a lot since you raised it in the spring. I've asked the department of ECO to engage with departments to bring together that work and to think about it and whether or not we need to do another formal report or whether there's some other mechanism for reporting to the public about that.

Kate White: I appreciate that response from the Premier. I think it's probably more complicated than just me suggesting an implementation plan or a "where we are". I think that probably has a lot to do with Yukon First Nations and their sense of prioritizing what those calls to action were. But I'll note that Yukon Government — we're behind, as many governments are, in different ways.

One of the things that I thought was really incredible with the Arctic Winter Games that Yukon hosted in the spring was that there was a real dedicated acknowledgement of the TRC call to action about sports. I cannot remember what it was called, but when I did the presentation for the 17th time, I could have listed it off. But that was an example of an organization saying: Okay, this is one of those calls that we've been tasked or called to respond to. I think that was done in a really good way.

I'm not sure. I don't have a path for the Premier right now. But I do thank him for that invitation to make suggestions. I believe that I'll look toward some of Yukon First Nation leadership for that, because I do think it's important.

I had some questions, and I also note that I think congratulations are in order. I had a conversation yesterday with Chief Loblaw ahead of the 4:00 p.m. press release about signing the wildlife agreement. As you can imagine, Ross River Dena Council is really excited. I'm a bit surprised that there wasn't a statement today about it, but it is a really important thing. It is an important thing. I will offer the congratulations there. Again, speaking to Chief Loblaw, it was a thing that was started by his predecessors. It was exciting to have a conversation with him about it.

I think about, for example, Na-Cho Nyäk Dun's mining policy and conversations with the previous chief. Na-Cho Nyäk Dun indicated that they were tired of waiting for new minerals legislation and they wanted to make sure that they had some mechanisms in place. I think about the Tu Łidlini assessment process. I just wanted to get a sense on how these First Nation-led processes work with Yukon Government processes.

How does Yukon Government engage with Na-Cho Nyäk Dun surrounding their mining policy and with Tu Łidlini around their assessment process?

Hon. Currie Dixon: Obviously, the law of the land, so to speak, for everyone across the territory is the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* and the process laid out therein. Any proponent wishing to advance a mining project in the territory would need to go through the steps that include the environmental assessment and then go to the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources to go through the mining permitting process, whether it's a placer project or a quartz mining project, depending on the nature of it. They would go through a process outlined in that department. Then, of course, the other big one for any mining project typically is a water licence and that's, of course, well-understood by the member opposite.

When it comes to First Nations that have their own mining policy, obviously we encourage proponents to familiarize themselves with it and to consider how best to engage with that. Different mining companies have done that in different ways, and different agreements between individual companies and First Nations have been reached over the years. But in general, we obviously encourage proponents to take a strong and open approach to engaging with the First Nation whose traditional territory they're on and consider whatever policies, programs, or advice that First Nation has for how they should be conducting themselves.

Kate White: When the minister says he encourages proponents to participate, can he just elaborate on that a bit, please? In what way does Yukon Government encourage proponents to participate with the Indigenous-led processes?

Hon. Currie Dixon: That would come in a multifaceted way. Obviously, at the highest level, when I'm meeting with mining companies, I'm often talking to them about the relationship with the First Nation whose traditional territory they're operating on. I assume that similar conversations happen between the minister and those proponents.

Then I'm well aware that at the departmental level, whether it's in ECO or EMR or any other department, Yukon Government officials are encouraging proponents to engage in a meaningful way with First Nation governments regardless of whether they have an Indigenous-led assessment process or not. Not all nations do. Of course, we encourage positive dialogue between proponents and First Nations and that expresses itself in different ways and in different bilateral relationships. But it happens in a number of different ways and at a number of different levels.

Kate White: One thing I'll note is in meetings with industry, there is a real acknowledgement that to be able to go into an assessment process in partnership with a nation as opposed to in conflict with a nation makes a lot of sense. I'll note that there has been a lot of leadership from industry in having a lot of those conversations and a lot of those meetings and getting on the same page ahead of that. I think that's really important.

The *Umbrella Final Agreement* implementation plan is renewed every 10 years and the last one expired in 2024 and then was extended to 2029. I'm interested to know what work is being done with the Council of Yukon First Nations and the Government of Canada on a new funding package for the implementation of the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and Yukon First Nation final agreement. There is a lot of work that's done under the UFA boards and committees and, of course, they need funding. I'm just interested to know, knowing that the extension was to 2029 and that may feel far away, but like I said, I felt like I was here 19 years ago. Time is weird. I just wanted to know where those conversations and that planning are.

Hon. Currie Dixon: The Yukon Government recognizes the important work being carried out across the territory by the various boards, councils, and committees created under the *Umbrella Final Agreement*. We're working with the Council of Yukon First Nations, individual First Nations, and the Government of Canada on a new funding package for the implementation of the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and each Yukon First Nation final agreement. As the member has noted, the current agreement extends until 2029 and the discussions are ongoing. We're committed to working with our partners to ensure funding is available to support shared implementation priorities.

We have expressed that to the federal government in a number of different ways. One of the ways that we've communicated to the federal government about that is through the intergovernmental forum where the Yukon Government and Yukon First Nation governments meet with the federal government, typically the three departments that have the most activity in the Yukon. The most recent one was held here in Whitehorse in February and involved Minister Chartrand and Minister Alty, and it was not Minister Gull-Masty, but it was her parliamentary secretary that — I am blanking on the name of that person; I apologize. But we as both the Yukon Government and First Nations impress upon the federal government the need to live up to their obligations under the treaties and provide adequate funding for those important boards and committees.

The other thing I would note is that as a result of the 2017 reset MOU, the Yukon Government, First Nations, and the Government of Canada are engaged in the early work to conduct the comprehensive review of the Yukon environmental and socio-economic assessment process, and that's work that we're engaging in as well.

Kate White: Just having a quick look at the boards and committees of it, I'll note that in the notes, it talks about concerns around honorarium rates, and so I guess my question is within the boards under the *Umbrella Final Agreement*. We've got things like the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, Regional Land Use Planning Commissions, Yukon Development Assessment Board, Heritage Resources Board, Geographical Place Names Board, Yukon Water Board, fish and wildlife, renewable — anyway, lots of things. Are the honorariums consistent across those boards?

Hon. Currie Dixon: I would have to double-check to ensure. There's a long list of boards and committees the member just listed, and I'd be hesitant to make a broad, sweeping statement to say that they all are necessarily consistent.

But what I would note is that we know that the funding for a lot of those boards isn't sufficient. One example I would point to would be the Land Use Planning Council, and if we're going to complete land use planning in the territory, we're going to require additional funding from the Government of Canada, and so that's another area where Yukon Government and Yukon First Nations have expressed to Canada a desire to see increased support to allow for the implementation of the treaties.

Ultimately, I'll have to get back to the member to confirm consistency. Well, actually, no, I don't have to wait. I can let the member know right now that I'm told that, yes, those boards are funded consistently across YG-administered boards, and discussion of how those are funded is a part of the ongoing UFA funding renewal discussions.

Kate White: I appreciate the support the Premier has and note that anytime there's an official with an electronic device, answers can come fast and furiously, including from my copy of the spring 2026 session briefing note. I'll note they don't say confidential anymore, so I can't talk about the confidential documents like the Premier and his colleagues did previously. That's okay. I'm moving on. I do appreciate the information, and I'll note that it's a good example. I was asking questions in bill debate earlier this Sitting and was not getting answers in the same way. I appreciate that from the minister.

Something that is a big issue for Yukoners, especially Yukon First Nations, is Yukon River salmon.

This is another one of those questions, because it's got tabs for both ECO and the Department of Environment, and so what is the ECO's involvement when we talk about Yukon River salmon and support of salmon stocks and the work done with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous groups to bring back Yukon River salmon?

Hon. Currie Dixon: I appreciate the question from the member. Obviously, the primary work here is done through the Department of Environment, where that department oversees the engagement with bodies like the Yukon River Salmon Sub-Committee that is one of the important tools for the management of Yukon River salmon.

But the department of ECO does have a role to play there as well, and that tends to be the higher-level role where we engage in the relationship building with treaty partners, and one of the treaties there or the international treaty that we have is on salmon. I engage with the governor of Alaska, officials in Alaska, and between the Government of Yukon and the State of Alaska in a number of different ways.

But the operational work is led by the Department of Environment and the engagement through those co-management bodies like the Yukon River Panel, so I'm happy to get into it more, but that's generally the division of responsibilities, that the operational lead is the Department of Environment and the

higher-level intergovernmental relations is the responsibility of ECO.

Kate White: Thank you, and I appreciate that from the Premier.

When the Premier and I were at a debate last fall in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Territory, we were both asked a question about the personhood of the Yukon River, and so I'm not sure where within government that would fall, but I would imagine it would be with the Premier and Executive Council Office.

At the time — I don't have access to the audio, but I think at the time the Premier was maybe caught by surprise by the question, but it has been a year, and so where does the Premier stand on personhood for the Yukon River?

Hon. Currie Dixon: Personhood for the Yukon River is not something that we're currently contemplating or working on.

Kate White: Is the Premier familiar with the conversation? Well, the Premier was at a debate with me last year where we were asked about it. It has been brought up again in different Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in circles.

Is the Premier open to having those conversations with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, or is this a surprise that I'm asking questions about the personhood of the Yukon River?

Hon. Currie Dixon: It's certainly not a surprise. I heard the story on CBC a few weeks ago where the Deputy Chief of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in was talking about this issue, but that doesn't change my answer. It's still not something that we're currently considering or working on. To date, it's not something that has been raised with me in any of the bilateral meetings I've had with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. I'm aware that it came up in the election debate and I provided an answer at that time, but as far as I'm concerned at this very moment, there is no present consideration or work being done to look at personhood for the Yukon River.

Kate White: In the briefing notes, again, it talks about ECO and Energy, Mines and Resources, and it talks about how the Government of Yukon is working on a new approach to First Nations and industry collaboration. I was wondering if the minister could share more information.

Hon. Currie Dixon: The member referenced some notes. I'm not sure what she was referring to. Can I just ask her to explain a little bit more? It was about the relationship between Yukon Government and Yukon First Nation governments, I believe, but I just want to confirm.

Kate White: Delighted.

From the briefing binder in the spring, it's ECO tab 10 and EMR tab 2. "Topic: The Government of Yukon is working with Yukon First Nations and industry to complete new minerals legislation. Key messages: The work advanced in the past five years serves as a foundation to move forward with the process. Moving forward, the approach will likely look different as we recognize the need to advance new legislation efficiently."

"Key facts and stats: The Government of Yukon has spent $6 million on the development of new legislation in the past five years. Of this, $5.2 million went to funding First Nations government participation. Status: The Government of Yukon is working on a new approach to First Nations and industry collaboration."

It's in relation to minerals legislation, and I was hoping the minister could expand on that.

Hon. Currie Dixon: I don't have the spring budget briefing for the department of ECO with me now, so the tabs and numbers don't match to what she's got.

But what I would simply say is that the new minerals legislation process is being led by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources based on a process agreed upon by Yukon First Nations and Yukon Government. While I was involved in some of the high-level early discussions around that, including those held at Yukon Forum, the work being done and the policy direction and the process are all things that will be led by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Kate White: In 2024, the Yukon Government and Ross River Dena Council jointly asked the Yukon Ombudsman to conduct an independent review and provide recommendations regarding any identifiable systemic, institutional, or cultural factors that may have influenced the government's response to the complaints that were brought forward in regard to, I believe, a Yukon highways employee. It notes that the ombudsman investigation was underway and that government was waiting for the outcomes.

Has that been completed, and if so, can the minister share what was found in that investigation?

Hon. Currie Dixon: My understanding is that work is still underway and it's not completed and we're still waiting.

Kate White: I thank the Premier for that answer. I think it will be important, so I will make sure to look for it to see what's coming out. I'm interested in talking about First Nations and energy projects and the role that the Executive Council plays in that and having conversations with industry and with energy champions and proponents. There have been lots of discussion about the importance of setting a table with different levels of government — so Yukon First Nations, federal government — and working together, for example, to go towards the government's call for power, and so I'm interested to know the role that the Executive Council Office plays when speaking specifically about Yukon First Nations and energy projects.

Hon. Currie Dixon: As with a number of these issues, the department of ECO and I, as Premier, play a relationship management role, but the technical work and the engagement on the operational side is done by departments. In this particular case, it's done by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and occasionally, depending on the file and depending on the nature of the project, the Yukon Development Corporation and/or the Yukon Energy Corporation as well. In the case of the relationship side, obviously, discussions happen at a high level at tables like the Yukon Forum and at bilateral conversations that we have with Yukon First Nations. With First Nations that have land claims, obviously, those tend to relate specifically to the obligations that Yukon Government has in relation to chapter 22 and the bilateral obligations that the Yukon Government has with the First Nation in that respect.

But when it comes to individual projects or individual engagements, I would defer to the Minister of Energy, Mines

and Resources and the Minister responsible for the Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation to answer that more clearly. But I would also just note that ECO does play a role in participating in energy projects that are going through environmental assessment processes and so we engage with First Nations sometimes on those fronts. Examples would be like the work that we did with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations in relation to the permitting of the Aishihik hydro facility. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and I travelled to the north end of Aishihik Lake this summer for a gathering there and engaged with the Champagne and Aishihik in respect to that work. There are a number of other examples of those around the Yukon, but in general, the operational work is led by EMR.

Kate White: I appreciate that answer. There has been reference again — and I'll note again it was referenced today in Question Period — about the Atlin hydro expansion project. I was just interested in what role they play in conversations with the Tlingit Homeland Energy Limited Partnership as far as that project goes. The reason I'm asking is that the Atlin hydro expansion project has been discussed in this House for many years in many different capacities. I will note, previously, I wasn't under the impression that the Yukon Party was in support, but it's back up and so I appreciate that.

I'm just interested to know what role the Executive Council Office plays around the Atlin hydro expansion project.

Hon. Currie Dixon: As has become a theme, often ECO is the lead when it comes to the broad relationship in terms of the government-to-government relationship that we have in this particular case with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation. I've had meetings with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation government and discussed a range of issues, including their energy project. The operational lead for the engagement with the project itself is done by Energy, Mines and Resources and the Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation. If that project were to proceed and begin development, they would need a power line and that would likely trigger some engagement with other First Nations as well as an assessment. In that particular case, the Executive Council Office of Yukon Government would play a centralizing role in Yukon Government to engage in that assessment process.

The electricity purchase agreement between the proponent and the Energy Corporation would be handled by the Energy Corporation and the Development Corporation. The energy policy issues related to it at large would be EMR, and then the bilateral relationship between the TRTFN and Yukon Government would be our responsibility in ECO and my responsibility as Premier.

Kate White: I appreciate that response from the Premier. I have just been told that it is for EMR, but I'm going to ask anyway. I'm going to shoot the shot here and ask if there's a recent costing for the Atlin hydro expansion project. There's been lots of numbers over the years, and if the Premier has one, I'd love to hear it. If not, we will direct it to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources at a later date.

Hon. Currie Dixon: I would note as well again that is an answer that Energy, Mines and Resources would be able and willing to provide. I don't have that with me today, but, of course, during the over 3.5 hours of debate of EMR, that's not something that was asked of the minister at the time, so that information hasn't been provided. But we can certainly endeavour to look into that.

There's a funding gap that exists for the project. I would be hesitant to throw a number at it, because I don't have the most recent information, but I'm sure that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources does.

Kate White: I'll note that there was far longer than 3.5 hours of discussion around Bill No. 8, and I didn't get answers — 3.5 hours, eight hours, nine hours. I'll note that the debate on Energy, Mines and Resources ended when we hit 5:30. But I know my colleague has more questions.

I'm interested to know the role the Executive Council Office plays in relation to the Yukon-BC grid connect, where ECO is in those discussions, and what role they play.

Hon. Currie Dixon: As I've said before, like a number of the other projects, ECO plays a role in terms of engaging on the relationship level with Yukon First Nations as well as others in this. The work typically had been led by the Yukon Development Corporation and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, and so the operational questions about the project would be best directed toward the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and their minister. As members will have heard us say a number of times publicly, it's an exciting long-term project that we hope advances over time. But it will not do — it's a project that will not meet our near-term urgent needs for power. While we're glad to see ongoing long-term commitment to it, our focus has shifted to more near-term projects. I know that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources will be happy to provide further information about that when we're debating EMR.

Kate White: One of the things that caught my attention in the spring briefing notes around the grid connect is a line: "If the concept is feasible, forging partnerships with First Nation governments will be critical to its success." I think I got stuck on "If the concept is feasible…"

Can the Premier let me know if there's been a change from the spring to now as far as the feasibility of the Yukon-BC grid connect?

Hon. Currie Dixon: I don't have any information within the department of ECO about the current feasibility, but I am aware that the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources does have a better sense of that, and I would note that isn't something that came up in debate on Energy, Mines and Resources just a few weeks ago.

Kate White: We'll put it on the list. There have been recent news stories around the lawsuit filed by the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun against Yukon Government and Yukon Government's response. I understand that it's still in front of the court, but in the briefing document from the spring, it says that ECO has issued interim corporate guidance to Yukon Government departments that provides operational guidance when consulting, engaging, negotiating with both Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun on the subject matters in the litigation.

If the Premier can just walk me through what that means and what the current status is of that interim corporate guidance that was issued.

Hon. Currie Dixon: The member is quite correct that I can't speak to anything that's before the courts right now. I won't speak about the actual court case itself.

But what I would say is that despite the existence of those court cases, we obviously continue to have a positive relationship with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and continue to engage with them at a bilateral level on a range of different issues.

When it comes to the direction or leadership role that ECO plays, we generally indicate to all departments that if you're engaging in consultation or anything that would potentially have an impact on the court case, we ask that you come talk to us. ECO engages with other departments whenever they're engaging with FNNND or TH to ensure that we're aware of what's happening so that we can consider the actions of Yukon Government in the context of the court case.

Kate White: I had questions during the briefing about the Ross River protected areas and how that planning was going. I'll note that in the briefing notes, it notes that RRDC, Yukon Government, and Canada have been working together since 2025 to assess the feasibility of establishing a new protected area such as a national park reserve in the Ross River area.

I'm looking for updates on that work or timelines and ECO's role in this work.

Hon. Currie Dixon: ECO's role is that a staff member from the Executive Council Office sits on the tripartite committee, the oversight committee for the work being done on the potential establishment of an Indigenous protected area in the traditional territory of the Ross River Dena Council. They are joined by representatives of the federal government and the government of Ross River Dena Council.

At this point, there is not much new other than that the work is continuing, led by that tripartite group. In the next little while, we anticipate them moving to the next step, which would be engaging with stakeholders to assess information about other third-party values in the area to get a better sense of how to proceed. That's the latest we have.

Kate White: I'll note that at my October 15 briefing, I was told that the team was in Ross River that week and there was a meeting the night before in Ross River.

I was just wondering if the Premier could give us a status or an update as to how those meetings went.

Hon. Currie Dixon: I believe the meetings have been nothing but positive in that they have been working together collaboratively. I haven't heard reports of anything other than that. That's my comment on the nature of the meetings. I believe there have been meetings since then as well, as recently as perhaps last week, and that work is underway.

Kate White: I appreciate the response from the Premier.

I have more questions actually around the Taku River Tlingit and specifically around the potential transfer of the 11.5-square-kilometre parcel of land known as the Áashú lands. I'm just looking for some additional information. Of course, the Taku River Tlingit there are overlapping lands within both British Columbia and Yukon, and there has been conversation for a fair number of years, I believe, around the potential transfer of this 11.5-square-kilometre parcel of land.

Hon. Currie Dixon: Of course, we continue to be engaged in discussions with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation about their interests and asserted Indigenous rights in the Yukon, including land planning, development, wildlife management, and self-determination. These discussions are intended to explore new approaches to reconciliation, including how our governments can best work together on shared priorities.

I would also note that in January 2026, the Taku River Tlingit First Nation formally notified Yukon Government that it claims Indigenous rights in an expanded area of Yukon. As a result, we've begun consulting with the Taku River Tlingit about decisions and activities that may affect their asserted Indigenous rights based on that boundary. But we obviously have to balance that with our obligations to treaty partners and Yukon First Nations with final agreements.

In terms of the Áashú lands themselves, we continue to have bilateral discussions between the Yukon Government and the TRTFN about those lands and don't have anything to report at this time.

Kate White: I will hold that space.

It's my understanding based on a couple of things, including the briefing notes, that there is an oversight group that is currently working on targeted amendments to YESAA that would allow, with Yukon First Nations' consent, an exemption from assessment for projects that involve a renewal or amendment to an existing authorization.

Can the Premier give us additional information about that work that I imagine is ongoing, the status and a timeline, maybe?

Hon. Currie Dixon: The way that the member characterized some of that work is not how I would characterize it.

The work that we're doing at a tripartite level is set out in the reset MOU of 2017, which includes a comprehensive review of the act in 2027, and so we're engaging with Yukon First Nation governments as well as the federal government to discuss how best to conduct a review of the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*. Work is ongoing. We anticipate it'll be the nature of discussion at the next intergovernmental forum between the three levels of government, Yukon First Nations, Yukon Government, and the federal government, which will be held in Ottawa in December.

Kate White: Thank you, and I appreciate the additional information from the Premier.

I am looking at what was in those spring briefing notes, and it does say that the oversight group is currently working on two main initiatives, and so it says: "… targeted amendment to YESAA that would allow, with Yukon First Nations' consent, an exemption from assessment for projects that involve a renewal or amendment to an existing authorization" and a comprehensive "… review of the development assessment process set out in YESAA…" The reason why I'm asking is it does say that group specifically is working on those two initiatives, and so I was just asking and I'm still asking for a sense of where those two main initiatives are at.

Hon. Currie Dixon: The member asked about two things. The second one was the comprehensive review, and that's what I've answered. The reset MOU of 2017 lays out a process, and we've got an oversight committee that's leading the work to a more comprehensive review of YESAA. The exact parameters and details of what that will look like and what issues will be discussed haven't been set yet, but we'll discuss it at a tripartite level through the intergovernmental forum. In terms of a targeted amendment, that's not something we're considering at this time. We're deferring any changes to YESAA to the broader review, and so we're not currently considering a targeted amendment.

Kate White: Thank you, and I do appreciate that clarification, because from the spring, it talked about how there were two main initiatives, including the targeted amendment.

I'll note that it sounds like that has changed, and I look forward to further updates on that. So many things in these notes, which is fun.

I have a question around the draft framework for new minerals legislation and how it relates to the steering committee for new public lands legislation as it developed options for new legislation based on several key policy issues. I'm just trying to get a sense of where we're at. The "what we heard" document was published in May 2025. The public engagement on key policy issues and options was conducted from May through August of 2024, and so I'm just looking for an update of where the new public lands legislation is at.

Hon. Currie Dixon: After discussion at Yukon Forum and bilaterally with Yukon First Nations, we've agreed on a process for engaging on the new minerals legislation. That's the priority and that's the focus right now. We don't have a process for reviewing the *Lands Act*.

Kate White: I just have a question about when the Youth Directorate got moved from ECO to Community Services. Can the minister let me know what that timeline was?

Hon. Currie Dixon: That occurred throughout the budget year. It formally moved into the Sport Yukon location on Friday, August 28, 2026. It's a relatively small program that had been housed in the Executive Council Office, and as a result of our consideration of where it best fit, we decided that the synergies that exist between the Department of Community Services and more specifically the sport branch would lead us to the conclusion that it was an appropriate move to move it to that location and that branch.

As far as I know, the transfer has gone smoothly. I've heard from officials in the Youth Directorate that it has allowed them to engage and find synergies with some of the groups, the funding that's available through the sport branch, and some of the relationships and engagement with communities that exists in that branch as well, and that the transfer has gone smoothly.

Kate White: Well, I look forward to those questions in Community Services, which I believe is the budget that is up next, which is why I just wanted clarification on that.

There was a press release, I believe, at one point in time talking about private members' caucus and the Legislative Oversight Committee. Instead of trying to find out when that press release came out, can the Premier please walk me through what the private members' caucus and Legislative Oversight Committee are and do and how that works within the Executive Council Office?

Hon. Currie Dixon: There are two separate things. I don't know if they were included in a press release, but I'd have to see that press release or find it. But the private members' caucus is the caucus of the private members in our broader Yukon Party caucus, and so ministers engage, consult, and dialogue with private members through that caucus, and we have an internal process for reviewing material that forms part of our governing and legislative agendas.

The Legislative Oversight Committee is a broader group. That's a step in our process of developing legislation as per the title, and so it allows the members of that committee to have an early engagement on the development of either new legislation or amendments to legislation.

Kate White: Is there a funding amount that's allocated to the support of the private members' caucus and a separate funding amount dedicated to the Legislative Oversight Committee?

Hon. Currie Dixon: No, the funding is just provided to the caucus per the budget outlined in the Legislative Assembly, and there's no additional funding or additional support provided there. It's a meeting of private members within the caucus, and so if they have material to meet about, then they meet and discuss things, and there's no additional budget.

Kate White: I'm sure I've asked this before, but I'm going to ask it again. I'll give everyone the heads-up if that's the case. Can the Premier walk me through the budget for Cabinet offices? I'll note that is at $3,878,000. Can the Premier let me know what is funded under the Cabinet Office budget?

Hon. Currie Dixon: At today's debate, we only have the breakdown of the supplementary budget that we're actually debating. I don't have the updated budget, but it would be the same as it would have been in the spring when I answered that question. I'd have to go back and double-check.

But through the miracle of devices, I'm told that we have a total budget of $3,468,000 for personnel and $348,000 for support costs, including travel, as well as an additional amount for contracts in an amount of what looks to be $64,000. I'll have to confirm exactly the total amounts, but this is based on a brief text message from one official to another. I stand to be corrected there, but the amounts haven't changed since the spring budget passed in this Spring Sitting.

Kate White: I have to say that the people who have to listen to Question Period or Committee of the Whole debate — or any of it — probably deserve medals or cookies or something. The speed at which folks respond is incredible. Full props to those individuals that are listening and supplying information, because it's awesome. I appreciate that we have a small but mighty staff and they do their best to support us as well. But we certainly don't have the entire public service listening.

The reason why I was asking about the Cabinet Office funding is just trying to get an understanding if that funding is separate from the funding that's supplied by the Yukon Legislative Assembly for caucus offices.

Hon. Currie Dixon: Yes, it is separate. There's funding that's provided through ECO for the function of Cabinet, and then

MLAs, as members are aware, are provided funding from the Legislative Assembly's budget, which supports non-government MLAs.

Kate White: I'm sorry; I missed the Premier's last comment. I was asking about whether Legislative Assembly funding for caucus offices was different than Cabinet Office, and he did have some answers, and I missed the very last thing he said. If he can remember and is able to repeat it, I would be appreciative. If not, I will read it at a later date.

Hon. Currie Dixon: I think the member missed the last part that I said, which was that the Legislative Assembly Office provides funding for non-government MLAs — for MLAs who are not in Cabinet, for both Opposition and government and the Third Party — and that funding is directed and overseen by the Members' Services Board.

Kate White: Today was the one-year anniversary since the last election, and the Premier and I have definitely different positions on the plebiscite, and we can't have different positions on what the vote said, because it did say yes. More people said yes than said no, and there were notes in the spring briefing book, and so I'm interested to discuss it again.

I'm pretty confident I know the Premier's position on moving Yukon's electoral system toward ranked ballot, but I'd be interested to know, because today is the one-year anniversary since more Yukoners voted in favour of electoral reform than all of the votes garnered by the Premier's party during the last election.

Plebiscite, electoral reform, ranked ballot — where are we at?

Hon. Currie Dixon: Earlier in the life of this Legislature, we debated a motion about this, and I would refer the member to my comments or to the comments of government members during that debate. But I won't get into the bigger debate here, because I think that's probably not as productive. But I'll simply say that our position has not changed, and we have no intention of moving forward with electoral reform.

Kate White: When the Premier and his Cabinet set priorities and tasks, the question becomes how much support or how much recorded support is required to make decisions. Again, I'll note that more people voted for electoral reform than voted for the Yukon Party. I'll note that 1,500 people participated in a review of the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* versus the 268 in firearms.

How are priorities set about what things are actioned and what things are not?

Hon. Currie Dixon: The government makes decisions in a range of different ways, but obviously, the chief decision-making body is Cabinet, and so Cabinet has a process that obviously is confidential. But ultimately, Cabinet's the final decision-maker when it comes to government decisions, and that's how priorities are identified, discussed, and the decisions are made in Yukon Government.

Kate White: When the Premier or his colleagues or previous ministers or previous premiers have said "Cabinet confidentiality", the question I and others have — especially Yukoners who sometimes are joining in, which is wild to me — but the question about Cabinet confidentiality is often: If the Premier is part of the Cabinet, is there not an ability to talk about how those priorities are set? Saying "Cabinet confidentiality" — I guess people are interested to know how that confidentiality is decided and why there can't be more discussion on how priorities are set.

Hon. Currie Dixon: The principles of Cabinet solidarity and Cabinet confidentiality are, of course, sacrosanct and important features of our democracy. But another part of that is that we, after making decisions, have to come into this big room and discuss those decisions and be accountable for them. When we make decisions, whether it's on legislation or budgets, we are required to — as part of a multitude of ways that we're accountable to the public — come into this Legislature and debate about matters at hand, and that's what we're doing today.

Right now, we're discussing the ECO budget in Bill No. 204 to debate the appropriation of the funds that are set out in this bill, and members are welcome to ask questions about that. But if we want to have a broader discussion about how and why we choose what goes in a platform and doesn't go in a platform, that's a more esoteric conversation. But I'm happy to engage if that's the desire.

Kate White: There was a motion passed to engage with Yukoners to inform the Government of Canada's policies on the use of social media platforms for people 16 years of age and under, and I just want to know if there is an update or where the Executive Council Office is in this process.

Hon. Currie Dixon: As the member opposite will recall, we had a debate and discussion in the Legislative Assembly about the need to take some action in that field.

Since that motion was passed, the federal government has tabled legislation in Parliament, and so we have not engaged any further on that, because we would like to see whether and how that legislation proceeds through Parliament. Canada has taken action. At the time we all stood in the Legislature and voted for that, we did so under the impression that the federal government had not been acting, and if the federal government was not going to act, then the Yukon Government should consider acting. We passed that motion, and since then, things have changed and the federal government has taken action.

Obviously, it's an ongoing debate, including one being held in Parliament and the Senate about whether that's an appropriate action or not and whether it will achieve the outcomes that it sets out to achieve. But at this point, we felt that it was prudent to wait to see whether that legislation passes Parliament and what impact it might have before deciding whether or not Yukon Government needs to act.

Kate White: It sounds like Yukon Government can influence some laws or discussions on the floor of Parliament, but maybe we could have an advocate position created if we don't like the outcome.

I'm interested to know about northern sovereignty and security and what's being done to ensure that Yukon benefits from a lot of these funding announcements. I think I'm probably not alone in the disappointment of knowing that Yukon's been left out of some of those funding announcements, the particularly large funding announcements. I'm interested to know where the Premier and his colleagues are putting their attention when it comes to northern sovereignty and security and some of the

funding that's come along with the announcements from the federal government.

Hon. Currie Dixon: We engage with the federal government in a range of different ways to express Yukon's priorities when it comes to federal investment in the territory. We have made overtures to the federal government in regard to energy, to health care, to a range of different important aspects of our work. Earlier today, we discussed the overtures that we have made to the federal government with regard to the implementation of treaties and the need to properly fund treaty boards, councils, and processes. That's something that we do on an ongoing basis. When it comes specifically to the Department of National Defence and what is a fairly substantial publicly announced budget, we continue to engage with the federal government to understand what they are doing and why they are doing it.

At this point, my impression is that the Department of National Defence for Canada is struggling to find a path forward in the North. I don't think that's unique to the Yukon. I think that the three territories have all had a similar level of frustration with the Department of National Defence's priority-making in the North, and that's why you see discussions like those being held at the Northern Premiers' Forum, where the three territorial premiers come together and discuss opportunities and challenges we face with DND.

I think we're all optimistic about the investment that could come as a result of those commitments made by the Prime Minister and his Cabinet when it comes to Arctic sovereignty and northern defence. But at this point, we haven't seen anything substantial materialize, and we, like all Canadians, are looking forward to seeing the budget come down on Thursday to better understand if there's anything that's going to change.

Kate White: Something that was a hot topic in previous years was the port of Skagway. I had a lot of differences of opinion with the previous Premier. Where is the port of Skagway plan that existed before, and what is happening with the current iteration of Yukon Government?

Hon. Currie Dixon: The Department of Economy, Tourism and Culture engages directly with the borough of Skagway and their port authority to ensure that we're abreast of what's going on in that community. As the member may be aware, there's been a public announcement by the community of Skagway that they had received or had an indication that they would receive federal funding from the American federal government to make significant improvements to that port facility.

The Yukon Government remains engaged with the borough of Skagway. I would defer to the Minister of Economy, Tourism and Culture about the most up-to-date engagements. But in general, we are watching with interest and encourage the borough of Skagway to ensure that Yukon mining projects can continue to export their ore from the facility in Skagway and that Yukon tourism businesses can continue to benefit from the visitation of tourists through the port of Skagway. We express those concerns and interests to the borough of Skagway and remain engaged with them. But I would defer to the minister for a more detailed response and up-to-date information about what's going on.

Kate White: I want to thank the Premier and his official here in the Assembly and those who are sending electronic responses. Again, you could have told me that we were done with Bill No. 204 and I would have probably believed you at this point in time, because it has been such a long time.

I'll note that there is a funding change of $468,000 in this supplementary budget for operation and maintenance, and maybe the minister wants to walk us through those changes.

Hon. Currie Dixon: The Executive Council Office is presenting an increase in expenditure totalling $468,000, or 1.6 percent over the main estimates in the O&M *Supplementary Estimates No. 1*. Of this increase, $245,000 is fully recoverable through a funding agreement with the federal government, Parks Canada, and the remaining $223,000 is being managed as a contingency vote transfer from the Department of Finance. This means that the Executive Council Office is tabling no net increase in new government spending compared to mains appropriations.

With regard to the $245,000 in both expenditures and recoveries to further the Ross River protected area feasibility assessment work that we discussed earlier today, that includes 1.25 time-limited FTEs to support project coordination and stakeholder engagement. The multi-year federal funding agreement with Parks Canada is currently in final draft stages and is expected to bring a total of $990,000 in funding to the Government of Yukon across three fiscal years to support this work. The funding of this project will be split between the Executive Council Office and the Department of Environment, each leading a portion of the work, demonstrating strong interdepartmental collaboration.

Secondly, an increase of $223,000 in expenditures reflects the 2026-27 portion of multi-year funding that will be provided to the Council of Yukon First Nations for the completion of the Yukon Residential School Missing Children project. The project committee requested a total of $446,000 to be split over two fiscal years for the final project stage, namely for completion of archival research along with development and implementation of a long-term data storage solution to house the important data collected during this multi-year project. We expect the remaining $223,000 requested by the committee for 2027-28 to be reflected within ECO's main estimate submission that will be tabled in spring. That's the breakdown for the member.

Carmen Gustafson: I just have one question, and I don't necessarily expect the Premier to be able to answer it. It's just an idea when we hear about a lot of projects that are in permitting and assessment or at various stages of development, and actually, our colleague from Klondike asked a question about impacts to the highway of several projects coming online at once, and maybe within Major Projects, it's a question.

But where within Yukon Government or within departments or within the assessment process do we consider the cumulative impacts? Not only the environmental impacts but the socio-economic impacts of, say, a situation where several large projects would come online at the same time? The impacts to employment, to our highways, to social services, and to all of those things? Where is that considered, and who puts thought toward that?

Hon. Currie Dixon: I would like to think that there is thought being put into that across departments, that the Department of Community Services is thinking about and engaging with municipalities about the potential that development could have on municipal infrastructure, that the Department of Highways and Public Works is considering the impact of development on the highway network and on other public infrastructure, that the Department of Environment, of course, is considering the impacts of development on our natural resources and on wildlife as well as the natural environment, and so on throughout the departments.

But when it comes to thinking about the government's corporate readiness for a range of different developments, that's something that I think is the responsibility of all of us and that we're constantly thinking about the capacity that we have within the Yukon Government to assess and participate in projects and provide both feedback to the environmental and socio-economic assessment process but also fulfill our duties as regulators. Obviously, on that front, that's the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources that thinks about those things, and I know the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has done a lot of work to bolster the capacity and preparedness that department has for the prospect of additional development in the territory.

But the simple answer to a complex question would be that it's the responsibility of the entire government and that we have to work together to coordinate our response to the possibility of additional development in the territory.

Debra-Leigh Reti: I do have some questions this afternoon. I've got some big-picture government questions and a few questions specific to the expenditures in this supplementary budget.

My first question is: How is the government budgeting for the retroactive portion of the new YEU agreement since the retroactive pay is not in the budget before us and it will have to be paid out shortly if the agreement is approved?

Hon. Currie Dixon: This is, I guess, more of my finance hat than anything, but I'll answer in good faith here.

The Department of Finance considers the retroactive pay as a result of a prospective collective agreement, and they do so through the contingency fund. That's something that was contemplated in the development of a contingency fund. It was a subject of our debate and discussion on the creation of the contingency fund this spring, and that's how we plan to address it.

Debra-Leigh Reti: Can the minister share how the government plans to finance the $1.1-billion hospital expansion now that the borrowing limit is at $3 billion? Will it be paid for by borrowing, by a federal contribution, or both?

Hon. Currie Dixon: I would direct the more specific questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services, but I would simply say that at this point we haven't arrived at a conclusion of the funding of that project yet and more work is needed, including engagement with the federal government.

Debra-Leigh Reti: Thank you for that answer. The government's interim economic update released with the budget confirms that the Yukon has the highest inflation in the country. Can the Premier confirm that is still the case?

Hon. Currie Dixon: I believe that the interim economic outlook that I tabled earlier this Sitting is indeed accurate, and it represents the most recent information that I have.

Debra-Leigh Reti: The budget speech in the spring promised to reduce government activity in areas that are more appropriately delivered by private enterprises. In April, the Premier said the government didn't yet know which areas it would step back from. Six months later, which government services is it considering moving to the private sector?

Hon. Currie Dixon: I don't have anything new to update the member opposite on that, although, of course, we're always considering how best to efficiently use our budget and the resources that we have as the public government. But this is the kind of question that would be probably better suited to general debate on the budget rather than the vote on ECO in the supplementary budget for 2026-27. But I'm happy to try to address those. But at this point, I don't have any further update.

Debra-Leigh Reti: Thank you for that response. I did lead off that I was going to ask a few bigger questions.

In the spring, the Premier committed to red tape reduction legislation. The Executive Council Office helped set the legislative agenda. When will red tape legislation be tabled?

Hon. Currie Dixon: That will be tabled in due course when we decide it's an appropriate course of action to do so.

Debra-Leigh Reti: I asked this question previously; I believe it was in the spring. How many staff are now in the Cabinet Office, and has that changed since the spring?

Hon. Currie Dixon: I'll have to double-check to confirm, and as I may have slightly out-of-date information, my recollection was 28 and that it had not changed. But I do need to confer with officials to determine if that's exactly accurate, but I believe it to be the case.

Debra-Leigh Reti: On October 21, the Premier said the government has submitted a suite of energy projects to the federal Major Projects Office. Which projects are in that request, and what is the Government of Yukon asking Canada for?

Hon. Currie Dixon: The projects that are included in that are work on the Mayo hydro facility, the Whitehorse Power Centres, and the Atlin hydro project. But the details of that will be better answered by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who's leading the work and the engagement with the federal government on the energy projects that we are seeking funding for. But in general, we're looking to increase the generation capacity of the territory's grid and meet the needs of Yukon's population and economy.

Debra-Leigh Reti: Will the Premier commit to tabling those submissions along with EMR?

Hon. Currie Dixon: As the member noted, it's something that Energy, Mines and Resources can share information about when they're up in debate.

Debra-Leigh Reti: Is the minister able to share what other applications the government has made to the federal

Major Projects Office? I do understand it made a submission about the North Canol highway, for example.

Hon. Currie Dixon: That's correct.

Debra-Leigh Reti: The first part of my question, besides the North Canol highway, was: Are there any other applications?

Hon. Currie Dixon: No, I don't believe so.

Debra-Leigh Reti: The Executive Council Office is involved with new mines going through the permitting process. Does the Premier expect any new hardrock mines to open in the Yukon over the next three years, and which projects does he expect to reach production?

Hon. Currie Dixon: There are a number of projects that are proceeding through the regulatory process right now, and it would be beyond my capacity to indicate whether any of them would be successful or not going through those processes, and ultimately, it would be up to the companies to decide whether or not they make a final investment decision.

Debra-Leigh Reti: Can the minister share whether the government supports the Casino mine project?

Hon. Currie Dixon: We support it going through the environmental and socio-economic assessment process as laid out in the law.

Debra-Leigh Reti: Can the minister also share if the government supports the Kudz Ze Kayah mining project near Ross River?

Hon. Currie Dixon: Earlier this year, we issued a decision document following the YESAB process, and that project is proceeding through the regulatory process now.

Debra-Leigh Reti: The first two questions I just asked about that — can the minister just confirm that the government supports it? I know they support the process. Do they support the projects?

Hon. Currie Dixon: Generally, of course, we support ongoing development in the territory, but when it comes to specific projects that are before the government in a regulatory capacity, obviously, we encourage them to make decisions based on going through that process and support those projects going through the process.

Debra-Leigh Reti: Can the minister share if the government supports Gladiator's drilling program within Whitehorse city limits?

Hon. Currie Dixon: I'm not going to get into a listing of all the projects that exist in the Yukon and whether or not the Yukon supports them. As I've said, for all of these projects, we support the process that exists both in federal law in terms of YESAA and territorial law in terms of the *Quartz Mining Act*, the *Placer Mining Act*, and other legislation. So, when it comes to any of these projects, we encourage them to go through the process and will provide the necessary supports to ensure that process works smoothly.

Debra-Leigh Reti: Thank you for those answers. This is the process in the House for me to ask these questions and time for me to ask questions.

The prohibition of entry order, a staking ban in Whitehorse, expires July 19, 2027. Does the government plan to extend it, and will it cover the same ground?

Hon. Currie Dixon: That's a question that would be best directed to the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Debra-Leigh Reti: On October 29, the Minister of Environment referred questions about the Ross River IPCA to the Premier's office. Can the Premier update the House on the feasibility study? When is it expected to be done, and what is the Yukon contributing?

Hon. Currie Dixon: I would refer the member to my comments earlier today where I outlined where that project is at. We are participating in a tripartite process along with the Ross River Dena Council and the Government of Canada. The department of Executive Council Office has a representative on the oversight committee that is leading the work on that feasibility study. The work is underway. We don't have any update as of today, but the three governments are working very hard to advance that project.

Debra-Leigh Reti: In April, the Premier did commit to the process, as he's done a few times right now just with answering my questions today. If the study recommends establishing a protected area or park, will the government commit to acting on that recommendation? In general, does the government support the concept of IPCAs in the Yukon?

Hon. Currie Dixon: We participate in the process, and we'll see what comes out of that. Obviously, I'm not going to make any pronouncements about what the committee may or may not do, but at this point, I support the participation on the committee of the representative of ECO. We continue to engage in good faith through that process. We'll go through the engagement as per the next step. We anticipate that the next step will involve engagement with stakeholders and the opportunity for the three governments to hear from Yukoners as well as those who have interest in that area. Once some sort of further thought is put into what this could look like, we'll make a decision about how to proceed.

Debra-Leigh Reti: What I'm gathering from quite a few of the questions that I've asked is that the government does support the process but will not commit to whether they support the actual projects. Just going back to the Gladiator project, I just thank the minister for that answer for the fact that it might surprise Yukoners that the government does not show any position at all on that right now.

I'm just going to move over to the retirement incentive. Yukon Government employees belong to the federal pension plan, but the government chose not to take part in the 2025 early retirement incentive. In the Northwest Territories, almost three percent of public servants applied. Can the Premier explain why the Yukon asked for an exemption and why employees weren't consulted before the decision or allowed to participate in the federal offer?

Hon. Currie Dixon: That's a question best directed to the Minister responsible for the Public Service Commission.

Debra-Leigh Reti: I just have a question that hopefully the Premier can give some feedback on. I wrote to the Premier

this summer about the Member for Porter Creek South attending a mining conference in Boca Raton, Florida, and I haven't had a reply. Can the Premier confirm whether the member attended on behalf of the Government of Yukon?

Hon. Currie Dixon: I will endeavour to look at the letter that was sent to me and ensure that we get a prompt reply to the member. If it has been a long time and she hasn't received a reply, that's something I'm happy to follow up on. I'll try my best to respond as quickly as possible.

Debra-Leigh Reti: I'm hoping that with that reply, the Premier could confirm whether the Government of Yukon paid for the member's travel expenses. Did a private company pay, and was the Conflict of Interest Commissioner consulted about the trip?

My last question here is — my colleague brought up the electoral reform earlier, and I'm just going to ask straight out to the Premier: Will you support the bill I tabled this week?

Hon. Currie Dixon: I would note that the member chose not to call the bill for debate tomorrow, which is curious given her interest in seeing it advance. If the member wanted to see it advance and wanted to see how I vote on it, she could have called it for debate tomorrow during private members' business. It's curious that she tabled the bill and is asking questions about it but chose not to debate it during private members' time, which was clearly an opportunity missed for her.

I would refer her to my comments about electoral reform from earlier today on that matter. But I think if she would like to know exactly how I'd vote on it, she could call it for debate.

Chair: Is there any further general debate on Vote 2, Executive Council Office?

Seeing none, we'll proceed to line-by-line.

Unanimous consent to deem all lines in Vote 2, Executive Council Office, cleared or carried

Kate White: Madam Chair, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines of Vote 2, Executive Council Office, cleared or carried, as required.

Chair: The Member for Takhini has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines of Vote 2, Executive Council Office, cleared or carried, as required.

Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: Unanimous consent has been granted.

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of $468,000 agreed to

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of nil agreed to

Total Expenditures in the amount of $468,000 agreed to

Executive Council Office agreed to

Department of Community Services

Chair: The matter now before the Committee is Vote 51, Community Services.

Would members like 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.

The matter before the Committee is general debate on Vote 51, Community Services, in Bill No. 204, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2026-27*.

Hon. Cory Bellmore: Thank you to the officials for joining me today. We have Marie-Alexis Dangreau and Damien Burns and those in the background that are also assisting. I had the opportunity to speak to this bill when it was introduced already, but I'll just reiterate what I said at the start, because that was a little while ago, I think.

The supplementary estimates before us consist of a $10.8 million increase in operation and maintenance. The increase was used to protect homes and critical infrastructure from impacts of wildfires and floods. Wildland Fire Management used $10.4 million to accomplish critical work of protecting Yukoners from wildfire. The Emergency Measures Organization used $410,000 to assist the Village of Teslin with preparing for and responding to high water impacts in their community. This money also covers expenses related to spring and summer incident response, including activations of the Emergency Coordination Centre.

I'd like to acknowledge the staff, the emergency responders, the Yukon Government staff, and all folks connected with the Emergency Coordination Centre and the emergency response that took place this past summer. Wildfires are unpredictable, and the true cost of protecting people and their properties can't be known until the fire season ends. Additional funds reflect the significant efforts of wildfire management to contain fire activity near Yukon communities. As of September, the Yukon saw 85 wildfires this season, with 6,310 hectares burned.

As a member of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre and Northwest Compact, crews from the Yukon answered the call to help partner agencies suppress wildfires in BC, northern Northwest Territories, Ontario, Parks Canada, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. We rely on these external resources in situations when we require them here in the Yukon, and we're pleased to respond and help them when requested as well. National collaboration and resource-sharing are fundamental to Yukon's wildfire approach. The Department of Community Services will recover $2.9 million from sending our wildfire crews to other jurisdictions this past year.

Thank you again for the time to discuss the supplementary budget today, and I look forward to answering questions.

Brent McDonald: I thank the officials for being here once again to help us find some answers.

The minister's briefing notes say the Dawson City waste-water treatment plant costs roughly about $1 million a year to operate, and there's an expected rise in costs as components reach their end of life as the plant gets older. Can the minister tell us how much the total operating cost was for the past year and if there are any increase in the budget for the forthcoming year?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: Yes, the Dawson waste-water treatment plant is a costly operation. It's necessary to ensure

that the community has collection service for waste water. The plant does cost approximately $1 million to operate. As with any infrastructure, the infrastructure ages. This plant has been in service, I think, since 2010, but I'm not entirely sure the year it was commissioned, to be honest. The City of Dawson pays a portion of the facility's cost to the Government of Yukon, and I'm not aware of any major changes coming in the next fiscal year to this facility.

Brent McDonald: The briefing notes also describe capacity problems at peak flows at the current waste-water treatment plant in Dawson City. Is there a number of additional residential connections that the plant can take before the lagoon is built for new housing builds?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: The work has been underway in Dawson for several years to reduce unnecessary flow into the waste-water treatment plant: work on the underground collection system to update it, ensuring that leaks and infiltration have been corrected where possible, as well as work that the City of Dawson has undertaken with the water metering program to reduce the amount of water and therefore the flows into the waste-water treatment plant over time.

I don't have the maximum number of treatment amounts for flows in the plant currently — what it can currently take or what it was designed for growth. But there is always ongoing work to make sure that the plant is able to receive the flows that it is.

Brent McDonald: A while ago in 2019, the government had a plan to replace the plant by 2026, and the minister's notes now call the future potential lagoon an eventual replacement. Is there a target year or timeline for a new system to be operational to supply additional capacity for growth?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: The work for the Dawson lagoon has been ongoing for a while. The planning work has been going on for a while. There has been a working group established with the City of Dawson and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in as well as the Government of Yukon in the planning process. They meet to review information related to the planning for the lagoon and to share updates and recommendations back to the government. It served as a useful way of working together within the community to bring projects forward.

I don't have a timeline necessarily for construction of the lagoon at this point, but I do know that while this work is ongoing, continued work with the current waste-water treatment plant is also ongoing to make sure that the flows are reasonable and the plant continues to operate.

Brent McDonald: It has been noted that the current waste-water treatment plant in Dawson from time to time does not meet compliance at certain times of the year. Can the minister tell us how many times in the last year or maybe two years the plant has not met compliance and if there have been any penalties because of that?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: As the member knows, the waste-water treatment plant in Dawson is operated by the Yukon Government due to the ongoing challenges over the years of the plant and how it operates. I do understand that the plant has been actually operating better in the last while.

Although I don't have the exact numbers of potentially not meeting the regulations here today, the folks who work at the plant are skilled at what they do in managing the balance and what's going on there, and we thank them for their good work to do that as well as the work that's been ongoing with the City of Dawson and their staff and the civil works within the town to try to make sure that situations are contained or looked after so that the plant can continue to operate as best it can.

Brent McDonald: The new lagoon — I guess we call it "potential" — has sites that are overlapped by placer claims.

Has there been any progress on deciding how that land use conflict will be dealt with or if there's been any progress made?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: For the two sites that are under consideration currently, a hydro geotechnical drilling program was completed in November of 2025, and an engineering consultant is working on feasibility and early conceptual design tasks, including the flow monitoring and effluent sampling program and other pieces involved in the design of a lagoon.

As far as the existing mineral claims, yes, there are placer mining claims that overlap with the potential sites. The mining is important, and it's very important in the city of Dawson as well. It's a big key part of their community. We recognize that this is ongoing there, and we have reached out to all potentially affected claim holders and have confirmed that the geotechnical work and water studies will not affect any active mining. That's where we are as of today. Going forward, we'll have to continue to have those conversations.

Brent McDonald: That's all I have for questions on that particular topic.

Moving on to a bit more current one, questions about the *Residential Tenancies Act*. Can the minister tell us how many disputes the tenancy office received in 2025-26 and if there's any breakdown by community for those complaints?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: The file volume varies from year to year, but on average, the residential tenancies office supports between 150 and 200 disputes annually. It is not broken down by community.

Brent McDonald: During the recent discussion, the minister has, I believe, said that they will collect some rental data on the changes that are coming. Has there been a decision on what data will be collected, from whom, and starting when?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: The information I provided previously remains. We need to work with the Yukon Bureau of Statistics on what information they're able to assist us with in collecting for residential information.

Brent McDonald: In regard to the recent changes to the act, has the department set any measure of success for these changes, such as number of new rental units, vacancy rates, or average rents? Are there targets?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: As we don't currently have the data for the number of rental units and that is work that we would be undertaking in the monitoring that we've talked about, we don't have that data, so you can't set targets given we don't know where we're starting. But it is hopeful that we will be able to gather some good data and be able to report back later.

Brent McDonald: I guess, given a December 1 start date for these changes, I saw the City of Dawson has written a letter from their council regarding the changes. Has there been any outreach with City of Dawson or Dawson City town council since then?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: I have received the letter from the City of Dawson and the resolution that they put forward. I've not yet had the opportunity to reach out to the mayor and council, but I do understand that we are having a discussion about how to work with the municipalities, how to have that conversation with municipalities, expecting that we will have the discussion later in this year with them.

Brent McDonald: I'd like to move on to rural waste transfer stations. Does the minister or the department have a figure of what the annual operating cost of each of the four closed transfer stations — Keno, Braeburn, Johnsons Crossing, and Silver City — was for their last full year of operation?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: I don't have that information in the information that I have available. It's not in the 2026-27 budget.

Brent McDonald: While in Opposition, the Yukon Party opposed those closures. Has the department been redirected to cost out reopening any of those four stations, and if so, what would the estimate be?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: I've asked the department to look at what potential services we could have in the areas where services were closed several years ago. We haven't finalized that work yet, but it's ongoing.

Brent McDonald: Specific to the sites at Johnsons Crossing and Silver City, have there been any efforts or do you have any information about those two sites in particular?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: I don't have specific information about those two sites, although I have had discussions with individuals in the community and have heard their concerns and what they'd like to see, and that's led to the work for the service levels in rural communities and looking for options.

Brent McDonald: Have there been any illegal dumping complaints or charges being recorded near the four closed sites since they shut down, and how would that compare for a previous year?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: I don't have that information. That question would be best directed to the Department of Environment.

Brent McDonald: If I understand correctly, Keno City now has household pickup that's done through a mining company. Is this an arrangement direct with the mining company, or does the government have a role in that or support them with finances?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: Specifically about Keno and the work that is undertaken with Hecla there in the community, we're very happy to be able to have worked with industry to be able to provide the service in the community of Keno, and we did assist at the beginning with the setup of some capital items there and have ongoing dialogue with residents about how it's working for their community.

Brent McDonald: I wonder if I could ask for some clarity on that. For the household pickup in Keno City, does the government contribute to the mine to provide that service?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: The contribution for that setup was the initial setup with the bins and capital items and there's no ongoing contribution currently.

Brent McDonald: Again, for Keno City, is there a plan if the company chooses to stop that service, for government to take it over?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: I don't have that information. We've not contemplated it, as it's not been discussed about not having that service ongoing.

Brent McDonald: Can the minister tell us how much tipping fee revenue the department has collected from its rural sites since the fee structure came into effect at Destruction Bay, Champagne, Pelly Crossing, and I believe now Dawson City?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: I just wanted to clarify that the tipping fees collected by Yukon Government are for unincorporated sites, so it doesn't include any municipal sites. That revenue goes to the municipality. I don't have the number with me today, but we'll work to get that back and return it to the member.

Brent McDonald: That's all the questions I have at this time on that particular topic. I'd like to move on to lot development. Can the minister tell us how much is budgeted for rural land development this year, and how much of that is for Dawson City in particular?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: The value I have for rural land development for the 2026-27 budget is $5.5 million. The numbers move around depending on the project and the ability to advance it at any given time. There aren't specific numbers per community that are listed.

Brent McDonald: In the briefing notes, it talked about Dredge Pond II subdivision, including about 43 country residential lots and that hopefully they would be ready for tender this year. Has it been tendered, or can the minister update us on the progress of the creation of those lots?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: The Dredge Pond II project is not currently tendered. We are working internally on land development projects for sure, and we look forward to sharing when we are able to get that information to the next stage and with the community.

Brent McDonald: For the Dredge Pond II lots, are they planned to be on septic and wells, or are they part of the bigger plan with all the piping that may be going out to the lagoon in the same general area?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: The current work being undertaken is for unserviced lots.

Brent McDonald: The briefing notes also talk about planning starting on the upper Dome Road infill, roughly 10 lots, as well as Callison East, which is an industrial 15- to 20-

lot plan for subdivision. Is there a timeline, again, or can the minister give us an idea of the progress on the development of those lots?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: Chair, for the two projects, the upper Dome Road country residential project, feasibility assessment is complete on that project, and public engagement and YESAB are the next stages of that development. For the Callison East unserviced industrial area, planning is underway for that project. I don't have specific timelines at this point.

Brent McDonald: Can the minister tell us where the community land and infrastructure framework is at today? An update and if it will be made public?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: Thank you for your patience. These projects are actually separate, so it just took me a minute to find the information.

There is the community infrastructure development plan, which is currently ongoing. We're talking to stakeholders, municipalities, First Nation governments, and other stakeholders and communities that have input on what they feel is important for community infrastructure going forward. We're hoping to finalize gathering that information and have something together over the winter on the infrastructure development plan.

The land development plans — there is a Whitehorse land development plan and a rural land development plan. We've gathered some information already — met with stakeholders and gathered information on how they felt land development could move forward and issues and concerns, and we're putting that information together over this winter as well. We're working with First Nations, municipalities, industry, and developers to help us with the barriers that we've run into with land development over the course of the last while and look forward to being able to bring that information forward.

Brent McDonald: I have a few questions about flood mapping in the Yukon. Can the minister tell us if all communities and areas of concern — if their flood maps are now complete?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: The flood mapping work is work that is undertaken by the Department of Environment. I don't have the list of communities that are complete and which ones are currently ongoing, and we look forward to working with them and using the information to help us with our emergency planning.

Brent McDonald: I wonder if the department has been making any consideration to perhaps changing building requirements or building codes in any of the flood areas specifically.

Hon. Cory Bellmore: As we've noted here before, the National Building Code automatic adoption was paused until next year, so we could go out and do the work, talk to stakeholders and communities about issues that they have seen with the National Building Code. I don't have all the information. That work is currently underway, actually, and I don't have the information on what's been proposed as ideas for potential change yet.

Brent McDonald: I have a question or two about the new Dawson recreation centre. Can the minister tell us if this project is still on time and budget?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: I appreciate the opportunity to get up and talk about the Dawson recreation centre, for sure. Yes, this project is on time and on budget currently, and we really do look forward to watching it take shape over time while we can watch it from here with the photos that are shared online. It's great to see, and I'm excited to go to Dawson and see the end result of that building.

Brent McDonald: We're all looking forward to that facility, for sure. Can the minister tell us: Did the tariffs from the United States have any effect on the project?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: This project is unique in that it followed the design/build process for construction, and we were able to react to things in a manner to deal with potential tariffs and stuff. We have seen some impact of the tariffs, for sure, but they're able to be contained within the contingency of the budget, and we're always keeping an eye on what is happening and the changes to make sure that, as we move forward, we can anticipate what to expect.

Brent McDonald: I'd like to move on to some questions about municipal funding, please.

Municipalities are facing rising infrastructure, utility, insurance, staffing, and service delivery costs while having limited revenue sources. Would the government review the comprehensive municipal grant formula to better reflect actual operating costs, including infrastructure age, remoteness, and northern construction costs, so municipalities are not continually forced to increase property taxes or reduce services?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: The comprehensive municipal grant is the main driver or the main funding for municipalities outside of Whitehorse — it is slowly becoming less and less. The grant does have several factors in it to include remoteness through the spatial price index and a tangible capital asset piece to work with ongoing introduction of new assets on their financial statements. It is designed in such a way that it can grow or retract based on the community inputs into the grant, and as we saw in 2026, the CMG increased 1.64 percent, and in 2027, we expect an increase of 4.8 percent. So, it is growing, and I'm always interested in discussing with municipalities how the grant is working for them and options for the future.

Brent McDonald: I believe in the minister's February 2026 mandate implementation plan, they committed to developing a community infrastructure development plan. Can the minister update us on the progress of that and if it has an expected timeline for completion?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: I did speak briefly to the community infrastructure planning work that is ongoing already along with the land development plan and the community infrastructure development plan. We have been meeting with municipalities, First Nation governments, stakeholders, and community groups to understand what their priorities are and look forward to bringing that information together over the winter.

Brent McDonald: The AYC or Association of Yukon Communities called for a comprehensive *Municipal Act* review in 2023, and I believe a review committee was established, but as of April 2026, the minister stated that legislative changes were not on the government's agenda. Can the minister update us on where they're at and if there's any changes?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: The *Municipal Act* Review Committee was jointly established between Yukon Government and officials from Yukon municipalities to just gather information. It was an informal review committee, and they have gathered information and have put it together. A final report summarizing the challenges and opportunities is being created.

I've not yet received that information but just note that there are always ongoing requests to look at changes within the *Municipal Act*. The information that comes forward — we will have to figure out where that fits in the legislative agenda and processes for change. As well, I have a note here that says we will be seeking input from LACs — just in case you're interested — at an upcoming local advisory forum.

Brent McDonald: I have a different question now regarding emergency services for West Dawson and Sunnydale. Obviously, West Dawson and Sunnydale face some unique challenges accessing emergency services right now. For example, during freeze-up and again in the spring when the river breaks, can the minister tell us which body is formally responsible for fire protection and emergency services in West Dawson and Sunnydale?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: I understand that the fire service over in West Dawson has evolved a bit in the last few years, and local West Dawson residents have wished to have more involvement in the ability to ensure services are available. Historically, the fire marshal has worked with the City of Dawson and provided resources to the City of Dawson in order to provide that service to West Dawson. But the Fire Marshal's Office has recently been working with West Dawson to better understand what it looks like there, the circumstances, and to discuss practical options for that community and that they have discussed the foundational pieces that would need to be in place for scene safety response units to be considered in that area and discussions about equipment and storage, et cetera.

Brent McDonald: Has there been any money budgeted in Community Services this year for a *Municipal Act* review?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: There's not been specific money budgeted for the *Municipal Act* review.

Brent McDonald: Is there a legislated or scheduled review date for the act?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: The *Municipal Act* does not have a specific legislative review timeline.

Brent McDonald: One of the resolutions at the AYC's 2023 meeting asked for a review of property taxes in areas next to municipalities. Dawson City proper is surrounded by West Dawson, Sunnydale, and the Klondike Valley. Has the department done any work on peripheral taxation?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: In response to the AYC resolution, we did agree to undertake a discussion between the Property Assessment and Taxation branch and AYC members to identify key areas of concern and update on the new initiatives underway. I don't have an update from that discussion so far.

Brent McDonald: Municipalities are not currently covered by any access-to-information laws. Is the department considering bringing municipalities under ATIPP or an equivalent accountability framework?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: I don't have any information on potential changes to the ATIPP act. That piece of legislation, I believe, falls under the Minister of Highways and Public Works, but just confirming that municipalities are not currently in that piece of legislation.

Brent McDonald: I have a few questions on the community recreation assistance grant. Is it correct that it has been 10 years using the same amount and has seen no increase in the grant amount?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: The CRAG is a very important piece of funding for communities that are non-municipal communities to be able to offer recreation services in their communities. The CRAG levels were last updated actually in 2015, and we are currently undergoing work to understand what communities are requiring for recreation assistance and how that works for them and to find a suitable way to make changes going forward so that we're able to assist those communities.

Brent McDonald: Can the minister tell us if there's been consultation with communities or affected partners, and if so, is there a "what we heard" document or something like that available?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: The work is underway currently to understand what communities need as we look at the CRAG and how we can make it useful going forward, and, of course, that work would require meeting with those communities.

Brent McDonald: Would the minister say if there's going to be an increase — it will be in the next budget cycle?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: I don't have that information. I would love to say I did and that we would be increasing it and everybody would be happy, but I don't currently have that information.

Brent McDonald: I have some questions that are a bit scattered, but I'll do my best. The national update to the National Building Code came out in December 2025, and apparently, it's not applicable to the Yukon yet.

Does the minister know when the new building code is scheduled to be implemented in the Yukon?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: We did the work to pause the automatic adoption of the National Building Code and to discuss with stakeholders and developers in the Yukon about potential issues that they see going forward, and that work is just being undertaken right now to get us to a place where we need to be in the coming year when the adoption is expected to take place.

Brent McDonald: Is the Yukon obligated to accept and implement the National Building Code as written, or is there leeway that the department can make changes that apply to the North and/or even community-specific areas?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: As per the *Building Standards Act*, the Yukon does automatically adopt the National Building Code. However, as we said, we delayed the adoption this year so we could consider potential changes. The National Building Code is updated every five years, and there's a variety of approaches taken across different jurisdictions as to how they implement the standardized code.

Brent McDonald: Can the minister tell us if there's any motivation to reduce the gap between what's considered a living wage and the current minimum wage?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: I don't have information specifically on closing the gap between the minimum wage and the living wage. The minimum wage work is done by the Employment Standards Board. It currently is $18.51 per hour, which is the second highest in Canada. It is indexed every year, so it does increase every year, and there's no specific timeline for when they must review the minimum wage. It says that the Yukon uses the consumer price index or annual inflation rate for increasing minimum wage. Not all jurisdictions use the same information.

The fair wage schedule that the Employment Standards Board also looks after is a schedule that applies to contracts for Yukon Government wages.

Brent McDonald: Can the minister update us on the Tagish Community Centre and library space? Has the assessment been completed, and what are the next steps?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: We've been working with the Tagish community, the Tagish Community Centre project with the Tagish Community Association, and on what they would like to see going forward in their community. We have done some work on functional programming. We've heard from them about where it is they're at in the process and what they'd like to see, and we're continuing to engage on how we can move that forward as well.

EMR did a 30-year lease with the Tagish Community Association for the property to ensure that they can build on that site.

Brent McDonald: Could the minister give us an update or provide a progress report on the Chasàn Tatäy subdivision project proposed by KDFN and Yukon Government?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: Just for an update on the Chasàn Tatäy subdivision, again, I'd just like to say that we're super excited for this land development opportunity to be a joint development opportunity between the Government of Yukon and Kwanlin Dün First Nation. We expect the lots to be released in 2027, a total of 70 lots that will support up to 400 housing units. The project has gone really well, and the process — joint working together has also actually gone really well. They have done joint presentations on the project itself, so really excited to see this project to fruition and to see what more we can do for these types of joint developments.

Brent McDonald: Your spring briefing binder talks about work being done with CYFN to identify land for a healing centre near Whitehorse.

Is there an update on that work, and have there been any sites chosen?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: I don't have the spring briefing binder. I am not aware of the work underway for land to be designated for a healing centre with CYFN, and I would direct that to — I don't know if it would be Energy, Mines and Resources, Health and Social Services, or ECO — I'm not sure which department, but the department responsible for doing that work with CYFN.

Brent McDonald: Could the minister provide us an update on the EPR pause and next steps?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: The EPR program is being run with the Department of Environment, and I would direct my questions to the minister responsible.

Brent McDonald: With the Mount Lorne transfer station, was that a typical service contract where it's for a year, renewable up to three years?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: That's correct; it is.

Brent McDonald: The spring briefing binder states that there's work being done to support psychologists with provisional licences and support for newly graduated psychologists to practise while they're waiting to complete their full registration. Is there an update on where that process is?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: The Department of Community Services received feedback from the psychologists on its rollout of the new regulations. In response, they engaged with the psychologists to better understand what their concerns were, and the department has recently finalized educational standards which clarify pathways for provisional psychologists to begin their practice in the Yukon and for psychologists hoping to expand their scope of practice.

Brent McDonald: Is the minister or the department considering any changes to the Yukon *Dental Profession Act* that would allow for dental hygienists to work independently and serve rural Yukon?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: We have heard and have talked to dental hygienists and therapists who would like to see a change in how the work is currently being done under the legislation, how they're registered under the legislation. We are working with several different professions, including hygienists and therapists, on trying to find opportunities to allow them to work to their full scope of practice, and we are using that information. We're gathering the information; we're talking with them and making the best use of their expertise within the system and just looking at the best approach for achieving an extended scope of practice for the dental hygienists and therapists.

Brent McDonald: My last question — and it's near and dear to my heart: Is there any consideration being given to find the Dawson library a new space?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: I understand that work is ongoing to discuss the needs for the library in Dawson City. I understand that the Department of Highways and Public Works along with my colleague in Education have been working with Yukon Public Libraries and are working on the library concern. I do

know that different spaces were looked at previously, but they just don't meet the needs of the very specific requirements for a library, and that work is ongoing.

As the MLA for Klondike, if you have any suggestions on potentially useful space, I would be happy to hear those.

Brent McDonald: I would like to thank the minister and especially like to thank their staff here today for their knowledgeable answers.

Debra-Leigh Reti: I guess I just have a few minutes for a couple questions, then. I'll just talk about land development.

Is the government still pursuing the development of lots 518 and 519 within the City of Whitehorse?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: That project is still in the works with the multiple list of projects that we have.

Debra-Leigh Reti: Is the government going to continue to develop lots in the city of Whitehorse in general, and what area is up next after Whistle Bend?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: Absolutely, we're looking forward to working with our partners at the City of Whitehorse on future development here in the city. There are some projects that are underway, including the work being led by the city as well as with the department on infill.

But as far as large areas, there's looking at the north and south growth areas in the city of Whitehorse and Valleyview.

Debra-Leigh Reti: Would the minister be able to share if Community Services is doing any work on updating the licensing of health care professionals? This was in her mandate letter.

Hon. Cory Bellmore: We have been meeting with various different health professionals on understanding what their desires are so that they could work to their full scope of practice, and that work is ongoing.

Debra-Leigh Reti: In April, the minister told me that there wasn't a sport infrastructure plan underway. Has anything changed since then?

Hon. Cory Bellmore: Madam Chair, I would be happy to find that answer and address it in a future session, but seeing the time, I move that you report progress.

Chair: The Minister of Community Services has moved that the Chair report progress.

Motion agreed to

Hon. Scott Kent: Madam Chair, I move that the Speaker do now resume the Chair.

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

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

Chair's report

Patti McLeod: Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 204, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2026-27*, 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. Scott Kent: Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

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

Motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 5:27 p.m.