



# Yukon Legislative Assembly

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## BLUES

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Nils Clarke

### NOTE

This document, referred to as the "Blues", is the preliminary issue of the Hansard of the Yukon Legislative Assembly and has not been edited fully for errors, omissions or accuracy. It may be used as a reference only with the understanding that it will be superseded by the final, edited version, entitled "Hansard", at a later time.



**Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Tuesday, June 13, 2017 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

## DAILY ROUTINE

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

Tributes.

## TRIBUTES

### In recognition of Yukon's tartan

**Speaker:** I have the honour of speaking to the Yukon tartan and to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of Canada. I will start with the tartan.

Today is Yukon Day and there is a Yukon tartan. I have a Yukon tartan that I have misplaced. In any event, everyone is wearing the Yukon tartan. The Yukon tartan was designed by Janet Couture of Watson Lake. It was first proposed as a Yukon centennial tartan — a special project to commemorate Canada's centennial in 1967. The design received the approval and endorsement of Yukon's centennial committee.

On November 25, 1966, Don Taylor, the Member for Watson Lake, moved the following resolution in the Yukon Territorial Council: "It is the request of Council that the administration forward a sample of the attached tartan, designed by Mrs. Couture of Watson Lake, to the minister for recognition as the official tartan of the Yukon."

In his speech on the motion, Mr. Taylor read from a letter from Mrs. Couture wherein she described the six colours she chose for the tartan and the reason she chose each one. The blue depicts Yukon's sparkling lakes and rivers and clear sky. The wide yellow stripes represent the long summer midnight sun, while the narrower yellow band indicates gold. Green is symbolic of forests. Purple represents the majesty of the mountains. White depicts the winter snow, and red, or magenta, symbolizes Yukon's floral emblem, the fireweed.

The Yukon Territorial Council adopted the resolution. The Yukon tartan design was registered in Canada, and the March 1967 application was made to Lord Lyon King of Arms in Scotland to have the tartan granted official status. However, Lord Lyon refused to do so. Yukoners responded to Lord Lyon's rebuff by — wait for it — ignoring it.

The Yukon tartan was commercially produced and extensively used by the centennial committee and Yukoners throughout the territory. Eventually, Lord Lyon's committee reconsidered the tartan and formally approved and registered it 17 years later, on October 24, 1984.

Less than a month after approval, on November 20, 1984, the Hon. Howard Tracey, Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, moved a motion in the Yukon Legislative Assembly for the introduction and first reading of Bill No. 41, the *Yukon Tartan Act*.

In his second reading speech on the bill, the Hon. Mr. Tracey revealed why it had taken so long to have the tartan approved. When the tartan was first submitted in 1967, Lord Lyon took issue with the concept of a tartan designed for a special occasion, namely a centennial tartan. He wrote the following: "We do not, in this department, deal with ephemeral designs for this, that or the other anniversary.

"Once a tartan is registered here, which is not done without exacting consideration and evidence, it is intended to be the permanent and unchangeable tartan of such family, clan, or district and a thing with a name like a 'Centennial Tartan' stands condemned at once."

It has a happy ending, it would appear, by virtue of what everyone is wearing today.

The effort might have ended there but, according to the Hon. Mr. Tracey, after a decade and a half, the issue of international recognition surfaced again when it was brought to our attention that Yukon Scottish dancers were suffering disqualification at international competitions because their tartan was not recognized by Scottish authorities. The project of recognition was reactivated and, in April 1983, the present Lord Lyon agreed that the ephemeral argument could no longer be applied and that registration of the Yukon tartan could now proceed — thank goodness.

Subsequent communication with the Lyon revealed that the Yukon tartan was not a tartan at all, but a check or plaid and modifications were required before it could be considered by the Lyon's tartan committee. With the advice of the original designer, Janet Couture, the design was altered to conform to tartan specifications and was resubmitted.

As mentioned, the tartan was approved on October 24, 1984 and Bill No. 41 was introduced to the House the following month. The Assembly proceeded with dispatch and the bill passed the House on November 29, 1984. Later that day, Commissioner Doug Bell assented to the bill and the Yukon was finally in possession of an authorized and legally recognized tartan.

Former Speaker David Laxton was the first Yukon Speaker to wear the tartan tabs and did, on special occasions, during the 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Assembly.

When located, I will also be proud to continue this practice in the 34<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

There you go — the skulduggery and hijinks of the Yukon tartan.

### In recognition of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**Speaker:** The second tribute I have is to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canada. As members are aware, July 1, 2017, marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Dominion of Canada. In recognition of that auspicious occasion, the Chair will offer tribute to Canada.

The Canada we celebrate today is, of course, very different from the Canada of 1867. Geographically, our country has expanded from four former British colonies along the Great Lakes, the Saint Lawrence River and the Gulf of Saint Lawrence to the second-largest country on the planet, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Arctic oceans.

Canada has also experienced dramatic demographic change. The Canada of 1867 was composed almost exclusively of people of British, French and indigenous descent. Today, it is as diverse as any country on earth, incorporating people with roots all over the world, speaking more than 200 languages and practising a wide variety of religions and spiritual traditions.

This geographic and demographic change is reflected in Canada's political evolution. In 1867, Canada was a self-governing dominion within the British Empire. It was not until 1931 that Canada — along with Australia, the Irish Free State, New Zealand, Newfoundland and South Africa — acquired the power to establish its own foreign policy. While Canada was a democracy by the standards of 1867, the right to vote and to be a candidate in federal elections, which varied from province to province, was limited by gender, race, ethnicity and property ownership. Due to these restrictions, it is estimated that only 11 percent of Canada's population was eligible to vote in the election of Canada's first House of Commons in 1867.

While the electoral franchise expanded over time, the first federal general election to be conducted without restriction based on race or religion did not occur until 1963, with the expansion of the franchise to approximately 70 percent of the population at that time. Now that legal restrictions on voting have been removed, efforts continue to ensure that those who have the right to vote are better able to exercise that right.

The expansion of the right to vote has been paralleled by the right of self-government within Canada. The four original provinces enjoyed responsible government at the time of Confederation. However, those living in Rupert's Land and the North-West Territories, lands acquired by Canada in 1870, did not. As provinces and territories were created in these areas, they acquired the intuitions of representative and responsible government. Eventually, these institutions spread beyond Parliament and the 10 provinces to include Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Our governing principles have also expanded to incorporate an ancient concept — self-governing indigenous nations — as an integral part of evolving Canadian federalism. Yukon has, I think it is fair to say, led the country in this regard. Reconciliation with indigenous people in all its forms, not just in politics, is a challenge that we face every day and is a force that will bring further evolution and a change to Canadian society.

Of course, little of the change and evolution we have experienced over the last 150 years came easily, naturally or without cost. These changes came because people fought to make Canada the just and inclusive country it aspires to be, to ensure that we live up to the principles and the ideals articulated in documents like the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* as well as in the democratic concepts codified in our court-based common law and from laws passed in our federal, provincial and territorial legislative assemblies.

Former US President Barack Obama ended his address to Parliament on June 29, 2016 with the words, "The world

needs more Canada." I would note as well — parenthetically — that Paul Hewson, also known as Bono, the lead singer of the Irish rock quartet U2, also provided those words of encouragement to our nation almost 10 years prior to that.

While that is in itself a tribute to what we have achieved as a nation, it is also a challenge to engage the world as it is and as it will be. It is safe to say that Canada at 200 will be different from the Canada we have now at 150, though it will be built on a solid history of adaption to changing times.

Even with the challenges our nation faces and has faced — and also acknowledging that this anniversary comes with complexities and that it means different things to different people — this is still an important opportunity to celebrate the ongoing 150-year democratic experiment that continues to evolve from shining sea to sea to sea.

Of course, we can and we will do better, but it is important to remember that Canada is a beacon of hope and freedom in a troubled world and that we as Canadians can all be optimistic that the best is yet to come.

Thank you.

*Applause*

### In recognition of Alaska Highway 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** That's a hard act to follow. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today on behalf of this Liberal government to pay tribute to the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alaska Highway, once called the Alaska-Canada Highway and later nicknamed the Alcan.

In 1942, starting at mile 0 in Dawson Creek, 10,000 army engineers and 6,000 civilians hired by the US public roads administration built a 1,700-mile pioneer road through Canada's northern wilderness, ending in Delta Junction. They accomplished this in one season.

The purpose of this massive undertaking was to connect the lower United States to Alaska across Canada after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The highway represents the safekeeping of both Canada and the United States. More than 7,000 pieces of military equipment, including 5,000 trucks, nine tractors, 374 graders and 174 shovels were required to make the construction of the Alaska Highway possible.

It took nine months to complete the project. Doing so was riddled with challenges — not the least of which included the unrelenting cold in the winter, the mud in the spring and, of course, pesky mosquitoes throughout the summer. This project was once considered the engineering marvel of the world, and it was described as the largest and most difficult construction project since the building of the Panama Canal.

The social and economic impacts of the highway have been tremendous. What started as an emergency wartime road became a vitally important link between the US and Canada and a means to access the natural resources of Yukon and Alaska. The highway improved access to goods and services for Yukoners, opened up access to mining, and encouraged the development of a transportation network in Yukon. However, the highway construction had a significant environmental impact and the Alaska Highway is also noted as a catalyst for many changes in First Nation communities.

We recognize that these anniversaries mean different things to different people. I believe they provide an opportunity to recognize our uniqueness as Yukoners. Over the years, ongoing reconstruction has rerouted and straightened the highway in several sections. It is now 1,387 miles long, or 2,232 kilometres, for those educated in metric — quite a bit shorter than the original 1,700-mile Alcan Highway.

This piece of road still poses a challenge for the Department of Highways and Public Works, and, of course, we are still dealing with permafrost issues all these years later.

Several celebrations are happening within the communities along the Alaska Highway this summer. Yukon will play host to the Alaska Highway Road Show, which will be performing in Watson Lake, Teslin and Whitehorse later in July. This road show consists of three local artists: Bill Dolan, Allison Tubman and Kathy Jessup, whose families have a long history in the north. They are sharing their family's stories, music, artifacts and photographs as part of their tribute concert, with tour dates all along the highway. I would encourage this House and Yukoners to take in one of these concert dates to honour our highway and gain appreciation of the story of the Trail of '42.

The Alaska Highway's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary has also been commemorated by one of the six new tourism banners that were revealed today at the Yukon Visitor Information Centre. This stunning piece was created by a talented Yukon artist, Erin Dixon. Dixon is inspired by the territory's trails and trees. Her family spends summers camping and hiking and the winters, fishing and snowshoeing. She uses lively and intense colour combinations to define Yukon's wilderness and to express what it is like to live here.

On Alaska Highway's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Dixon draws from the many childhood trips she made up and down the highway with her family. The mountains in the painting are from one of the strongest memories of the Old Alaska Highway. The road ran through Pink Mountain and Steamboat Mountain, and the cliffs rise up one side and drop down the other.

Further, Mr. Speaker, most of us know that Premier Silver was recently in Washington to discuss the Shakwak agreement. The Shakwak agreement was a US-Canada cost-sharing arrangement where both parties agreed to maintain the highway as an all-season modern railway. The agreement was in place for 36 years. It has now ended.

The department continues to develop long-term construction and maintenance strategies to keep upgrading the Haines Road and the north Alaska Highway to maintain a safe highway. We recognize the Alaska Highway is a vital artery of Yukon's transportation network.

I also pay tribute to those men and women who made and continue to make this roadway such a valuable asset for Canadians, Americans, and of course, tourists coming to the Yukon from around the world.

Thank you for your time today, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Istchenko:** I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to pay tribute to the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alaska Highway.

The passage of time has softened our collective understanding of the experience of the Second World War. This is particularly true on the home front. As a consequence, North Americans have lost much of the memory and fear that gripped the continent in 1941 and 1942. Japanese planes had destroyed much of Pearl Harbor, damaging American power in the Pacific. In a series of bold attacks, Japanese forces overran Hong Kong and Singapore, adding to their hold on much of East Asia. The European theatre was just as alarming. German troops controlled the continent and much of North America and were poised to expand eastward toward the Soviet Union. In the early months of 1942, German U-boats attacked targets on the east coast of North America, bringing the threat of war closer to home.

Throughout the winter and spring of 1942, the real prospect of an enemy invasion cast dark shadows over the allied world when the Japanese occupied the Aleutian Islands of Kiska and Attu in June 1942. The threat of an invasion seemed all that much more real, raising the level of fear across the continent.

The Alaska Highway ranks as one of the greatest engineering feats of modern times. It was 1,500 miles of pioneer road punched through the subarctic frontier of the northwest corner of North America in less than eight months. Working under tough conditions of bitter cold, followed by the long days of northern summer, the United States Army Corps of Engineers managed to build a rough road linking the railhead at Dawson Creek, British Columbia to Delta Junction in Alaska. The Americans completed the highway under the pressure of war, believing that the project could play a pivotal role in the conflict that spanned the globe and had the Japanese poised to attack the Pacific coast.

It's difficult to imagine the road-building conditions any worse than what the workers faced in 1942 when they began carving a supply route over the Canadian Rockies through the Yukon Territory all the way to remote military outposts in Alaska. "Men hired for this job will be required to work and live under the most extreme conditions imaginable," read one recruitment notice. "Temperatures will range from 90 degrees above zero to 70 degrees below zero. Men will have to fight swamps, rivers, ice and cold. Mosquitoes, flies and gnats will not only be annoying but will cause bodily harm. If you're not prepared to work under these similar conditions, do not apply."

The idea of laying a roadway to connect the United States with the continent's far north could be traced back as far as the Gold Rush of the 1890s, but it wasn't until the 1930s that the Alaska territorial legislature commissioned a study of possible routes. It took the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor to finally get the work started. Despite obstacles that might have doomed the project had it been undertaken in peacetime, in less than nine months, a rapidly marshalled force of almost 16,000 soldiers and civilians forged 1,422 miles of roadway from Dawson Creek, British Columbia to Big Delta, Alaska.

The road joined the pre-existing Richardson Highway for the remaining 98 miles to Fairbanks.

The final cost of the Alaska Highway — or the Alcan, as it has often been called — was \$138 million, although the War department omitted from the figure the cost of paying and equipping the soldiers working on the highway, nor did it include the amount spent on the Canadian Oil Canol project, a refinery and pipeline system that stretched across northwest Canada and Alaska.

This was built concurrently with the highway to satisfy the petroleum needs of the highway and the Northwest Staging Route — a string of small landing fields established earlier across the western Canada for military use.

The decision to move forward with the project proved easy compared to the dilemma of choosing where to build the road. Initially, there were four paths under consideration. Route A ran east of British Columbia's coastal mountains while route B paralleled British Columbia's section of the Rocky Mountains. The US Army Corps of Engineers pushed for a third choice, route C, which sliced northwest across the Rockies a distance of roughly 1,400 miles. The fourth option, route D, rolled from Edmonton, Alberta into Canada's Northwest Territories and then west over the Mackenzie Mountains to Alaska, a distance of 1,700 miles.

All four choices had obvious drawbacks. The route A coastal track would make it most vulnerable to Japanese attack while route B would be susceptible to snow and floods. Both B and C also avoided towns, notably the railway terminals of Whitehorse in the southern Yukon Territory, where construction supplies could be easily transported. Route D promised access to oil fields at Norman Wells in the Northwest Territories, but it was the longest alternative.

In addition, all four shared another drawback: none offered ready access to the Northwest Staging Route. If the United States had to defend against attacks on North America from the Pacific Basin, it would be needed to resupply those airfields. This consideration led to a fifth highway plan that incorporated the best features of A, B, and C. This fifth alternative's one drawback that it had — and it was a major one — no one had had the opportunity to study it. Without time for a comprehensive survey, engineers and surveyors would have to work out many of the road's details once the project was already underway.

Although Ottawa insisted that the United States build and pay for the road — and turn over the Canadian section six months after the end of the war — Canada's government agreed to provide timber and gravel and waived import duties, sales and income taxes, and immigration regulations. With that settled, the Roosevelt administration gave the go-ahead, and the Army Corps of Engineers set about determining the best way to attack the project. Although it sounded like a phenomenal task, the corps reached a primary solution within 48 hours. It called for the deployment of four 1,300-member engineer construction regiments to begin the pioneer trail. Two of these regiments — the 35<sup>th</sup> and the 341<sup>st</sup> — would start at two different points of the southern, Dawson Creek end of the route and work their way north and west.

Meanwhile, the 18<sup>th</sup> and 340<sup>th</sup> engineers would begin at Whitehorse, near the middle of the prospective highway, and begin cutting road both south toward Dawson Creek and northwest to Alaska.

American troops and civilians were already arriving for work in the far north by the spring of 1942 and they arrived with what amounted to an armada of heavy equipment — like the minister spoke to earlier — 174 steam shovels, 374 blade graders, 904 tractors, and more than 5,000 trucks, as well as bulldozers, snowplows, cranes and generators.

Finally, civilian contractors, under the supervision of the US public roads administration, would work southwest from Alaska toward the Canadian border to link up with the 18<sup>th</sup> engineers. Once the road builders had finished the pioneer trail, the PRA contractors would use it as an access road into the wilderness and build either on top of this road or in some areas parallel to it — a two-lane, gravel-covered highway complete with permanent bridges that would serve both during and after the war.

The Alaska Highway corridor is more than a remarkable feat of engineering. It is also an enduring landmark in the history and the identity of the region in Canada. The corridor sustained communities long before the fur trade. Infrastructure, permanent settlements, tourism and resource development altered the region's transportation networks, its economy and environment. Dramatic changes were enabled and accelerated by the construction of the Alaska Highway and the impacts of the highway — both positive and negative — have had a lasting effect on Canada's northwest.

The Alaska Highway affected settlement patterns in the region. Prior to its construction, northern British Columbia and the Yukon were sparsely populated, and the majority of the Alaskan population lived in the coastal communities. In northern British Columbia and the Yukon, communities sprang up in response to the road and the services and opportunities it offered. For many, the Alaska Highway would become their main street, as it is my main street today in Haines Junction.

In addition, the sustainable access provided by the highway allowed for the integration of the region into the national economy through both renewable and non-renewable resource development. Geologists and prospectors followed right behind the construction crews, and the highway also supported mining production and transportation.

The Alaska Highway's construction and the subsequent construction of all-weather roads to Mayo and Dawson City put an end to the sternwheeler era and over half a century of the Yukon River serving as the territory's main transportation corridor. The decision to bypass Dawson — once the Yukon's most important centre northwest of Edmonton, Alberta — resulted, of course, in the community's slow decline and Whitehorse, in turn, grew as a metropolitan city. In 1953, Yukon's capital was officially moved from Dawson City to Whitehorse.

Both the impacts felt from the influx of men for the construction of the highway and the highway's subsequent success in opening up Canada's north justified the setting

aside of many areas for recreation and for conservation. The Liard River reserve evolved into three provincial parks — Liard River Hot Springs, Muncho Lake and Stone Mountain. The Kluane National Park Reserve was established in 1972 — and the game sanctuary on the west side of the Alaska Highway, north of Haines Junction.

So in closing, I want to thank previous work done over the years by historians. As I was creating this tribute, I gathered information from the Alaska Highway Heritage Project, the HistoryNet, AlbertaSource archives — there are so many great reads on the history of the Alaska Highway. Google will help you find much of that information. I do want to thank those highways employees who work on the highways today. I look forward to — as I did on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary — participating in commemorations throughout my area this year.

**Ms. Hanson:** I rise on behalf of the Yukon New Democratic Party to pay tribute also to the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alaska Highway. On this 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of the Alaska Highway, I am reminded that, on November 2015, the Yukon Legislative Assembly voted unanimously to approve the nomination of the Alaska Highway corridor as a national historic site of Canada.

As we tribute the significance of the building of the Alaska Highway, it is important — as the Member for Kluane mentioned — that we reflect on history through a clear and not a rose-coloured lens. There were winners and there were losers. There were huge benefits and there were huge, often hidden, costs. Like any significant historic event, the richness of the history is enhanced by our willingness to explore the good, the bad and the ugly of our history.

That November 2015 debate provided many and varied insights into the impact of and the potential for the Alaska Highway. I recommend members here and those listening to check it out.

I also want to give a shout-out to the folks at the Alaska Highway Community Society in Dawson Creek, BC, who have been working diligently to bring people from along the entire Alaska Highway route onside to the significance of the celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the linking of this anniversary to the recognition of the Alaska Highway as a national historic site. A number of years ago, they did a presentation at the tourism AGM in Haines, Alaska, that really captured the imagination of all who attended it. It almost captured the imagination of the then-tourism minister, but not quite.

Most of us think of the December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor as the genesis of the building of the Alaska Highway. In fact, there had been efforts going back to 1897, when — as Rob Ingram, in a brief history of the Alaska Highway, wrote — in anticipation of the hordes of gold seekers stampeding to the Klondike goldfields, the then-Commissioner of the North-West Mounted Police, ordered that a route to the Yukon via the Edmonton-Pelly corridor be identified — an early roads-to-resources program. Unfortunately it failed, as did three or four other attempts until February 2, 1942, when the US War

department ordered that a plan of survey and construction be prepared immediately for a road to Alaska. The Canadian government was told about the plan on February 13, and the Canadian government approved it the next day. It was essentially an American road. They conceived it, they planned it, they organized it and they built it.

The route largely followed the Northwest Staging Route, which had been set up in 1939 to facilitate civilian air traffic between Edmonton and Whitehorse. Some of us remember those landings at Grande Prairie, Fort St. John, Fort Nelson and Watson Lake. The road also provided what was called reciprocal support for the airstrips, which, since 1941, have been instrumental in getting supplies to Russia. The Watson Lake Airport has a really amazing photo display, capturing some of the day-to-day life of those people at that base — the Canadian, the Russian and the American troops who were all stationed at Watson Lake.

Ken Coates, noted Yukon academic and historian, said of the Alaska Highway — and I'm quoting here: "Seldom has a project of this magnitude been undertaken with such haste and so little planning." Despite the fact — as I had mentioned and as the Member for Kluane said — a number of previous studies had been done on potential routes, the US War department chose not to use any of the routes previously examined. The only direction given was to finish the road by the end of 1942 and link it up with the Alaskan airfields. Other than that, as Ken Coates said, "They had no idea where the road would go." One can only imagine the impact of mobilization of 394 officers and 10,765 enlisted men who effectively invaded the Yukon in early 1942.

The Alaska Highway had lasting effects on Yukon indigenous communities. Elder Pearl Keenan from Teslin recounted walking the five kilometres from the Teslin post office along the lake to her family home in May 1942, and hearing the noise of the survey party advancing along the shore of the lake. Although her family knew about the war and Pearl Harbor from listening to the radio, they were not aware of the momentous changes about to occur with the coming of the Alaska Highway. Pearl remarked on the racism exhibited by the white officers toward the mainly black enlisted men, and the introduction and impact of diseases such as measles on the community.

Other changes brought about by the building of the highway included the transition to a cash economy and the effective disenfranchisement of those indigenous people who chose employment working on the highway.

Along with others, I look forward to a documentary film being done by well-known Tlingit filmmaker Carol Geddes on the first-hand memories of surviving black soldiers who worked on the highway.

Recently, Mark Kelly and Lily Gontard caught the spirit of the iconic Alaska Highway roadhouses in their book, *Beyond Mile Zero*. In this, the celebration of the golden age of the automobile, they feature memories of places like Silvertip, Swift River, Silver Dollar, Krak-R-Krik, Chickaloon and other quaint and quite quirky establishments that sprang along the

highway, offering travellers a place to get coffee, gas, repairs, and sometimes a place to spend the night.

As we celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this historic route, let's look forward to the next 75 and envision a new era of tourism, perhaps — tourism opportunities afforded by the evolution of perhaps modern roadhouses that offer charge stations for electric vehicles. Imagine solar-powered charge stations along the electric highway of the north — a joint effort of BC, Yukon and Alaska.

Seventy-five years ago, naysayers thought no one could build a highway spanning some 2,230 kilometres through uncharted territory. Who knows what travel will be like along this iconic route 75 years from now?

### In recognition of Yukon Day

**Mr. Hutton:** Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today on behalf of the Yukon Liberal government to pay tribute to Yukon Day, June 13. This day marks an historic moment for our territory and this year marks its 119<sup>th</sup> birthday.

On June 13, 1898, with the passing of the *Yukon Territory Act* by the Canadian government, Yukon became its own territory and the ninth jurisdiction to join Confederation. Prior to this, Yukon had been a part of the Northwest Territories, along with what would become Saskatchewan, Alberta and Nunavut. It was the incredible migration of people to the territory for the gold rush that prompted the federal government to assert Yukon's independence as a region, marking it as a political entity of its own. Back then, Dawson City was the capital. With 40,000 people, it was the largest city west of Winnipeg and north of Seattle. The influx of people and interest brought on by the gold rush forced change on the Yukon, and the territory would never be the same afterward.

In 1900, over \$22-million worth of gold was produced from the Dawson goldfields. By 1907, gold production was down to only \$2.9 million and the population had decreased from 27,000 to less than 10,000. By the 1920s, there was a major shift as the decline of production in the goldfields continued. A newborn child of the Klondike, the Mayo silver district, was heralded by the Dawson news. In 1921, Mayo formed its own board of trade. The first Caterpillar tractor arrived in the Yukon in April 1923 to replace the horse-drawn sleighs hauling silver from Keno to Mayo. Keno Hill kept the Yukon going for decades, contributing much knowledge and producing more wealth in the Klondike. Keno Hill was at its peak — the fourth largest silver producer in the world and the largest silver producer in North America.

It was Keno Hill Mines that kept the territory growing from 1920 to 1945. Then the Alaska Highway was constructed and the highway ushered in a new era of change and prosperity for the territory. Keno Hill reopened in 1946, after a Mayo elder, Edwin Hager, took executives from Falconbridge from Mayo to Keno via dog team to look at the mine site and make plans for reopening.

Edwin told me he was very happy to receive the \$5 fee for the round trip. From 1946 to 1989, Keno continued to

produce millions of dollars' worth of silver, lead and zinc annually. We would be remiss on Yukon Day were we not to mention the importance of Keno to the Yukon Territory.

Throughout Yukon's history, many miners have come for what they perceived as a brief opportunity and then chose to stay for a lifetime. This is a narrative that continues to unfold today in mining and other sectors as people from across Canada and the world find their way to the Yukon for "just a few years" and end up building a lifelong home here. While today marks a day of political significance for the territory, the full story of Yukon echoes for thousands upon thousands of years prior to this day when indigenous people lived on, honoured and cared for this land for many generations. They took only what they needed and they always gave something back.

We owe a great debt to Yukon's first peoples for sharing their beautiful home with us and helping us to move forward together in Yukon. I look forward to honouring and celebrating that history and culture with all Yukoners next week when we celebrate National Aboriginal Day, Yukon's newest statutory holiday, on June 21.

June 13, 1989 was not the start of Yukon's story, but it holds its own significance as a day when Yukoners can come together to celebrate the past, present and future of this great territory. From its rich First Nation culture and ancestry, to the hardy miners who climbed the Chilkoot Trail in search of their life's fortunes and all of the colourful characters in between, this territory stands alone in its unique story, and it's a story we continue to tell today as we work together to create a healthy, vibrant and thriving territory for all Yukoners. Yukon is a truly beautiful, vast territory with a diversity of people, values and ideals that continues to inspire and intrigue.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*Applause*

**Ms. Van Bibber:** I rise today on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to pay tribute to Yukon's birthday. On this day, June 13, in the year 1898, Canada proclaimed a new area known as the "Yukon Territory". As the Klondike Gold Rush and stampeders arrived, the Government of Canada decided it was best to set out a new territory from Rupert's Land so it was easier to manage. We were actually a separate entity before Saskatchewan and Alberta, as they became provinces in 1905.

Many of us at times become nostalgic for the old days. There is a reason for nostalgia. Perhaps we remember a simpler time, a gentler time, a slower time or just the personal time that is special. We love to reflect on our history — so a bit of a history lesson to go with this birthday wish.

Dawson City, the original capital of Yukon, was a sleepy, dusty little town with its shambling, falling-down buildings and was where I spent my youth. If anyone has seen the National Film Board film, *City of Gold* — circa 1957, narrated by Pierre Berton — that is my nostalgia.

But 119 years is just a blip in history — a blink in the composition of our recorded times. Compared with other regions of the world, we are so young.



In 1898, the highest speed that an automobile would go was 39 miles per hour, and it was also that year when the first auto insurance was sold, probably due to that enormous speed. United States annexed Hawaii, and China leased Hong Kong to Britain for 99 years.

Also that year, three West Virginian boys — Ira Van Bibber, aged 21, along with two of his brothers, Theodore and Patrick — arrived in Skagway. They were broke and could not enter Canada so had to work packing for others over the Chilkoot Trail. Finally with enough money, they were allowed in. They arrived at Fort Selkirk where Ira met Eliza Ellis. He stayed. They married and the Yukon Van Bibber's story began. Theodore and Patrick went on but were too late. The staking was over — so on to the Nome strike in Alaska. I don't believe they ever saw any gold. Theodore is buried in Fairbanks, and Patrick made it back to Washington state where he is buried.

We know from our own lives and experiences that nothing remains the same. The capital had moved from Dawson to Whitehorse in the early 1950s. The Klondike Highway was completed in that same period and bridges replaced ferries. The steamboats stopped running the Yukon River and families moved close to the highway. A new era of transportation and ways had begun. Still, people did not travel too far from home, and it was odd to see a stranger in town.

Early on, a few tourists found their way up and the odd traveller arrived by riverboat on an adventure. We were sure they had just taken the wrong turn in the road, or they weren't quite sure where they were heading or even if they knew exactly where they were. But locals quickly realized they had a new small gold mine. We could actually be a destination.

So began the focus on peoples' fascination with history and the goldfields, and it was the start to turning areas into interesting places to visit. The beauty and magic of Yukon areas quickly beckoned and hooked the imagination of visitors.

I clearly remember the old timers sitting along the sidewalks in front of the Occidental and Westminster hotels as well as the BNF store. I was a bit afraid of these grizzled old fellows with their spit cans nearby, but I'm sure they were reminiscing about the way things had changed in their lifetimes and how awful things had become and how the young folks just didn't know a thing.

There are many stories, both old and new, and stories that are being lived and created as we speak. Our brief history is riddled with tales of strength, courage and characters, and as any good sourdough knows, there are few tall tales thrown in for good measure.

The First Nation people are a welcoming people, and little did they know the trauma and changes they would experience as the people kept coming. The churches and governments became involved in the control of the people, and their nomadic life was all but obliterated. Today, we understand the implications and consequences of those actions, and we are better for the understanding of different histories.

I know many ordinary and some extraordinary folks who live here year-in and year-out, who raise their families and help build our territory — people of all ethnic groups and nationalities. They are the fabric of our territory.

There are several historic things that happened while I was Commissioner of Yukon and I want to mention two. I was the first Commissioner to dissolve a sitting government and call an election on the same day. Previously, only the federal government could dissolve a territorial government and then the Commissioner could call an election. Premier Fentie and I had that honour.

I also had the Yukon crest registered in the Canadian Heraldic Authority. On February 17, 1956, Queen Elizabeth initialled and approved our Yukon crest design. On April 3 of that same year, in 1956, Governor General Vincent Massey was in Yukon and presented the crest to the Yukon Territorial Council. I believe he thought it was a done deal. By chance, when I was having my coat of arms designed, the head herald from Rideau Hall mentioned that if I sent an official letter, we could have the crest of the Yukon registered. It was done on October 15, 2006 — 50 years later.

These two notable events are now part of these 119 years of growth and independence that we celebrate in our great home. Let's continue to cherish what we have, honour those who help build, respect our differences, and continue to be the best part of Canada.

*The Spell of the Yukon* is the poem I love the best, and I will end this tribute with — and I quote:

There's the land. (Have you seen it?)  
It's the cussedest land that I know,  
From the big, dizzy mountains that screen it  
To the deep, deathlike valleys below.  
Some say God was tired when He made it;  
Some say it's a fine land to shun;  
Maybe; but there's some as would trade it  
For no land on earth — and I'm one.

**Ms. White:** I'm very pleased to join my colleagues on behalf of the Yukon NDP caucus to pay tribute to Yukon Day on this day, our 119<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ours hasn't always been an easy or a romantic story. The fur trade, the gold rush, the construction of the highway and residential schools left imprints on our First Nation peoples. We have our share of history that we might like to revise or rewrite. But with the challenging comes the beautiful, and our growth as a territory is no different — from the historic 1973 visit to Ottawa of First Nation leaders to deliver *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*, a document that put all of Yukon on the path toward a future Yukon — one developed together, First Nation and non-First Nation citizens working together — to the signing of those first four land claim agreements in 1993 that signalled a new way of looking toward the future together, to the devolution transfer that saw Yukon take on province-like responsibilities in 2003, to the recent recognition of the importance and significance of First Nation culture with the creation of a statutory holiday to celebrate National Aboriginal Day.

I'm proud to say that by the end of business today, every Yukoner will be afforded their human rights to be who they are without discrimination or fear.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission laid out a road map for all of Canada on how to advance the healing of our colonial past. It is up to all of us to live up to those recommendations and work toward true government-to-government relations with First Nations, while affirming self-government agreements and assisting in advancing their implementation.

We continue to mature as a territory, as a people and as an Assembly, developing and passing legislation that reflects the wishes of Yukoners — a Yukon where no one is left behind. The future holds challenges for us, but it is with an open heart that we look toward that future, knowing we truly have a meaningful part in the Canadian federation that is progressive and responsible to all peoples.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Introduction of visitors.

### INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** It gives me great pleasure to rise in this House today and ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming one of the grade five classes from Elijah Smith Elementary. They have been very, very patient visitors today.

Here with us today is their teacher Robyn Murphy, their educational assistant Megan Beauchesne and the following students: Fynn Bradford-Andrews, Armaan Brar, Tyson Matthews, Conner Labar, Maddox Hale, Bria Hindson, Pyper Smith, Dasha Ayzenberg, Kaidence Reynolds-Fraser, Julianne Rost Van Tonningen, Mya Westropp, Kaysen Thomas, Brendan Nash and Nahree McDiarmid.

Thank you very much for being here. We know that you have been learning about government in your school this year and we are very happy that you're visiting us today. Keep up the good work.

*Applause*

**Mr. Adel:** I would like my colleagues to welcome Sarah Waters, one of my constituents from beautiful Copperbelt North. *Applause*

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** I rise today to introduce and acknowledge my staff from the Women's Directorate: Kirsten Madsen, Linnea Rudachyk, and our newest member, Chantal Genier. Welcome.

*Applause*

**Mr. Hassard:** I would like to ask all members to join me in welcoming the executive director of the Klondike Placer Miners' Association here today, Mr. Jonas Smith.

*Applause*

**Ms. White:** I ask the indulgence of my colleagues as I also welcome Ms. Murphy's class. We got to know each other a little bit over the last year, but you guys don't normally see

me in these clothes or in this circumstance. I want to thank you for all the patience I have seen all year, for your compassion, for your intelligence and the fact that you were able to sit still for almost an hour.

Thank you so much for coming and maybe I will get to see you guys when you're in grade six. It's lovely to see you.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Are there any further introductions of visitors?

Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

### TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** I have for tabling today three legislative returns in response to questions that came up during the Community Services budget debate in Committee of the Whole, including projects under the small communities fund, domestic water well program and the Residential Tenancies Office.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling three legislative returns in response to questions from the opposition parties.

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** Mr. Speaker, I have two legislative returns — one from a question on June 6 from the members opposite during Question Period and one from June 8 during budget debate.

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

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motions?

### NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to review the annual budget for brush and weed control on Yukon highways to ensure it adequately addresses both safety and highway maintenance needs for the 2017-18 fiscal year, as well as future years.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to return to the proactive practice of posting and disclosing ministerial travel expenses no later than three months after travel.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to, if it intends to follow through with its election commitment of electoral reform, plan a referendum to take place during the next territorial election in order to ensure a high voter response rate.

**Ms. Hanson:** Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to establish annual one-day elder/senior and youth parliaments that:

- (1) are held on alternate years;
- (2) are open to participants from across Yukon;
- (3) provide an opportunity to learn about Yukon Legislative Assembly rules and procedures;
- (4) provide participants an opportunity to debate issues identified by them; and
- (5) meet with current MLAs.

**Mr. Adel:** Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to enhance opportunities for local businesses and Yukoners in its procurement process.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to abandon its current plan to impose \$216 million in red ink on Yukon, and to be transparent with Yukoners regarding how far it is willing to go into debt over its term in government.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to hold a referendum to give Yukon taxpayers the opportunity to record either their approval or rejection of the imposition of a carbon tax, in the spirit of section 8(1) of the *Taxpayer Protection Act*.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to undertake full and meaningful consultation with Yukoners in every community to ensure their input is considered during the drafting of all legislation and regulations surrounding cannabis.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to add a turning lane and a slip lane at the intersection of Boreal Road and the Mayo Road.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to add a turning lane and a slip lane at the entrance to the new Grizzly Valley subdivision and repair the road to reopen the second entrance.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to seek feedback from residents of the Hidden Valley, MacPherson, Hot Springs Road, and Mayo Road areas about whether the highway line pattern painted on the highway in

Hidden Valley last fall is actually working better than the old turning lane pattern or whether the line should be repainted to the way they were before, in recognition of numerous complaints from area residents.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to consider the reallocation of any unspent capital dollars for the 2017-18 fiscal year toward the replacement of aging portables for schools where there is a demonstrated need.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to commit funds to the planning and construction of a skating rink in Carmacks.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon and the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board to investigate and create a registry of historic asbestos work sites throughout Yukon.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the government to mitigate conflict between the Yukon Housing tenants by considering facilitating access to vaporizers for tenants who are prescribed medicinal marijuana.

**Speaker:** Are there any further notices of motions?  
Is there a statement by a minister?

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Early learning and childcare framework

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak about the national multilateral early learning and childcare framework that I was so honoured to sign with the federal, provincial and territorial colleagues yesterday in Ottawa.

I want to take a moment to commend the department staff for their hard work on this project. Many people have worked tirelessly to get us to this point, and I appreciate their work and the support they provided in preparation for yesterday's signing.

Secondly, I want to thank my colleague, the Minister of Education, for her partnership in this important work. Early learning and childcare is a joint responsibility of both Health and Social Services and Education here in Yukon, and I am thankful for her partnership throughout this process.

The departments worked together in a true show of our one-government approach, and what a great framework it created, Mr. Speaker — one that will benefit Yukoners for more than a decade, ensuring children across this country have the best start possible as a priority for each and every colleague whom I spoke with in Ottawa. Yesterday, I was happy to spend time with ministerial colleagues, to meet with

Minister Duclos and Minister Bennett on housing and infrastructure, on childcare and childcare needs, to hear about commitments for children in respective jurisdictions across the country, and to hear about specific challenges and opportunities. I've heard about stories and families in their communities. In a world where so much seeks to drive us apart, it was heartening to hear that there is unwavering commitment to the families and the little ones who will one day stand here and reside in these rooms where we stand and work today, making decisions that will impact their generation and generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, the framework I signed yesterday establishes a long-term partnership between Canada and the provinces and territories that will see predictable and stable funding for early learning and childcare over the next 11 years, supported by federal funding of \$7.5 billion, pending legislative approval. The funding will be used to create high-quality, affordable childcare across the country. Yukon's share of at least the first three years will be \$2 million-plus per capita, which is roughly around \$2.4 million.

The framework is based on five childcare principles: affordability, high quality, flexibility, accessibility and inclusivity. All of these principles are already a priority of my department and for many other organizations that take care of children in Yukon.

The framework focuses on families that are low income, indigenous, single parents, living in underserved communities or with children with disabilities. It focuses on helping parents who work non-standard hours to get childcare more accessibly. It also will assist in providing childcare in communities that do not have childcare facilities or have that privilege, so this allows for that to happen.

Two other significant parts of this framework are the emphasis on innovation and knowledge. While I routinely support and encourage my department to ensure that they are looking at innovative solutions, I am happy to see that this framework emphasizes the need to address increasingly challenging environments —

**Speaker:** Order, please. Thank you.

**Ms. McLeod:** I'm pleased today to rise in the House to respond to the minister's statement regarding the national multi-lateral early learning and childcare framework. I notice that the minister did provide additional details on her feet today that were missed in her prepared statement.

It's certainly nice to see a dedication from this government to support early learning and childcare in our territory. The release and the minister's statement obviously raise a number of questions from the Official Opposition, particularly about the tangible results that Yukoners will receive from the signing of this agreement.

I see and I've heard that, based on the news release, \$7.5 billion will be provided over 11 years to jurisdictions across the country, so obviously the question is: How much of that money will be allocated to Yukon on a per-year basis? Is the money back loaded until the end of the 11 years?

Obviously this may present some challenges, given that a federal election is two years away.

The minister's statement is silent on this basic information. Again, it raises important questions.

I wonder what specifically this money will be used for. What's the target of this funding?

The minister has certainly given us a broad generic answer and refers to supporting early learning and childcare, and that's great. We too agree that supporting early learning and childcare is important, but the question is: How? How will this government do this? Families want to know how this affects them directly. How will this announcement make childcare more affordable for Yukon families? How will this increase availability to childcare for families?

Will this address the needs and concerns that have already been identified by childcare providers and families? How? Has the minister met with childcare providers to understand their challenges? Has the minister met with families and parents to understand their needs?

We would like to know what consultation was carried out by this government prior to the development and signing of this agreement. It would also be good to know what consultation the government intends to carry out now that the agreement is signed. We certainly think families should be consulted on the priorities for this funding. If the minister hasn't consulted already, when is she going to consult, or have the decisions been made already? Certainly, we have heard this government speak at length about evidence-based decision-making, so I hope that she took the time to listen to childcare providers and gather the evidence required before making the decisions on their behalf.

Again, we would like the government to explain how this agreement will enhance and sustain affordable childcare in the territory. Will the funding be allocated to each community? Will this be dedicated to new daycare spaces, or will this increase the financial support to daycare spaces already in existence? Does this mean increases to the direct operating grant for daycare centres and family day homes?

We have heard from a number of childcare providers in the communities who feel that they are in need of more support financially to provide the quality care needed to create success for young Yukoners. When will this funding begin to flow? Will this funding go toward meeting certain election promises that the Liberals have made, such as the Premier's promise to build a new building for the Little Blue Daycare?

We understand that this funding is not supposed to reduce any investment that government already makes and is supposed to be for new initiatives. Obviously, we are leaving the minister with a lot of questions to follow up on, and I hope that she does have the answers.

**Ms. White:** I want to congratulate the minister on the signing of the early learning and childcare framework with her provincial and territorial counterparts. \$7.5 billion can sound like a lot of money but, spread over 11 years and across the entire country, it will only go so far.

Mr. Speaker, we can certainly agree with the five childcare principles of affordability, quality, flexibility, accessibility and inclusivity. The minister has also stated that this funding will be focused on families who are low income, indigenous, single parent, living in underserved communities, or with children with a disability. There is no doubt that this is where we find the greatest needs. Unfortunately, what is missing in all of this is universality. When we speak of universality with early learning and childcare, we are ensuring that every child, regardless of their circumstances, has the same opportunity and access to the same care as the next child.

I want to read a quote from Morna Ballantyne, the executive director of the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada. She states it clearly when she says, “The federal government’s targeted approach goes against all the evidence that quality childcare is critical to the healthy development of all children and that the best child-care systems are those designed to be inclusive of all children regardless of their circumstances.”

Mr. Speaker, universality is the cornerstone of public education and health care services. It’s about all of those principles noted above: affordability, quality, flexibility, accessibility and inclusivity. Why wouldn’t we want the same for all of our children right from the start? Universality should not be something that we work our way toward, because when we do that, we are leaving someone behind. Universality of early learning and childcare should be out front from the beginning.

The early-development instrument that the Department of Education completed in 2011 pointed out a number of areas of need with children entering kindergarten throughout Yukon. More than one-fifth of Yukon’s kindergarten students were vulnerable in the area of physical health and well-being. That includes having well-coordinated movements and not arriving at school hungry.

Nearly one-fifth of students were found vulnerable in the area of emotional maturity, or able to show empathy and willingness to help others. To be clear, these results were found to be similar throughout Yukon, including Whitehorse. When it came to rural versus urban, there was universal concern in Whitehorse and in the communities.

If we are truly committed to providing the best for Yukon children in early learning and childcare, then we need to ensure that every child has the same access to the best learning and care.

Mr. Speaker, agreements are good, but they need to materialize and they need to make a real difference in families’ lives. We will be holding this government to account to ensure that this agreement makes quality early learning and childcare truly affordable and accessible to all Yukon children and their families. A good place to start would be to end the nine-year-long freeze to direct operating grants for daycares and to provide the services of the Child Development Centre year-round.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** As I was saying earlier, the funding agreement that was signed is a historical agreement. It is for resources that we have not seen before. It is a commitment from the federal government that the department and this government have really worked closely on with our colleagues to try to address some of the challenges that were highlighted in the presentation from the member opposite. Two significant parts of the framework are on the emphasis of innovation and knowledge.

What I routinely do with my department is to encourage them to look at innovation, pilots and opportunities to bridge some huge gaps that are in our communities — disparities between our communities — ensuring that communities, like Ross River, which don’t have childcare centres and which don’t allow opportunities for parents to participate and engage — opportunities are there, and for communities that perhaps need to build some capacity, there are opportunities for innovation that best align with the needs of the respective communities.

So, thinking differently, looking outside of the box, creating solutions to what we see as challenges — and the Member for Watson Lake highlighted a whole bunch of questions around: What are we proposing to do with this funding agreement? There are bilateral negotiations happening right now with every jurisdiction across the country around unique, innovative, evidence-based solutions to address some of the concerns and issues that have been raised.

This agreement means a lot to us here in the Yukon. It means that we can continue to deliver on our promise to Yukoners for healthy, vibrant, sustainable communities and a people-centred approach to wellness that helps Yukoners thrive. It means that our families, our mothers and our parents can get up every day and go to work. Be it on a Saturday, be it in an evening — there will be opportunities. That is innovation and that helps to address some of the challenges.

Every Yukon child requires the best benefits possible — most definitely — and some things have not been working so great, but we aim to address some of those challenges.

What will the money be used for? The investment will mean that our government can supplement existing programs and look at ways that we can try to increase quality, accessibility and inclusivity for childcare in Yukon communities.

There is a second piece to this funding agreement. It is called *Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care* — separate negotiations that are happening with the self-governing First Nations. There is an important piece to the legislation in the agreement, and that deals with language — the unique languages of Yukon First Nations — which is protected and which is required. It’s not just English and French.

That’s innovation; that’s creativity; that’s about early learning and childcare. We take into consideration infrastructure and providing for childcare centres — most definitely — and maybe the Little Blue Daycare in Dawson City will be provided an opportunity. Maybe there will other daycares that require support to best align with the community needs. That’s what’s important.

Languages for our communities, early learning and early childhood development are very important. I met with the Child Development Centre a week ago and they identified developmental delays and challenges for children — those are concerns. Working quite closely with the Department of Education — what are some of the challenges? Those are some of the challenges and we aim to address that as a one-government approach and we will work with our stakeholders, work with the private owners, work with the governments —

**Speaker:** Order, please. Thank you.

This then brings us to Question Period.

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: Liberal Party ethical standards

**Mr. Hassard:** The Liberal candidate for Whitehorse Centre is alleged to have misused proxy voting during the 2016 election.

My question for the Premier is: Was the candidate advised by anyone on the campaign team that these actions were okay?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Guideline 11 in the Standing Orders indicates that a question is out of order if it deals with any matter that's before the court. As a result, no answer will be provided for this question. It would be inappropriate to do so.

**Mr. Hassard:** That's definitely an interesting tactic. I was just curious — I believe that the Premier could certainly answer these questions. We would think that the Premier, if he was certain that no one on the campaign team had advised this candidate to take these actions, would be happy to stand up and say, "No".

Can the Premier tell us whether or not anyone else on the campaign may have improperly used proxy voting? Since we can assume no one else is part of the court case, the Premier should have no problem answering this.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** It's an "interesting tactic" — it's not a tactic; I've answered the question. But what is interesting is that yesterday, a similar question was asked in which case the party opposite was interested in what the Premier may or may not have said to anyone. Clearly, he is speaking about what potentially could be evidence in a case. That's the reason this rule exists. It's the reason that I've referred to it today, and it's simply just not appropriate to answer the question in the House because it could affect what will happen in a court of law.

**Mr. Hassard:** So then maybe the Premier can answer this question: When did he first become aware of the candidate in Whitehorse Centre's alleged behaviour?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Again, the Leader of the Official Opposition is asking about evidence. The matter is before the court. It will require a trial. A not-guilty plea has been entered. The matter will proceed to trial. We're following the Standing Orders. It actually indicates in guideline 11 that it's out of order to do so.

I'm indicating to the members opposite that we are simply not able to answer that question based on the Standing Orders of this House.

### Question re: Carbon tax

**Mr. Cathers:** This is the final day of the Spring Sitting and we've still yet to receive details from this government about the carbon tax scheme the Premier signed on to. It has been almost 220 days since the election and the fact that the Liberal government is still refusing to share information with Yukoners is disappointing.

Government has refused to tell Yukoners what financial impact this carbon tax on Yukon's economy will be and they have refused to even conduct an analysis of its impact on sectors of the economy that may be affected. They have refused to commit that Yukoners will get 100 percent of the increased revenue as a result of GST back, they refuse to tell us what sectors they might be seeking exemptions for and they refuse to tell the public what the rebate plan will actually look like if there is one.

I'll ask again: Will the Premier commit that every single Yukoner will get 100 percent of every single cent they're paying as a result of the carbon tax, including the GST back as a rebate?

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I would like to thank the Yukon Party for signing on to the Vancouver Declaration, which all but committed the Yukon government to a carbon-pricing mechanism, so thank you for their work with the federal government on that piece.

We've been very forthright in this Legislative Assembly as far as the information that we know about a federal price on carbon. As the information becomes available to this side, we are open and accountable and we allow it to be presented to the members opposite and we will continue to do that as information comes in from a federal carbon-pricing mechanism.

Currently it is the federal government that is accepting public feedback on the federal carbon-pricing technical paper and the members opposite know that was released on May 18. As noted on the federal government's website, interested parties are invited to send written feedback to Environment and Climate Change Canada on or before June 30 of this year. If the member opposite can comment on the feedback that they've sent in to federal government then they can get on the record of the Legislative Assembly here their concerns and maybe for the first time in history of the Yukon Party some solutions on carbon-pricing mechanisms.

**Mr. Cathers:** First of all, the Premier knows very well that the document signed by the previous government specifically allowed for a different approach in the north and would have allowed for exemptions if the Premier had done, as we did in the past, and joined with the other northern premiers and stand up for the Yukon's interest.

After months of breaking election promises, the Premier is finishing the last day of this Sitting by not even being clear on his promise to Yukoners that they get every cent of their money back as a result of a federal or a territorial carbon tax. The questions Yukoners have about the Premier's carbon tax scheme are piling up. Because of a lack of information, there is a growing uncertainty in the Yukon business community.

In order to provide certainty, will the Premier tell us today what businesses he is seeking to have exempted from a carbon tax? Or is he simply again off-loading responsibility for this and waiting for instructions from Ottawa?

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Again, we will be meeting with our federal counterparts and with provincial ministers of finance across the country this week into next week in Ottawa. In that conversation will be conversations about what the federal government is proposing — that's for sure.

Also, following the initial input phase that the federal government put forward, the Yukon government will be working with the federal government to give Yukoners and opportunity to provide input on the implementation of that federal carbon-pricing mechanism.

Again, we've been very forthright on our part as far as getting that information out the door and, again, we've been very clear as far as our commitment to Yukoners. Every dollar that is going to be collected will be returned to Yukon businesses and Yukon individuals.

The member opposite knows that. He has been trying his best to score some political points on this throughout the 30 days of the Legislative Assembly. We have been talking with members of the community here locally, but also Canada-wide — we just saw a whole week of conversations with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and they are very thankful that this government is on the right side of history when it comes to carbon-pricing mechanisms. I'll echo their words — this is the most effective method of dealing with climate change.

I'm not sure exactly what the Yukon Party's opportunity was going to be as far as the carbon-pricing mechanism, but ducking it and bobbing and weaving surely is not going to accomplish anything.

**Mr. Cathers:** A lesson the Yukon Liberals should learn some day is that just because Ottawa tells you something, that doesn't mean you have to take it lying down. You can actually stand up and push for the Yukon's interests.

What the Premier doesn't seem to understand is that costs do matter. For small business owners — they are often budgeting on an annual basis, factoring their costs within a year. Many people also do the same for their households. So this unknown cost of a new tax is a worry on the minds of many Yukoners. That's why we're asking these questions.

The Liberal carbon tax is set to come in in early 2018, but they still haven't told Yukoners the fine print. Will the Premier see the error of his ways and will he agree now to tell Yukoners the details of a tax model and rebate and put it to a referendum here in the territory before it's imposed in the Yukon?

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** It would be quite interesting to do a referendum on a federal price on carbon. I wonder if the same type of approach to the GST would be something that the Yukon Party would have been interested in, in their time. But again, we've been very clear on this side of the House. We've been very forthright with Yukoners as far as our plan — as opposed to the Yukon Party, who have always been saying

that, for some reason, they would be the only jurisdiction that would be exempt from a carbon-pricing mechanism.

We've always spoken, as well, from the beginning — whether it be from the annex or the conversations we've had in the pan-Canadian framework — that we will be looking for sector-specific considerations. As more information comes forth — and again, I don't know if the member opposite wants me to talk about what we want to see done before we go into the consultation phase. I don't think that's what we want to do. We want to make sure that we reach out to Yukoners. We will do that in due time on this and on other federal initiatives coming down from the government in Ottawa.

#### **Question re: Minimum wage**

**Ms. Hanson:** This government campaigned promising Yukoners a government that would listen. During the election, the Premier said repeatedly that he would be open to good ideas, no matter where they came from. Yet, when asked about reviewing the minimum wage, his minister said he wouldn't do it because it wasn't in the Liberal platform. On other issues, like direct operating grants for daycare operators or mobile-homeowner protection, we've been told, "Sorry, it's not in my mandate letter." It seems that this government is only willing to listen to Yukoners if the ideas have a Liberal stamp on them.

What happened to the Premier's commitment to listen to all Yukoners?

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** With all due respect to the member opposite, we campaigned on a mandate. In campaigning on that mandate, we won a majority government here in the Yukon and we will make good on our promises.

You can look it as a Venn diagram. There are ideas on both sides — whether it be to the left or to the right — where we agree with the members opposite, and also those we didn't campaign on. So to accomplish those goals that happen within that Venn diagram, that's great.

For the NDP — I'm going to give them kudos for pushing the limits of those boundaries. They've done a researched job of advocating for what the NDP ran on for the campaign, and they are to be commended for looking at this government's willingness to work with the opposition to move forward on our mandate. But, again, we did campaign on certain promises and we are going to move forward on those. I'm very proud of the work that has been accomplished on this side of the House. I'm very proud of the introduction of our first bills — building a better Yukon for everybody, fostering reconciliation by establishing National Aboriginal Day as a statutory holiday, the protection of transgender and two-spirited Yukoners from discrimination and also to support Yukon businesses by lowering taxes.

We are making good on our promises. We're making good on the commitments that we have made and we are going to continue to do that and I am going to continue to say to the NDP, kudos for pushing the boundaries into their campaign promises, but we are going to accomplish our campaign promises.

**Ms. Hanson:** There comes a point when the campaign promises and the working with the other parties actually mean having to listen to the other parties. Actions speak louder than words. It is nice to have a conciliatory tone, but we have to see some evidence that this government is willing — actually willing — to listen to Yukoners' feedback and do something outside of their own narrow agenda.

It looked promising for a moment, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this Sitting, we brought forward a motion urging the government to go beyond their platform and expand presumptive post-traumatic stress disorder legislation to all workers. Government MLAs supported the motion and it received consent in this House. Yet, a few weeks later, the government released a consultation document that clearly shows this government's intention to limit presumptive PTSD coverage to some workers.

Can the Premier explain how ignoring a motion of the Legislative Assembly demonstrates his commitment to listen to all Yukoners?

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** I thank the member opposite for the question.

We are going ahead with our consultation. We have made that commitment to consider it and we have put the question out to Yukoners. We have put it out there — to define what we would include in our definition of "first responder". We certainly are considering that and we will be looking forward to getting the responses back from Yukoners.

I actually read a lot of feedback after our debate as well that indicated that certain Yukoners who fit within that first responder category right now were not happy with that debate that happened. They felt that they should come first. So we are listening. We will listen. We will take the feedback and we will build it in as we go forward, as we consider this legislation. We're not done yet.

**Ms. Hanson:** You know, coming first does not exclude others. Understanding that being inclusive with respect to post-traumatic stress disorder is really very important. That was the purpose of that debate.

This government needs to take concrete action on issues that matter to Yukoners, even if they are not on the Liberal agenda and they have lots to pick from. They could review Yukon's minimum wage with a view to making sure that it's no longer a poverty wage. They could enact protection for mobile-homeowners. They could increase funding to daycares.

They could even listen to the consent of this Legislative Assembly and expand presumptive coverage to all workers and not continue with the only language used in their consultation that speaks to first responders only. We supported that, Mr. Speaker. We went out on that and introduced legislation in this House.

Will the Premier fulfill his commitment to listen to good ideas, whether they are in the Liberal agenda or not and commit to bringing forward at least one of the changes discussed in this Legislative Assembly in the Fall Sitting —

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** It's unfortunate that the NDP will only look at the ideas that we are not moving forward directly

with them on their campaign and not looking at the good work that we have done on the left side of the Yukoners' agenda.

I think it's worthy of just saying right now there is a lot of work yet to come, but I believe that this is a good start to our mandate. I'm extremely proud of the team here, who act more like Yukoners and less like politicians in the Legislative Assembly in making sure that they answer questions through ministerial statements and through returns as well from all the questions asked in the Legislative Assembly. We're trying to change the decorum here in the Legislative Assembly and I think we've done a fantastic job for a first budget from this government. I think we've shown Yukoners that the Legislative Assembly is somewhere that can be productive and an area that we can actually raise the issues of Yukoners and we can debate what is important to Yukoners. We've offered a respectful tone in our responses and we've offered answers to questions asked.

As I said already, I'm very proud of this team and there is more work to come, but again, we're going to work on what we were elected on. There was a mandate from the platform. The platform came into the mandate and we will work on those things. In the next five years, as we're doing that, we will continue to work with the NDP. We will continue to try to work with the Yukon Party as well. It's just a matter of working to get our mandate done. We're going to get the business letters through. We're going to get the Financial Advisory Panel through and we're going to showcase a new fiscal responsibility that Yukoners wanted and actually voted for.

#### **Question re: Business incentive program**

**Ms. Van Bibber:** Yesterday, I asked the minister about the business incentive program and how it would apply to the municipal services building in Whitehorse. Specifically, I asked the minister how much funding is allocated for this. Unfortunately, I didn't get an answer. I would just like to help the minister out on how questions work. By way of background, when someone asks a specific question, like how much funding is allocated for a government announcement, you should be able to answer.

Can the minister tell us how much of the 2017-18 BIP budget will be allocated to contractors working on the municipal services building?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I want to thank the member opposite for the 101 on answering questions. Certainly as my constituent, I appreciate you passing on your wisdom as a great Yukoner.

I am also going to write a letter, and in the spirit of that — as the Third Party said — you have to work on behalf of others. I think as your MLA, I'm going to write a letter to the Yukon Party staff ensuring that they don't write questions like this that don't properly prepare you for the Legislative Assembly.

Actually, there is no money coming out in 2017 and 2018, and the reason is because what happens within this program is that there's usually a delay after a building is constructed. We actually will see the effects of the business



incentive program in likely 2019 or 2020. When you take a look at the capital expenditure on this building you're kind of looking at a range from about \$800,000 to \$1.2 million. That's the scale looking at it over a two-year period.

The budget has been forecast and certainly we're prepared to support this program, but once again, it wouldn't be 2017-18; it would be more 2019-20. I will make sure that letter is prepared.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** This year's budget for BIP has only increased by \$8,000 compared to last year. Is the minister saying that he anticipates BIP for the municipal services building to only cost \$8,000 or is that coming up in future years?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I'm going to go back a little bit to yesterday. Yesterday, the question actually focused on whether this would reduce the business incentive program or if the building was overbudget. Sincerely, out of respect to my colleague and as her MLA, I'm just going to talk about the business incentive program versus getting into answering that, because I think it's misconstrued — the understanding of business incentive.

Once again, there's a delay in the process. When you use the business incentive program — and essentially what we announced last week was that we really wanted to focus on ensuring that Yukon manufacturers and Yukon contractors have the best opportunity to maximize their work on this project. Certainly we've been listening to the Yukon Contractors Association and that's what we've heard from them.

How this would work is we've announced that we've applied. Certainly it has been applied only once before within this municipality. We think that this is a very substantial project when you look at the projected costs. We put it in place. I think they're looking to go to tender. It's out right away.

But once again, it wouldn't affect 2017-18; it's actually 2019-20. Within the envelope that's there, Mr. Speaker, we'll be able to cover these costs.

#### **Question re: North Canol Road bridges**

**Mr. Hassard:** For weeks now, we've been asking the Minister of Highways and Public Works for updates on the North Canol Road. We still have no answer as to when the Pelly barge will be put into service, even though the minister told this House that the inspections were done and it was ready to launch. This delay is an inconvenience to both residents and businesses alike.

We've also been told that several bridges along the highway are in need of replacement or repair in order to have the weight restrictions removed on this road. We also understand that the worst bridge is the one over Mac 1 and that two weeks and \$200,000 will fix it.

Would the minister please pull his head out of the sand and get this work underway for the people in Ross River?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** The member opposite is correct: the bridges on the North Canol Road have weight restrictions in

place because they're aging and they have been strained by heavy loads. These restrictions have been in place since 2016.

My officials have secured about \$100,000 to look at these bridges. It's not a lot of money. There's not a lot of money in the budget for the North Canol Road this year, Mr. Speaker. We in this government decided to expand the bridge budget. We expanded it to \$15 million this year. That's more than the Yukon government spent last year. It's more than the government spent the year before. It's actually more money than the Yukon government spent in the last two years. We've put that money toward important bridge projects — Nares River bridge is on the horizon, Carmacks is underway; we have the Klondike River bridge, and the Clear Creek bridge. These are all very important bridges to the territory and we've decided to put our money there.

We would have loved to have spent more money on a lot of different things, but we came in and found all sorts of problems with the budget. A lot of things had not been budgeted and we had to make some very hard choices. We made those hard choices and it really pains me that we are not able to help the good people of Ross River this year, but it is on our horizon and we will deal with that bridge work when we can.

**Mr. Hassard:** Of course, those bridges that the minister talks of are part of the Building Canada program. This government has talked about their commitment to industry as well as to First Nations and here we have the business arm of the Ross River Dena Council trying to work with the mining industry to benefit their people and the community. Unfortunately, this government doesn't see that fixing these bridges is a priority.

So I'm curious, where on the priority list for this government is Ross River, as well as the mining industry?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I would love to take a look at the schedule of meetings and visitations and conversations over the last five years and then compare them over the last six months with the Ross River Dena Council certainly and see what is accomplished. Once again, on our commitment to Ross River — my colleagues have had multiple trips and we have all been there working — we continue to commit to the Ross River Dena Council on a series of different items. When it comes to industry as well, I'm glad that I can share with the Legislative Assembly today that the great people at Energy, Mines and Resources were on the phone today with the industry proponents who are working in that area, putting together a series of solutions, working with the highways department.

There are other solutions. There is some equipment that has been moved up the North Canol Road. We're looking at a series of very creative concepts in order to ensure that the companies that want to do work there are in a position to have the equipment that they need. I appreciate the help from the highways department on this as well.

Once again, it is difficult because things are so busy right now across all of the Yukon so it is quite difficult to think that we can keep up with absolutely all the business activity that we're seeing this year.

**Question re: Tender management system and e-services**

**Mr. Hassard:** New question, although for the Minister of Highways and Public Works as well, Mr. Speaker.

So we know that the Liberals amended their platform when they decided not to have all seasonally dependent contracts on the tender management system by March 31 of this year. We have heard from contractors who are concerned about the lack of work due to government contracts this summer.

As we all know, doing these projects so late in the season can significantly increase costs. I'm curious if the minister can tell us how much extra they anticipate paying for these contracts because of the delays in getting them out this season.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I don't deal in hypotheticals; I deal in concrete stuff. What I do know is that this government has been pushing out contracts regularly over the last few months. We are committing to reducing barriers to First Nations and other businesses in procuring contracts.

We're putting a lot of time and energy in consulting with the Contractors Association and businesses across the Yukon. I was talking to Alkan Air last week. I have been talking to helicopter companies. I have been talking to — there has been a huge array of businesses I have been speaking to over the last several months. Just this weekend, I was on the train with businesspeople from across Canada talking about procurement and ways we can improve this process.

This government is going to make progress on the procurement file. Next March, as we have said, we will have a list of seasonally relevant contracts before the business communities so they can start planning their season better and that's what we're looking forward to. We're looking to the future and the future is looking bright, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

**Mr. Hassard:** We've heard a number of complaints from Yukon business about the state of brush and weed control along our highways and there are currently no contracts on the tender management system for brushing. In fact, we've heard that the budget is being cut in half this year from that of last year.

Mr. Speaker, brush and weed control is important —

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

**Mr. Hassard:** The Minister of Highways and Public Works told us that in debate — if you would like to argue about it, Mr. Premier. Anyway, it's a very important safety —

**Speaker:** Order, please. Order, Mr. Premier. Order.

Yes, thank you.

**Mr. Hassard:** Mr. Speaker, brush and weed control is an important safety measure for those who travel on our highways. When putting together this budget, why did the minister not prioritize safety for motorists on our highways?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Mr. Speaker, this minister and this government takes safety very seriously and I take exception to the member opposite's comments.

As far as brush and weed control, it is another aspect of work that needs to be done along our highways on a regular basis, but it is one part of the maintenance that goes on for our

highways. There is all sorts of work that we are doing. We've let contracts for a number of highway improvement projects from along the Alaska Highway, along the Dempster Highway and along the Klondike Highway. We have a number of areas along the Klondike Highway, which has been ignored for several years, and we're taking pains to bring some focus to that stretch of road and make sure that it's a lot safer for people travelling north to the Klondike and to Dawson City — tourists and others.

I met with the KVA and they raised all sorts of concerns about the state of the highway and how weight restrictions have been placed on that road. We're doing our best to make sure that road sees some attention and that it better serves the people of the Klondike.

**Mr. Hassard:** Cutting the budget by 50 percent is kind of a strange way of showing your commitment to safety, but I will move on, Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday, the Member for Copperbelt North asked the Minister of Highways and Public Works to update the House on any new services that would be coming available through e-services. The minister didn't provide an answer to his own caucus colleague, which of course shouldn't be a shock because we haven't seen many answers out of this minister to anyone else.

The minister did, however, provide the House with a long list of services that were rolled out by the previous government and the great work that they did. So in that spirit of cooperation and knowing that the Member for Copperbelt North may never get to ask another question in this Assembly again, he clearly put a lot of thought into this one and he was hoping the minister would answer it, so I'm wondering if the minister could please update the House on what new e-services we may see in the future.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Thank you very much. I think this is the third question he has bundled. It is like a ballistic question. We have three questions in one, but I'm more than happy to answer it, Mr. Speaker — on e-services.

We're rolling it out. We're just in the process of looking at improving the way that we hand out drivers' licences. We're looking at improvements to the health care system. I know that Community Services has a number of projects that they're working on right now — I think two.

We have the open data repository that we're running forward with and there are a lot of people really excited about that. We're looking at changes to ATIPP and making sure that ATIPP — this is something that the members opposite will take an enormous interest in. We're going to try to make sure that ATIPP requests are posted online in some circumstances so that people know what people are asking for.

There are all sorts of initiatives we're doing to make the business of government more transparent and open to the people of the territory. It's something that we take pride in. My colleagues and I are all very happy about this. It's a welcome change. People tell me it's a welcome change from former governments, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

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

### Point of personal privilege

**Speaker:** Hon. Mr. Premier, on a point of personal privilege.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I'm not sure if this is a point of order or a point of point of personal privilege. I just want to inform members that the Fall Sitting of the House will begin Tuesday, October 3. I will formally advise the Speaker of this date, pursuant to Standing Order 73(2), but I want to give all members this early notification of when we reconvene this fall. This is not breaking any Standing Orders; it's just not waiting to the very last minute.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Order. Thank you.

We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** 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 (Mr. Hutton):** Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

The matter before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture in Bill No. 201, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2017-18*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

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

### Bill No. 201: *First Appropriation Act, 2017-18* — continued

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, in Bill No. 201, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2017-18*.

### Department of Tourism and Culture — *continued*

**Ms. Van Bibber:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have a couple more questions. I won't ramble on too long on the preamble. I really commend the department on the current advertising that they are doing. I was saying to the briefing committee that, when I watch a national sports event now and I see those Yukon ads, it's just great to see the landscape and faces of people we know.

I understand there was a lot of footage taken during the original filming so that more ads could be cut and maybe used in the future. Can the minister tell us if that is true — if there are more plans to update the ads during her mandate? Will there also be, perhaps, regional ads added to the repertoire?

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** Yes, this was a very successful campaign for Yukon. There has been a lot of discussion about potentially developing more. At this point, we're in phase 2 of the program, so we're using the commercials that we have already. Given the funding that we have currently, we are not planning to develop more commercials of this type right now — something that we can assess going forward. But we will be moving forward on a much more robust social media type of campaigning. It really ties into the work that we're doing on our new website and all of the developments around those areas.

So at this point, we're not planning, but we will assess. We know this was a very successful campaign and one that was well worth the investment.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** As for the current travel patterns, it's my belief that the US citizen considers Canada a safe and friendly place to visit, especially with their internal political struggles at this time.

Many of us know that Yukon is just a pass-through place as their citizens move on to Alaska, which is both good and bad — good that it gives us their go-through economy of gas, picking up supplies and camping, and bad because we're not the destination.

Is there an added incentive by the department to advertise or encourage the Canadian Tourism Commission to advertise more in the American market?

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** Thank you for the question. Yes, absolutely, the United States of America's markets are very important to us in the Yukon. I had indicated previously — just to give a little bit of context around what is happening right now — that the Department of Tourism and Culture has been — and I mentioned this earlier that Alaska has cut a lot of their budget this year. We know that they are not going to be investing as much as they have in the past. There is a huge advantage actually for Yukon in this, sadly. There was a reallocation of funds, which would otherwise have been spent on partnerships with the State of Alaska. We have invested that with Destination Canada for the North American market. That is certainly an area where we are investing.

We recognize that this is an important opportunity for us and that we have to step up our marketing campaign because of some of the issues that are being seen right now in the United States and decreases in their budget — and particularly in Alaska. So we're well aware of it. We will be meeting with

our colleagues over in Alaska this fall. Members from my department will be attending meetings with them.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** That was good to know what that big bump in CTC was.

A question on museums — the MacBride Museum is looking really interesting and new. It has also added the railway historic society under its umbrella. Kudos to the MacBride Museum board of directors, and especially to Patricia Cuning for all her amazing work and creativity.

Will the museum eventually receive more funding to support their larger display area so they don't have to spend most of their working hours continuously searching for additional funds to support their work in preserving and telling our interesting story?

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** Thank you for the question.

The Yukon government is very committed to fulfilling this project. It was a commitment made by the outgoing Yukon Party government.

Let's just go back a little bit. The Government of Yukon has committed a total of \$3.45 million to MacBride Museum's current expansion project. Of this total amount, \$450,000 was invested for the project planning and design and assisted the museum in becoming eligible for federal funding. A further \$3-million commitment matched the federal contribution provided through the Cultural Spaces Canada fund. These investments will result in additional galleries for the museum to display the collection and present Yukon artifacts and specimens.

The Yukon government absolutely appreciates the role of MacBride Museum of Yukon History in protecting, preserving and interpreting Yukon's heritage.

The MacBride Museum in 2016-17 received \$168,000 of operating funding from the department. This amount will increase to \$182,000 in 2017-18. With the overall size of the museum increasing from, basically, 13,800 square feet to 32,000 square feet, the museum has requested some further increases that we're going to be considering at another time.

Now, in terms of what you are specifically asking about — I realize it's about the exhibits. Up to now, again, our government is trying very hard to fulfill a commitment that was made by the previous government for this expansion. We have, in Yukon, 18 museums and cultural centres that receive funding through our department. It is a huge pressure for this government to continue to meet the needs.

There are other needs that are being expressed to us by other projects throughout the Yukon. There is another project out in Dawson City with their redevelopment of their exhibits. That's a pressure on this government as well. At this point, we are considering options with the exhibits, but we're looking at the other needs from within Yukon — recognizing, again, that this is a huge pressure on this government.

Maybe I'll just stop right there.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** I know the department, for years — for decades — has hosted media and travel trade groups and individuals — what are commonly known as “familiarization tours” or “fam tours”. Usually a staff member or two travels with the group and arranges their schedule to accommodate

their various interests and focuses. Who covers the costs of these trips? Which line item does this money come from? Does the industry find them useful?

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** Thank you for the question. Yes, fam tours are absolutely a very big part of the business of the department and something that we support directly. So the Department of Tourism and Culture does pay for fam tours.

Right now, our costs around fam tours are approximately \$400,000 and it comes out of the marketing operations, so when you go through your more detailed budget, that's where you will find it. You will find it under the marketing operations.

Marketing operations account for personnel costs of \$1,065,000 for 10 FTEs. I could go into more of the detail around the breakdown of each area if that's something that the member would like me to do, because we have all the details on that particular line item.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** I was just wondering if the industry also found that fam tours added benefit to their bottom lines, or do you get much feedback on that?

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** The objective of the North America media program is to increase the quality and quantity of unpaid editorial coverage, like articles for Yukon, and the key consumer print and digital outlets that support and complement the marketing and communications objectives of the department. Utilizing independent, third-party writers to tell Yukon stories and targeting consumer print is also a goal of the department.

Particularly in answer to your question of whether industry participates and pays for it — they do. We try to work very closely. We have a number of associations that we fund through the department that the Convention Bureau or TIA — and we work closely with them when we do have fam tours. I have attended a few of them locally since I took on this role, and I have attended one that was actually coordinated entirely by industry and by the cultural sector. It was a really interesting opportunity to attend, meet and, again, get the ideas from industry and from other members of the sector who are working with our department.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** This is a topic that I think my team is getting tired of me talking about — its outhouses and rest stops.

I have heard that they are Highways and Public Works' responsibility. Then I have heard that they are Environment's responsibility. But, you know, it tends to be the local travellers and tourists who sometimes have to deal with using these facilities, and it's a hit-and-miss on how clean they are. It's bad sometimes.

Who is responsible for cleaning the highway rest stops and outhouse areas? Can they be cleaned more often — whoever's responsibility it is?

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** Thank you for the question. I certainly have heard this raised throughout the Yukon. We were just in Dawson recently and we had a meeting with the Klondike Visitors Association. That was high on the agenda. I had the Minister of Highways and Public Works in attendance and we had a long discussion about this.

One of the really unique things about tourism is that it is about partnership. It's about working together. We have such a great opportunity to work within our one-government approach, which is what we've really committed to doing. Having my colleagues attend meetings directly with members who are responsible for different areas is really critical. We had a lot of discussion about this issue. It is a function of Highways and Public Works — the ones on the highway. Within the parks, it's Environment. That's where we will work with them. Some are actually owned by Tourism and Culture. We work with Highways and Public Works for the maintenance and upkeep of them. This is an area that we will continue to address and work with my colleagues around this. It is an issue — one that is important to visitors. Safety, as well, is important around these types of facilities.

### INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** Before we move on to another question, I would like to introduce Ben Sanders and recognize him today in the Legislature. He has some history and background, for sure, with tourism. Thank you so much for coming.

*Applause*

**Ms. Van Bibber:** On that note — it was very informative. I would like to thank the minister for her help guiding me through some of the questions and also to the staff for being so supportive.

I'm sure we will have many other things, and the reason that I like tourism so much, and have for years, is because we are in the friendly business and you do worry about how visitors perceive us. Thank you very much.

**Ms. Hanson:** In light of some information that I shared before the Sitting with the minister, I just want to raise a number of questions and put them on the record and ask her to send, by means of a written response to these questions — and there will probably be others because I am mindful of the time.

I thank the officials for being here today. They weren't the same officials — I don't think all of them anyway — at the briefing on the budget. At that budget briefing, as we have with all departments, we requested a copy of the organization chart, so we would appreciate having a copy of the organization chart for Environment.

We had also asked — because where it is not available on the website — for copies of the strategic plan for each department so that, when we're talking about marketing operations or industrial whatever, we actually know what is intended in that section of the department, what expected outcomes there are, who is doing the deliverables and what those deliverables are. So we would look for the minister in return to provide that.

There are a number of interesting comments and matters that have been raised over the course of the discussion on the Tourism and Culture budget. There was a conversation — and the minister acknowledged that there are some challenges with respect to the demands arounds arts and cultural infrastructure

and a capital program for that. One of the concerns that I have, as the Leader of the NDP and MLA for the riding where the main museum is — but also a cultural centre, in terms of Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre — and being mindful of the request made by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation to collaborate with the Government of Yukon in the past to expand the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in — I can never pronounce the name of it, but anyway — the cultural centre in Dawson where they were looking to do a partnership for shared business and office space, which would allow them to do exactly as Kwanlin Dün has done — to do some expansion of the cultural programming area.

The question I will be asking the minister to respond to is, first of all: Is there an overall museum and cultural centre strategy? Does that strategy have in it some means of replacing the current — what one would call an ad hoc approach to funding, or providing resources to arts and cultural infrastructure capital programs for those organizations to assist in the planning, the construction and/or renovation of cultural facilities? If we're waiting for the occasional federal program to come along, that isn't going to cut it. These are an integral part of an overall tourism strategy, so I will be looking to see how the minister, in her response — how the museums and cultural centres are nested into the overall tourism strategy that the minister spoke about during her remarks on June 8, I believe it was.

With respect to that, it strikes me that over the last 10 or so years, it has become more apparent that the Yukon — I mean, really, we are on the cusp of a major breakthrough in terms of our arts and culture workers, cultural tourism and cultural industries. Some of the movement that has been made and some of the promises made by the government are good, and we need to build on those in terms of the cultural industries that we have with respect to live performing arts and film, media and visual arts. We could go on for a long time.

Is there a long-term arts and cultural strategy? Again, is that nested into the broader tourism strategy? What I am really building here toward is that I'm looking for the minister to articulate what the terms of reference for the tourism strategy are, because she is the Minister of Tourism and Culture. I'll be looking for the response. I'm not asking for it today, but I am asking to receive it over the course of the next while.

In light of the arts and culture that I'll be asking the minister about — in her mandate letter, it speaks about developing an indigenous fine arts program at the Yukon School of Visual Arts. In light of that, I would ask the minister how this links to the whole-of-government approach.

One of the huge challenges that SOVA faces right now is being able to attract students to Dawson City because there is no place to live. You've heard the outgoing director of the School of Visual Arts just this last week saying that this is the Achilles heel — it's not going to be; it is the Achilles heel — of a successful program that allows students from across this country to come here for their first year and then go to any accredited art school like Emily Carr, NSCAD or you name it. Nobody is going to allow — well, allow, maybe, because they

are young adults — but no young adult is going to want to come to the territory if they're going to have to live in a tent during the winter.

I'll be looking for the Government of Yukon's whole-of-government approach. It's one thing to say "Yes, we want to do that." Secondly to that, what kind of mechanism is built into what the government is doing? Has it reviewed or will it be reviewing the funding base for SOVA?

I just want to come back to this whole-of-government approach. I appreciate the Member for Porter Creek North raising outhouses. We have raised those as well in the past, mostly from an accessibility point of view. Last night, I was driving back in from the airport and again it struck me that, from a government that prides itself on the beauty of the Yukon and the beauty of our territory, we have one of the ugliest entrances to the city.

When you turn right there and you look on the left and you see the berm that was created by a previous Yukon government — previous to the last one — that allowed the taking away of all of the gravel to fill in the wetlands to build a Wal-Mart and whatever, and then just said to whoever did that development, "Don't worry; you don't have to plant any green anything there; just scrub." So it's an industrial area. It looks like — well, you just put in whatever you want to fill in the blanks with — but it is not a welcoming introduction to our city. I can't understand why that would not be a Tourism, Highways and Public Works, and City of Whitehorse initiative to beautify the entrance to that area. I would ask the minister what conversations may have occurred on that.

There was a question asked by the Member for Porter Creek North about the satisfaction with the Yukon Now program and the continuation of it. I will ask the minister in response to indicate what evaluation was done at the first two years of that program, just keeping in mind that when the Tourism Industry Association requested the funding in the first place, they were asking for it to be focused on domestic marketing. They were asking for \$5 million over two years. They got \$1.8 million each year — \$3.6 million over those two years — half of it by CanNor and, as we're seeing mirrored again, focused on domestic marketing.

In questions, previous ministers of tourism have indicated to this House that the money was not all used for domestic marketing. I would like to know the breakdown between domestic — and where else is the money being spent? On what basis was it evaluated that it was a success? What are the indicators? What are the indices of success for the previous expenditure of the \$3.6 million? On what basis are you going to be evaluating the expenditure of this to see whether or not ultimately we will invest in marketing as a matter of course and what are we looking to do?

I also have one last thing, because I realize that there are many, many questions and we will have time and we will come back to them. I have many questions that I want to drill down on with respect to the marketing strategy and the investments in determining the value of the tourism dollar in Yukon.

I'm not convinced that what I've heard to date as what's being proposed for the 200 this year and whatever it is next year differs significantly from past practice. I'm looking for the minister to describe in her response what the difference in the approach for this determination of the economic benefit of tourism and how we will know whether or not what we're spending is making a difference, so what are the indices that are being measured? How are they being measured? I understand the Yukon Bureau of Statistics is being involved in this process, so what are they measuring and what's the intended use of the information?

On a whimsical — but not so whimsical — note, I just want to ask the minister what contribution is the Department of Tourism and Culture making to the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada with respect to their efforts. I know this is a joint effort that will require Highways and Public Works' cooperation with the City of Whitehorse, but Highways and Public Works in particular in terms of night sky tourism — a market that is becoming less and less available around the world, but is still available in the Yukon if it's not mishandled.

Those are a number of questions and I'm sure that the minister's officials will be having a need to — because I speak rather rapidly, but I am trying to move through this just so that we can expedite the conversation this afternoon for the purposes that we discussed, and we will come back to them.

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** Thank you very much for your consideration today. Our department will come back with the responses to all of your questions and we will make them available to both parties.

**Chair:** Is there any further general debate on Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture?

Seeing none, we will proceed line by line, starting at page 17-6.

**Ms. Hanson:** Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, cleared or carried, as required.

**Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, cleared or carried**

**Chair:** Ms. Hanson has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, cleared or carried, as required. Is there unanimous consent?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** Unanimous consent has been granted.

***On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures***

***Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$27,794,000 agreed to***

***On Capital and Expenditures***

***Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$4,689,000 agreed to***

***Total Expenditures in the amount of 32,483,000 agreed to***

*Department of Tourism and Culture agreed to*

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee will be Vote 7, Economic Development.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** Committee will now recess for 10 minutes.

*Recess*

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

The matter before the Committee is general debate on Vote 7, Department of Economic Development, in Bill No. 201, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2017-18*.

**Department of Economic Development**

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I would like to welcome Mr. Rose and Ms. Dunlop to the Assembly today. I would like to thank them for coming to assist us in this process of debating the Economic Development budget.

I would also like to thank the staff, the deputy minister and others at Economic Development for their support and assistance over the last six months, as I have had the opportunity to take on this role, and for their patience and energy in dealing with all the work that we've looked at and accomplished since early December.

Mr. Chair, honourable members and visitors, I'm pleased to rise today to table the Department of Economic Development's operation and maintenance and capital budgets for 2017-18 fiscal years.

Mr. Chair, I'm not sure what our protocol is for Committee of the Whole, but I would also like to welcome a former innovator within the Economic Development department, Ben Sanders, who is here today to visit us.

The Department of Economic Development is tied to the very foundation of Yukon, our economy. Yukoners want to earn a living through meaningful work and improve their lives. We want our communities to be healthy, vibrant and sustainable.

At the Department of Economic Development we want to create opportunities for Yukoners to succeed. This ultimately serves the development of sustainable communities and fosters both job creation and economic diversification.

How will we do this? By targeting program funding and supports that enable responsible economic and development opportunities, these opportunities will contribute to a sustainable, prosperous and diversified economy and also improve the quality of life of all Yukoners. As we move forward in our mandate, the department's focus will be on further diversifying our economy, as well as creating opportunities for good jobs for Yukoners.

To accomplish this, we will offer focused support, such as advisory services to local businesses. We will work to support the growth of our rural economies. We will expand the knowledge economy by promoting innovation, IT and the science sectors. We will grow our industries, including

tourism, media development, mining and technology through investment attraction and market expansion activities, and we will target investments through the department's various funding programs to benefit businesses, First Nations and our communities.

As we work toward expanding and diversifying Yukon's economic base, we will seek to strengthen our partnerships with First Nation governments and development corporations, business and industry, and with municipal and federal governments. Our work will focus not only within Yukon, but also beyond our borders as we represent our interests in multi-jurisdictional issues, like national and international trade agreements. Altogether, this work will increase the benefits Yukoners receive from economic projects and activities.

We look forward to the hard work to come and are eager to begin laying the groundwork for our Yukon's economic success.

Before we begin, I would like to revisit the context in which this Department of Economic Development operates and how this will contribute to a diversified and prosperous economy for all. Assistance and support for local businesses and industry will always be a major focus of this department.

Strong local businesses help diversify our economy, provide skilled and rewarding local jobs, and bring benefits to all Yukoners. We certainly saw the importance of these small businesses and local businesses over the week with a visit from the Canadian chamber board. I applaud the Department of Economic Development for their support and assistance. On Saturday, the activities were absolutely amazing that Economic Development supported with the chamber and Carcross/Tagish Development Corporation. I couldn't get over these Canadian business leaders continuing to speak on Friday night about what they saw in Carcross with everybody working together — pretty exciting about that, and hopefully that will lead to the Canadian chamber at potentially hosting their national AGM here in the coming years.

The department is also committed to developing economies at the regional level. Targeted investments for economic planning and capacity development at the regional level help communities become strong and economically self-reliant. The department specifically targets funding for media development and technology and telecommunications in order to support the growth of those important industries.

The department's investment attraction strategy is used to attract new investment to Yukon. We would like to build on the success of established industries, like mining and tourism, with continued support for the growth of small- and medium-size enterprises.

We strongly believe that improving relations and honouring existing treaties and self-government agreements is the way to improve our territory's economy.

We look forward to continuing to work with our First Nation partners to strengthen our relationships as we jointly, responsibly and sustainably manage the territory's robust mineral resources. We want to seek out new opportunities and alignments with our partners to grow our economy.

In order to help Yukon businesses sell their products and services across the country, Yukon is now a signatory to the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement*, which makes it easier and more profitable for Yukon businesses to expand and compete in other jurisdictions of Canada. As I stated before, I would like to thank the previous government for a tremendous amount of work on this file, and certainly our officials who prepared me very well as we moved to the end of the process and had an opportunity to sign the agreement.

During the negotiations of the trade agreement, Yukon achieved its mandate to exempt regional economic development activities and the business incentive program from the agreement. This means that Yukon now has specific tailored powers for increasing local employment and supporting small firms in developing our rural economy.

At Economic Development, we are proud of our partnerships. We work with a wide range of partners from First Nation governments and development corporations to industry associations and community governments. Together, these initiatives and our strong partnerships will result in sustainable development and improved quality of life for all Yukoners.

To support our goals, we are introducing an operation and maintenance budget of \$16.5 million and a capital budget of \$1.1 million. With those numbers in mind, I would like to outline some of the Department of Economic Development's planned programs and initiatives.

Our goal in these activities — focused on sustainable business development, regional economic development, technology and telecommunications, media development and investment attraction — will strengthen our economy and help Yukoners lead productive and rewarding lives.

Our government is firmly committed to ensuring fibre redundancy in Yukon. Economic Development's Technology and Telecommunications Development Directorate has been working to ensure that Yukoners have access to fast, affordable and reliable telecommunications infrastructure and services. The completion of the fibre redundancy project is vital to innovation and the territory's knowledge economy.

In 2017-18, we will continue to promote the development of the knowledge economy, with a \$1.6-million transfer payment budget for the Technology and Telecommunications Development Directorate. They, of course, have been the lead on previous projects that the other government has worked on and certainly have worked closely with our senior team at Economic Development as we move toward coming up with a solution for fibre redundancy.

Beyond the fibre redundancy project, though, Technology and Telecommunications is working with Bell Mobility to ensure all Yukon communities have fourth generation, 4G, service. 4G allows Yukoners to receive higher mobile speeds and utilize the latest handsets available on the market. This is vital for connectivity and reliable business connections. 4G is now available in most Yukon communities, with Stewart Crossing to be upgraded this year — which I know you're happy about, Mr. Chair. In 2017-18, Economic Development has budgeted \$290,000 to finish the project.

The directorate provides direct funding to TechYukon and YuKconstruct to support the development of innovation in technology sectors. With our friend in the gallery today, it is amazing to think about a concept and an idea in an empty room of where those conversations can go and now see where TechYukon is today with funding from this department and the great activities that they are taking part in. Ben and I had some early opportunities to work on this project when it was a concept and when there was an empty cement room where we brought everybody together and it's fantastic to be supporting it now.

For 2017-18, Economic Development has budgeted \$825,000 for Cold Climate Innovation and Technology Innovation, managed through Yukon College. These programs provide direct applied research funds and support for companies that are prototyping solutions that have commercial potential.

The directorate also sponsors the Yukon innovation prize in partnership with Yukon College to encourage the local development and delivery of innovative products and services. This year's prize focuses on health and wellness and in total \$100,000 will be awarded to local innovators. This directed funding will build and maintain the territory's knowledge economy and also supports innovation, research and creativity within the territory.

Let's turn our attention for a moment to our communities. Regional Economic Development branch works with First Nations, local governments, communities and organizations to help create strong economically self-reliant regions and communities. Encouraging community-level development is particularly important for Yukon's rural economy.

The branch supports social and economic development projects and staff is available to work with clients throughout the process from project start to finish. Regional Economic Development will benefit from a \$3.7-million transfer payment budget in the 2017-18 fiscal year. As well as providing advisory and coordination services, the branch offers direct financial support through the community development and regional economic development funds. The branch's funding for the fiscal year includes the \$2.9 million for the community development fund, which is the bulk of that, as well as \$800,000 for the regional economic development fund.

The community development fund provides support to Yukon community industry, professional associations, non-profit, charitable organizations, municipal and First Nation governments. The funding supports projects and events that have measureable social, cultural and economic benefits for Yukon residents and communities. It was great this weekend to be in Little Salmon Carmacks to deliver the news to them. I'm quite excited about some of their youth programs and cultural programs that we had the opportunity to announce support for at their general assembly.

We also have this as a driver to create good jobs, generate spending on Yukon goods and services and support community well-being. Our First Nations and rural communities matter, as we all know, and we are pleased to



increase funding to these communities through our regional economic development projects.

The Regional Economic Development budget has been increased this year from \$405,000 to \$800,000 to stimulate development of economic opportunities in Yukon's First Nation and rural communities. This is a key fund. This is how we support the strategies coming out of Tourism. This is how we partner with our First Nations development corporations that exist in these communities, so it really gives us a flexible tool to energize the business community in some of these smaller areas. I'm pretty excited about that. That's the one area that I think our department leadership felt that we could really make some big impact, and so I am excited about that increase.

The fund supports economic planning, opportunity identification and capacity development at the regional and community levels. Intended outcomes of the fund include: coordinated regional and economic development plans; positive long-term impacts on job and wealth creation; and diversified local economies — and includes the workforce. The fund helps stimulate growth and development in several different ways from economic planning to opportunity identification and capacity development at the regional and community levels.

The Regional Economic Development branch also runs the READI north project. READI north is a pilot project that encourages regional participation by identifying local economic development projects and building capacity locally to help with new business opportunities.

In this fiscal year, Economic Development forecasts a contribution of about \$240,500 to the project. By focusing spending on the communities and giving communities the power to determine their priorities, we benefit all Yukoners and increase Yukon's economic success. By promoting growth across industries, we increase our ability to encourage broader economic success across our territory.

We are proud of the success of our existing industries and look to expand and diversify our sectors, including our media development industry. For the 2017-18 fiscal year, Economic Development has identified an \$810,000 transfer payment budget for the Media Development unit. The funding supports activities that provide Yukoners with jobs and training opportunities. While not a complete list, here are a few highlights from the budget: \$140,000 for film location incentive; \$50,000 for the film training initiative; \$40,000 for filmmaker's fund; and \$50,000 for the film development fund; \$380,000 for the film production fund; and \$50,000 for the sound recording program.

I had an opportunity to meet with a senior individual on Sunday who leads advisement to territories across Canada and major cities with a focus on using music as an economic driver. When you take into consideration some of the programs and structures we have, it's very progressive — and commended the department on the work of having the media unit and how the sector and the music sector is supported and treated here. Now other major jurisdictions are starting to follow suit with what has happened here in the Yukon.

The Media Development unit also provides direct funding to Music Yukon and Screen Production Yukon Association. These programs provide funding to Yukon producers for projects that have demonstrated commercial viability. It's important that we ensure Yukon's content creators have access to resources to help them realize their business potential in order to create jobs and opportunities for Yukoners.

The programs also provide financial benefits to production companies to film in the Yukon and hire locally, helping to diversify the economy while providing job opportunities for Yukoners. Economic Development understands the importance of expanding the skill base and the opportunities that exist within the territory. Ultimately, this helps us build more robust, sustainable industries and communities.

I'll just quickly move on to the Business and Industry Development branch. Through this branch, the department identifies and assists the development of industries and strategic projects with the potential for economic success. With a range of programs and financial supports, the branch supports the growth, development, expansion and creation of Yukon businesses and industry sectors. In the 2017-18 Economic Development budget, Industry Development will receive a transfer payment of \$2.4 million. The strategic industries development fund is one of the main tools used to stimulate the Yukon's private sector, and they have done a great job over the last number of years and continue to. \$800,000 will be allocated to the fund this fiscal year.

The strategic industries fund helps the private sector address barriers to development and improve the competitiveness of their businesses. Funds are provided to projects focused on research, innovation and commercialization, tourism and culture, and natural resources. Not only does this funding encourage growth of Yukon's industry promoting innovation and broadening our economic base, but it also generates secondary benefits and business opportunities throughout the territory.

The department has done a phenomenal job here of preparing some notes — one more highlight, because I know we're wrapping up and there are questions from across the way.

Economic Development has also budgeted about \$895,000 toward investor relations for 2017-18 and, through the enterprise development, we have a transfer payment of about \$250,000. Through the enterprise trade fund, ETF, there is \$360,000 — just a great one that helps people get out and spread their story.

I think I'll stop there. I want to thank you for the great notes and, Mr. Chair, I'll turn it over so we can get into questions from the Member for Copperbelt South.

**Mr. Kent:** I would like to thank the minister for his opening remarks. I would also like to welcome officials to the Legislature here today and again thank the other officials who participated in the briefing for opposition members. Like the other ones I attended, it was very helpful and it provided some additional insight into the budget and what is taking place.

Just before I get into specific questions, I would like to also congratulate the Yukon Chamber of Commerce on a very successful hosting of events over the weekend. I was able to attend the Sunday evening gala, along with the Member for Watson Lake, on behalf of the Official Opposition. It was a great event. There were some great speakers and, of course, I would like to recognize Pat Tobler and his team at EDI Dynamics, and Thane Phillips and his team as well for receiving chamber awards.

Also, just to recognize Goody Sparling for the lifetime achievement award that she was bestowed with at the Chamber of Commerce gala for all of her work with the chamber over the years and, of course, her work and ownership of what was the Regina Hotel here in Whitehorse, along with her brother John Erickson.

I mentioned in a Facebook post that I used to work for them back in the late 1980s — a bartender by day, and desk clerk in the evening. It was a great work environment for me at the time, and I certainly enjoyed that as one of my summer jobs while I was attending university. Goody and John were awfully great people to work for and they continue to be great individuals here in our community — a special shout-out to Goody and John. I'm sure the minister can join me in recognizing that being a bartender provides a little bit of on-the-job training for what we're doing in here now as we listen to constituents, hear out their concerns and try to act on them. That was good early training in the late 1980s for me for a job that — at that time — I never thought I would ever have.

Moving into some of the specific questions — and I wanted to start with the business incentive program. There has been some discussion over the past couple of days in Question Period about this program. On Monday, I asked the minister about some activities or recommendations with respect to this program made by the Yukon Contractors Association in a press release about five days before the 2016 election. It was issued on November 2.

We talked about this in Question Period a little bit, but I'm hoping we can expand on it here. They wanted a meeting — the press release says that one of the parties — whoever the party was that formed government — to meet within 90 days to establish priorities for further actions to improve and enhance the BIP so that more economic benefits are realized by Yukoners from government contracts. Then they got into specifics. They felt that the BIP should be expanded and that its vision should be sharpened so that it works to its full potential.

One of the questions that I asked the minister earlier in the week — the other recommendation here is that Outside firms are required to participate in the BIP rather than it be optional. The Yukon Contractors Association felt that would make them more aware of our local resources and opportunities for the rebate, therefore benefitting our economy.

Just to follow up, specifically, to the announcement made by the government last week regarding the municipal services building here in Whitehorse — when my colleague, the Member for Porter Creek North, asked the minister yesterday

about how much funding was in this year's budget for the BIP, he did respond by saying that it is within our projected budgets within our Economic Development department. So perhaps that led to the questions today.

Then today, the minister responded, I believe, that it's in the 2018 or 2019 fiscal year. If he could clarify that for us — I don't have the benefit of the Blues from Question Period here today. Looking forward to that year, how much of the BIP or how much BIP would they be estimating would apply to this municipal services building project?

This year, the amount in the budget is \$1.062 million — up very slightly from last year. So again, what would the minister anticipate that number being when the MSB application comes in? I guess, how much of the business incentive program funding would be attributed to the MSB building when it comes forward? Obviously we're not looking for an exact number, but if they have an estimate based on the value of that contract — I think the project is in the \$50-million to \$60-million range, budget-estimate wise, unless the minister has additional information for us.

Those are the questions with respect to BIP. Has the government acted on the Yukon Contractors Association recommendations and requests — and then if he could give us a little bit more detail on when we can expect the BIP to jump up, based on including the municipal building project, and by how much will it jump at that time?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I would like to thank the member opposite for his comments. I certainly remember a time when I was impressed by the young minister who would come in when I was also taking part in the hospitality industry here. Little did I know that I would be sitting over here, stressed, as one day this individual would be asking me questions in budget debate. It's funny how things turn out.

Certainly I appreciate the question and I do want to take the opportunity to touch on a couple of things within the business incentive program concerning the questions from yesterday and today from the Member for Porter Creek North. Just for clarity — and once again, I'm in the same scenario — I don't have the Blues with me. I thought that the initial questions really talked about — and I may have misunderstood — if there was a differential or could there be a differential in the city's budget for the program? Certainly that's not something that I'm privy to. They're going through a tendering process.

Secondly, what I believe was projected — today the questions touched on what we are looking at from the 2017-18 budget. On that particular topic, we were quite happy to stand with the City of Whitehorse with my colleagues and to make the announcement. I think it's extremely important to have a good relationship between the municipal governments here and the territorial government. When you do, you can get some great projects done together and that's certainly one thing that we've set out to do. This is a great example of both the municipality — and I commend the staff from Economic Development for their work with the senior leadership of the civil service at the municipal government. Having both of

those teams work together in the early stages to ensure that this program is applicable is key.

Over and above that though, I think it's important that we also take into consideration or touch on the numbers and we'll get into that. With the numbers, based on what we understand from the city from their information, which is the information that we work with — we've taken that into consideration — I think that their project cost estimate for this build is about \$55 million.

We anticipate, based on the trending over the last number of years — and of course the team has done a tremendous amount of work going back and analyzing the uptake on BIP, forecasting essentially with a low, medium and high range of where we can see the impact of this support. Also taking into consideration that there are elements of the build that are not applicable to BIP, so you take that into consideration of course. You hope that there are manufactured goods locally that you would be able to purchase. Certainly after some of the capital builds over the last number of years where some local products were excluded because of the design, we're hoping that as this goes through, projects in the future take into consideration and then of course support local business. That's key — making sure of that.

There are other elements, such as design work and some of the early work that likely will not affect the BIP.

We're thinking at this point that in the range of about \$800,000 to \$1.2 million is where we see — the \$1.2 million on the high end — the effects being felt with the BIP program in 2019-20 — the first — and then going into 2020-21.

That's where we really see the impacts as the claims come in and the claims are analyzed and the work gets done internally on that. We're looking at over two years. As the member opposite correctly stated, this budget has pretty much primarily been over \$900,000. I apologize — I'm going to have to go from memory, but in the last three fiscal years we have had years where we had the program undersubscribed. Maybe \$650,000 was the low end, and then moving up close to full budget.

That's what we have seen. There are a couple of things that have also changed and I want to touch on those quickly with this program, getting to where the member opposite said: How does the conversation with the contractors — how does the commitment to the contractors come in and what happened there? I also want to touch on a couple of things.

The *Canadian Free Trade Agreement* — as the members opposite and as the Leader of the Official Opposition knows the department did some great work on ensuring we had some key exemptions made. This program was one of them, as the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement* was signed. There are two agreements we're watching very closely right now.

We previously had the AIT, but now we're looking at — we have the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement* and the *Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement*. There are provisions there we have to look to when modifying and updating our business incentive. As I stated, the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement* gave us that exemption, but CETA was a bit different. Once again, the

CFTA was negotiated to align with international agreements, such as CETA, but to ensure that Canadians did not receive less favourable treatment in some areas with a foreign interest.

When you look at this, the Yukon business incentive program will be exempted under CFTA, which we have talked about, but when you talk about CETA, to be in compliance with CETA, the business incentive program can only be applied to procurements below CETA thresholds. This is another effect to our overall budget, which Yukon government departments — approximately. For goods, we're now looking at \$340,600; services is the same — \$340,600; and for construction services, \$8,500,000. That's a bit different from what we have seen before, where the business incentive program — and I believe we're looking at a date of Thursday this week where we will be in a scenario where these CETA thresholds will come into play.

For other Yukon government Crown corporations — except YEC and YDC, which are excluded entities under CETA — it's approximately — that gives us a bit more flexibility. For goods, it's \$604,700; services is \$604,700; and construction services stay the same, which is \$8,500,000.

Some of the facilities previously — just to give you an example — the 40-unit multi-residential, or Whistle Bend, or F.H. Collins replacement — schools such as that and projects such as that are over \$8.5 million, and they're very critical about how they analyze the tendering process. That limits us on those particular pieces.

Where do we go? Tomorrow is the monthly meeting of Yukon Contractors Association and I'm committed to being there. We have booked that for a while. It is an opportunity to go and meet. We normally have meetings at noon, so I haven't had the opportunity to attend those. Not to be coy here — I don't have the exact date that I attended the meeting with the Contractors Association right after the election, but certainly we committed to it and I think we're right in line with exactly what they want to do — the 90 days. I can go back and find it. As I stated yesterday to the member, it was there and it was in that time frame.

That is not only the conversation piece. They wanted to sit down and talk about BIP, the business incentive program, but they had lots they wanted to talk to us about and the challenges that they had experienced and the fact that they wanted to see some changes. They came in and met with us in Cabinet. Our colleagues were there and the Premier as well and we had some good discussions. The business incentive program was a portion of the conversation and essentially what we were looking to do was execute the signing of the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement*, cross-referencing the Canadian-European trade agreement as well. I think the question is: Are we committed to getting the work done and working with the contractors? Absolutely, that work, I'm happy to say, continues by the department. They have been working feverishly on this project. I appreciate their time. Also, going back and working with some of our department counterparts, I think we're making great headway on this topic. It's very important to ensure that you have that dialogue back and forth with the private sector — so tomorrow,

continuing those conversations with the Contractors Association.

I don't have it right now, but I know that there was a framework and governance structure as well for some entities within Economic Development that had the opportunity to bring some people in from the private sector. They say it is sort of in an advisory role. That has been dormant for a long time, but I still want to have that dialogue and certainly that gives you an understanding of how best to help Yukon companies. I think I have been very open. We have given the range of our numbers — based on claims, of course. We go back and we do it to the best of our ability, but we do have that high-water mark and are comfortable with our \$900,000 annually over the two-year period — and then of course the decrease now in available projects. We take that into consideration, so we feel strongly about the numbers.

I would also state that we are moving to take the recommendation, but the recommendations of course from the Contractors Association have to take into consideration the trade agreements that are in place. The one that the opposition worked so well to get close to the finish line on; and of course the other work that was done in CETA. So we take that all into consideration and then we respectfully listen to the contractors to ensure that we're doing the best that we can to help support Yukon business.

**Mr. Kent:** We'll move on to the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement* and I just have a couple of questions for the minister. I do want to thank some of my previous colleagues and of course the Leader of the Official Opposition, the MLA for Pelly-Nisutlin, for his work in moving this file forward.

When I was going through some of the local media reports, it was reported that there were 26, I think, special exemptions for Yukon with respect to the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement*. One of them that I know the minister referenced specifically and that one of his officials talked about during the media briefing — and he can correct me if I'm not reflecting what the actual situation is here. There are 10 projects a year up to \$1 million that can be exempted from national procurement, so you can essentially restrict those. My understanding of that is that you can restrict them to Yukon companies only. Maybe the minister can confirm that this is the case.

My understanding is that this agreement comes into effect on July 1. That's 10 projects a year, as I mentioned. Have the 10 projects for this current year — I guess if it goes from July 1 to the end of fiscal, or July 1 to June 30 of next year — been identified? If so, what criteria were used?

Obviously you are going to have people who are in the building industry who want to see vertical infrastructure being the focus of that. You are going to have road builders who want to see roads or earth-moving projects be the focus, so what criteria is going to be used either now, if they've been picked, or what criteria is the minister contemplating to use to essentially — I mean, some of the contractors who are out there will probably refer to this as picking winners and losers. I've heard it from a few people I've talked to already. I'm just curious as to how the minister is going to set up that structure

to choose the 10 projects a year under \$1 million for the exemptions.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I'll dig into that particular portion of the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement*.

Yukon negotiated an exception, and it was under the chapter 5 government procurement to support regional economic development, and that's what the member opposite touched upon — absolutely correct. There is the portion of the agreement — an exception has been made so Yukon can bypass the procurement rules to tender contracts up to \$1 million, 10 times every year — and, if doing so, looking to increase employment and supports for small firms. Absolutely — that's correct. These tenders can be limited to Yukon companies or be directly sole-sourced.

Part of what we're doing is just making sure that we develop a process to determine the eligible projects, but this is going to be something — and I will have to hand this over to my colleague — that our team will support, but really it will be something that will also be driven out of Highways and Public Works.

I know there have been discussions early on to look at some potential and appropriate projects where this clause, for lack of a better term, can be used on the 10 projects. I will have to speak with my colleague and department. I'm not aware personally of all the projects that are come out of Highways and Public Works, but I do know that they have certainly looked at this clause.

I appreciate your question, because it is absolutely correct. As we see this agreement implemented in the next number of weeks, it's key to be able to identify your projects so you can maximize this. But also, you're also right that there's a challenge that Highways and Public Works will have to figure out about making sure — or how they have come up with the eligibility criteria and making it a fair and balanced process.

There are some other areas within that too that I think are important to touch upon so there's no confusion about what's in the contracts. The Yukon government achieved its negotiating mandate to exempt the regional economic development activities — and that was a portion of that — and the business incentive program, which we touched on earlier in the questions today. The regional economic development exemption means that Yukon has specific tailored powers for increasing local employment, supporting small firms and developing our rural economy.

The business incentive program exemption means that the incentive for hiring Yukoners on government construction projects will continue. That's what we are excited about — with the support toward the city building. Within the BIP, there are some great opportunities for apprentices. My colleague from Takhini-Kopper King has been a great champion on that topic, and any chance we have to have young Yukoners having a chance to hone and build their skills — when we can support that, it's fantastic.

Yukon College, hospitals and municipalities are exempt from new procurement rules as well. The agreement will not impact territorial legislation or protections related to

indigenous people, language, the environment, culture or health care. These areas are exempt from the rules of the agreement. Yukon will maintain policies that favour Yukoners in sectors such as agriculture, forestry, hunting, trapping, wilderness tourism, and energy.

The parties to the agreement have agreed to establish the working group on alcoholic beverages to identify opportunities to enhance trade in wine, beer and spirits. I know my colleague in charge of the Liquor Corporation has had some conversations. I have committed in the House — which I have to in the Legislature — to have conversations. Now that we're coming to a conclusion, we have a bit more flexibility in our busy schedules to speak with local producers and understand what message they want me to bring to the working group. The ministerial dialogue has not started as part of that working group, but I look forward to that. I know the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin has championed this conversation, and we'll continue to dialogue with him and his perspective, as he was close to this file, and also work with those industry leaders.

The agreement recognizes that governments need to apply their own laws and regulations in areas such as public health, social services, safety and environment protection.

There's a bit there. In closing, I apologize to the member. I don't have the list of all 10 projects. The great part is that, in this one-government approach, our Economic Development department negotiates. We confer with our legal advisors in Justice. We continue to work in conversation and in concert with Highways and Public Works. We then let them implement.

Even our people in Energy, Mines and Resources — and, as the member opposite knows, with abandoned mines, working to identify processes and purchases, and then having that moved over to Highways and Public Works.

I hope that answered the question — other than not being able to provide you with the list of 10 projects, but we can come back in the fall and talk about that.

**Mr. Kent:** I'll have my colleague, the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin — as that's his critic role — follow up with the Minister of Highways and Public Works by way of letter to get a sense for what the 10 projects are and what the criteria were to arrive at those projects. We don't have very much time left in the day, and this being the final day of the Sitting, I'm going to jump and ask a quick question about the fibre redundancy.

I am just looking for the minister to give us an update with the timeline as to when the planning and design — and I guess successful route selection — will be done. I understand from previous Question Periods that the minister is waiting on a funding decision from the Government of Canada, and if he could update us on any timing with respect to that, and maybe give us a bit of an update on the ownership model that he is contemplating. I believe that has changed now that the Government of Canada is involved with this funding pool. I believe he mentioned in the House that the line cannot be owned by a private company. If I'm incorrect there — I don't

have the questions in front of me. I'm just trying to recall the specific questions asked by our side during Question Period.

If the minister could give us a bit of an update on when they anticipate an answer from Ottawa with respect to the funding of this project, and when, after that, they will choose either going north through the Dempster Highway to hook up with the line that is in the Mackenzie Valley, or if they're going to go south to the US border and then hook up with the American service provider there to go down off the coast of Alaska and British Columbia south from there.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I want to thank our staff who have worked on this project. It has been a tremendous amount of work. I know the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin knows how sensitive and how challenging this file can be. We walked in on some of the early days in this position and quickly looked to be briefed on what had been accomplished. Some of that early information led to coming to the understanding that the initial cost estimates — at least on the work for the northern route — were much different from what we had heard communicated publicly.

I'm going to go from memory on this. It's kind of etched in your memory because sometimes you go to bed thinking about this file and wake up thinking about it.

The projected costs — there was work done. There was contribution from Economic Development, working in concert with Northwestel, working with local contractors — local office — to identify costing on the northern route — lots of challenges within the northern route. You have, I think, the 1,100 water crosses. You have challenges where some of the other conversations you looked at when it comes to right-of-way. You have \$18 million in projected horizontal drilling. No conversations were ever had with affected parties concerning a cross-reference on the north Yukon plan — work that should have been done early. There was a tremendous amount of work and then projected costs of about \$80 million — \$75 million to \$80 million — taking into consideration standard government capital expenditures and then cross-reference that with a standard 10-percent contingency. That is at least where I would see it — probably about \$80 million.

What we tried to do is sit down and produce a process that, at any point, we could stop and, if the Yukon taxpayer, the public or my colleagues across the way came and asked me why we made the decision that we made, we could stand behind that decision. I felt that working with our team, my colleagues and what we ran on, and our leadership from the Premier, we would not be in a position to walk into this responsibility and sole-source a contract, which was essentially what was decided upon before we took office. I thought we had to go through an accountability framework that we could stand behind at any point, Mr. Chair, and certainly that is what our team has set out to do.

There have been some tight deadlines that we had to deal with along the way. We quickly found out — and we have had very positive discussions with the federal government. We started to analyze their Connect to Innovate funding program. Whether it be the public servants or the minister in charge, they have been extremely supportive and helpful.

We had an opportunity to meet with the minister, and certainly in those meetings during Yukon Days and supported by our First Nation partners and governments who attended those meetings — all our meetings, actually, with us — these are some of the conversations we had. We then started to ensure that we kept, as we moved through the process, all the options on the table. We have heard that there is interest, when you look at the southern route, from other entities that exist — whether it be small Yukon companies or joint ventures and things such as that. There seems to be some interest — and then, of course, some of that great work that was done between Northwestel and the government — some good stuff was done, and just that the fact that the numbers continued to change. Now you're looking at a very expensive cost of building north. We put applications into the Connect to Innovate fund so we can look at at least leveraging some of those dollars.

The tougher part of the conversation was the fact that we were in a scenario where — not only because of funding agreements, and the member opposite asked. I think that in the fall I would love to have that discussion if the member opposite would. I don't understand how you could build and spend a capital asset of this magnitude, taking into consideration the financial scenario that this government walked into and then transfer the asset from an ownership position and how that would reflect in your financial framework.

There are a couple of reasons because we believe, and I think that Yukoners want a government to undertake the capital expenditure but they want to own the asset. I think that's what we're hearing from Yukoners. That's key, whether it be north or south. I think I want to clarify that's what we feel for an ownership model.

Even over and above the language around funding agreements, what we've heard from the federal government is that we're probably looking at a September time frame to see if we've been successful on the funding agreement. That's key because we're really, once again, trying to keep all of these options on the table as we move through and do our due diligence. We continue consistently to do due diligence. We've done a tremendous amount. We definitely in cases have sought the advice of subject matter experts in a couple of cases. We did seek the advice of a number of individuals and certainly those advisors have given us even more information to look at as we've continued our analysis.

There are two things I will leave the member opposite with that we need to execute, which we haven't done yet. One, what the final step is on the process to complete the procurement process, because I think our staff has done a great job — absolutely a great job — to get to this point. That is a conversation that has to happen along with “were we successful within our funding agreement?” If we're not successful within our funding agreement, that potentially can change our whole conversation, because when we made our commitment, we weren't aware of some of the financial challenges, but we're committed to doing the fibre line. I hope that the federal government will get back to us in September.

We have commitments and I have support, I believe, from all regions in the north. I will have to go back and check my files, but I think we have had the premiers — it has been a northern conversation at least on our support for the application on our northern route and so we continue to have that. I'm hoping by September to have that information and then look at a procurement process in the fall that will lead us to a finalized decision, and then from there looking toward the proper processes, applications and assessments and things that have to be put into place as we move on.

I hope that answers the question. Once again, thank you, especially the two individuals here with me today — tremendous amount of work on this project to be able to stand behind the decisions of the Department of Economic Development. Also our lead, Steve, has been fantastic. I will leave it at that and hopefully we can have lots of robust dialogue on the fibre conversation — it seems there has been a little bit already — this fall when we're all back happily together in the Legislative Assembly.

**Mr. Kent:** Moving on to a partnership or perhaps a contribution agreement between the Department of Economic Development and the Yukon Mining Alliance — to be clear, I and colleagues in the Official Opposition support that organization. I think they have done a tremendous job. I'm assuming they will be hosting investor and media tours again this summer at a number of the projects that they have. The work that they do, at PDAC and the annual Mineral Exploration Roundup in Vancouver, continues to draw rave reviews, as well as the other outreach opportunities and investment conferences they travel to.

I have just a few questions with respect to this. I did ask at the briefing, and I believe officials at the briefing mentioned to me that the contributions to the Mining Alliance or the partnerships with the Mining Alliance were embedded in one of the line items, and that it didn't show as a separate contribution agreement or transfer agreement. If the minister can let us know how much in this budget is allocated to the Mining Alliance, and if he can also let us know if he anticipates, aside from the PDAC and Roundup and the investor tours they're hosting — I believe out of Dawson City again this year — if he anticipates travelling with this group to any of the other conferences. I know they do a number in Europe; they also do ones throughout the United States in some of the financial centres there. I'm not sure if there are any trips to China planned for that group or for the minister — perhaps he may be going to China Mining in the fall to engage with potential investors at that annual conference.

If the minister could maybe give us an update on some of the other events he plans on attending or perhaps the Premier plans on attending with the Mining Alliance, that would be great.

Just a final question with respect to marketing and promoting the mineral industry — obviously there are criteria for Mining Alliance companies. I believe it's a two-tiered system, but I know me and my colleague from Pelly-Nisutlin, when we were in government, we heard from other companies about what opportunities there were to promote projects and

areas and zones that weren't necessarily captured by projects that were specific to the Yukon Mining Alliance. I'm kind of curious if the minister or the Premier — or in conversations with the Premier — have given that any thought and what plans are in place.

Mr. Chair, seeing as this is probably the last opportunity for me to be on my feet during this first Spring Session, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all colleagues on both sides of the House. We have been here for 30 days; it has been an interesting experience, and mostly a positive experience. I would like to thank the new members and thank the members who have returned, for their work over the past 30 days.

With that, I will turn the floor back to the minister. I'm sure he can take us to 5:00 p.m. on this one.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I want to commend the work of the Yukon Mining Alliance over the last number of years. The member opposite asked me a question, and I think was actually the first executive director — the first lead consultant essentially when the organization was founded — or was the chair and I think he was hired by the organization very early on to lead their activities.

I have the funding agreement right here. The commitment I think that we're sticking behind, signed by the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin, is for \$900,000 over three years. That's a portion of the funding that the Yukon Mining Alliance receives. There are other activities. July 12 in Dawson City — that week there is the investors' tour. I know that on the July 12, I will be there during the day, but I have to be back here that night because on the 13<sup>th</sup> we have to prepare to go and sign the Growing Forward funding agreement and the Member for Lake Laberge would be very upset if we didn't get that done because that's what supports agricultural expenditures in Yukon.

The trips — I think that our Yukon Mining Alliance does a great job. I have to say my priority was to be here with my colleagues and the members opposite. There was an opportunity to fly to — I was asked to go to London and I thought that I think the people for Porter Creek South and my colleagues certainly felt my priority is to be here in the Legislative Assembly, so I was not on that trip.

The other thing was that the federal government reached out and asked if I would attend with Minister Carr on a trip to Shanghai. I once again felt that would be too much. I was thinking maybe my colleague would have attended with me, but I think there was so much important work that we had to complete here and I certainly did not decide to go on that trip.

The other trips planned this year — I think that the opposition had attended. The Yukon Mining Alliance has also done some good work. There is usually a trip to the US in September. There are two shows there. I think, potentially, I would attend one — looking to work to do that trip with some First Nation leadership and development corporations. That's something that has not really been done here by the Yukon government. I think last year the Premier and the minister attended, but certainly looking to travel maybe with a few people.

Other than that there is the mining ministers conference, which I will be attending in August, and we're really going to be looking at a true national energy strategy and also taking into consideration some of the work on that.

I will ensure that I get the member opposite the travel itinerary as it pertains to the activities of the YMA. I agree that the member opposite and the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin — I'm looking for the motion that was tabled by the Member for Copperbelt South as we have a dialogue, not just about the marketing initiatives, but how we ensure all Yukon companies, no matter what tier they're at, have an opportunity to have their voice heard and their story told so we continue to increase and build this robust industry.

The time being 4:59 p.m., I think I will grab a seat and then we have some other business, Mr. Chair, I think we will be taking care of.

I thank my colleagues — thank you so much for all the work and preparation and all the support along the way.

**Chair:** Order, please.

### Termination of Sitting as per Standing Order 76(1)

**Chair:** The time has reached 5:00 p.m. on this, the 30<sup>th</sup> sitting day of the 2017 Spring Sitting.

Standing Order 76(1) states: "On the sitting day that the Assembly has reached the maximum number of sitting days allocated for that Sitting pursuant to Standing Order 75, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole, if the Assembly is in Committee of the Whole at the time, shall interrupt proceedings at 5:00 p.m. and, with respect to each Government Bill before Committee that the Government House Leader directs to be called, shall:

"(a) put the question on any amendment then before the Committee;

"(b) put the question, without debate or amendment, on a motion moved by a Minister that the bill, including all clauses, schedules, title and preamble, be deemed to be read and carried;

"(c) put the question on a motion moved by a Minister that the bill be reported to the Assembly; and

"(d) when all bills have been dealt with, recall the Speaker to the Chair to report on the proceedings of the Committee."

It is the duty of the Chair to now conduct the business of Committee of the Whole in the manner directed by Standing Order 76(1). The Chair will now ask the Government House Leader to indicate which government bills now before Committee of the Whole should be called.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Mr. Chair, the government directs that Bill No. 201, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2017-18*, Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2016-17*, Bill No. 4, entitled *Act to Amend the Supreme Court Act (2017)*, and Bill No. 3, entitled *Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2017*, be called at this time.

**Bill No. 201: First Appropriation Act, 2017-18 — continued**

**Chair:** The Committee will now deal with Bill No. 201, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2017-18*. The Chair will now recognize Mr. Silver, as the sponsor of Bill No. 201, for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Mr. Chair, I move that all clauses, schedules and the title of Bill No. 201, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2017-18*, be deemed to be read and carried.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Silver that all clauses, schedules and the title of Bill No. 201, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2017-18*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

**On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures**

**Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$1,130,270,000 agreed to**

**On Capital Expenditures**

**Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$309,409,000 agreed to**

**Total Expenditures in the amount of \$1,439,679,000 agreed to**

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to*

*Schedules A, B and C agreed to*

*Title agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I move that you report Bill No. 201, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2017-18*, without amendment.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Silver that Bill No. 201, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2017-18*, be reported without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

**Bill No. 200: Second Appropriation Act, 2016-17 — continued**

**Chair:** The Committee will now deal with Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2016-17*. The Chair will now recognize Mr. Silver as the sponsor of Bill No. 200 for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that all clauses, schedules and the title of Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2016-17*, be deemed to be read and carried.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Silver that all clauses, schedules and the title of Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2016-17*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

**On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures**

**Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$21,601,000 agreed to**

**On Capital Expenditures**  
**Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$7,784,000 agreed to**

**Total Expenditures in the amount of \$29,385,000 agreed to**

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to*

*Schedules A, B and C agreed to*

*Title agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I move that you report Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2016-17*, without amendment.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Silver that Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2016-17*, be reported without amendment.

As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

**Bill No. 4: Act to Amend the Supreme Court Act (2017) — continued**

**Chair:** The Committee will now deal with Bill No. 4, entitled *Act to Amend the Supreme Court Act (2017)*. The Chair will now recognize Ms. McPhee as the sponsor of Bill No. 4 for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I move that all clauses and the title of Bill No. 4, entitled *Act to Amend the Supreme Court Act (2017)*, be deemed to be read and carried.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Ms. McPhee that all clauses and the title of Bill No. 4, entitled *Act to Amend the Supreme Court Act (2017)*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

*Clauses 1 to 14 agreed to*

*Title agreed to*

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I move that you report Bill No. 4, entitled *Act to Amend the Supreme Court Act (2017)*, without amendment.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Ms. McPhee that Bill No. 4, entitled *Act to Amend the Supreme Court Act (2017)*, be reported without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

**Bill No. 3: Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2017 — continued**

**Chair:** The Committee will now deal with Bill No. 3, entitled *Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2017*. The Chair will now recognize Mr. Silver as the sponsor of Bill No. 3 for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Mr. Chair, I move that all clauses and the title of Bill No. 3, entitled *Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2017*, be deemed to be read and carried.



**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Silver that all clauses and the title of Bill No. 3, entitled *Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2017*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*  
*Clauses 1 to 7 agreed to*  
*Title agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Mr. Chair, I move that you report Bill No. 3, entitled *Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2017*, without amendment.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Silver that Bill No. 3, entitled *Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2017*, be reported without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

**Chair:** As all government bills identified by the Government House Leader have now been decided upon, it is my duty to report to the House.

*Speaker resumes the Chair*

#### Termination of Sitting as per Standing Order 76(2)

**Chair:** 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

**Mr. Hutton:** Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 201, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2017-18*, and directed me to report the bill without amendment.

Committee of the Whole has also considered Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2016-17*, and directed me to report the bill without amendment.

Committee of the Whole has also considered Bill No. 4, entitled *Act to Amend the Supreme Court Act (2017)*, and directed me to report the bill without amendment.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 3, entitled *Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2017*, and directed me to report the bill without amendment.

**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.

Standing Order 76(2)(d) states, "On the sitting day that the Assembly has reached the maximum number of sitting days allocated for that Sitting pursuant to Standing Order 75, the Speaker of the Assembly, when recalled to the Chair after the House has been in Committee of the Whole, shall:

"(d) with respect to each Government Bill standing on the Order Paper for Third Reading and designated to be called by the Government House Leader,

"(i) receive a motion for Third Reading and passage of the bill, and

"(ii) put the question, without debate or amendment, on that motion."

I shall, therefore, ask the Government House Leader to indicate which government bills now standing on the Order Paper for Third Reading should be called.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** The government directs that Bill No. 201, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2017-18*, Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2016-17*, Bill No. 4, entitled *Act to Amend the Supreme Court Act (2017)*, Bill No. 3, entitled *Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2017*, and Bill No. 5, entitled *Act to Amend the Human Rights Act and the Vital Statistics Act (2017)*, be called for third reading at this time.

#### GOVERNMENT BILLS

##### Bill No. 201: *First Appropriation Act, 2017-18* — Third Reading

**Clerk:** Third reading, Bill No. 201, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Silver.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I move that Bill No. 201, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2017-18*, be now read a third time and do pass.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 201, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2017-18*, be now read a third time and do pass. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Division.

#### Division

**Speaker:** Division has been called.

#### Bells

**Speaker:** Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Agree.

**Mr. Gallina:** Agree.

**Mr. Adel:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** Agree.

**Mr. Hutton:** Agree.

**Mr. Hassard:** Disagree.

**Mr. Kent:** Disagree.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** Disagree.

**Mr. Cathers:** Disagree.

**Ms. McLeod:** Disagree.

**Mr. Istchenko:** Disagree.

**Ms. Hanson:** Disagree.

**Ms. White:** Disagree.

**Clerk:** Mr. Speaker, the results are 10 yea, eight nay.

**Speaker:** The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried.  
*Motion for third reading of Bill No. 201 agreed to*

**Speaker:** I declare that Bill No. 201 has passed this House.

**Bill No. 200: *Second Appropriation Act, 2016-17* — Third Reading**

**Clerk:** Third reading, Bill No. 200, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Silver.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2016-17*, be now read a third time and do pass.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2016-17*, be now read a third time and do pass. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

*Motion for third reading of Bill No. 200 agreed to*

**Speaker:** I declare the motion carried and that Bill No. 200 has passed this House.

**Bill No. 4: *Act to Amend the Supreme Court Act (2017)* — Third Reading**

**Clerk:** Third reading, Bill No. 4, standing in the name of the Hon. Ms. McPhee.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I move that Bill No. 4, entitled *Act to Amend the Supreme Court Act (2017)*, be now read a third time and do pass.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 4, entitled *Act to Amend the Supreme Court Act (2017)*, be now read a third time and do pass. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Division.

**Division**

**Speaker:** Division has been called.

*Bells*

**Speaker:** Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Agree.

**Mr. Gallina:** Agree.

**Mr. Adel:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** Agree.

**Mr. Hutton:** Agree.

**Mr. Hassard:** Disagree.

**Mr. Kent:** Disagree.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** Disagree.

**Mr. Cathers:** Disagree.

**Ms. McLeod:** Disagree.

**Mr. Istchenko:** Disagree.

**Ms. Hanson:** Agree.

**Ms. White:** Agree.

**Clerk:** Mr. Speaker, the results are 12 yeas, six nays.

**Speaker:** The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried.  
*Motion for third reading of Bill No. 4 agreed to*

**Speaker:** I declare that Bill No. 4 has passed this House.

**Bill No. 3: *Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2017* — Third Reading**

**Clerk:** Third reading, Bill No. 3, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Silver.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I move that Bill No. 3, entitled *Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2017*, be now read a third time and do pass.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 3, entitled *Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2017*, be now read a third time and do pass. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Division.

**Division**

**Speaker:** Division has been called.

*Bells*

**Speaker:** Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Agree.

**Mr. Gallina:** Agree.

**Mr. Adel:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** Agree.

**Mr. Hutton:** Agree.

**Mr. Hassard:** Agree.

**Mr. Kent:** Agree.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** Agree.

**Mr. Cathers:** Agree.

**Ms. McLeod:** Agree.

**Mr. Istchenko:** Agree.

**Ms. Hanson:** Disagree.

**Ms. White:** Disagree.

**Clerk:** Mr. Speaker, the results are 16 yeas, two nays.

**Speaker:** The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried.  
*Motion for third reading of Bill No. 3 agreed to*

**Speaker:** I declare that Bill No. 3 has passed this House.

**Bill No. 5: Act to Amend the Human Rights Act and the Vital Statistics Act (2017) — Third Reading**

**Clerk:** Third reading, Bill No. 5, standing in the name of the Hon. Ms. Frost.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I move that Bill No. 5, entitled *Act to Amend the Human Rights Act and the Vital Statistics Act (2017)*, be now read a third time and do pass.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Minister of Health and Social Services that Bill No. 5, entitled *Act to Amend the Human Rights Act and the Vital Statistics Act (2017)*, be now read a third time and do pass. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Division.

**Division**

**Speaker:** Division has been called.

*Bells*

**Speaker:** Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Agree.

**Mr. Gallina:** Agree.

**Mr. Adel:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** Agree.

**Mr. Hutton:** Agree.

**Mr. Hassard:** Disagree.

**Mr. Kent:** Agree.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** Agree.

**Mr. Cathers:** Disagree.

**Ms. McLeod:** Disagree.

**Mr. Istchenko:** Agree.

**Ms. Hanson:** Agree.

**Ms. White:** Agree.

**Clerk:** Mr. Speaker, the results are 15 yeas, three nays.

**Speaker:** The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried.  
*Motion for third reading of Bill No. 5 agreed to*

**Speaker:** I declare that Bill No. 5 has passed this House.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** We are now prepared to receive the Commissioner of Yukon, in his capacity as Lieutenant Governor, to grant assent to bills which have now passed.

*Commissioner Phillips enters the Chamber, announced by the Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms*

**ASSENT TO BILLS**

**Commissioner:** Please be seated.

**Speaker:** Mr. Commissioner, the Assembly has, at its present session, passed certain bills to which, in the name and on behalf of the Assembly, I respectfully request your assent.

**Clerk:** *First Appropriation Act, 2017-18; Second Appropriation Act, 2016-17; Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2017; Act to Amend the Supreme Court Act (2017); Act to Amend the Human Rights Act and the Vital Statistics Act (2017).*

**Commissioner:** I hereby assent to the bills as enumerated by the Clerk.

Before I leave today, I would like to recognize a couple of people in the gallery who are friends of the Legislative Assembly and who worked here before. The former Deputy Clerk, Missy Follwell, is with us here today, and the former Sergeant-at-Arms, Rudy Couture. I welcome them to the House as well.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all of the Members of the Legislative Assembly a very safe, productive and warm summer break from the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you.

*Commissioner leaves the Chamber*

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

Before my final words to close the House, I just want to provide my thanks on behalf of the Chair and the Deputy Speaker and Deputy Chair of Committee of the Whole to the Yukon Legislative Assembly staff, Clerk McCormick, Deputy Clerk Kolody, and Clerk of Committees Lloyd. As new MLAs and presiding officers, their professionalism, support and guidance was certainly very much appreciated in this first session. I know that all new MLAs have certainly appreciated their support as well.

Thank you very much.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** As the House has now reached the maximum number of sitting days permitted for the Spring Sitting and the House has completed consideration of the designated legislation, it is the duty of the Chair to declare that this House now stands adjourned.

*The House adjourned at 5:34 p.m.*

**The following legislative returns were tabled June 13, 2017:**

34-2-43

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Mr. Cathers re: projects under the small communities fund and clean water and waste-water fund (Streicker)

34-2-44

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Mr. Kent re: domestic water well program (Streicker)

34-2-45

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Ms. White re: *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* and the Residential Tenancies Office (Streicker)

34-2-46

Response to oral question from Mr. Hassard re: North Canol Road bridges (weight restrictions) (Mostyn)

34-2-47

Response to oral question from Mr. Hassard re: North Canol Road bridges (Pelly Barge) (Mostyn)

34-2-48

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Mr. Hassard re: projects requiring YESAB approval (Mostyn)

34-2-49

Response to oral question from Ms. Van Bibber re: Tourism initiatives (Dendys)

34-2-50

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Ms. Van Bibber re: arts funding (Dendys)

**Written notice was given of the following motion June 13, 2017:**

Motion No. 125

Re: selecting representative item for time vault project (Kent)

**The following written questions were tabled June 13, 2017:**

Written Question No. 15

Re: spending on bridges (Hassard)

Written Question No. 16

Re: Fox Lake local area planning process (Cathers)

Written Question No. 17

Re: Shallow Bay land planning process (Cathers)

Written Question No. 18

Re: Takhini Hot Springs application to subdivide and amend zoning (Cathers)