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BLUES

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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 It may be used as a reference only with the understanding that it will be superseded by the final, edited version, entitled "Hansard", at a later time.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
Monday, November 27, 2017 — 1:00 p.m.**

Speaker: Je vais maintenant appeler à l'Assemblée à l'ordre.

Prayers

Withdrawal of motions

Speaker: The Chair wishes to inform the House of a matter relating to the Order Paper. Motion No. 215, notice of which was given last Thursday by the Member for Lake Laberge, has not been placed on today's Order Paper. Part of the motion is now outdated as the House has now given third reading to, and passed, Bill No. 14, *Legal Profession Act, 2017*.

DAILY ROUTINE

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

Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

Hon. Ms. Dendys: I rise today on behalf of the Liberal caucus to pay tribute to December 6, Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

On this hard day, we remember 14 young women studying at École Polytechnique in Montreal who were killed simply because they were women. National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women and the ongoing challenges and violence facing women, those who identify as women or non-binary, is a solemn reminder that we still have so much to do to combat gender-based violence. This is an ongoing crisis. We need look no further than at the situation facing our indigenous communities and the tragedy of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls to know that we have a real problem in this country.

In Yukon, the rates of violence against women are almost four times higher than those in the provinces and those rates are higher still for indigenous women and girls.

This year, several high-profile campaigns on social media like the #MeToo campaign, which I participated in, and recurring instances of sexualized violence in the workplaces, politics and police forces have demonstrated how pervasive the issue is. It is unacceptable.

As Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, one of my main priorities is to build safer communities and increase our government's efforts to reduce violence against women.

The Women's Directorate actively works to prevent violence in our community, whether through working with community partners and First Nation governments to make program funding more readily accessible or supporting the

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

We also know that in order to be effective in reducing violence, we need to listen to our local needs and concerns and focus on locally and culturally appropriate responses. I want to thank the incredible equality-seeking organizations for your work to encourage speech and action against violence.

In Yukon, we are fortunate to have dedicated NGOs leading important activities such as: BYTE's MOVE! Youth Ending Violence workshops; the women's legal advocate position at the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre; the Girls and Trans Club at the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre; and the family gatherings hosted by the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council — to name a few. Thank you for everything you do all year long and for your work on events and public information campaigns during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence. My colleague will speak more to that shortly.

If ending violence against women was easy, we would not still be here talking about it. It is such an issue in our society that we all need to be working together on these complex and systemic issues with very deep roots. It is not just up to the NGOs and governments to work to end gender violence. We all share a responsibility to model our behaviour, to support one another and to uphold the dignity and respect of all women.

December 6 is an opportunity for all Canadians to reflect on what they can do to stop gender-based violence. We need to do more and we need to do it better.

This year's vigil will be held at the main administration building on December 6 at noon. I encourage all honoured members and all Yukoners to join me there in solidarity for those who were killed and those who face gender-based violence today.

We have a number of guests whom we will introduce during that portion of our Order Paper, so please stay. We want to acknowledge you.

In recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Ms. McLeod: I rise in the House today on behalf of the Official Opposition to pay tribute to November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

It is an unfortunate fact that gender inequality and violence against women persists worldwide. While progress has been made for equality, there are a number of statistics worldwide that show that progress is slower when we're talking about violence.

According to the UN Women website, one in three women and girls face violence at some point during their lifetime. To quote further: "It happens in every country and every society. It happens at home, in schools, on the streets, at work, on the internet and in refugee camps. It happens during war, and even in the absence of war. Too often, it is normalized and goes unpunished."

Nationwide, it's difficult to estimate violence against women due to the private nature. It's estimated by police that only 33 percent of spousal assaults and 10 percent of sexual assaults are reported.

Canada's rates of spousal violence, spousal homicide and sexual assault are higher in the territories than in the provinces. Further to these already high numbers, it's reported that rates of spousal abuse and homicide are three times higher for aboriginal women.

While violence against women continues to be faced worldwide, there are proven solutions to discontinuing the cycle of recurring violence. We must work together toward prevention, early education, empowering women and girls, speaking out against violence, and enforcing laws to protect women's rights.

Ms. White: I rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP caucus to speak in recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Mr. Speaker, women's activists have marked November 25 as a day against violence since 1981. This date was chosen in recognition of the brutal assassination 21 years earlier of "Las Mariposas" — or "The Butterflies" — three sisters from the Dominican Republic who actively campaigned against the brutality of the Trujillo dictatorship. Their assassinations cemented them as symbols of feminist resistance. In 1993, the United Nations adopted the *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women* and, in 1999, designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Mr. Speaker, I can cite statistics that, I'm saddened to say, don't get better between one year to the next; I can talk about the lack of available funding worldwide to meaningfully tackle this issue; but instead, today, in recognition of this year's theme "Leave No One Behind", I want to acknowledge the passing earlier today of a strong and resilient Cree woman named Marlene Bird.

Her story has many facets, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to focus on all the heartache and the pain that she endured because her story is so much more than that. She is remembered with love by her family and friends and by her community. You may have heard about her death on the radio. After living a pretty tough life and after recovering from disabling injuries from violence, she became an outspoken advocate — speaking out about ending violence against all women.

Mr. Speaker, every day, every hour, somewhere a woman is experiencing violence, and many are losing their lives. It's time for less talk and more action from us all.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Today I rise, along with all men — and, I hope, boys — in this Legislature to pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls. Twenty-eight years ago, I was doing my graduate studies in engineering and lecturing at the University of New Brunswick. On December 6, 1989, a very troubled man entered École Polytechnique, an engineering university in

Montreal, armed with a semi-automatic rifle. He separated the male and female students. In 20 minutes, he killed 14 women and then himself. From notes he left behind, he said it was because women were taking jobs from men. It was a profoundly shocking display of violence, clearly gender-based.

I remember that when we heard the news, I stopped my class to talk about the tragedy. My students, both men and women, were all affected. We felt loss, shame, dismay, fear and anger. The event affected me and prompted me to try to understand and challenge violence, and here's what I learned. Both men and women suffer from violence; however, when it comes to who is committing the acts of violence, it's really men. Statistics Canada says that victims of violence are about 50/50 men and women, yet nine times out of 10, it is men who commit those assaults. Clearly, it is we men who need to work to change the situation.

Another thing I discovered is that most violence against women is not random. Most victims, it turns out, know the person who is assaulting them.

Society has changed over the past 28 years, but we still have too much violence. Here in the Yukon, we know of 41 missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls and I thank the Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate and all Members of this Legislature for supporting the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

I am honoured to rise to pay tribute to the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence White Ribbon campaign. The theme for this year's campaign is: "It's Never Okay". It underscores that victim-blaming and excuses made for gender-based violence are part of the problem.

Thank you to the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, Les EssentiElles, and the Aboriginal Women's Circle for challenging gender-based violence and engaging the community in conversations about what we can do to end this violence. Thank you as well to White Ribbon Yukon, who will have their AGM this Thursday evening at (co)space. They are hosting a film and conversation on Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m., just a day before the ceremony on the 6th. The film is at the Old Fire Hall and it's called *A Better Man*. It's a National Film Board documentary about a man coming to terms with the violence he inflicted on his partner.

I hope all men will wear a white ribbon and take the pledge. Unfortunately, this is a once-a-year campaign for a year-round problem. I encourage us all to speak out against violence in all its forms and to support and believe victims when they come forward, not just during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, but every day.

Mr. Istchenko: I rise in the House today to pay tribute to the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence — why we wear the white ribbon today.

The Status of Women Canada defines gender-based violence as involving the use and abuse of power and control over another person, and it is perpetrated against someone based on their gender, identity, gender expression or perceived

gender. This includes violence against women and girls, but also expands to cover the violence faced by the LGBTQ and gender non-conforming people.

As we position ourselves as a society against inequity, against violence and against discrimination, we are reminded that all gender-based violence is in fact a product of an unequal society. In order to end violence, we must continue to fight against inequality.

The theme for this year's campaign, as the minister said, is "It's Never Okay". This speaks to the fact that there is never an excuse for violence against anyone. I encourage all Yukoners to stand up against violence and become part of the solution. Make your voice heard and take a stand against gender-based violence. One of the most important things to take away from the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is taking the opportunity to shape the minds of our children and the children in your life to respect all people. Be a role model for positive behaviour and remember that kids watch and mimic the way you act and the way that you talk. Modelling respectful behaviour is one of the best things you can do for the kids in your life and that gives them the tools to grow into happy, healthy and respectful adults.

Ms. White: I rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP caucus to speak in support of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

I am hopeful that the world as I knew it, as a young woman growing up and as a woman coming of age, is changing and will be different for the young girls in the world today. I think that I will always remember how I felt that time I saw #MeToo in a public post and how I felt when I read comment after comment — not only in my own social media field, but on Twitter and news articles — and how I felt that moment when men's violence against women was being discussed so openly for the first time and, most importantly, it was being believed.

The comments were honest, heartbreaking, strong and brave and showed the resiliency of survivors. Maybe for the first time it showed men — who maybe thought for a moment that the hashtag #NotAllMen was appropriate — that every woman they knew had been affected by gender-based discrimination or violence at one time or another — every single one.

We're all too quick to talk about how many women were harassed, assaulted or raped, but we don't seem to get around to talking about how many men harassed, assaulted or raped women. We talk about how many girls in school were harassed last year, but not about how many boys harassed girls. We talk about teen pregnancy in terms of the mother and rarely do we speak about the teen or the adult father who was involved. By not addressing both sides of every story, we absolve men of all responsibility.

Violence against women does not happen in isolation of others. We know we're talking about violence from partners, from acquaintances and yes, sometimes even strangers. Canadians are reminded during the 16 Days of Activism that they can take action and take responsibility now and

throughout the year to eliminate violence against women and girls in all its forms.

The hashtag #MYActionsMatter is being used to ask Canadians what they can do to prevent gender-based violence. They invite us to use one of the five ways in which we can become an ally in our efforts to end gender-based violence. We can listen, be open to learning from the experience of others; we should believe by supporting the survivors and those affected by violence; we should speak out and add our voices to call out violence and we should intervene — so find a safe way to help when you see acts of gender-based violence. Most importantly, we should act to give our time to organizations working to end violence and to be the change you want to see.

May we all be brave enough to never be passive observers when we know something is wrong and remember that it's never okay.

Speaker: Introduction of visitors.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Ms. Dendys: I would like to just first say that I am so pleased that this is our final tribute today in this Sitting and that this is the topic we chose to talk about.

We have many visitors here: from the Yukon Women's Transition Home Society, Barb McInerney is the executive director; Yukon Aboriginal Women's Circle — Adeline Webber is the executive elder; Susan Burns is the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls outreach coordinator, and Jedine Medcalfe is the administrative assistant.

From the Yukon Status of Women Council, we have Charlotte Hrenchuk, who is the coordinator, and from Les EssentiElles, we have Elaine Michaud and Kathryn Vincent. From the Public Service Alliance of Canada, we have Linda Moen, who is also part of the Women's Coalition.

From the Women's Directorate, we have Kirsten Madsen and Alex Hill. I would like to also just thank Jessie Stephen — she is my executive assistant. She works very hard with the Women's Directorate on behalf of all Yukoners.

I just again want to thank all of you so much for the work you do on behalf of all Yukoners. It has been such a pleasure to be the Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate in Yukon, so thank you very much for all of your hard work.

Applause

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Following up on the minister's welcoming remarks, I would also like to acknowledge Michael Vernon, who is part of White Ribbon Week and has volunteered with that group for many years. Welcome to the Legislature.

Applause

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I would like to welcome here today Madame Sabrina and her grade 5 class from Whitehorse Elementary School. Je suis ravie de vous accueillir. I would

like to ask all of my colleagues to help me welcome them today. We have with us: Angus, Gabriel, Emma, Julia, Noah, Syd, Matthew, Chris, Jonah, Annie, Kate, Nicole, Atlin, Callum, River, Hudson, Canyon, Sydney, Hailey, Jake, Kale and Cora. Thank you very much for being here. Welcome.

Applause

Ms. McLeod: I ask all members to join me today in welcoming the former Speaker of this Assembly, Mr. Dave Laxton.

Applause

Mr. Gallina: I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Conrad Tiedeman. He is a constituent in the riding of Porter Creek Centre. I know Conrad's father from our time working together at the same company, and I look forward to getting to know Conrad more in my role as an MLA. Welcome.

Applause

Ms. White: I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming someone who has sat in this Legislative Assembly more than half of us have, and that is Mr. Gerry Whitley. Gerry came in every day for Question Period for an entire five years and now comes periodically. It is always a pleasure to see him and know that he knows the proceedings better than most of us. Thank you for being here again, Gerry.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any further introductions of visitors?

Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Hon. Mr. Silver: I have for tabling a legislative return that provides the costs of the report to Yukoners sent out this past September and, for comparison purposes, the return provides costs for similar publications in 2016 under the previous government.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I have for tabling two legislative returns in response to several questions raised in this Legislative Assembly recently.

Hon. Ms. Frost: I have four items for tabling today: first, the annual report for the health care insurance programs for the 2016-17 fiscal year, as required under section 7 of the *Hospital Insurance Services Act* — and it also includes information related to the health care insurance plan; second, the *Yukon Hospital Corporation Consolidated Financial Statements March 31, 2016* and the corporation's annual report for the same year, entitled *Closer to Home: Year In Review 2016-17*, pursuant to subsection 13(3) of the *Hospital Act*; third, a response to the Member for Porter Creek North's question on October 24, 2017 regarding anti-microbial resistance; and, finally, a response to the Member for Takhini-

Kopper King's question on November 22, 2017 regarding the bear protocol for Yukon government conservation officers.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling a legislative return regarding a question that was posed to me on November 23 by the member opposite regarding the erosion along the riverbank at Fort Selkirk.

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

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to work collaboratively with Yukon First Nations to ensure oil and gas exploration and development is conducted responsibly and with the support of affected First Nations.

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

THAT this House supports efforts in Yukon to end gender-based violence.

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

THAT this House urges the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to improve access to the research forest by adding a new gate to allow foot traffic from the Hot Springs Road side.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Community Services to ensure the Tagish crew of Yukon Emergency Medical Services continues to have a four-wheel-drive ambulance.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to include funding in its 2018-19 capital budget to add a walkway to the Takhini River bridge on the Mayo Road to accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians and ATVs.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to include funding in its 2018-19 capital budget to develop communications infrastructure in rural Yukon, including partnering with the private sector to expand cellular phone coverage to people without service in areas including Grizzly Valley, Deep Creek, Fox Lake, Ibex Valley, Junction 37, Champagne and Mendenhall.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to review and update the *Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Act* and regulations and ensure that government buildings with elevators are following the same act and regulations.

Speaker: Are there any further notices of motions?
Is there a statement by a minister?
This then brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Reduction of expenditures through government staffing

Mr. Hassard: Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago, the Premier told media that one way he might look to reduce costs to government is by shrinking the government through attrition or retirements. This, in fact, echoes comments from the Deputy Minister of Finance who told the *Yukon News* in May that, if the Liberals decided to head in that direction, her department would look at who is retiring or nearing retirement and offer them retirement packages.

Mr. Speaker, would the Premier be able to tell us how much he projects the government will save through attrition and retirements?

Hon. Mr. Silver: This gives me a good opportunity to thank the Yukon Financial Advisory Panel for their efforts to date and to thank Yukoners as well for all of the responses that we've seen in over 60 meetings, and over, I believe, 800 individual Yukoners have committed to giving their opinions on this particular front.

The member opposite is now asking us where we're going to go with this advice. My response right now is that we are analyzing the data coming in from all of the responses from Yukoners and, from that, we will make a determination of how to move forward. We are moving forward in a direction that does not involve massive layoffs; it doesn't involve increasing the royalty rates and includes not having an HST. Work is ongoing for any of the other considerations from the Yukon Financial Advisory Panel's report, and we will be updating Yukoners and the opposition as they come in.

Mr. Hassard: I wasn't, in fact, asking questions about the Financial Advisory Panel. I was asking a question regarding the Premier's suggestion of finding savings for government through attrition.

Could the Premier please tell us which departments might be looked at? Would departments such as Health and Social Services or Education be on the table? Simpler yet: Which departments would not be included?

Hon. Mr. Silver: Once again, we went through a process of involving the Financial Advisory Panel for a reason. We wanted to get a third party to come in and give us all of the options on the table. When the member opposite is trying to needle me into an answer about specific departments and maybe layoffs one day, and maybe attrition the next day, I will say what we on this side of the House are going to do. We received the final report from the Financial Advisory Panel, as

a government, and we are going to review those options — those options — and we are going to determine which options to implement.

I do look forward to continuing the discussion with Yukoners in the future. As to his specific questions right now — if we had something to announce as far as any attrition, we would have announced it by now, as opposed to waiting for the opposition to ask us a specific question about a specific department here on the last day of the Legislative Assembly Sitting for this year.

Mr. Hassard: I think it's important to note that I didn't actually mention layoffs.

As highlighted earlier, the Deputy Minister of Finance told the *Yukon News* that one avenue that her department would look at is early retirements with retirement packages. I'm curious as to if the Premier would be able to tell us how many people they would consider giving early retirement packages to. Has he done any calculations on how much would be spent on early retirement packages?

Hon. Mr. Silver: As the member opposite knows, they have mentioned layoffs before. As the member opposite knows, they've mentioned HST. We keep on hearing from them that they're hedging their bets as to what we will do or what we're not going to do. What I won't do is play "gotcha" politics here in the Legislative Assembly and make some kind of announcement here on the floor about what we are going to do after the Financial Advisory Panel met with Yukoners and suggested options. What I will do is commit to Yukoners that we will listen to them and move forward in a very responsible way to make sure that we get our finances back on track.

Question re: Hospital bed shortage

Ms. McLeod: The bed shortage at Whitehorse General Hospital has probably been the biggest issue that this Liberal government has had to deal with. Unfortunately for Yukoners, the Minister of Health and Social Services has dropped the ball on this file.

The hospital has told us that this problem has gotten worse over the last year. Almost 40 percent of their patients should be in another type of health care facility. The previous government had taken actions to help alleviate this issue, such as the creation of new beds, starting Whistle Bend place and taking action to expand home care. We've been asking this minister for a month to come up with a plan and she still hasn't been able to provide anything beyond vague talking points.

This is an urgent issue. Will the minister get to work and take immediate action to address the bed shortage at the hospital?

Hon. Ms. Frost: Yes, we are getting to work, Mr. Speaker. We are addressing the housing shortages, we are addressing bed shortages, and we are looking at an expanded scope of care for home care patients. We are working with our partners to find solutions that have taken us, this government, this Yukon, 13 years to get to. It will not take nine months, but we will work expediently with our partners to find the solutions that are required for Yukoners. That means that we

will engage with Yukoners and we will engage with our partners — so yes, we will address the issues.

Ms. McLeod: If the minister wanted to, she could take action today. In fact, she should have taken action months ago. Earlier this Sitting, we found out that Health and Social Services is underfunding the hospital by only providing them with funding based on 75-percent occupancy. We know that occupancy is way higher than that. In fact, it is around 100 percent right now. The hospital is telling us that this is an urgent situation.

The Liberals have been in government for almost 400 days, and the time for vague talking points is over. It is time to come up with a plan and actually start governing. If the minister won't provide us with a plan today, can she at least provide us with a timeline for when she will have a plan?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I thank the member opposite for the question.

I'm not going to provide a plan today, but I will commit that this government will work with the Hospital Corporation and work with our partners to address the pressures in the hospital. We will work with our rural Yukon hospitals and our rural Yukon partners.

Ms. McLeod: I am pleased that the minister brought up the mention of rural Yukon because home care in communities is one way to help to address the bed shortage at the hospital, and we have talked about that. But unfortunately, this minister is getting a bit of a reputation for dismissing the concerns of communities — emergency housing to Ross River, not providing assistance to Yukoners seeking to deal with fentanyl addictions, refusing to review medical travel rates, refusing to meet with the Watson Lake daycare centre. These are all areas where the minister has left the communities to hang out to dry.

We have asked the minister to tell us what she is doing to address home care in our communities to help alleviate the bed shortage, and the minister has refused to answer questions on this.

So Mr. Speaker, will the minister tell us now what she is going to do?

Hon. Ms. Frost: A very interesting line of questioning and accusations, Mr. Speaker — we have done a significant amount of work in these past few months, and I can highlight the work around home care, the extended support we have provided to our partners — an additional \$771,000. We are looking and working with the Hospital Corporation to address the pressures in our communities. So yes, we have done amazing — and I would like to commend the staff through the Hospital Corporation, commend the staff in the Housing Corporation and in Health and Social Services for advancing the interests of Yukoners, hearing Yukoners and reaching out.

With that good information and the good, positive feedback, we will work toward addressing the issues and we will tie that into our next fiscal plan. We will tie that into the next five years.

I can assure the member opposite that we have addressed the issues with the Ross River Dena Council. In fact, we have letters acknowledging the great work and the great

partnerships. We have support from the Hospital Corporation — you heard the comments through Committee of the Whole — from the chairperson at the hospital, as well as the CEO, that they are working within their means and are working with the department to address the issues and we will continue to do that good work.

Question re: Minimum wage

Ms. White: I asked the Premier last week why his government is conducting a review of MLA and ministers' salaries while refusing to do the same with minimum-wage workers. The Premier answered that the MLA pay review was a — and I quote: “legislatively mandated” review. The only problem is that the Premier's statement is not what the law says. One could say that it is at odds with reality.

The law allows for an MLA pay review but does not mandate it. So a choice had to be made, just like the choice that this government is making to not review the minimum wage. Now that the Premier is bit more familiar with what the law says, can he explain why his government believes that MLAs deserve a pay review but minimum-wage workers don't?

Hon. Mr. Silver: This question is enlightening as to the NDP's understanding of fiscal comparisons. It is not necessarily how things happen, but I will leave that to the Minister of Community Services.

What I am saying about the review is: that review is legislated by the Members' Services Board, on which the NDP, Yukon Party and the Liberals are all members — this all-party board — to do a process where a review is looked at it. It's part of the legislation. We go through it all the time. The member opposite is correct; we can decide, as an all-party board, whether or not we are going to that review. But again, that review itself does come up.

Now, to compare oranges to apples like this and to make it seem like, for some reason, this is going to have any bearing or determination on the good work that this government does on social issues — to me, it just speaks to the lack of knowledge, I guess, of how government works for the NDP.

Ms. White: The record will show that the NDP has not supported a pay review for MLAs without requesting that one be done for minimum wage.

When it comes to the MLAs and ministers, this government allocates money to hire an independent contractor to perform a formal pay review that includes a cross-country comparison of different jurisdictions. When it comes to minimum-wage workers, who are paid \$11.32 an hour — a salary that would keep any worker well under the poverty line — the government doesn't lift a finger until there is extensive pressure. After five questions in the last Sitting of the Legislature, the minister reluctantly picked one jurisdiction that he felt like comparing us to and came back saying that the comparison with the Northwest Territories is equivalent — so we're all good and there is nothing to see here.

Mr. Speaker, why do MLAs get a comprehensive independent pay review, but not minimum-wage workers? Why is there a double standard?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: What I will say is that, here in the Legislature and outside of the Legislature, it didn't take the questions coming from the member opposite. Because of what happens with our minimum wage — it has an inflationary rider against the cost of living here in the territories. It goes up. We're always watching to see how it compares with other jurisdictions.

Based on the conversations here, one of the points that was raised was whether it is a living wage. I have always stated that it is not a living wage, but it is important to look at how that minimum wage compares against the market mass measure, the cost of living for a modest family in the territories.

The member opposite has now asked that it be done for the provinces, and I've stated that I'm happy to do it. So we will continue to look at it and to provide feedback here for all members of the Legislature.

We do think it's important to look at the minimum wage and see how it compares against other jurisdictions, and we're happy to do that work.

Ms. White: We're trying to get this government to acknowledge the unfairness of reviewing MLAs' salaries but not minimum-wage workers. We're trying to get this government to understand that Yukon's minimum wage is an embarrassment when BC, Ontario and Alberta will soon all have a \$15-an-hour minimum wage. But to tell you the truth, Mr. Speaker, all of this should not matter. The only thing that should matter is that our minimum wage, at \$11.32 an hour, will keep a full-time worker living in poverty. That alone should be enough to get the government to act. With a median rent above \$1,100 a month, minimum-wage workers end up spending more than half their salary on rent. That should be enough to get any government moving.

This government could direct the Employment Standards Board to do a review of minimum wage. At the end of the day, the minimum wage is set by government to be accountable for it.

Mr. Speaker, why is this government happy with a minimum wage that keeps workers living in poverty?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Mr. Speaker, I want to try to draw a distinction between a living wage and a minimum wage. Minimum wage can be an entry-level wage. It's not a wage that we expect people to be able to live on or to live above the poverty line on, so it's not a question of whether — in fact, to the member opposite's point, the work done by the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition would let us know that \$15 would still have people living in poverty; it's not enough.

Minimum wage shouldn't be equated to a living wage. The minimum wage that we have here is — I believe it is currently the sixth in the country — sixth out of 13. If we drop into the lower half, then there's an automatic review with the Employment Standards Board. In the meantime, I'm happy to go out and do the work, and I have reached out to the Bureau of Statistics to get information about how our wage compares, because, even though the minimum wage is tied to inflation and even though it is sixth, it doesn't compare well. I look forward to that analysis. I'm happy to bring it back here to the

Legislature and to share it with all members so that we can look at it in a transparent fashion.

Question re: Gender-affirming surgery policy

Ms. White: A new policy, entitled "Criteria for Coverage of Gender Affirming Surgery", came into effect in October 2017. This policy lays out the criteria, process and insured services for an individual to undergo gender-affirming surgery. This policy was issued with little fanfare and next to no publicity. What is troubling, though, is that this policy was created and issued with no input or consultation with the transgender community — those individuals who will be directly impacted by these regulations. In talking to individuals, many were dismayed by the restrictions and the application process put in place.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain why consultation was not done with the transgender community before the policy was implemented?

Hon. Ms. Frost: What I can commit to the member opposite is to get the details around the process that has taken place with respect to the policy that she's referring to. I will provide further details around who was consulted, the timelines and the results from that.

Ms. White: I look forward to that answer.

At about the same time, another policy was issued, entitled "Financial assistance for Puberty Suppression (Puberty Blockers) Prescription Drugs", for a young person, or someone under the age of 18. This is great news and much welcomed by All Genders Yukon.

Unfortunately, the same coverage is not applicable to the same individual once they reach the age of 18. It is not applicable to adults. Nothing has changed except that the individual is now a day older. They are still the same person with gender dysphoria. They still require the same drugs and, in fact, if they take the steps to surgery discussed in the previous question, the criteria for generalist surgery specifies 12 continuous months of hormone therapy.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain why the coverage of hormone suppressors does not apply to adults?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I am not able to respond to that very specific question at this point in time, but I would be happy to provide the response to the member opposite around the decisions that were made and the rationalization as to why those decisions were made.

Ms. White: The new gender-affirming surgery policy states that surgeries must be performed in British Columbia. This strays from the practice for other surgical interventions of going to either Alberta or British Columbia. This policy also includes requirements for medical escorts. Mr. Speaker, most gender-affirming surgeries are extensive. Surgeons require that you have somebody who can take care of you for a minimum of three days post-operation, or they will not perform the surgery.

If a transgendered or two-spirited individual has family in Calgary who could take care of them after surgery, the Yukon government would save the unnecessary expense of flying a medical escort and paying for their per diem. But the

government policy does not allow for individuals to receive this treatment in Alberta.

Why would individuals be restricted to British Columbia for gender-affirming surgery when options exist in Alberta as well and, most importantly, why would government remove the individual's ability to choose?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I thank the member opposite for the question. With regard to medical travel or support services, what we continue to do is look at the options in ensuring that all Yukoners have access to medical services that are not available in their community — or in Whitehorse, for that matter — and look at medical treatment programs outside the territory and where those treatment programs are offered.

I will look into getting more information with respect to the two jurisdictions and provide those details back to the member opposite. At this point in time, I am not able to respond specifically to the question around why the decisions are made the way they are. I will work with the medical association, I will work with the staff, and I will be happy to provide those details.

Question re: YESAA process

Mr. Kent: I have some YESAA-related questions for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Almost a month ago, we asked the government what they had done in follow-up to the mining industry in March to address issues with reassessments and timelines for projects through what they called a “collaborative framework”. At the time, it was clear that the government had done little to live up to this promise and once again was dismissing the concerns of industry.

Mr. Speaker, now that the minister has had an extra month to look in to this file, could he please tell us if he has started work on developing this collaborative framework to address industry's concerns, and when will it be completed?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I thank the Member for Copperbelt South for his question.

Certainly at no point have we ever — or have I ever — dismissed the concerns of industry — quite the contrary. What we have tried to do is ensure that we build a foundation for stability in an area that has had a lack of stability. Over the geoscience weekend, once again, we had representation from Council Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Peter Johnston coming in to meet with MAC — the Mining Association of Canada. We also had the Yukon Chamber of Mines. We had YESAA — we had that branch. We had a series of individuals from across the board coming together. At that point we heard — at least from our First Nation partners — that they wanted to ensure that the framework was signed off on the YESAA review.

I am happy to say that we have heard now that the federal minister has signed off and all First Nations have signed off. We are moving forward with that discussion. On December 15 will be the intergovernmental forum, and we are looking to have more meetings at that point in time. We are also continuing to look at a framework that parallels that with industry. We had some great conversations and there are

commitments that I have made to the Yukon chamber to continue to work together to have two processes moving, but never undermining the first process and trying to build that trust that was lost over the last couple of years.

Mr. Kent: I appreciate the detail from the minister with respect to that issue. The second question — again, these are YESAA-related questions — has to do with the YESAA submission for the all-weather road into ATAC's property north of Keno City. When the company submitted its initial proposal, they submitted two different options — one that went through category A land and one that did not. I am wondering if the minister can tell this House if the First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun is a decision body for both options or are they only a decision body for the routing option that goes through their category A land?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I appreciate the question. As far as the process — we have spoken about it in the House — delineating the point of how the decisions are made within Energy, Mines and Resources. The member opposite knows full well that the decision body — the structure — is done internally within the department as a decision body.

The trigger normally would be that, if there is a process in place where there is an effect on settlement land, then you would have a joint decision body. Under this process, I am taking my nods at this point in time in respecting the process within the department, and certainly, as I understand it, the decision that is being looked at is a joint decision. We certainly support everyone as they work through that process.

I must say that I want to thank ATAC. The company has been so patient, and the First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun has been so patient. Everybody has been comfortable with the process. The member opposite is the only individual who seems to be lacking patience in it. Certainly, I look forward to how this decision rolls out.

Question re: Carbon tax

Mr. Hassard: As we all know, the carbon tax scheme that the Premier signed on to in December of last year is scheduled to be implemented in 2018. Despite it being over a year ago, we still have no details from the Premier on what this will look like or how it will be implemented.

As a matter of fact, the very first question that this Premier ever received in Question Period was whether or not he had conducted an analysis of what the financial impacts of this carbon tax would be on Yukon families. At the time, he had not. But it has been seven months since we asked him that question so hopefully he has done some homework on this file. Maybe today the Premier can tell us if he has conducted this analysis yet.

Hon. Mr. Silver: Of course putting a price on carbon pollution is one element of the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*. We are very supportive of a nation-wide price on carbon emissions because it is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce those emissions and it will drive innovation toward a low carbon future. Carbon pricing is one of those actions to address the complex changes of a changing climate. Again, we stand behind this initiative.

I do get a lot of questions from the members opposite on carbon pricing. It is always a good time to correct the record because we have heard from the members opposite lots of confusing details when it comes to this initiative. To say that we've done nothing in the particular pursuits that the member opposite speaks of is not true. We do a lot of work on this, but really the lion's share of the work has to get done out of Ottawa, seeing as this is their federal pricing mechanism.

Again, it's always a good opportunity to get up and to correct the record from the members opposite's perspective. It seems to be different from what we see from other jurisdictions. We have heard them talk about Manitoba in the past as well. Manitoba is on board. It seems to me that everyone is on board except for the Yukon Party. They're asking very specific questions right now about particular pursuits. Any new information, of course, we will get out as soon as possible.

Mr. Hassard: I'm not sure that the Premier heard me because my question was actually about the financial impacts that this carbon tax would have on Yukon families, so let me try another one — a fairly straightforward question so hopefully maybe we will get an answer this time.

The Premier has told this House many times how great he thinks this carbon tax is, as he just did again, so no doubt this is why his very first action as Premier was to jet off to Ottawa to sign on to this carbon tax scheme.

Mr. Speaker, since we know that the Liberals think that this carbon tax scheme is so great, could the Premier please tell us how many tons of Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced as a result of it?

Hon. Mr. Silver: For the record, I answered the question. The financial impact is something we are looking at as a government. Lots of ongoing work is happening between not just my department, but with Community Services and other departments as well — Environment as well. We are doing a lot of work. I signed on to the pan-Canadian framework, but it was the member opposite's government that signed on to this conversation to begin with — to the Vancouver Declaration — so it's rich for them to say that they didn't sign on to this as well. They did. They also said that Manitoba didn't sign on to it, but again we're pleased to see the Province of Manitoba did sign on to a plan to agree to introduce a price on carbon.

We do have questions and it's a very good question that the member brings up as far as emissions and whether or not the federal pricing is going to actually work. As premiers we got together and made sure that in 2020, there will be a review. That review will see if the actual carbon-pricing mechanism, as signed off by the member opposite's party and all other jurisdictions in Canada — whether or not it hits the mark.

That is the good work we do on this side of the House. We want to make decisions based upon science and based upon evidence, making sure that we can transfer ourselves to a low-carbon economy and be at the forefront of a new resurgence in technologies as well.

Mr. Hassard: The Premier seems to be hung up with the fact that we're in Manitoba. He's the only one who is talking about Manitoba, so maybe if he would just concentrate on the Yukon and not worry so much about other jurisdictions, it may help Yukoners.

The Premier has told us that the analysis is done, but we certainly haven't seen it. I know that there are plenty of Yukon families who would like to know what that information is. It appears that he doesn't know what the financial impacts are going to be. He clearly doesn't know by how many tonnes it will reduce our emissions. In fact, in the last 400 days that he has been in office, he can't provide a single detail on how this tax will be implemented, yet he still thinks it's great.

The Premier has had over a year to come up with details. Will the Premier at least commit that groceries and essential goods such as children's clothing will be exempt from this carbon tax?

Hon. Mr. Silver: This is a great example of why we always have to correct the record with the Yukon Party. Four hundred days? I believe we were sworn in on December 3 — the first week of December. According to my calculations, that's not 400 days, Mr. Speaker. It's this type of analysis from the Yukon Party and it's this kind of "numbers don't matter" type of opposition that we see from the Yukon Party that begs us to complete the story — like the Manitoba story. Sure, he didn't bring up Manitoba today, but they have in the past. Also, Ontario's Tories have endorsed the federal carbon pricing in their election campaign released Saturday. It seems to me that the only party left on the planet that is against doing something for climate change is the Yukon Party.

We have already said that, on a federal basis, we have worked with the federal government to make sure that the analysis piece is baked into the agreements at 2020. We did that. That happened. Here, we are working with Yukon businesses and families. We will make sure that we will give all that money back, like we promised. We are working with our departments to figure out all of the science that needs to be figured out behind the scenes and we will give the members opposite any new progress on those when they come up. I didn't have that ready for him yesterday when he asked the same question. I don't have that ready for him today. That's all I have to say on that.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BILLS

Bill No. 11: *Act to Amend the Health Act (2017)* — Third Reading

Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 11, standing in the name of the Hon. Ms. Frost.

Hon. Ms. Frost: I move that Bill No. 11, entitled *Act to Amend the Health Act (2017)*, be now read for a third time and do pass.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Health and Social Services that Bill No. 11, entitled *Act to Amend the Health Act (2017)*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Hon. Ms. Frost: We have had a lot of debate on the act — a lot of really great feedback and comments. At this point in time, we are looking at advancing the act as amended and the considerations that we have taken —

Speaker: Order, please. I just have a comment.

I have conferred with Mr. Clerk and it is our understanding that, during debate, this act has not been amended. This is an act to amend the *Health Act*. Unless there is an MLA who wishes to refresh my memory otherwise, I think that is the situation.

So just for all further debate, it is not the act as amended. It is Bill No. 11, entitled *Act to Amend the Health Act (2017)*. Is that clear?

Minister of Health and Social Services.

Hon. Ms. Frost: My apologies. It is Bill No. 11, entitled *Act to Amend the Health Act (2017)*. Thank you for that correction.

The amendments will serve the purpose of dissolving the Health and Social Services Council and the government recognizes and appreciates the efforts and contributions of the Health and Social Services Council. As you know, the health council was established nearly three decades ago to provide an open and transparent process to review the *Health Act* and social and justice issues.

Since then, the council and its members have provided a valuable service to government, informing many initiatives; for that, we are grateful and we would like to acknowledge them for that work.

Today, our government has advanced and has other ways and means in which to engage Yukoners that did not exist previously — the Internet, by other means and, as well, our public engagement process, and new technologies have enabled us to put forward a consolidated effort to directly link with Yukoners and citizens on a vote to various media outlets and social streams, as well as face-to-face engagements. In addition to these technologies, our government has demonstrated an increased commitment to public consultation, regularly engaging with a diverse range of Yukoners through community visits and targeted consultation with First Nation governments and stakeholders.

The FASD inter-agency committee is an example of an active group made up of government and non-government service providers, along with caregivers and individuals with FASD, working toward the development of a strategic plan. The interrelated and complex nature of many Health and Social Services issues, such as FASD, requires a one-government approach to ensure that our programs and services are delivered in a seamless manner to improve the lives of Yukoners.

As per section 37 of the *Health Act*, the minister will still have the authority to establish issue-specific committees to act

in an advisory, investigative or administrative capacity. One example of a committee established under this section of the *Health Act* is the Yukon Advisory Committee on Nursing, which is in the process of being reinvigorated to take a more specific role. As a government, we are committed to being open and transparent when making decisions, balancing the needs of society and serving the broad interests. The decision to dissolve the council was made in the interest of respecting the resources of both the government and the public, while maintaining a firm commitment to be inclusive of our public responsibilities.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate this government's commitment to maintaining a people-centred approach to involving Yukoners in the conversations that will help shape the government's decision-making.

Ms. White: In speaking to the *Act to Amend the Health Act (2017)*, what it does is it removes the Health and Social Services Council. We have spoken at length, in Committee of the Whole, about our desire to not see that happen. Government had the ability to change the language so that the council could be put on hold until such a time where government or future governments would like to reinstate it. Instead, the government has chosen to remove it altogether.

As we have just been told again, government now is going to look toward surveys and Internet promotions to collect information. We believe that the Health and Social Services Council really did serve a strong purpose in the community and we will not be voting in favour of these changes.

Speaker: Is there any further debate on third reading of Bill No. 11?

Are you prepared for the question?

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. White: Disagree.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 16 yeas, one nay.
Motion for third reading of Bill No. 11 agreed to

Speaker: I declare that Bill No. 11 has passed this House.

Bill No. 6: *Public Airports Act* — Third Reading

Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 6, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Mostyn.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I move that Bill No. 6, entitled *Public Airports Act*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Highways and Public Works that Bill No. 6, entitled *Public Airports Act*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: As I have mentioned many times over the last several weeks during second reading and Committee of the Whole, the purpose of this legislation is to establish an act that is built for the aviation world and that will allow the Yukon government to properly manage and support its critical aviation infrastructure. This bill will also provide industry and Yukoners with the certainty that they will actually be informed and will have a say into the regulations that are coming with this piece of legislation.

This issue is not new. The government has been struggling with its lack of authority since the airports were devolved from the federal government way back in the 1990s. However, it is becoming more critical as airport traffic continues to increase. The patchwork legislative approach we have been using since airport —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: Member for Lake Laberge, on a point of order.

Mr. Cathers: Pursuant to Standing Order 19(c), the Minister of Highways and Public Works is persisting in needless repetition. He has already read this script many, many times this Sitting.

Speaker: Minister of Community Services, on the point of order.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: While I will agree that many of the points being raised are a common theme, I don't believe that this is a script that is being reread.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: I conferred with Mr. Clerk on this topic in the last few days and, although I don't necessarily personally agree with this interpretation, I understand that fine and long-standing parliamentary tradition is that issues raised at Question Period and speeches made at second reading and speeches made at third reading are distinct and discreet entities, and the relatively well-established parliamentary rules are that concerns raised in Standing Order 19(c) with respect to needless repetition do not necessarily apply, as these

separate areas of debate and questions are discreet compartments.

That having been said, I personally, for whatever it's worth, have certainly heard the Minister of Highways and Public Works on this topic over the course of the last two months, but I will give the Minister of Highways and Public Works some latitude to continue. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I'm a bit disheartened the members opposite have tired of my voice so soon, but I will continue in this vein and try to get my points across.

As I have mentioned, this issue is not new. The government has been struggling with this lack of authority since airports were devolved from the federal government in the mid-1990s, but legislation is becoming even more critical these days as airport traffic continues to increase. The patchwork legislative approach we have been using since airport devolution is inadequate. It doesn't work. This act brings Yukon in line with all other Canadian jurisdictions — every single one. We're the last one in Canada without any such legislation. This brings us into the fold and is a long time coming.

As I mentioned previously, we were legally required to comply with federal legislation. It is also our responsibility as a government to ensure safety at Yukon airports and this act will allow us to just that.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am going to conclude my remarks on the *Public Airports Act* and hand it over to the members opposite. I am sure they have something to say.

Mr. Kent: I am going to be brief in my remarks here today. We have been very clear in the Official Opposition — the Yukon Party — with our thoughts on this act. Of course we won't be supporting it here today at third reading.

The way the consultations were handled on this act will perhaps be a case study in political science courses across the country for years to come on how not to conduct consultations. The minister incorrectly stated the views of industry. He later went on to incorrectly state how the City of Whitehorse was consulted as well as incorrectly stating how municipalities were consulted. With what we would describe as a disaster, the minister managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory on this particular act. It all culminated in the minister being forced to pull down his news release and remove any mention of consultation altogether.

All of these troubles could have been prevented if only the minister had asked some simple questions such as: "Hey, should we consult industry?" It would have been very helpful, I think, if the minister had asked those questions and asked questions about consulting the public as well. We do hope that this particular minister and the government as a whole have learned from these mistakes.

We are pleased that the minister sent a letter to the editor on the airport improvement fee. However, during Committee of the Whole on this act, we proposed an amendment that would have further prevented the government from creating any new fees. However, that amendment was opposed by the

government. In fact, the Minister of Justice at the time got up to complain that such an amendment would prevent their government from bringing in new fees and taxes. I think that tells you everything you need to know right there, Mr. Speaker.

Also, the opposition brought forward an amendment to require a mandatory five-year review of the act. It is important to note that the language from this was copied directly from a similar amendment that the Minister of Justice had moved in this House earlier this session, so we would have hoped that the government would have had no problem supporting it. Unfortunately, they opposed it. For a government that claims it is all about collaboration and taking ideas from all sides of this House, they seem to oppose any idea that isn't theirs.

I do just want to take a moment here and thank the Third Party, and in particular the Member for Takhini-Kopper King, for their support on that particular five-year review amendment. I think that was a true sign of collaboration and wanting to work together, and I hope that the government will one day try to work with the other two parties in this House.

With that, I will close my remarks by saying that this act had the opportunity to be a simple piece of housekeeping, although it is a new act. Unfortunately, the minister chose to not consult industry. He chose not to consult the public as well. When industry raised this as an issue, he picked a fight with them in the media. This has the opportunity to be a learning moment for this government and this minister. Stop fighting with industry, start consulting properly and you can avoid this problem in the future.

Ms. White: It is always a novel experience to be represented on this side by my colleagues next to me here. We did, of course, support the amendment that was moved by the Member for Lake Laberge because the argument was sound and it seemed like it made good sense.

Mr. Speaker, we will be supporting this bill and I guess I should be looking forward to hearing this bill referenced many times in the future as "one of those moments", I take it. We will be supporting this act and we look forward to moving on to the business of the day.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I will just try to add a few notes here. As I was reviewing Hansard, looking back at this act and comparing it to the other act which is a brand new piece of legislation — the *Missing Persons Act* — I noted that this is nine pages long. I noted that the members have stood up, counting today, 143 times to speak to this legislation. That is a great number. That is 17 times per page. That is a lot of debate that we have had here on the floor. It wasn't just one amendment that was proposed; there were six amendments proposed.

The reason that the act is so short and, again, for a moment, let me compare it to the *Missing Persons Act*, which is more than twice as long and which had — I don't know — one-tenth of the debate. We spoke here in the Legislature on eight different days, counting today, and that averages out I

think to about once a week. So Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of conversation here.

If there was casework on consultation, I would choose the Whistle Bend continuing care facility. There is casework, in my mind, because we didn't have consultation. When I look at this act and I look at how it is laid out and I take a look at it, I have referred to it here as a framework — a legal framework — within which is established an industry advisory committee to talk to the minister, to work on the development of regulations and to provide ongoing feedback to the legislation. So the way the legislation is established is to put the framework into the legal side of it and to allow for the details on the regulatory side. That is why we believe that there is ongoing review of the act and that there is ongoing review and input into the regulations.

The Member for Copperbelt South says he spoke about us not wanting there to be accountability around bringing in fees. That is exactly what the industry advisory committee — which is now a requirement and a must-have through the amendment that the Minister of Highways and Public Works brought in — will provide for us. At the time, the members opposite argued to remove all this, presumably to allow us to fall back on the *Financial Administration Act*, which has no advisory committee around it and which had no consultation around it as fees were brought in.

From my perspective, I don't understand how that is better. From my perspective, that feels worse — that we would have the ability to introduce fees through the *Financial Administration Act*, which wouldn't have such oversight. So that is why I think it is important for us to support the new *Public Airports Act* today.

I'm very excited that maybe the Minister of Tourism and Culture might have an opportunity to comment. We just heard about the great Air North flight for viewing the aurora borealis. From the accounts that were presented to us, it was a great success. There are all sorts of innovative things that we would like to be doing with our airports. It's important that we have a legal and regulatory framework in place to ensure that, as we advance and grow our industry, it is done in a well-thought-out fashion, in consultation with industry and community members. I look forward to that.

Speaker: Is there any further debate on third reading of Bill No. 6?

If the member now speaks, he will close debate.

Does any other member wish to be heard at this time?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I thank the members opposite for their deep thoughts on this legislation. We have been going through these nine pages of legislation now for more than — my colleague to the right of me has outlined some of the statistics around this piece of legislation. They are just astounding. I think the time that this House has spent is in excess of 12 hours. I'm happy to do it.

My understanding of the way that the process works is now much deeper. I'm always a self-reflective kind of fellow, and I look at these things and how we can do it better.

I am very proud of the work that my department officials have done on this piece of legislation, both in the drafting and the consultation — which has been given short shrift by the members opposite. But I know how much work they put into this — how much thought and effort they put into actually getting before industry, the efforts they went to get industry input into these nine pages of law. They did an awful lot of work to secure the feedback from industry. I'm proud of the work they did.

Here we are, Mr. Speaker, at the final end of this. We are talking about case studies and consultation. I know there are lots of them. I know there is the Peel watershed consultation. That's one that we could actually reference at some point as a case study. My colleague to the right, again, has mentioned the Whistle Bend continuing care facility. That too would make a really good case study in consultation. I'm sure that, with a little bit of thought, I could go into chapter and verse on a number of different initiatives in the last five to 14 years. There would be amazing case studies. There are rich veins of case studies and consultation that researchers could plumb in the future.

I'm not going to belabour that point, Mr. Speaker. I know that this act is going to improve our airports. It's certainly going to make managing our airports a lot simpler, both for industry and the public. It will put everything under one roof — into one hangar, so to speak. We will have a place where we can park our thoughts when it comes to legislation. We won't have it all over the place, scattered like seeds in 16 different places. It will all be in one bin. That's actually a good thing for everybody. We won't have a *Financial Administration Act* where nobody can see what is going on. The industry and Yukoners will actually be able to see. There will be some transparency into what this government and future governments will plan. I know that the members opposite weren't fully in support of that process. They seem to like the old process where they could make decisions behind closed doors, but this government wants to do things in the open and wants to have industry have some advance warning about the things that are coming and to be able to talk with them openly about it.

I have been dealing with industry now for almost a year — not quite 365 days. Unlike the members opposite, it's not quite 400; it's less than 365, but I have been working with industry since I was appointed to this post in early December 2016. That work is going to continue. I respect industry and the views they have, and I look forward to our conversations going forward.

With that, I will close off and let the vote fall where it may.

Speaker: Are you prepared for the question?

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.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 10 yeas, six nays.

Speaker: The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried.
Motion for third reading of Bill No. 6 agreed to

Speaker: I declare that Bill No. 6 has passed this House.

Bill No. 12: Act to Amend the Hospital Act (2017) — Third Reading

Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 12, standing in the name of the Hon. Ms. Frost.

Hon. Ms. Frost: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 12, entitled *Act to Amend the Hospital 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. 12, entitled *Act to Amend the Hospital Act (2017)*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Hon. Ms. Frost: The proposed amendment will ensure that the board is better positioned to perform its role in an effective way. These proposed amendments have been developed in partnership with the Hospital Corporation and is an attempt at accomplishing two specific goals. The first is to increase the board's ability to make decisions in a timely manner. To achieve this, the proposed amendment reduces the size of the board from 15 to nine and the amendments allow the board to come together more efficiently, more effectively and as well, to engage in thorough debate and dialogue. While increasing board efficiencies, the proposed amendments will continue to ensure that we look at the diversity of Yukon. To accomplish this, the amendments will allow for the selection of the board based on specifics that have competencies.

I want to end by thanking all former and current board members for their contributions. Because of their contributions to our community, we have the opportunity to provide even more tools to the board and we will continue to support the Hospital Corporation in their delivery of programs and services to Yukon.

Mr. Kent: I'm going to be very brief in speaking to this. The Official Opposition Yukon Party will be supporting this bill. We particularly appreciate the inclusion of representatives on the board from Dawson City and Watson Lake where there are community hospitals.

The one disappointment that we had was that we did support the NDP's proposed amendment on the inclusion of a representative of the francophone community. However, that is not enough to cause us to not support the bill in its entirety.

We thank the minister for bringing it forward and we will be supporting this legislation here today.

Ms. White: In speaking to the changes to the *Hospital Act*, it may come as no surprise to the Chamber that we will be voting against it.

In my initial briefings with the officials, all the changes make sense. I'm not disagreeing that it should be a smaller board or that it should be built on proficiencies and competencies. I'm not disagreeing with that at all. When we received the letter, as did the other leaders of the other parties, from l'AFY talking about their conversations with government, that's when it first raised a flag for us.

During Committee of the Whole, we asked questions and we expanded the importance of the *Languages Act* — the language as protected under the Constitution of Canada. We brought forward the differences in culture and how the francophone culture is actually protected.

So as it stands, although we believe in principle to the changes, we won't be able to support the change to the act because of the exclusion of the francophone community in having one specific chair on that board.

So we look forward maybe to that being amended in the future, but as it stands right now, we will not be voting in favour to the *Act to Amend the Hospital Act (2017)*.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I would like to thank the NDP for raising their concerns. I would also like to thank the Association franco-yukonnaise — l'AFY — for bringing forward their concerns. Even before their concerns were raised here through the letter, I had a conversation with the new incoming president of l'AFY to discuss ways in which we could strive to ensure that our two official languages were represented on the board using the clauses that the minister had built in to ensure that there is diversity of representation on the board.

One small point that I wanted to try just to correct the record on is that our francophone community here in the territory, which is the third highest in the country — currently, five percent of the community is francophone. With new statistics that we just got, just around 14 percent of the territory is French-speaking. With those notes for the record, we will continue to work with l'AFY and the French community here because, as they identified, health care is one of their most pressing concerns. The Minister of Health and Social Services and I have been working to try to get more French services across health care available for the French

community. We have had some great results recently — some new investments from the government, Tel-Aide and several other initiatives. We will continue to do that work and to work with l'AFY.

Speaker: Is there any further debate at third reading?
Motion for third reading of Bill No. 12 agreed to

Speaker: I declare that Bill No. 12 has passed this House.

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chair (Mr. Hutton): Order, please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

The matter before the Committee is general debate on Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture in Bill No. 203, entitled *Second 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. 203: *Second Appropriation Act 2017-18* — continued

Chair: The matter before the Committee is general debate on Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture and Bill No. 203, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2017-18*.

Department of Tourism and Culture

Hon. Ms. Dendys: As Minister of Tourism and Culture, it is my pleasure to introduce the *Supplementary Estimates No. 1* for the 2017-18 fiscal year. I would like to welcome Jonathan Parker, who is acting on behalf of the deputy minister today to the House. He will be assisting me.

The Department of Tourism and Culture works to support, protect, promote and enhance Yukon's tourism, culture, heritage and art sectors for the benefit of Yukoners and visitors. In all aspects of its mission, the department has made great strides in building on the work of previous years. I am pleased to say that there is no increase to the department's operation and maintenance budget at this time.

For the capital budget, a net total of \$775,000 is requested, with the breakdown as follows. The department is requesting an increase of \$785,000 in continuation of the capital funding to complete the Yukon Archives vault expansion project. This is not a new funding request. Last year, the Yukon Archives vault expansion project did not use its entire budget as there were delays connecting the HVAC system in the old building to the HVAC system in the new building. This year, we are using last year's unspent budget to complete the project. At the same time, we are returning funds amounting to \$10,000 to the Information and Communications Technology branch at the Department of Highways and Public Works. This funding was allocated for the development of an access and dissemination system for digital archival records. The project will instead take place in 2018-19.

The new vault at the Yukon Archives is a major expansion project that is now complete. It has been a successful and close collaboration with the Property Management division within the Department of Highways and Public Works and the Department of Tourism and Culture. I am happy to report to the House that we received occupancy in the week of October 24, and again I would like to thank the staff of Tourism and Culture, Highways and Public Works and all who contributed to the successful completion of this project. The official opening is scheduled for December 11 during the 45th anniversary of Yukon Archives event. I invite all members of the House to join us in that celebration and to have a really good, close look at the new facility. The Archives facility was originally built in 1990 and designed for a 20-year growth horizon; therefore, this project is much needed. The expansion will provide safe, secure storage for our invaluable records in order to support the preservation of Yukon's unique documentary heritage for years to come.

Improvements include: increased storage for paper records; a separate frozen storage environment for materials such as photographs and films; and a separate vault for digital records. Yukon Archives receives record donations from individuals, families, businesses and organizations as well as transfers of government records from departments. I encourage all Yukoners to consider donating their archival records to the Yukon Archives where they will be preserved and made available to researchers. We all contribute to Yukon's history through our photos, films and documents. We can share our stories with future generations.

Again, I would like to express my thanks to the staff of Yukon Archives for their tremendous work on this project, and to the staff and the public for their patience during the period of this major construction. I look forward to questions.

Ms. Van Bibber: I have just a few questions going back to the debate we had the other day on winter tourism. There are 12 sections in the Department of Tourism and Culture and, of course, we always seem to focus on the summer tourism section, mostly because it impacts most people over a short period of time — May to September. We all know that this is a much-needed cash infusion into our economy for that, but it impacts a few businesses.

As a year-round destination, there is still much to be done. The aurora viewing that happened just this past weekend — I would like to say kudos to Air North and the Yukon Astronomical Society as well as the Government of Yukon on such a successful inaugural event to fly with the northern lights — how exciting. I know the ball is in Air North's court as to whether it is going to be repeated, but can the minister and the Tourism and Culture department continue working with them to ensure that this might become an annual event?

Hon. Ms. Dendys: It was a phenomenal event, and, of course, we were thrilled to partner with Air North and the Yukon Astronomical Society. When the idea was floated to us, we were like, "Yes, this is exactly what we need to have — an authentic northern experience." It was such a pleasure for me and exciting to be able to be on that flight with all of our visitors from around the world. We had seven countries represented with journalists, so it is well-documented. For sure we will be having discussions with Air North and all of our partners around the continuation of this.

What was really interesting is that, when I gave my opening comments at the reception, we talked about this being the first North American flight of this type. There have been two others — one in New Zealand and one in the UK. This flight was the first flight of its type to actually see the northern lights, so it was an amazing experience and a one-of-a-kind, authentic experience, which is certainly what we want to promote as we go forward with increasing winter tourism in the Yukon and building out our shoulder seasons.

Thank you for the question. It was quite an exciting event.

Ms. Van Bibber: The other question that I mentioned the other day was about the Dome Road, and the member said that, perhaps working with Highways and Public Works, this would augment Dawson's tourism. If we can maybe make a commitment to work on that particular initiative, I think it would be well-received.

The previous Government of Yukon had been working on the idea of converting part of the former library in the main administration building as a home for the Yukon permanent art collection, which would include an area for public viewing.

Is this something that the Liberal government would consider to find a home for the permanent art collection?

Hon. Ms. Dendys: First I will just speak to the Dome Road. The Minister of Highways and Public Works has committed to investigating the feasibility of keeping the Dome Road open all winter. We did meet with the Klondike Visitors Association, as I had stated last week during Question Period.

There are issues that need to be resolved before the final decision — as we determine to move forward on this. There are a couple of issues that came up that we are looking at right now. Some of them include a bit of engagement with local residents — there seem to be a few issues there — and then looking at potentially some issues around the engineering of the road. We're looking into those. We met with the Klondike Visitors Association during the spring and committed to

looking into these. A couple of other issues came up since then, so we will continue to work on that collaboratively. Again, we're very committed to winter tourism. It is such a great opportunity to view the northern lights from that particular spot within Dawson.

In terms of the Yukon permanent art collection — the Yukon permanent art collection was created in 1981, as the member opposite knows, with the goal of acquiring a collection that would represent the Yukon. We now have over 400 pieces of art in that collection. We're certainly looking at a number of options to consider displaying it and having more access for the public. There are a few options that we are looking at now.

I know that the member opposite did bring forward a motion, and we were preparing to debate this at one point and that didn't happen. There are a lot of options that are being looked at right now around that space — the old library — but there are other options that we're looking at around permanent art collection storage.

As soon as we have more information about that, I will be happy to share it with the member opposite.

Ms. Van Bibber: That was the idea; there are other options as well. I'm not sure where the art collection is currently housed; however, I'm sure some of the pieces need care due to their age and fragility. A space, I think, would be needed to be equipped to handle and keep the art in excellent condition.

I know that Yukoners could enjoy this collection a little more, as opposed to it being in public government buildings. There is a fund so that the Friends of the Yukon permanent art collection can buy pieces and add to the collection each year. I was wondering if the fund is fully used each year or if it is underutilized, or do they need more funds.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: I will just go back to where the permanent art collection is currently stored. It is stored at the Yukon Arts Centre, but it has certainly exceeded the space that they have there. It is not accessible to the public in the space that we currently have to store the pieces. We have switched them out into different venues. There are a number of exhibits that are happening right now. We have partnered with the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. There is an exhibit that will be there until March. We have exhibits that we change out here in the foyer of the Legislature building, and we are looking at other options as well of expanding partnerships with other centres to display the permanent art collection. We have some innovative ideas that we are looking at right now that will bring greater access to the collection.

The Friends of the Yukon permanent art collection do tremendous work every year, and we do spend the full amount every year. We actually increased it, I believe, by \$5,000 last year. That was the first increase we have seen with that fund for many years. There have been times where pieces have come to us with an option to purchase and we have found extra funds. I know that happened last year when a couple of pieces of art were purchased over and above the fund that is available to the Friends of the permanent art collection. It is certainly a very important program that documents the history

of the Yukon through art and expression and is one that is really important to me, as the Minister of Tourism and Culture.

Ms. Van Bibber: Yes, I do know that the price of art does go up. One of the sections that I was speaking about is headed "Created in the Yukon", and I think this is a great initiative as we have all bought things from craft fairs and they get stuffed into a little bag that says that it was made in Yukon and showcases local products. You can order 10 cards, bookmarks, price tags, stickers, and paper and plastic bags through the department. Can the minister tell me how much this program costs, and is there a cost to the vendor to receive these products to use?

Hon. Ms. Dendys: There is actually no cost to the vendors for those stickers and markers. There is no cost, but we will have to get back to the member opposite on the exact cost to the department. I don't have that detail with me right now.

As a side note, the visitor centre does a really great promotion of Yukon artists. There is a Christmas tree set up in the foyer of the visitor centre across the street that showcases all of our many Yukon artists' work as well, so we are moving toward having more of our artists' work in the visitor centres. You can certainly see — through the craft fairs that are now starting and have been going on for a week or two — the made-in-Yukon branding, and that is really important to us — a program that we will continue to support.

Ms. Van Bibber: Yes, it does make an impact.

The Yukon historic properties assistance program provides Yukoners with the ability to preserve, restore, develop or interpret private properties throughout Yukon. I know there are parameters, costing and the expense eligibility, and there is a whole list of do's and don'ts.

Can the minister tell us what the uptake is on this program?

Hon. Ms. Dendys: We are just trying to locate the exact number. Maybe we will go on to the next question. I can tell you that the Yukon historic properties assistance program is fully subscribed to each year, so it is a well-accessed program, but we will endeavour to find out the exact amount of our contribution to Yukoners through this program as we go through the questioning, and I will come back to it.

Ms. Van Bibber: Once that number is found and the results are proven good for Yukoners, if they can access money to update their private property — but using public money, can the public access these properties as heritage facilities or are there parameters around that as well?

Hon. Ms. Dendys: This particular program is focused at private homeowners, so these are essentially private properties. However, on an annual basis, we have a program called Doors Open and it's an opportunity for the public to visit historic sites that are privately owned, so it's kind of a planned and collaborative approach to bring greater access to the public for those properties and really, again, is a really strong partnership between our heritage branch and private homeowners and the public to promote preservation of these sites.

Ms. Van Bibber: I haven't heard about Doors Open so I will have to keep an eye out for it.

Several other areas caught my eye and, of course, there are museums. We put a lot of input, care and money into these facilities. The programming at these museums is usually very well done thanks to the museum directors, staff and volunteers. I know with the local MacBride Museum and the Dawson museum, which I am more familiar with, the flow of information and displays usually are turned over to be current and interesting. I was wondering if there was additional support for displays changing so that interest is maintained for locals and visitors alike.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Thank you for the question. Yes, the museums funding program — actually, we provide funding to 19 different museums and cultural centres.

The funding can be used for exhibits and to refresh them. We do have a couple of major projects going on right now. We do have MacBride Museum underway with the expansion. The Dawson City museum is in the process right now of developing a plan for a major exhibit renovation that will include exhibit fabrication and installation along with the renovations taking place in 2019-20 and 2020-21. There's a tremendous amount of work that individual museums are undertaking throughout Yukon to refresh and be responsive to what our visitors are looking for and also us, as Yukoners, in sharing our history.

I have the answer back about the historic property program. It's \$100,000 per year and it's done through matching funds. It's not 100-percent funded, so if individuals are accessing those funds, they must match them.

Ms. Van Bibber: The department with archaeology and palaeontology holds great interest to many around the world. It tells our story of our far and our near past as things continue to be discovered and the minister hands out awards for great discoveries that we've found in our backyards. Much of our history in that area in the goldfields is well known. As part of Dawson City champions to become a world heritage site, many more eyes are going to start drifting north.

Can the minister tell us what priorities are planned by the department for helping Tr'ondëk reach their world heritage status and — kind of out of your bailiwick, I guess — making the miners understand that this might be a good thing to have a world heritage site in Yukon?

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Thank you for the question. It's a good question around UNESCO. It's an important project that's underway right now. The Tr'ondëk Klondike UNESCO nomination, as you know, was submitted and accepted by the World Heritage Centre in Paris in March 2017. There has been a lot of work done — even from March to now — in terms of working with the community. An additional evaluation has proceeded this year to determine if this nomination site will be inscribed on the world heritage list for its cultural heritage value.

It will certainly bring worldwide recognition of the Tr'ondëk Klondike designation as a positive for the Yukon, instilling a deep and strong sense of community pride while providing for continued community use, protection and

appreciation of the site. It absolutely will enrich the existing tourism opportunities through recognition and understanding of the educational and cultural values represented in the Tr'ondëk Klondike, and also the whole political story of how we got to where we are today. It is also a fantastic way of telling the story of self-governance and how we have evolved to where we are today. It has such a huge strength and value to the whole Yukon. It really showcases our ability to work together as our landscapes change and as our relationships change. You have probably heard me say it before, but it is absolutely living the vision of the elders. This is one of the areas of keen interest to me. Our staff is working very hard on the committee and working with all of our partners to ensure that we are all on the same page.

There has been miscommunication around this whole aspiration to become inscribed on the world heritage list. On May 3, 2017, our Premier, the Hon. Sandy Silver, along with Chief Roberta Joseph of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Mayor Potoroka of the City of Dawson sent a letter to all of the interested parties — all of the placer miners — to talk to them about our commitment to ensure that their interests will be addressed. I have a copy of the letter if the member is interested. I can table that to go over all of the points that were covered.

I think that all parties are contributing to the Tr'ondëk Klondike management plan, which will align with all partners in managing the UNESCO site — optimizing its benefits. If it is successful, we have already started discussions around specific marketing plans that the Klondike Visitors Association will undertake along with other partners. We are continuing to work — my staff were just at a meeting on Thursday with the committee and representatives from UNESCO around where things are at. I have not yet received a full briefing on that. Thank you very much for the question.

Ms. Van Bibber: I had mentioned Fort Selkirk the other day and the riverbank, but now I am on to something else. As you know, Fort Selkirk is at the confluence of the Yukon and Pelly rivers.

Maybe about 1,000 people or fewer get to see that site in any given year because it is difficult to get to and access by boat or small plane. There has been an agreement between Selkirk First Nation and the department for many, many years to ensure that the site is preserved and catalogued and that the story is correct. I am very lucky and I get there many times in the summer, but I was looking at some of the tourism and information handbooks on the area and Fort Selkirk, and much of the information is really dated. Not that the story has changed — I just wondered if we could get a new look, and perhaps the minister could look at it in the next few years to make sure that it keeps up with the times and makes Fort Selkirk a good and interesting place to visit. Could I get a commitment on updated information, perhaps?

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Thank you for the question. Yes, Fort Selkirk is a very rich historic site and one that we have certainly invested in over the years. We value our partnership with the Selkirk First Nation and it is a very successful relationship. I know that our staff, along with representatives

of the Selkirk First Nation, have worked very well together. It is such a pleasure to step into the role as minister and see that these relationships have been well nurtured over the years. That is something that will certainly continue into the future.

I had tabled earlier information around the erosion, but it also spoke to some of what the member is further asking about today. We are right now in the process of moving toward digital content. The *travelyukon.com* website is a much more interactive website where folks can actually upload and share pictures and exchange ideas, so there is that element. I know you are asking specifically about the books, the hard copy and those publications, and I certainly will commit today to look into that and see if we can move forward on refreshing that — as we are refreshing and moving toward modern ways of sharing the rich value of those sites.

July 3 is a Parks Day and we invite the public. We're providing boat trips from Minto so public that may not be able to get there — you're saying that you have many opportunities to go and you're right, there are lots of Yukoners and visitors who do not always have access — so that is one opportunity that is planned for July of next year. That's a really great opportunity and, again, I will absolutely commit to looking at ways forward on the hard copy documentation that we have.

Ms. Van Bibber: In the interest of time, I have many more questions that I would love to ask, but tourism, being as it is — and I did have an opportunity prior — I would like to thank the departmental staff member for being here and assisting us today. I will turn the floor over.

Ms. White: I thank the minister, of course, and the official who is stepping in today. I actually have quite a few questions for tourism, but I have a very large interest in getting to Community Services, so I will be sending them in written form.

I thank the minister for her time in the House and for the exchange, and I look forward to a fruitful tourism sector into the future as it has been one that the economy has definitely leaned on in the past.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Thank you for the questions today and for the exchange. Thank you to our official, Jonathan, for stepping in.

Chair: Is there any further general debate on Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture? Seeing none, we will proceed to line-by-line debate starting at page 9-4.

Ms. White: 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. White 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 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 now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 51, Department of Community Services.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: Committee of the Whole will recess for 10 minutes.

Recess

Chair (Mr. Hutton): Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

Department of Community Services — continued

Chair: The matter before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 51, Department of Community Services, in Bill No. 203, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2017-18*.

Mr. Streicker, you have eight minutes and 19 seconds.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't think I will use eight minutes and I hope I'm not overly repetitive.

I will just first of all welcome Deputy Minister Paul Moore, and our director of finance, Sarah Lewis. It is always a pleasure to have them here in the Legislature to work with us today.

The one reason that we are here with the Department of Community Services on the supplementary budget is that we are seeking an extra \$3.8 million in our O&M expenditures. This is basically supplementing our O&M and capital budget. Including that supplement, it would then be \$163,409,000. The increase is due to an active fire season, especially in the north of the territory — in and around Mayo, Dawson and Old Crow — and the crews were working hard. The overall budget then would come up to \$10.4 million for Wildland Fire Management, which is right in line with the five-year average of \$10.5 million.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will sit back down and look forward to questions from the opposition parties and to responding.

Mr. Kent: I am going to split the remaining time today with the Member for Takhini-Kopper King, so I will be up for half an hour here, asking a few questions. I would also like to welcome the officials back to the Chamber here today. I thank them for providing assistance to the minister.

The first item I wanted to touch on was one that we left off on the last time Community Services was here, and that is with respect to the *Designated Materials Regulation*. I am just hoping that the minister can confirm for the House that the consultation he extended will now close on February 1. Then, if he does have an implementation date beyond that, could he share that with us?

Specifically, I am just curious as to how many businesses have reached out to the minister since he extended the consultation. I know that I have personally forwarded some of the e-mails I have received to the minister. Have there been any meetings held with industry organizations like the Chamber of Commerce or TechYukon? If so, when were those meetings held?

The final question on that is: Will there be a “what we heard” document produced from these consultations after the February 1 closing date, and before implementation, so that Yukoners — and particularly those companies that are affected — can ensure that their voice and comments were considered when it comes to the development of these regulations?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: First of all, to confirm that the public input or engagement has been extended to February 1. At this point, we don’t have a date at which we can anticipate implementation. The reason is that you have to wait and see what comes out of that engagement. Part of that engagement, again, will be asking about timelines for implementation.

What we do know is that the regulations themselves require 60 days’ notice, but the minimum we can do is 90 days. The reason is because of making sure we’re plugging the holes for online purchasing so that we ensure it’s a level playing field for the retail industry here, whether that is tires or electronics.

Another one of the questions that the Member for Copperbelt South was asking about was if we have met with — I have spoken with both chambers, but I wouldn’t call them full meetings, as of yet. We did meet with TechYukon. It was in the week when questions were being raised here in the Legislature. I think the date was November 8. We sat down with — I think it was — four or five members of TechYukon and had a good initial conversation with them.

The member opposite asked whether we would produce a “what we heard” document; the answer is yes. We do want to ensure that those people who come forward — and I should note that, when we extended the engagement period, while we anticipate that we’ll hear a lot from industry, we’re not exclusively talking to industry. If community members or municipalities or NGOs wish to come forward as well, we’re happy to engage with them as well.

I wouldn’t be able to answer specifically how many retailers or industry folks have reached out to me personally already, but it is a good handful. I wouldn’t be the only point of contact. They could be coming through the Minister of Environment’s contact information and they could be coming through the department’s, so we are collecting all of those and preparing some responses to some of the early questions. I’m sure that, by the time we get to the end of it on February 1,

we’ll have some numbers about how many folks provided input.

Mr. Kent: I thank the minister for that response as well.

During last year’s election campaign, there was a Liberal campaign commitment made around red-tape reduction. I am just going to read in a few of the points that were in that campaign about the regulatory environment and reducing red tape. The first one was: to “collaborate with businesses to identify barriers to competitiveness and modernize the existing regulatory environment”. The second commitment was: to “reduce red tape and regulatory burdens for small business while maintaining standards for business operations”. The third point was: to “reduce red tape for Yukoners accessing services and enhance the availability of services online”. Finally: to “expand opportunities to introduce/provide more eHealth, eJustice, eEducation and e-Commerce services to Yukon’s communities”.

I am curious as to what role Community Services will have in this red-tape reduction initiative. Will they be the lead or will they be providing support to another department? If the minister can give us an update on what has been done, that would also be helpful. What has been completed so far to help accomplish these commitments that the Liberals made during last year’s election campaign?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I will just read out from my mandate letter. There is a line here that I am directed to work with the Minister of Economic Development to identify and work to remove regulatory and service impediments to competitiveness.

There will be different aspects of this, but I think the Minister of Economic Development is more squarely the lead on this, although we are happy to be working together and happy to take different aspects of this challenge underway. I know, for example, that the Minister of Economic Development met last week with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business — CFIB — and committed to work with them to develop a strategy around reducing red tape and any impediments to business here in the territory.

There are pieces of this that the member opposite asked about — online aspects or electronic aspects that we are working on. I can note that one of the things that we accomplished over the past year was that the Yukon corporate online registry developed its first phase of online systems for our business community. That is a good first step and we are anticipating more steps coming up around the online registry. I think that, as we work on the *Societies Act*, we are looking for ways in which to make their systems more online-friendly. There are a variety of ways in which we are working to improve this. I think that the lens that we in the department take is always with this notion of communities, whether that is virtual communities or physical communities — just how to help with the registration and regulatory regime around our businesses, NGOs and societies so that they are able to do the great work that they want to do and not have to spend a lot of time dealing with the administration aspects and that we can make sure that everybody is up to date and efficient.

Mr. Kent: I know the Minister of Economic Development doesn't have support staff here, but if he could commit to get back to us then with a letter on what the plan is to reduce red tape and what they've identified as some of the regulatory burdens for small businesses, that would be helpful if that minister could get back to us with a letter on that.

Then perhaps the Minister of Community Services would get an opportunity as well to expand on what they're looking at on the e-health, e-justice, e-education and e-commerce services to Yukon communities. I thank him for referencing the one improvement that they have made, but we would be interested in some more information around this specific platform commitment that the Liberals made last fall.

I want to move on to a couple of other issues. I will just roll both of these into one question. The first one is with respect to civic addressing for rural Yukon. Can the minister give us an idea of how much more work they have to do with respect to civic addressing, and then, if there is a list of meetings and dates that he could provide with respect to that particular issue, that would be helpful.

The other one is about building inspections. Most MLAs in our office have heard concerns from many Yukoners with respect to building inspections and how they're conducted and some consistency issues as well, so I'm wondering if the minister can give us any sense if there are any plans to review that process — if there are any review plans for building inspections and what that would entail.

So the first one is about civic addressing for rural Yukon, and the second question was with respect to building inspections.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Just to follow up with the earlier requests for information, I know that, working with the Minister of Economic Development, when that strategy that has begun with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business — is complete, we will be happy to share it.

I want to be a little bit careful, because some of the questions — it was as though it was Economic Development and Community Services, but some of them as well would deal with Health and Social Services and so the Minister of Health and Social Services. I think we do our best to try to share information and requests for information as we can. I know that, leading up to this last day of this Sitting, I took a look back over the legislative returns and, noting today that there were another handful of returns that came in, I believe there are now over 100 legislative returns that we have provided this spring and fall session. That's a very significant number and much higher than has been in past, and we'll continue to do so.

With respect to civic addressing, civic addressing and street signs have gone into the local advisory areas, including Mount Lorne, Ibex Valley, Tagish, Carcross and Marsh Lake. Carcross is called the South Klondike local advisory area.

I know that there have been some recent meetings regarding the Mayo Road. I know it is work that is ongoing. I will try to check back with the department if there is more information about timing for some of those meetings.

On the last question that was posed about building inspections, I have just a little bit of information. In 2016, the unit completed over 5,300 inspections, and that included 940-plus building inspections, 2,800 electrical, over 200 plumbing inspections, 460 oil-heating inspections, 120-plus boiler inspections, 75-plus elevator inspections — and we heard a motion from the Member for Takhini-Kopper King today about our elevator code — and over 680 gas inspections.

There are a lot of inspections that go on year over year. There are always some concerns. In a branch that active, there are always some issues. I believe that we always strive for continuous improvement within our branches. We recently discussed Wildland Fire Management, for example, and the department had identified some areas for improvement in recent years — and did so. That said, I don't know of any sort of formal or large attempt to review the whole of the branch. Maybe the member opposite has some specific questions, and I can do my best to try to respond to those.

Mr. Kent: Perhaps it would be better just to follow up with the minister outside of the House on those specifics. I don't want to mention specific cases but sometimes it's hard to do that without mentioning those specific cases, so I'll follow up with the minister, either by letter, or we can follow up outside the House on some of the concerns that we have heard from various businesses and individuals with respect to what's happening there.

I only have one more question for the minister before I turn it over to the Member for Takhini-Kopper King, and that's with respect to the impact that the carbon tax will have on municipalities. We had heard at a meeting of AYC that the minister suggested to individuals who were in attendance there that the municipalities would not be getting a rebate or would not be exempted from the carbon tax, but I think it was last week in Question Period that the Premier suggested that those discussions were still ongoing with municipalities on how the carbon tax would impact them.

I'm looking for a little bit of clarification from the minister on what exactly transpired at that AYC meeting and exactly what was said, because there seems to be a little bit of confusion out there with respect to what the government's position is regarding the carbon tax and municipalities.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I appreciate the opportunity to stand up and to try to clarify a bit. I'm going to blur on the date of that meeting — I think the Association of Yukon Communities meeting was maybe September 23. There were several topics that came up that day in conversation with the Association of Yukon Communities and with all the municipalities having representatives there. There were questions about carbon pricing and it was a healthy conversation. One of the things that came up at that point was that the municipalities were asking about rebates. My initial statement to them was that we had made a public commitment to rebating the money to Yukon individuals and Yukon businesses.

I had said that we had no anticipation of bringing the money in to grow programs or services of the Yukon government — that was a platform commitment. In my first

comments to the Association of Yukon Communities there at that meeting I said that we hadn't anticipated rebating governments. Then when the members of municipalities around the table began to express concerns about that, I suggested at that point that they continue to follow up with us as a government to express their interest in being rebated. I took that conversation to the Premier and I alerted him to that interest and that we should anticipate some letters from municipalities and other governments — First Nation governments for example. What the Premier did at that point was to reach out to the Department of Finance to pose a question to the federal government to try to understand whether there would be any issues with rebating other orders of government. So that question is now posed and we are awaiting a response.

I met again this morning with the Association of Yukon Communities president and executive director. We had this item on our agenda, but we didn't have time to get to it, so I didn't have a chance to follow up to see where things were at from AYC's perspective in the interim.

So it is a question being explored. I have had several meetings with municipalities as I and other colleagues continue to do — go to our communities and meet with municipal governments and First Nation governments to discuss a suite of issues. It has come up a couple of times. Some of those letters that I suggested we would welcome to receive, have been received, and so I don't have a response as of yet.

The other thing that I will say though is that when I talked to communities about that, I said to them that regardless of what we hear from the federal government — whether there is an issue of rebating that direction or not and it is my hope that we won't have a problem — we have a sense of what portion of the pie belongs to municipal and First Nation governments.

We have a sense of what kind of dollar value we're talking about and we also have a sense of what kind of investments we're going to be putting into communities around green infrastructure and the ability to help all communities to reduce their fossil fuel dependency.

What I can say is that the dollars we're talking about in terms of a carbon price will be less than the investment that we intend to make into our communities through, for example, the green infrastructure fund or other elements of the investing in Canada infrastructure plan. We hope that's a strong offset and, as soon as we get some definitive word back, we're happy to share that information with municipalities and First Nation governments, as well as with members opposite.

Ms. White: I thank my colleague from Copperbelt South for so happily agreeing to share the time today. That's really important. I'm going to jump right in. Of course, I thank the officials.

There was a press release about a midwifery committee being struck. My question is — we've been talking about access to midwives in the territory for a long time. There have been numerous reports and there have been other committees struck at different times. What is the timeline to have this committee report, and then what is the hopeful timeline — I

don't expect a timeline, because that would be hard to answer, but what's the hopeful timeline when midwives would be able to practise to their full scope in the territory?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: The hopeful timeline — and I want to be a little bit careful. Let me start off with this: In the throne speech that was delivered here by the Commissioner, it was stated — and it is our goal — to have regulated and funded midwifery by 2018. I would have to check back on the language specifically for the Member for Takhini-Kopper King, but I believe it said for the fall of 2018. That is the hopeful goal.

The one thing I want to put in there — because she also used the phrase “full scope of practice”, I think. I anticipate that the work we're doing now, even though it is just regulations — it is a big deal. There's a lot of work that has to take place in trying to coordinate with, for example, the hospitals, the other medical professionals, Health and Social Services broadly, but also us as regulators. We have some great examples, but there is a lot of work to take place, so it may be that some of the recommendations that come out of the advisory committee are that there is a developmental plan — like, we put the regulations in place but they might look to see how this will expand in time.

I am not certain yet what will come, so I just want to be a little bit careful about that. What I can say about the advisory committee is that I have heard from some of the people who are involved and, from time to time, they will give me a sense of how it is going. I understand that they began their meetings last month. I think they have had a handful of meetings — maybe it is four already so far — and I think their intention is to work together until spring, at which time we would take some of that information and start to pull together some drafts, which would then go out for a more public round of engagement. At a very high level, the timeline is to try to see some results from that committee by springtime and to try to get fully funded and regulated midwifery in place in 2018.

Ms. White: I am hopeful to see that come to fruition.

Libraries — we have talked about libraries. We have done tributes to the importance of libraries as community spaces, and it is fascinating to know that libraries are one of the only free and accessible locales in communities. The fact is that if it is minus 45, minus 25 or minus 15 degrees, you can go to a library and spend the day in a library. You have access to reading materials, computers and it is a pleasant place to go. Libraries are incredibly important — the physical structure of libraries is important.

I want to know what the differences are between the Whitehorse library and community libraries. How are they set up differently as far as staff? What are the differences between the Whitehorse library and the community libraries?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: First of all, I will acknowledge that there are 15 public libraries located throughout the Yukon. There are differences between the Whitehorse library and other community libraries, although I would have to check to make sure. I will check with the department, but I suspect that all community libraries outside of Whitehorse are different. It might be that some of them are in line with the

Whitehorse Public Library. The Whitehorse Public Library is staffed by Yukon government employees. The other libraries are run by local boards, and we have funding agreements with those local boards. They choose, based on the funding that is there, what hours of service and what remuneration to provide for the staff that they hire. It is at their discretion. There are a few things that would be governing that through the *Public Libraries Act* about what sorts of services they need to try to provide, but in meeting with libraries around the territory, I can tell you that people in the communities are fierce champions of these services, so not just the books, but as the member opposite has noted, the ability for a community space for people to congregate and to access information.

That's the main difference and I will look forward to further questions if the member opposite would like to get more detail.

Ms. White: In conversations with some community libraries, it was highlighted that the wages that community libraries were able to offer employees were substantially lower than that of the City of Whitehorse. Specifically is that the AR06 level — so that would be the Whitehorse library assistants. That requires a two-year diploma. There were communities that were looking for similar staff but were unable to have the same level of pay because the applications had to be put in and they had to be approved. It's important to note that some of the programming is only able to be offered if they're able to fundraise within the community enough to be able to pay for that. Some examples would be — they were very specific — that Minecraft membership fees and a puppet theatre, for example, had to be fundraised in one specific community.

I wanted to know if the ministers had conversations with the community libraries about their funding and about whether or not they are able to afford staff, because when you open the website and you look at the hours, there are a lot of hours. I don't actually believe that it should be fully run by volunteers. Those are community buildings that should have paid staff because that would be helpful in the community. The last time I was in Beaver Creek, for example, the library had been moved into the community hall space because the library itself was no longer a space that could be used. I was just wanted to know if the minister has had those conversations with community libraries about funding and the ability to staff.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Yes, I have had some of those conversations, but I have not talked with all libraries as of yet. I am happy to talk with all libraries but it just hasn't happened as of yet.

I also have some experience having been the first person in my own community to start the Marsh Lake Little Library. I think it was 11-and-a-half years ago. We as a community decided not to join the territorial library system. We chose to try to fund ours all with — I won't say "volunteer hours", but to do it within our own funding models.

The rub here comes down — and noting that I have not made it to all community libraries so I may need to stand corrected — but it's not that there isn't enough money, for example, to pay at the equivalent level of an AR06; there is

not enough money to pay at an AR06 for the hours that the library wishes to pay staff. The library can make the choice to pay at that level by reducing the number of hours. That's the hard choice that all communities face.

This is true, and I will state the experience of my own library. We chose to stretch the dollars as far as they possibly can go by trying to provide as much service to the community as we can. That is the hard situation, and if there is, for example, a desire — often what happens with the boards is that they are given an amount of money and then they take the choice at what level to compensate against the hours that they can remain open, and that is what drives it. I wouldn't say that they are not able to do it, but I would say that they are not able to do it for the amount of hours that they wish to do it.

Ms. White: Just in reflection to that answer, then it would appear that those of us in Whitehorse are entitled to a full-time library operated by people who are earning a wage reflective of the work they do, but what the minister is saying is that the communities do not deserve the same level of service. Can he just expand on his previous answer please?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I am very happy to. If, by "full-time", we mean 24/7 — no we don't have a library here 24/7. What we have here in Whitehorse — and I would have to check on the hours during the week. Am I expecting that every community has a library that is open for the same number of hours as the Whitehorse library? No, I do not expect that.

On the other hand, earlier, when there was the story about Beaver Creek — and I appreciate the challenges — when I go and talk to communities about their infrastructure — including about libraries, but not exclusively about libraries — what I try to do is encourage them as much as possible to co-locate facilities because, if they do so, then their dollars can go further. Another thing that happens is that sometimes we require a critical mass in our communities. If we build a lot of infrastructure and we don't get people out to each thing, each piece of infrastructure — for example, if we are talking about a pool, a soccer field and a baseball diamond. But if people don't all get there, then we don't make good use of that. I am not worried as much about the dollars that I am talking about — what I am talking about is the ability for that community to have the critical mass in order to have great turnout at events and to create that community spirit.

I think about these things because, within my own community — which might be the next largest community after Haines Junction — we still had those very same issues. If we put a rink on the lake at the same time as we were trying to get our own outdoor rink with boards flooded, then what we saw was that we got half the people at each one. With libraries, one of the issues is that if we are creating buildings, we really want to make sure that those buildings are co-located with other things. That way, you can take advantage of maybe having a library open when you have an afternoon tea on or something. There are ways in which we can get those advantages.

But, if what we are talking about here — and I am trying to answer the member opposite's question directly — is: Do I

believe that all libraries and all of our communities should be open for the same number of hours? My answer is no, but the discretion of the number of hours is based on the dollars that come to that community, which are based on — I think it's a sliding per-capita scale so that our smallest communities would get more per capita, but there's still less than, say, the community of Whitehorse. As a result, they will take a decision of how many hours to open and at what levels of compensation.

Ms. White: The benefit of having access to high-speed Internet in the Chamber is that I can tell you that the Whitehorse Public Library is open from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and it's open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. from Friday to Sunday.

It's not that I'm saying that they should be comparable; I'm just saying that, as a free space in a territory where poverty is an issue, I believe there should be access. Both of us had tributes, Mr. Chair, that talked about the importance of libraries and access to libraries by citizens. I have had a library card in four different countries because, when I travelled, I didn't have a lot of money. By that, I mean I had next to no money. So being able to access a library was the ability to access the Internet long before smartphones and tablets. It was the ability to actually be able to read books and to access books and lending books.

I believe that libraries are important, and I think that there are two jurisdictions in the Yukon, outside of Whitehorse, that would be considered full-time, and I believe that would be Dawson City and Watson Lake. Dawson City is obviously shared with the school and Watson Lake is not. It's just that ability to take a look. Is there more that we can do as government to support libraries?

Mr. Chair, I believe they are fundamentally important. I know the minister feels the same way. Libraries — I'm going to put the pitch out there for funding libraries in communities so that the people working can also benefit from that.

For a lot of years, we had questions about the waste-water treatment plant in Dawson City. I thought I would just follow suit and ask about the waste-water treatment facility in Dawson City. Where do we stand right now? What are the proposed changes going to be? When can we see that happen?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I know the member opposite is a champion for libraries, and I appreciate that, as a fellow champion of libraries. I have travelled much in my life and have also had the pleasure of taking advantage of libraries everywhere.

We do seek to support our libraries. Just last week, I think, I bumped into our director of libraries. She was at a craft fair as one of the artists. She mentioned that there were recent meetings of librarians from across the territory, where we were working with them here, kind of at a workshop, to help build their capacity.

I know there are other ways in which we are trying to support our libraries with pieces of infrastructure and supporting infrastructure — so there are ways that we want to go.

Again, I thank the member opposite for her efforts around libraries and how they become important access points for all citizens to try to provide them with more services.

I notice that the member opposite referred to the Dawson waste-water treatment facility. I think of that as an acronym — the WTF. I will say that it is an ongoing issue and so, an update: As a government, we took over the operations of that facility within the last year, so we do not have one year under our belts yet and some of our assessments about costs are ongoing. There were some issues remaining and outstanding. We continue to work with the company that did the building of the facility to try to correct some of those issues. What I will say is that we are not done. There is ongoing work and I am hopeful that sometime later this summer we will have some more information about the facility and how well it is working or not.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Streicker: If I can just beg the indulgence of Mr. Chair, I would love to introduce Ms. Susan Walton, my wife, to the Legislature.

Applause

Ms. White: In a world full of acronyms, that could possibly be my favourite now when I think about a government facility.

One of the issues that was happening before and the reason why Dawson City itself did not want it to be transferred over is that it had not reached — and I am looking for a correction because this is based on memory — I seem to remember that it was 90 days that the water testing had to come back as acceptable. The minister should please feel free to correct me on whether it is 90 days or not. Have we now, as the Yukon government who is now running the facility, ever reached that timeline of the free and clear? Was it 60 days or 90 days or something every close to that?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: The original 90-day benchmark was met and that is what led to us taking it over. However, there are other benchmarks, which we are still working toward. The performance of the plant is not yet how it should be, and it will take more time in order to even assess it. For example, there were some deficiencies we were working on with the company to try to correct those deficiencies. Then we need more time to understand — and some of that time is seasonal in nature so we have to wait and see whether those performances are met or not.

What I want to say for the member opposite is that I don't believe that this was necessarily the most critical reason that the municipality did not wish to take over the responsibility of that facility. It's that the costs are much, much higher than were originally anticipated prior to construction.

So there was an anticipation of what it would cost to operate that facility and now there's a reality that we're landing with here, which, as I've noted already in my previous answer, is still going to take some time to resolve to get a real sense of what those numbers look like because it's always

different when it's under the company that is constructing it and when it will transfer over to government.

We don't have all the answers as of yet. We still have many concerns and we're working with the company and the community to try to resolve the issue. It will still be ongoing for some time yet.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Streicker: If I can beg indulgence again — although I don't recognize everyone, I would like to acknowledge a constituent who has just arrived here, Ms. Dale Stokes.

Applause

Ms. White: Does the minister have the cost to date of running that facility since the Yukon government took it over?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: What I can say for the member opposite is that what we budgeted for this fiscal year is \$850,000. I do not anticipate that number is going to be a final number, if I can just provide that piece of information. That's an order of magnitude that gives us a sense — that's what we budgeted for.

Ms. White: Then I can go back to the acronym for that.

I'm going to move on, knowing I have 14 minutes to go. I appreciate the website very much, so whoever works in the Department of Community Services I appreciate that, on their home page, I can click on a button that says legislation A through Z, and legislation that is under the responsibility of Community Services comes up. I am just going to put a pitch out to IT sections in government that not all departments have that, so it can become very complicated to figure out who is responsible for what legislation.

The reason why I find this so fascinating — and I'm very appreciative of the IT people within Community Services — is that I know that the Minister for Community Services is responsible for the *Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Act* and it turns out that the regulations haven't been updated since 1998. I would point out that in 1998 there were not very many buildings with elevators and things have really changed since 1998.

The motion I put in today was tongue in cheek as to whether or not I could actually table something that looked at the ups and downs of the *Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Act*, but one of the reasons why I talked about updating it is that we've seen a lot of things change in the territory. We're building seniors residences that have elevators — multi-storey buildings now typically have elevators — so I just wanted to know if this was on the minister's radar as something that maybe should be reviewed in the 34th Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I really appreciate the humour that we have here in the Legislature with us. I will say that it is on our radar screen. I will also say that, in working with the department, we have been looking at more recent changes to codes around elevators and have been making sure we are accommodating those changes to the National Building Code.

It is on our radar screen. We have put it on the list of possibilities for this legislative session, but the member

opposite will know that there is always a lot of legislation that we're attempting to get at. Today, when the member raised the motion, we all sort of looked at each other, because we have had some of those same conversations.

Ms. White: The reason I'll put the pitch in as to why I think it should be looked at is that, with the creation of facilities like the Whistle Bend place, which is substantially different from, for example, the legislative building which, I would point out, does not have an elevator certificate in its elevator, and I think that is actually part of the legislation.

Just before we run out of time, I want to give the minister an opportunity. There has been a lot of discussion and controversy around tiny houses, including people being given — I'm going to have the wrong language, but essentially posts being put on the door about not being able to access the property. I know that on the Community Services website it does actually have what's required for a tiny house to meet occupancy. It's important because it doesn't say that you can't build a tiny house, it just says that if you build a tiny house, make sure you do these things, and it involves getting an inspection and making sure that you meet code so that it's safe.

Mr. Chair, there are so many more questions, but I'm going to leave it with the minister to talk about tiny houses and maybe where people can find that information, because I really believe that tiny houses are an important form of housing in the territory.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Mr. Chair, I would like to begin by acknowledging that tiny homes are a very independent type of solution toward affordable homes, right? So if we can just bring our living down to modest means — it costs less to build; it costs less to maintain. It's an interesting solution that I hope we're supportive of.

There are some challenges. For example, when you build within municipal boundaries, you still have to make sure that you're hooked up to the water and waste-water system — unless, sorry, we're out in rural residential, but if we're in the urban containment boundary, we have to ensure that.

There are some anachronistic rules that we've been looking at within the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources around what constitutes a building. There were some historical issues where people were putting up a shack and saying that's them living there. So there were some rules that were put in place that said that your building has to be a certain size.

I have begun conversations with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to try to understand if we can find a better way to ascertain that something is lived in versus just sort of slapped up to try to hold some ground.

When it comes to building inspections, even small homes need to be safe homes. That is the whole purpose of building inspections. It is all about trying to ensure that there is safety, and I know that this frustrates some Yukoners. We have a history of people going out on the land and building homes, and then suddenly you get a department that comes and says, "Here are some rules."

But we also have the history of having some tragedies here in the territory — for example, around carbon monoxide. Those sorts of things have led us to say no. When it comes to where people live, we need to ensure that those places are safe, and that includes heating appliances, that includes electrical, and that includes making sure that, structurally, buildings are sound, even if they are small — sometimes very importantly if they're small, because, of course, when it is small, you might not worry about egress, but I know our inspectors worry about that.

So those are the challenges that we face, and as we started looking at this issue within the department, we noted that there was a lot of concern and lack of understanding around tiny homes and also a lot of interest. What we did was we asked that they pull together some information proactively so that, if people are interested in tiny homes, they get a sense of what is needed. We pulled together a small brochure. It is still available, I believe, on our website and certainly at the building inspection office, which is by the Motor Vehicles office.

We want to support tiny homes because we recognize that they are a good piece of the affordable housing spectrum, but we just need to make sure from the building inspection perspective that they are safe.

Ms. White: Just a pitch, of course, for building inspectors — they are open to conversations prior to construction, and if anyone was looking at building a structure, they should consider having a conversation first because building inspectors are there to facilitate the successful build — just to put that out.

One of the topics I talk about the most is obviously housing, and within the purview of housing and what the minister is responsible for would be the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*, but more importantly the Residential Tenancies Office. I just wanted to know if there is the expectation of there being a review of how that office is going and whether they have the budget to do the work they need to do. Particularly I have questions about whether or not the appeals are working best. They happen via telephone right now, so you have different parties in different locations, all via teleconference, and I have concerns about that because sometimes being in a room makes it easier. I just wanted to know if there is going to be a look at how that office is operating.

I made a pitch, originally, when this office was set up and asked questions about mobile homes. It was whether or not the office was available to divide numbers, to be able to have information about different types of housing, including sometimes, possibly, different buildings or different landlords. What is the ability to get information out of that office?

The last bit I will say is that the work that they do is hard and it's not easy, because people don't go there when things are going well, so I appreciate the work that the Residential Tenancies Office is doing. I appreciate that they come to Whitehorse Connects. I appreciate that they are available. You can make a phone call; you can go in person. I just want to know if there's a way that we can strengthen that office

because, to be perfectly honest, I would really like them to be able, when they identify a problem, to reach outside the office to correct that — if, for example, a lease in a mobile home is incorrect, they can let the park know that changes need to be made before hundreds of people sign it.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: First of all, I would like to thank the member opposite for making that comment about our building inspectors being there to try to facilitate the public.

With respect to the Residential Tenancies Office, it came into being in January of last year, so we're coming up on the two-year mark. I don't have a date in mind, but we do want to review the office to make sure that it is doing what it can. To use the language that the member opposite used — to try to make sure that it's as efficient and as effective as possible.

One small thing I want to say is that, after the Member for Takhini-Kopper King mentioned calls being required, I checked with the office just to be sure. My understanding is different. My understanding is that calls are not mandatory. When there is the ability to resolve the conflict between landlords and tenants, it's not a requirement that it happen over a phone. There are times when, if there is significant tension between a tenant and a landlord, there is a suggestion of going on the phone just to try to mediate some of that tension, but it's not a requirement. It's an offer.

I thank the member opposite for her suggestion regarding different numbers. That's something that we could look into. I'll take that back to the department and have a conversation. I'll make one more offer here. Ahead of that review — I'm sorry that I don't have a date in mind. I know that sometimes we're very keen on ensuring there are dates, but I can guarantee that, within this term, we will do that review.

What I would offer is that maybe we could set up a meeting with the Member for Takhini-Kopper King and others of the opposition, as they wish, to sit down with the department and the RTO to pose questions and thoughts about what ways there might be to improve the system as part of that review, just as a step leading into it.

I will certainly make the commitment here to share back with this Legislature via a return, or even something that is tabled more formally regarding that review so that everyone can see it. I want the public to see the way in which that works. The one difference between that review and what we did, for example, internally with Wildland Fire Management — the issue there was that, when we talked with staff, we told them it was an internal review, so it became hard for us to then share that information back out.

I'll sit down in case the member wishes to ask one more question before we get done here.

Ms. White: Mr. Chair, I can end it on a happy note. I thank the minister for the engagement and the exchange. I thank the officials for being here. I will pitch again that, if people are constructing a tiny house, please talk to building inspectors, and I look forward to being involved in a conversation on the Residential Tenancies Office.

Chair: Order, please.

Termination of Sitting as per Standing Order 76(1)

Chair: The time has reached 5:00 p.m. on this, the 30th day of the 2017 Fall 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. 203, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2017-18*, the only government bill before Committee of the Whole, be called at this time.

Bill No. 203: Second Appropriation Act 2017-18 — continued

Chair: The Committee will now deal with Bill No. 203, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2017-18*. The Chair will now recognize Mr. Silver, as the sponsor of Bill No. 203, 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. 203, entitled *Second 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. 203, entitled *Second 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 \$6,684,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$6,013,000 agreed to

Total Expenditures in the amount of \$12,697,000 agreed to

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to

Schedules A and B agreed to
Title agreed to

Hon. Mr. Silver: I move that you report Bill No. 203, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2017-18*, without amendment.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Silver that Bill No. 203, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2017-18*, be reported without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Count.

Count

Chair: Count has been called.

The bells will ring and a count will be conducted.

Bells

Chair: Would all members in favour of the motion please rise?

Members rise

Chair: Would all members opposed to the motion please rise?

Members rise

Chair: The results are 10 yeas, six nays. The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried.

Motion agreed to

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

Speaker resumes the Chair

Termination of Sitting as per Standing Order 76(2)

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

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

Chair's report

Mr. Hutton: Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 203, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2017-18*, 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 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. 203, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2017-18*, be called for third reading at this time.

Bill No. 203: Second Appropriation Act 2017-18 — Third Reading

Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 203, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Silver.

Mr. Silver: I move that Bill No. 203, entitled *Second 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. 203, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2017-18*, be now read a second 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. White: Disagree.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 10 yeas, seven nays.

Speaker: The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried.
Motion for third reading of Bill No. 203 agreed to

Speaker: I declare that Bill No. 203 has passed this House.

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

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: *Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act and the Occupational Health and Safety Act (2017); Missing Persons Act; Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (2017); Act to Amend the Pounds Act (2017); Legal Profession Act, 2017; Act to Amend the Health Act (2017); Public Airports Act; Act to Amend the Hospital Act (2017); and Second Appropriation Act 2017-18.*

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

Before I leave you today, this is going to be the last time that I have an opportunity to speak to the Legislative Assembly as Yukon's Commissioner. I want to take an opportunity to thank a few people.

First of all, my office has always worked very closely with the current government of the day, so I would like to extend my sincere thanks to former Premier Pasloski and to the current Premier Sandy Silver. I would also like to thank members of the House past and present for their support of my office over the years. My staff work on a regular basis with the Executive Council Office, and I would like to thank the Executive Council Office and their staff for their advice and support over these seven years.

Most of all I would also like to thank my Aides-de-Camp who are with me again today. They appear with me in various events throughout the territory all on a volunteer basis, so I want to thank them for their support of the Commissioner's Office.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank my staff. Pavlina Sudrich, who is with us in the gallery today, and Rosemary Scanlon are the people who sort of tell me what to say and what to do and when to do it, and I appreciate all their hard work in the office.

But most of all I would like to thank the people of the Yukon for their support and the privilege and honour to serve in this position for the past seven years.

Last, but not least, I want to thank my strongest supporters: my family. Some of them are in attendance today and I would ask the House to recognize them. First of all, I have my daughter Natasha, who is with us today and — one of my strongest supporters — I have my grandson Kyle Hammond, who is with me today also. Also, one of our family members, Rose Murdoch, has come to be with us here today

— and, of course, my partner in this incredible journey, my wife, Dale Stokes. Thank you for your family support.

I know you all remember my speech when I swore you in — about family and family support. It is extremely important to have your family on board for this journey. It is not always pleasant. There are some wonderful things about being in the political or public life, but there are some things that aren't so pleasant, and it's really the backbone, the support you get from your family, that helps you get through the tougher times in this job.

But I'm not done yet. My last day in the job is January 18, 2018, and there are a few more events that I have before I leave. First of all, I hope to see all of you — especially those with young families — at our annual Christmas open house on the afternoon of December 8 at Taylor House. This is a magical Christmas event with Christmas carolling by the Whitehorse Community Choir and a bonfire and hot chocolate served by the Canadian Rangers.

I'm pleased to announce this year that we have just received confirmation this afternoon that Santa will be able to attend the event. So bring your children to the event, if you can.

Part of Santa's job is to grant children's wishes, but I'm told that Santa grants everybody's wish. I have made wishes over the years for things that I would like. I know that, when I'm speaking to the Members of the Legislative Assembly, every single one of you has things you wish for. So I encourage you to come by on December 8 and sit on Santa's knee and ask Santa for your very special wish in your future as Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The other event we have this year is the New Year's Levee. That will be my final appearance at a major public event. We're going to be hosting it back here again in the main administration building in the foyer. I'm looking forward to saying goodbye at that event to all Yukoners. I hope it will be a great event that day and, if you have the opportunity to come out on New Year's Day, I think it's 2:00 p.m. to about 5:00 p.m. Come on down and enjoy. We're going to have some youth performing and some other events that are going to be happening that day as well.

Once again, on my very last time in this House, I want to thank all of you for your support over the years and I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and the best of health and happiness in 2018. Thank you very much.

Applause

Commissioner leaves the Chamber

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

In the fine tradition of this House welcoming people, I would be remiss if I didn't provide one final opportunity for an introduction of visitors. I understand there might be one at least.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I want to ask the Assembly to help me in welcoming someone whom I have had a chance to work

with over the last year, the ADM from Economic Development, Stephen Rose. Steve stopped in today because he will be retiring in just a few short days. Many of us here in the Assembly have had an opportunity to work with him, and I want to thank him — very innovative. There have been a lot of great things that he has worked on, things that will continue to change the landscape of the economy in the Yukon. Please help me in welcoming Steve here today.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any further introductions of visitors?

Before I adjourn the Fall Sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, I would like to extend my thanks on behalf of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Chair of Committee of the Whole, and on behalf of all MLAs, to Clerk Floyd McCormick; Deputy Clerk Linda Kolody; Acting Clerk of Committees Sarah Edwards; Director of Administration, Finance and Systems Helen Fitzsimmons; Operations Manager Brenda McCain-Armour; and our administrative assistant, Lyndsey Amundson — all of the Yukon Legislative Assembly Office, who all provide invaluable support to all MLAs and their staff in order for all of us to continue to do the important work that we were sent here to do on behalf of all Yukoners. Thank you.

As well, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the skilled team at Hansard for their timely and accurate service, which somehow magically appears in the Blues every morning.

Thank you very much.

Applause

Speaker: As the House has now reached the maximum number of sitting days permitted for this Fall 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 5:25 p.m.

The following sessional papers were tabled November 27, 2017:

34-2-45

Health Care Insurance Programs — Health Services 2007-2017 — Annual Report April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 (Frost)

34-2-46

Yukon Hospital Corporation Consolidated Financial Statements (March 31, 2017) and Yukon Hospitals — Year in Review 2016-17 — Closer to Home (Frost)

**The following legislative returns were tabled
November 27, 2017:**

34-2-97

Response to matter outstanding from discussion re:
Report to Yukoners (Silver)

34-2-98

Response to matter outstanding from discussion re:
debate on supplementary budget, Department of Highways
and Public Works (Mostyn)

34-2-99

Response to Written Question No. 20 re: Respectful
Workplace office statistics (Mostyn)

34-2-100

Response to oral question from Ms. Van Bibber re: pan-
Canadian framework on anti-microbial resistance to
antibiotics (Frost)

34-2-101

Response to oral question from Ms. White re: protocol for
human-bear conflict in Yukon (Frost)

34-2-102

Response to oral question from Ms. Van Bibber re:
erosion along the riverbank at Fort Selkirk (Dendys)

**The following written question was tabled November
27, 2017:**

Written Question No. 21

Re: Impounding vehicles under the *Motor Vehicles Act*
(Mostyn)