

**Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Thursday, April 5, 2012 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

**Withdrawal of motions**

**Speaker:** The Chair wishes to inform the House of changes that have been made to the Order Paper. Motion No. 135 and Motion No. 136, both standing in the name of the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin, will not be transferred from the Notice Paper to the Order Paper.

Yesterday the House adopted Motion No. 24, as amended. This motion dealt with the subject matter of Motion No. 135 and Motion No. 136. Therefore, these two motions cannot be called for debate.

**DAILY ROUTINE**

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

Tributes.

**TRIBUTES**

**In recognition of Yukon School of Visual Arts**

**Mr. Silver:** I would just like to make a correction from my tribute yesterday on SOVA's fifth anniversary. I mistakenly stated that SOVA was an accredited institution. This is not accurate. SOVA gets its accreditation under the auspices of Yukon College.

**In recognition of World Health Day**

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I rise today in the House to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing April 7 as World Health Day.

We celebrate World Health Day to mark the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization in 1948. Each year, World Health Day highlights a different global health challenge, bringing focus on new and emerging health issues.

This year the focus of World Health Day is "Aging and health: Good health adds life to years." This campaign aims to break down stereotypes and showcase elderly people living active, healthy lives. It focuses on how good health can add years to your life, enabling elders to live longer and extend their active involvement on all levels of society. The experience of aging is changing and the World Health Organization is asking us to think about how we want to plan and prepare for an aging population and how to ensure that they are healthy and involved in our society.

Here in the Yukon we are planning for growing numbers of seniors who are healthier and, we hope, will live much longer. Together with groups like the Yukon Council on Aging and the Golden Age Society, we're working to ensure that seniors in Yukon can participate fully in society. We would also like to acknowledge the work of the World Health Organization and also local organizations that support health initiatives.

This year we say thanks to all the local groups that assist and encourage seniors in leading active lives and make it possible for more seniors to stay in their homes longer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Ms. Hanson:** I rise on behalf of the Official Opposition to pay tribute as well to World Health Day. As the Minister of Health and Social Services indicated, World Health Day was created in 1948 to mark the founding of the World Health Organization. It is indeed timely that the topic this year is "Aging and health".

Seniors constitute the fastest growing population group in Canada. The proportion of seniors in the overall population has risen greatly, from one in 20 in 1921, and it is expected that by 2041, seniors will account for nearly one in four Canadians. This should be celebrated. It means that we have a healthier, older population. Older people make important contributions to society, and the wisdom they have gained through life experience makes them a vital social resource.

The main health burdens for older people are from non-communicable diseases, such as heart disease, stroke, and chronic lung disease. But many years are lost to low- and middle-income seniors through premature death due to those and other illnesses because of poverty. The gap between rich and poor is very apparent in our aging population.

Healthy lifestyles such as eating well, being active and not smoking in early life means a healthier later life. We must recognize that too many seniors are troubled with abuse of alcohol and drugs. Education and programs of nutrition, physical activity and smoking cessation all support a healthier and more productive aging population. Long-term care for older people is crucial. It should start with effective, community-level primary health care supported by accessible, reliable home care. Collaborative clinics staffed with physicians, nurses and therapists are able to offer a wide range of diagnosis and treatment for all ages, but are especially important for our seniors and elders, who often have multiple health problems.

As with all populations, aging people worldwide need investment in health infrastructure, such as safe drinking water to support their general health. Problems of access to secure, safe, drinking water do not only apply to developing countries. It has been a problem for far too long in hundreds of aboriginal communities in Canada, including in Yukon. It takes only a relatively small investment to secure clean water, considering the lives saved and health costs expended in curing serious diseases.

Investing in the necessary infrastructure should be of primary concern. In the long run, around the world, the cost for infrastructure is far less than the expenditures are for illness. Without the dedication and hard work of health and home care workers, effective prevention and treatment of injuries and disease would not be possible for our aging population. They deserve to be supported by safe, reliable infrastructure and proactive clinics.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to health care workers in the Yukon and around the

world whose commitment and hard work makes life a lot better for us all, young and old.

**Mr. Silver:** I rise today on behalf of the Liberal caucus to also pay tribute to World Health Day. World Health Day is celebrated on April 7 to mark the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization in 1948.

This day is used to draw attention to the particular priorities in global health. As my peers have already mentioned, the topic for 2012 is “Aging and health” with the theme “Good health adds life to years.”

In the next few years, for the first time, there will be more people in the world aged over 60 than children aged less than five. The world’s population is rapidly aging, and we must ensure that people reach old age in the best possible health. We must focus on preparing health providers and societies to meet the needs of an older population. This includes preventing and managing age-associated chronic diseases, designing sustainable policies on long-term and palliative care, and developing age-friendly services and settings so that old people retain their health, dignity and pride and remain a resource for societies.

Aging concerns each and every one of us, whether we are young or old, male or female, rich or poor, and no matter where we live. Living a healthy lifestyle from the very beginning of life is key to a healthy and active old age. The earlier people adopt healthy behaviours, the better chance of enjoying a healthy old age. Over the past century, life expectancy has increased dramatically. We must focus on the importance of living a healthy lifestyle to ensure that people reach old age in the best possible health.

As one reaches the age of retirement, a person’s health is of the utmost importance. To be able to enjoy this time of one’s life, often called “the golden years”, your mobility and ability is very important for as long as possible. Active aging means growing old in good health, being more independent in your daily life and more involved as a full member of society.

In Yukon, we have a very active and involved senior population. We wish to recognize our Yukon seniors and elders for their invaluable direction, guidance and continuing contributions to all aspects of our lives. They are an integral part of the social fabric of this territory. We are very grateful for the worthwhile contributions that our seniors and elders make to our communities and to our lives. We wish you good health and added years to your life.

**Speaker:** Introduction of visitors.

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I’d like to introduce a physician who is currently up in the Yukon working on locum. I ask members to join me in welcoming Dr. David Manning to the Legislative Assembly in our visitors gallery.

*Applause*

**Mr. Tredger:** I’d like to welcome Georgie Wilson and David Walsh, who are visiting from Victoria, and John Walsh — good friends of mine, all. Thank you for coming.

*Applause*

**Mr. Barr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome neighbours Gisela and Milena, constituents from Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes — Crag Lake.

*Applause*

## Speaker’s statement

**Speaker:** Prior to tabling returns and documents, the Chair would like to remind the House of proper procedure regarding this item in the Daily Routine.

Yesterday, Leader of the Official Opposition tabled two documents. In doing so, the member offered a reason as to why the documents were being tabled. Such a statement is not in order.

When members table documents, they are to restrict themselves to informing the House of the title of the document and, if applicable, the authority under which the document is being tabled. If the document has no title, the member may offer a brief, non-political description of its contents.

Also, one of the documents tabled by the Leader of the Official Opposition was incomplete; what she described as an “excerpt”. That is also not in order. When members table documents, they must table the complete document and not selected excerpts.

The Chair thanks members for their attention.

Are there any 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 motion?

## NOTICES OF MOTION

**Ms. McLeod:** I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to use the 2012-13 budget to provide an additional \$797,000 to Whitehorse General Hospital to enable the hospital to hire staff and add six new beds.

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to use the 2012-13 budget to invest in beginning capital planning for the replacement of the Sarah Steele Building.

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to support grandparents and extended families presently caring for kinship children, by:

(1) mounting a public education program on the benefits for them in the *Child and Family Services Act*;

(2) increasing the amount of financial assistance available to kinship caregivers;

(3) expanding respite available for caring for children;

(4) offering educational opportunities on current issues in child and teen care;

(5) improving access to legal help through financial and other means such as counselling; and

(6) establishing an accessible custom adoption system in order to:

- (a) allow for a more inclusive child protection service;
- (b) assist grandparents and extended family members to remain involved with children who have been removed from their homes or are in danger of being removed;
- (c) allow options for children to stay within their families; and
- (d) support kinship caregivers to the extent possible.

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

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: Unemployment rate

**Ms. White:** Last week, the Minister of Economic Development said, and I quote: “The unemployment rate is decreasing, which is, of course, a reflection of a strong, diverse, healthy Yukon economy.”

As he made those statements, the Bureau of Statistics was gathering real, actual, bona fide information. They released a report this morning that the unemployment rate has shot up to 7.8 percent.

It is now higher than the national average. There are now 1,600 Yukoners currently unemployed; a whopping 700 more people out of work than this time last year and 300 more unemployed than last month.

Mr. Speaker, I am curious whether this knowledge of rising unemployment has changed the minister’s assessment of Yukon’s strong, diverse and healthy economy.

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** I have to say I’m a little confused by the opposition’s tack on this one. At some point, we were criticized for having too hot an economy and too busy an economy and now it seems we’re criticized for having a not-busy-enough economy. I appreciate that the recent Yukon labour force survey has lent some confusion to this discussion though. While the survey is intended to be representative of the entire territory, because of small numbers, the results can be subject to volatility, given the small sample size. The survey is a three-month moving average with communities rotating in and out of the survey sample on a regular basis. What appears to be a high unemployment rate is at odds with other key economic indicators we have seen recently on the state of the Yukon’s economy. Yukon is experiencing continued high levels of exploration and mineral production, retail trade and construction activity.

Economic growth from construction and resource sector activity bode well for employment opportunities in Yukon, leading to an expected reduced unemployment rate in future months.

**Ms. White:** The minister wants to square the circle on unemployment by talking about population growth and employment numbers. I’ve got news for him: the number of jobs has not grown in the Yukon. It has declined since this time last year.

In the Budget Address, the Premier issued much self-congratulation on the Yukon’s prosperity on this, our golden age. I want to give the minister an opportunity to speak directly to those who are not reaping the rewards of this prosperity: the 1,600 unemployed and the thousands struggling to pay for the rising cost of housing.

Mr. Speaker, what is his plan to share the benefits of prosperity with those who are missing out?

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** Yes, as I said, while this labour force survey does lend some confusion to the discussion, I think that it is important to recognize that a number of key economic indicators have continued to indicate that Yukon is experiencing continued high levels of exploration and mineral production, retail trade and construction activity. Yukon’s economy is indeed very strong. This particular survey does have some volatility as a result of the small number and their sampling methodology. I would expect that we will see reduced unemployment rates in the months ahead.

**Ms. White:** That answer will not provide any comfort to Yukoners struggling to make ends meet and it is not surprising, quite frankly, that this government is out of touch with ordinary Yukoners. It has no economic vision beyond the tired laissez-faire trickle-down approach of Milton Friedman, and the Fraser Institute. If they had a jobs vision, we would see an emphasis on workplace literacy and on-the-job training. We would see incentives to stimulate new industries. We’d see a plan to address persistently high unemployment in rural Yukon. We’d be compiling economic data on extractive industries to assist in rational planning so more Yukoners are employed and there are less of these fly-in, fly-out jobs.

When will this government get serious about building a strong, diverse, healthy economy with real benefits for ordinary Yukoners?

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** Again, I must say, I am indeed puzzled by the tack taken by the NDP on this issue. At some point we’ve been criticized for the economy being too hot and too busy. Now it seems we’re being criticized for the economy being not hot enough and not busy enough. I think it’s a peculiar approach.

I would say that we’ve made considerable investments in diversifying our economy and ensuring that we’ve got a healthy, strong economy. I would say that Yukon continues to be a market for jobs; people wanting to find jobs in Canada can come to Yukon to find those jobs here. We’ve done a great job of developing all sectors of our economy, as discussed yesterday in our tourism motion debate. I would say that we’ve done an excellent job and we’ve got an excellent plan forward.

### Question re: Primary care services

**Ms. Hanson:** I have for filing, a document: *Concepts for a Primary Health Care Centre in Whitehorse*, prepared by the YRNA in March 2006. You know, Mr. Speaker, Yukoners living with chronic conditions know that symptoms can flare at any time. If they have no doctor or can’t get an appointment with the doctor, they may end up waiting in Emergency.

Many Yukoners struggling with mental health issues wait in Emergency. Yukoners living outside of Whitehorse may not have a doctor in the community. They get flown to Whitehorse

General if they need to see a doctor. Health care can be delivered in different ways. Yukon nurses could be doing so much more. They want to be doing more. They could be delivering the care Yukoners need by means of team-based primary care, but they can't because Yukon remains the last jurisdiction in Canada to complete its nurse practitioner legislation. Can the minister explain the delay in signing off on the regulations that will enable nurse practitioners to work at the full scope of their practice?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** It's very important whenever we talk about legislation, or, in this case, regulations, that we ensure that we have all sectors involved in the completion of these regulations. To this end, I am hosting a meeting with the Yukon Medical Association and the Yukon Registered Nurses Association here in Whitehorse next week, and the primary topic on the agenda is nurse practitioner regulations.

**Ms. Hanson:** That's great to hear, because as you know, and as most of the people in this room will know, we have been waiting three years for these regulations. It's important to realize that primary care means the first point of contact with the health system for most of our health care needs. Primary care does not need to be delivered by a doctor or out of a hospital.

In responding to pressures in our health care system, the federal government has, since 2004, encouraged Yukon to use scheduled transfer money to redesign health care delivery to make the system more sustainable. The *Yukon Health Care Review* directed the need for evidence-based decisions to improve the sustainability of our health care delivery. Access to effective, community-based, primary health care is linked to better health outcomes, improved equity, reduced wait times and better patient experience, as well as reduced emergency costs.

Does the Yukon Party government agree with the federal government that community-based delivery of primary health care, including nurse practitioners, is the way to go?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** There is no doubt in our minds whatsoever that nurse practitioner regulations are very important, and we will be bringing forward those regulations as quickly as we can. But I think it is also very important the members opposite know as well that all sectors of the medical community must be involved in this discussion and must be onside, agreeing with the regulations that we are passing. That is what we are attempting to do at the present time and we will continue to do that.

**Ms. Hanson:** I do agree that it is important that all sectors of the health care system — but, you know we tend to focus on the health care professionals and what we are suggesting is this: What if we designed our health care delivery system around the needs of the patient? What if rural Yukoners could stay in their own community and get the help they need from a team that includes a nurse practitioner?

Imagine many of the folks in Emergency getting the help they need from a team working collaboratively in a primary care clinic — a team that can include dietitians, mental health professionals, pharmacists, therapists and others focusing on

putting the patient first. This works. It is working in other parts of Canada today.

Will the minister commit to not only expediting the passage of the nurse practitioner regulations, but also to piloting a community-based, primary health care centre?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** It's also one of the issues on our agenda that we will be speaking about with both the Yukon Medical Association and the Yukon Registered Nurses Association. Again, it is one of those issues that we have to make sure we don't rush into or blunder into and make a number of mistakes. Consequently, we are talking with all the practitioners involved in any kind of collaborative care model. We will make sure that all practitioners — primary as well as others — are well aware of the consequences and the obligations of the collaborative care health model. Once that is done, we will go ahead with whatever decision is made with those groups.

#### Question re: Social housing

**Mr. Silver:** Mr. Speaker, we don't have enough housing in the territory, but we do have some money in the bank and some good ideas with which to get started. Last year, a community-developed housing proposal enjoyed support from Blood Ties Four Directions, Skookum Jim Friendship Centre, the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, Salvation Army, Learning Disabilities Association of Yukon, Association for Community Living, Second Opinion Society, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society of Yukon, and the City of Whitehorse. This is the Northern City Supportive Housing Coalition's proposal to build 20 units of safe, stable housing to people currently using the Salvation Army's emergency shelter on a daily basis.

Has the new minister responsible for the Housing Corporation had the opportunity to review this group's proposal?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Mr. Speaker, upon taking office last fall and being sworn in as minister responsible for the Housing Corporation in November of 2011, this was, of course, one of the items on which I did receive information from the Housing Corporation. It was my understanding that of those proposals submitted to the Yukon Housing Corporation Board at the time last year, the one accepted was the Options for Independence Society proposal — I believe we're speaking about the same thing.

Again, as the Minister of Health and Social Services has indicated on the floor of this House during this sitting, we're still looking to move forward with the Options for Independence Society to provide housing for those with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, and that's what we look to do as soon as that organization meets some requirements that are being laid out by the Department of Community Services.

**Mr. Silver:** I think the minister may have to check his notes on what exactly I'm talking about here. Despite the widespread and enthusiastic support from the community, the coalition's proposal failed to find a champion in the Yukon government. By March 2011, the group had a business plan, a lot, zoning approval, donated architectural plans and builder lined up. They also had \$10,000 in seed funding from CMHC. Unfortunately, the Northern City Supportive Housing Coalition shut down last year, frustrated and unable to move forward without Government of Yukon buy-in. The Yukon has money

in the bank and this is a good idea. If they could be induced to come back to the table, will the minister meet with them and reconsider this proposal?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I think we are speaking about the same thing, and that was the proposal that was put forward to the Yukon Housing Corporation Board last year.

If you look at what we put in our platform last fall, you will see a number of initiatives to deal with housing. Again, I have spoken many times on the floor of this House about investments that have been made by the Yukon Party government in housing initiatives. When we look at the housing continuum, right from emergency shelters through transition housing through social housing to lot development, we will see that this government is engaged all along the housing continuum, not only with this budget, but with our future plans.

With respect to meeting organizations, of course, I have met with a number of organizations, including representatives of the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, on housing needs in the territory. I believe my colleague from Health and Social Services has held a number of meetings. I'm always willing to meet with Yukoners to talk about new ideas and new solutions looking, of course, to solve the housing issues that affect all Yukoners.

**Mr. Silver:** Housing developments like the one Northern City Supportive Housing Coalition proposed do not require that alcoholics stop drinking before they deserve a roof over their heads. Housing First strategies mean fewer people drinking in the streets, fewer run-ins with the law and fewer trips to the emergency room. Housing First has social and economic gains for the entire community above and beyond the people who finally find stable housing in such developments.

If the government can't support the Northern City Supportive Housing Coalition's proposal, what are they doing instead to get homeless alcoholics off the street?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** As I mentioned, again, the Northern City Supportive Housing Coalition's proposal was submitted to the Yukon Housing Corporation last year and I believe subsequently withdrawn. That's the information I've received from the Housing Corporation, but my understanding of that proposal was that it was based on a low-barrier housing initiative. I know that the Minister of Health and Social Services and I have talked about options around low-barrier housing and other housing initiatives that this government is undertaking.

Again, we look all along the housing continuum, including investment in the women's shelter that is being made through the minister responsible for the Women's Directorate and the Premier. They made that announcement just prior to this sitting. As well, there is support through Yukon Housing Corporation and Health and Social Services for a shelter in Dawson City, the Member for Klondike's riding. We're looking at solutions all along the housing continuum to address the housing needs of Yukoners.

#### **Question re: Affordable housing**

**Mr. Silver:** I'll stay on the topic of housing, but move from emergency housing to affordable housing. As I stated, we don't have enough housing in this territory, but we do have some money in the bank and some good ideas. We still have

\$13 million for affordable housing initiatives. We want that money to go as far as possible in relieving our housing crisis, and many good ideas have come forward from the private sector. The government has had the money for six years, and the time to move forward is now.

If the right projects or project came along, is the minister prepared to actually spend the money in the near future on affordable housing?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Again, I think that this government is clearly committed to addressing affordable housing. It's reflected in the platform that we ran on last fall as well as the budget that is currently being debated by the Yukon Legislative Assembly. Some of the \$50-million investments from Canada's economic stimulus funding resulted in 127 new units, or approximately a 40-percent increase in affordable housing numbers by previous Yukon governments. Most of that was done within the past two years. Again, I will point to the 19-unit affordable housing building in Dawson City in the member's riding. We have also invested in Watson Lake, Faro, Teslin and Whitehorse with the 30-unit waterfront facility. Let's not forget the very large facility at Yukon College for seniors that I had the pleasure of visiting with the Member for Takhini-Kopper King last week — that is really a legacy of this government's investment in the 2007 Canada Winter Games.

**Mr. Silver:** First Nations' governments have spent their money; the Yukon Party money is still in the bank. Sometimes the best use of government money is to leverage it by working with the private sector instead of building new housing units itself. For example, although a recent Yukon government-built complex came in at almost half of a million dollars per unit, there are private developers building truly affordable housing for purchase.

A private developer in Dawson City is building six 500-square-foot homes for \$120,000 to \$130,000 each. This is made possible by careful design, using local building supplies and a relatively low-priced government lot. Would the minister be willing to allocate some of the \$13 million to get lots to developers who are able to build truly affordable homes for purchase?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I think that our willingness to work with the private sector has been well-documented in this House. There was the expression of interest put forward by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources for the lot at the corner of Range Road and Mountainview Drive here in Whitehorse. That expression of interest went out two days after being sworn in as Cabinet.

Certainly, when we went door to door during the last election, all members in this House have recognized that housing was the number one issue in many of our ridings as we spoke to Yukoners.

Again, our commitment to working with the private sector has certainly been there. We see a private development before the City of Whitehorse right now with respect to the old MacKenzie RV park in Crestview. There is the significant investment in lot development that's being made in this budget of \$35 million through the Department of Community Services, the replacement of McDonald Lodge — again, in the member's

riding of Klondike in Dawson City — as well as the remediation that's taking place right now at the Korbo Apartments for that land and, again, respectfully, the 19-unit replacement investment that was made in housing in Dawson City.

**Mr. Silver:** Another use for some of that \$13 million could be buying existing houses on the market, adding them to the stock of social housing and making them available for Yukoners at a discount rate. A community in Alberta with a similar population to Whitehorse and a similar run-up in the housing market as a result of resource development did just that. It provided immediate, concrete results for the housing crisis, and we might do the same here. We have the money in the bank, and here's another great idea: Has the minister considered using some of the federal housing money to add to the rental social housing portfolio?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** What I would mention to the Member for Klondike, as my colleague, the minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation, mentioned, the government has already made significant steps in addressing these matters, including the investment in Yukon Housing Corporation that has increased the social housing stock by some 40 percent. As my colleague mentioned, there's roughly \$35 million — almost \$35 million — in the Department of Community Services that will be invested in land development.

As far as innovative solutions and encouraging the private sector to get into affordable housing, of course, the member need only look in the newspaper to see the ads that are there for Lot 262, which is an initiative of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources — a commitment this government made in the 2011 election campaign to develop an innovative model to encourage the private sector to develop affordable housing. The conditions of the sale of that lot require a minimum number of affordable housing units to be created as a result of that sale.

Those were initiatives the government is currently undertaking and there's also the work that has been done in setting the stage for encouraging private sector investment and private sector confidence in making those investments, including the proposal that is before Whitehorse City Council regarding the development of the former RV park area into, I believe, 135 lots.

#### **Question re: Mammogram screening**

**Ms. Stick:** Across the country, women are alarmed at many reported problems with findings of both false positives and false negatives from mammogram screening. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Health tell Yukoners how many mammograms are done at the Whitehorse General Hospital annually, and where are these results read?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** No, Mr. Speaker, I can't tell her.

**Ms. Stick:** Quality assurance is obviously very important, especially with all the reports we're hearing about in the news. Yukoners want to know how breast cancer screening tests done at Whitehorse General Hospital are reviewed. What we would also like to find out is this: Has an audit of the diagnostic screening been done at Whitehorse General Hospital?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Mr. Speaker, as part of the Run for Mom funding that has come forward, there is a new digital

mammography machine at Whitehorse General Hospital. I'm informed that we also send all of the radiology Outside to a private firm that does the analysis at that time.

**Ms. Stick:** What I was looking for was assurances of audits of the screening being done now by the private company, because what we are finding in other places is that when people have gone in and looked a second time, this is when problems have arisen.

Between the federal and the Yukon territorial government websites, women are also finding conflicting advice about mammograms and other breast screening techniques. Consumer and Clinical Radiation Protection Bureau should soon be coming out with new safety codes on mammography. The comment period ended October 31, 2011.

Will the minister commit to following up on the new safety code, ensuring that Whitehorse General Hospital is in compliance, and that important findings are communicated to Yukon women?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Yes, I will.

#### **Question re: Alcohol and drug addictions**

**Ms. Stick:** On the Department of Health and Social Services' website it says drug and alcohol abuse is a serious problem in the Yukon. We can all agree on that. However, approaches to solving the problem differ widely. Since 1989, substance abuse in the Yukon has been the subject of 17 substantial reports with recommendations on what to do about solving this serious health and social problem.

Seven years ago, this government developed a draft plan called the *Substance Abuse Action Plan*. We have yet to see the final plan, and reports on actions that have been taken have been minimal. When will the minister fully implement the *Substance Abuse Action Plan*?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** The *Substance Abuse Action Plan* was developed some years ago, and since that time, a number of initiatives have taken place, the most recent of which is the change to the Sarah Steele Building, which is in progress right at the present time. But I couldn't give the exact information the member opposite wants, and I'll bring it back when it's available.

**Ms. Stick:** There are basically two approaches to substance abuse policies on either end of the continuum of solutions. One approach is to look at addictions and substance abuse as part of a criminal act and to use a punitive approach, with criminal charges and jail terms for buying, selling, using or abusing legal and illicit substances. The other approach is one of treating the abuse as a physical or psychological health problem.

In the absence of a comprehensive addictions strategy, can the minister clarify if this government considers addictions primarily a Health and Social Services or a Justice issue?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I think we were quite clear in our response to that, going right back to the election, actually, where I stood up publicly and said very clearly that this government views addictions as a Health and Social Services issue primarily. Certainly from the government's perspective, addiction affects all walks of life. It affects our Justice and Health and Social Services budgets. It fills our emergency rooms. It

keeps our police, our court dockets and our jails occupied. It certainly has an impact on FASD. I think it has an impact on violence against women. It really creates parentless children as well. We have identified that and, during our campaign, we talked about our plans that we are moving forward with, to try to get a handle on this and really realize that this is a health issue. We will move forward. We have talked about the Sarah Steele Building and creating a more medically oriented detox program. We have talked about after-care programs. We've also talked about working with First Nations in a more structured, land-based treatment. So in answer to the question — absolutely yes.

**Ms. Stick:** In a recent report from two senior medical officers, they urged the federal government to scrap the proposed mandatory minimum sentences for drug offences and create policies of harm reduction. They say there is an urgent need to look at new measures and called for a revamping of this country's approach to drug control. This approach is echoed in the 2010 Beaton and Allen report of the Task Force on Acutely Intoxicated Persons at Risk, which advocates the supportive and humane approach to this severe problem. It recommends much more than the announced medical detox and funding to look into a single land-based treatment centre.

Can the minister tell when his government will be responding to the task force report and implementing those recommendations?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** We've already responded in many areas to the task force report, and one of the things that we will look at is \$60,000 in the budget for a replacement for the Sarah Steele Building. As part of that replacement, we'll also discuss all the various treatments and processes that are run out of that building, and we hope to be able to come forward with a more comprehensive treatment process for anyone with addictions — everything from after-care programs that we're going to be discussing, to the medical detox and those types of issues. So we are doing something; we have already done some things, and more things are going to be done in the near future.

**Speaker:** Time for Question Period has now elapsed. We will proceed with Orders of the Day.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker leaves the Chair*

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Chair (Ms. McLeod):** Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before Committee is Bill No. 6, *First Appropriation Act, 2012-13*. We are going to proceed with Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture.

Would members like a recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

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

### **Bill No. 6: *First Appropriation Act, 2012-13* — continued**

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 6, *First Appropriation Act, 2012-13*. We are going to begin general debate on Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture.

#### **Department of Tourism and Culture**

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Madam Chair, I'm pleased to present the 2012-13 operation and maintenance and capital budgets for the Department of Tourism and Culture. This fiscal year we have in total just over \$22.5 million in O&M and a little more than \$2.1 million in capital for a total appropriation of \$24.69 million. That's a 10-percent increase from last year.

The Cultural Services branch has \$10.5 million identified in O&M and just shy of \$1.4 million in capital. The branch is responsible for heritage resources, which includes paleontology and archaeology, historic sites, museums, arts and archives.

Heritage Resources has \$1.1 million in O&M and \$50,000 in capital. The unit is responsible for all aspects of land-based heritage resources, which includes archaeology, paleontology, geographical place names, and scientist and explorer licensing.

We recognize and appreciate the significant heritage legacy of the Klondike Gold Rush and Kluane National Park, for example, as they continue to draw visitors from around the world. As many of us know, the pre-Klondike Gold Rush heritage of Yukon and stunning views of Kluane are truly becoming an equally important draw to Yukon's cultural and tourism sector.

This year we have \$310,000 in new funding in O&M for the paleontology program. This funding includes \$150,000 for a feasibility study on a Dawson paleontology facility and \$110,000 for paleontology on-the-ground summer positions in Dawson that will foster close cooperation with the placer mining community, ensuring proper management of fossils uncovered during the mining process. We also have \$50,000 in capital for a mobile trailer to be used as an office and residential space for these positions.

We have a lot happening in both paleontology and archaeology and I would like to share a couple of those highlights with you.

Last spring in Dawson City, we had the honour of recognizing a long-time Yukoner, Earl Bennett, with the Beringia research award at the gold show. In 2008, Mr. Bennett donated to Yukon's vertebrae fossil collection a partial American mastodon skeleton found on Bonanza Creek. His knowledge of paleontology has helped to give scientists, students, visitors and other fossil enthusiasts opportunities to see, enjoy and study unique artifacts important to Yukon's Beringia ice age history.

Another highlight on the forefront is the upcoming “Frozen Past: 3rd International Glacial Archeology Conference” being held here in Whitehorse this coming June. Following the success of the two previous symposiums, in Switzerland in 2008 and Norway in 2010, the 2012 symposium will highlight the discoveries of North American glacial archeologists and showcase the opening of the new Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre featuring ice path discoveries.

The historic sites unit is an integral component providing programming and services to Yukoners. This year we have \$1.1 million in O&M and \$575,000 in capital.

Historic sites unit has the responsibility to administer Yukon’s official historic sites registry. The most recent sites to receive this official status are Fort Selkirk and the *A.J. Goddard*. Regarding Fort Selkirk, the partnership with Selkirk First Nation shares, since 1982, the responsibility to protect, preserve and promote this special place. Each year, Yukon government contributes \$135,000 in capital to the Fort Selkirk restoration and interpretation project. The Selkirk First Nation contributes \$50,000.

The *A.J. Goddard* received tremendous media coverage over the past year, not only for its scientific value, but its historic significance as told through the memorabilia and artifacts recovered, along with the personal stories of the crew and its discovery. As one of seven designated territorial historic sites, the *A.J. Goddard* is the most significant discovery in nautical archeology in the Yukon. The site contains the most complete collection of artifacts from any vessel existing from the Klondike Gold Rush period.

The department’s museum unit is receiving \$2.3 million in O&M and \$150,000 in capital to continue its work in partnership with federal programming that supports the ongoing needs addressed by our local museums community. One important component is training and education. This year we are providing \$280,000 through O&M through the northern strategy trust to support the heritage and culture capacity development project delivered by Yukon College. The heritage training certificate program was first announced in 2009 and provides instruction that includes skills development training and capacity building for Yukon First Nations and other eager work in the fields of heritage and historic sites.

We also have \$60,000 identified through capital for the conservation and treatment of military and industrial artifacts that includes the B-26 bomber discovered in 2009 in Watson Lake. The bomber was on its way to Russia when it crashed in Watson Lake almost 70 years ago.

Another important project is the new funding in the amount of \$100,000 through O&M for the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre to assist with its programming and operational needs around collections management, exhibits, public and educational programming, and long-term development.

We are also providing new funding of \$70,000 through O&M for a total of \$100,000 to the Dä Ku Cultural Centre in Haines Junction to support their programming, operational needs, and long-term development.

Moving on to the Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre, this important facility is receiving \$354,000 through O&M and

\$90,000 through capital. The centre first opened its doors in 1997. This year, through capital, there is \$60,000 for exhibit upgrades and maintenance improvements and \$30,000 for landscaping.

The arts section is receiving \$3.7 million in O&M and \$25,000 in capital. As we know, arts funding continues to bolster Yukon’s arts community. Literary, visual and performing arts are supported through a variety of funding for personal artistic development, touring opportunities and presenting work at professionally curated national or international venues.

This year we have \$200,000 in O&M identified for Culture Quest and sport tourism marketing, which includes \$157,000 for Culture Quest and \$43,000 for sport tourism. Culture Quest is a creation fund used to initiate new programming and help advance the development of arts and heritage across this territory. The sport tourism marketing program is operated by Sport Yukon, with its marketing dollars used to attract sporting events to Yukon with significant economic spinoffs. We are also supporting acquisitions to the Yukon permanent art collection, with \$25,000 identified in capital for the visual arts acquisition program. Just recently, we celebrated 10 new works for the collection, as chosen by the Friends of the Gallery. The works are on display at the Yukon Arts Centre as part of the recent cultural activities around the 2012 Arctic Winter Games.

The Old Fire Hall, too, is receiving support. As a hub of cultural and community activities, the project first began in 2007 in partnership with the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce and Yukon Arts Centre. This year, we have \$150,000 through O&M that allows the Old Fire Hall to continue its programming for artists, ensembles and community groups to showcase and market performing arts, literature, comedy, film, visual arts, crafts and retail throughout the year.

We are also assuming responsibility for the Northern Cultural Expressions Society and will continue to support their endeavours with \$345,000 through O&M. Their programming first began in 2006 and has supported young, talented individuals who are working hard to become professional carvers, and this will hopefully set them on a path to good careers and personal life choices.

Yukon Archives is an important part of the Cultural Services branch too. The facility received special recognition this year as it celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> year in operation. As part of the celebration, a commemorative book will be published in the spring, entitled *For the Record, Yukon Archives 1972-2012*. I would like to also mention that Yukon Archives staff are playing a lead role in the planning for the upcoming Association of Canadian Archivists, or ACA.

Their annual conference will be held in Whitehorse this June 7 to 9. Archivists from across Canada will be taking part in this exciting learning opportunity.

This year, Yukon Archives receives \$1.3 million through O&M and \$574,000 in capital. We are particularly excited about supporting the Yukon Archives cold storage expansion project, beginning this fiscal year, to help bring the facility into the 21st century with much needed storage space, given the amount of material the Yukon Archives really does collect each year. \$291,000 in new capital funding will go toward the plan-



ning and design work of the new storage vault — cold vault for the archival records.

The department's Tourism branch has \$9.8 million identified in operation and maintenance and a further \$530,000 in capital. The branch is responsible for visitor services, product development and research and marketing operations, all designed to grow tourism revenues for this territory.

I might add that they do an exceptional, exceptional job.

We continue to work with our partners in industry, particularly with the Tourism Industry Association of Yukon and the Senior Marketing Committee to identify priorities that enable Yukon not only to adapt to, but to take advantage of the changes and challenges affecting the tourism sector. One example to market Yukon as an attractive year-round destination is the design work and display project completed last year at the Whitehorse International Airport. This joint project with Canada and Yukon saw a \$200,000 investment from CanNor's strategic investments in the northern economic development program and \$150,000 from the Department of Tourism and Culture offering a bright, new environment that not only enlivens the interior space, but also offers a welcoming experience for those arriving and leaving Yukon by air.

We will continue to work with domestic and international air carriers to provide a high standard of service and create a positive travel experience to the more than 200,000 travellers who use the airport each year. We will also continue to work in partnership with industry, communities, and First Nations to promote the Yukon and to promote the Yukon tourism brand aimed at marketing the territory as an attractive year-round destination.

To do this, we use general-awareness campaigns, especially in relation to Yukon's traditional markets in the United States, Canada and Europe. The Asian market is growing strong for the territory as well. We will also continue to work with the Yukon Convention Bureau, industry and Yukon communities to further promote Yukon as a choice destination for hosting meetings and conventions, as well as with Sport Yukon to promote the territory as a destination for sporting events.

Tourism branch is also home to the product development and research unit. This year, we have \$1.5 million through O&M in support of the revision and redeployment of activities and programming aimed at identifying gaps and initiating projects to meet the needs of the Yukon tourism sector.

Besides workshops, conversion studies, data gathering and database maintenance, the unit is responsible for the tourism cooperative marketing fund for a 50:50 co-op fund, first announced in 2004, which helps tourism businesses market Yukon tourism product targeted at prospective visitors from across the globe.

We have \$700,000 identified in O&M for the TCMF. In February of last year, Canada announced the funding to three northern territories in support of the Canada's North marketing campaign. This is aimed at promoting the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut as travel destinations to southern Canadians.

The partnership with CanNor has identified over \$800,000 in 2012-13 to continue the campaign to promote the three terri-

ories as a unique, dynamic place to visit. Nunavut is managing the campaign on behalf of the three territories and receives the funding directly from CanNor. This is a good example of partnerships working to benefit the north.

We also have a \$590,000 recovery from Canada for Yukon's overseas travel destination awareness marketing campaign. A year ago in February, Yukon and Canada jointly made the announcement to market Yukon to Europe, Australia, Japan and South Korea. This joint partnership and campaign promotes and strengthens the awareness of Yukon to overseas international travel trade, media and consumer markets.

Visitor services continue to play an integral role in Yukon's stable tourism sector.

This year we have \$1.9 million in O&M that will support the visitor information centres with the good work that they do. Beginning this summer with the Yukon visitor information centre located in Whitehorse, open year-round, we will solicit input from visitors, key stakeholders and VIC staff to develop a strategy around refreshing the look and feel of the centre to enhance the visitor experience that will meet the needs and expectations of Yukon's tourism industry.

I would like to close by mentioning that in May, Yukon will host the 2012 Canadian Tourism Commission's GoMedia Canada Marketplace here in Whitehorse. For the first time, this event is being held north of the 60<sup>th</sup> parallel. GoMedia will bring 150 of the top travel media from around the world to the territory to meet with Canadian destination marketing organizations and operators.

The Tourism branch works closely with industry, and I would like to take a moment to really thank the business community throughout the territory, the NGOs and countless individuals for their hard work and contributions made to the tourism and culture sectors, all essential to Yukon's economic growth and social well-being.

This concludes the O&M and capital budgets for the Department of Tourism and Culture. Thank you and I look forward to responding to questions.

**Mr. Barr:** I would just like to start off today by commending all the staff in Tourism and Culture for their hard, dedicated work on a continual basis that they do behind the scenes that gets things going here for people who count on being able to tour with their music or present new ideas with First Nation cultural initiatives.

I remember close to 30 years ago when I first came to the Yukon. I was coming from northern Ontario. I was coming to visit a sister, two sisters actually, and I was driving. As I was getting closer, I was in the northern B.C. part, way down the Alaska Highway. There are no mountains in Ontario, right? But there are lots of lakes and northern Ontario is so similar to the Yukon. Having grown up there, I thought about how I fished and hunted back there as a young boy and I continue to do that here and get out in the mountains and I just love it. I think I've said it in here before that the lake we lived on, Lake Nipissing — it was said there would never be anything — it's such a huge lake; don't worry about pumping sewage in there; it's going to be okay. I know that is not the case in many parts of that lake today.

As I was driving up the highway, I came along the Alaska Highway where the mountains disappeared, and I knew I was getting closer to the Yukon. I had never been to the Yukon and, to tell you the truth, I don't even remember listening to the word "Yukon" in school. In grade school, I don't think we were even taught about it. All I knew was that I was coming to a place called "the Yukon" and visiting. I had been driving lots and I got closer and I started to see the mountains again. I started to see the snow-capped mountains. It was in the fall and I was just getting excited and I was saying, "Holy cow, is this beautiful." "Wow, I might be living here", I was thinking to myself. I remember I ran out of gas at Jake's Corner, so I just parked right at the pumps and I slept in my vehicle because I wanted to get on my way right into Whitehorse. I don't remember how many clicks it was, but I wanted to be first.

So I woke up. The guy actually knocked on my window. I said, "Yeah, fill 'er up," and I got into town. Those were my first impressions and when I met people, they were just the friendliest people, like those in northern Ontario. I remember people saying stuff like, "I've got to go fishing," and "I'll take you this," and "do you that," and "we'll see this." We bragged about how many cords of woods we could stack and file in one day. I was looking forward because I knew the winter was coming.

Just the wildness of it — I was just totally amazed. I never could have imagined that people could have told me that. Since then, in the years travelling throughout the world, playing music, touring, I have listened to people in Germany, Switzerland, England, Portugal, Spain, South America, United States and all over saying that their dream one day would be to come to the Yukon and asking, "Is it really true? The beauty — is it really true that it is as vast — ? Even in Africa, I showed these post-cards and people just couldn't imagine.

They were amazed at what we have here — just the physical beauty. I also think back in these 30 years, when I went to my first potlatch. I was expecting a huge, traditional event. That's not what happened. Now I think in these last 30 years, the drums are being built. Regalia is happening. We have dance troupes from various areas of the north here that come together. When I think about First Nation culture, I look at — and I was happy that the minister acknowledged the Northern Cultural Expressions Society is one that's going to be receiving \$345,000, as I noticed in here. I brought attention to these two gates here — the welding is done by Mike Morrow in Tagish. This is Jared Kane's plaque. That's Calvin Morberg's plaque from what was originally and formerly Sundog. I remember both those guys before they even picked up a carving knife.

I remember when I was at CAIRS and Calvin came in. We had an artist-in-residence program. He wandered down there. I have some of his first pieces — and the shine on his face that he had created something like that. There were all his teenage friends who wondered where he was and they'd start showing up, trying to find him, and he wasn't downtown. Then, sooner or later, more would be down there. Those carvers from the Journey Far carver program have gone on to prestigious schools, such as Emily Carr. We as dignitaries, or the government as dignitaries, give away gifts and show these things.

There are schools that have totem poles now. The regalia that we see today, even from that program — the Dakká Kwäan Dancers — we showcased several of those carvers at the Olympics, and the aboriginal contingent was voted one of the best — actually, the best attended at the Olympics.

What I want to say about that is that I feel so great that in the last year, not only are we progressing in Tourism and Culture — you know, with the gold rush — and we continue to know there was a gold rush history, but there is a First Nations' history here.

We are moving together more now. With the Northern Cultural Expressions Society, as those guys were beginners — I remember them — I would encourage the members opposite to support the beginners program of that program. As these guys move forward, we won't have these things any more because there are no beginners. So that would be one question. I just had some opening remarks there, but I just wanted to kind of — I love the Yukon. I love it here, as so many people only wish they could be here. So my first question — and after this they are going to be brief and right to the punch.

Will the minister responsible encourage other departments to move forward, or what is being planned with the beginner part of Journey Far, because Journey Far is just the main carvers — the advanced carvers section?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for his questions. I think you described Yukon in a really significant way and anyone listening — I'm sure that from my opening comments and your opening comments, it sure makes us appreciate where we've come from and — because I'm from the same place you are, in Ontario — but more importantly, where we are now and what we have around us.

You were specifically asking about the Journey Far program and really, as with any other program through Tourism and arts and culture and especially the Northern Cultural Expressions Society, I'm always open to seeing submissions come forward and ideas and thoughts because this is really how we're going to continue to expand on the Tourism department and all its branches and really make Yukon stand out on the world's stage. I do know that the program you speak of specifically is currently at the Management Board stage, so I won't comment any further on it save for the general comment that I really do welcome ideas and thoughts coming forward. I would suspect in the coming weeks, we'll have more information on that program for you.

**Mr. Barr:** I also understand that on the Alaska Highway, the rubber-tire traffic is down 20 percent and the Skagway entry is up 17 percent. There is a community housing proposal that I know is floating around. With oil and gas in the Whitehorse Trough, knowing that when we're supporting tourism and moving forward, hopefully, with these kinds of initiatives — which, I might add, has support from the other communities — I'll be bringing forward letters. There's one in particular that we'll be in supporting and we'll be soliciting support.

How is Tourism and Culture looking at balancing — when I describe my coming into the Yukon, I don't want to come in and start seeing flaring gas wells, people flying in to the Whitehorse Trough area and the money that has just been put

into the airport, displaying all this vast beauty, culture — what are we doing to mitigate the impacts that industry will have on tourism and culture in the Southern Lakes, for starters?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for his question. He's correct; the Alaska visitor survey for 2011 did indicate that Alaska experienced a decline in rubber-tire traffic during the 2011 tourism season. This comes, really, as no surprise as it appears Yukon is experiencing the same trend with border-crossing data over the past number of years, indicating a decline in private vehicle traffic entering Yukon.

However, Yukon has also benefited from a corresponding increase in the number of air arrivals and departures from the Whitehorse International Airport, which has reported growth for the past three years.

In an attempt to better understand the shifts and visitation and their impacts on Yukon, the department is working with Economic Development and CanNor in the implementation of a comprehensive visitor survey. It's our hope that that data can begin to be captured this summer.

In response to your question about the Southern Lakes — Carcross, Tagish — Yukon Tourism's overall approach is to market Yukon as a whole. We do this through a number of marketing activities, including raising awareness of Yukon among consumers and potential travellers, working with the travel trade to promote Yukon travel products and working with media to encourage media stories about Yukon as a travel destination. That said, in our consumer marketing materials, such as our vacation planner and the [www.travelyukon.com](http://www.travelyukon.com) website, as well as through our visitor information centres, we do actively highlight Yukon's regions and encourage travellers to visit and explore all of them. I can also say now that just recently on-line is Travel Yukon Twitter, Travel Yukon Facebook, Travel Yukon Flickr and Travel Yukon YouTube for those of you who want enjoy a little bit more.

Those social media tools are going to be a key success in very inexpensively promoting Yukon throughout the globe.

Our vacation planner has sections devoted to each Yukon region, including a section on the Southern Lakes — a national treasure, really. Also, the scenic drive section of the website highlights driving routes through the Southern Lakes, Carcross-Tagish, and other routes would be the Kluane region, the Klondike and Klondike loop, the Golden Circle route and, of course, the Alaska Highway. There is a wealth of other information on the website and I would really encourage all members of the Legislature to take a look at everything that that website has to offer.

Carcross also has a visitor information centre that has recently moved from the old building to the new.

We are looking at other options for that visitor information centre, but it really is a hub for thousands and thousands of visitors to really acquire more information about Yukon as a whole.

We're also very pleased that this summer the new Haines Junction Visitor Information Centre will be located within the newly constructed Dä Kų Cultural Centre owned by the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. We're really proud of the opportunity to work in partnership with the Champagne and

Aishihik First Nations, as well as Parks Canada in promoting that particular region.

That's all I have for him, Madam Chair.

**Mr. Barr:** I do thank the minister for commenting on the national treasure of Southern Lakes and the cultural centre just built in Haines Junction and also the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre downtown. There is a cultural centre in Teslin; there is a cultural centre in Dawson City; there are others throughout the territory, and I might point out that all of those communities also have community clubs. So knowing that, when I have attended all those places — I've attended festivities that suit the cultural centres and community clubs — weddings or whatever is going on.

Knowing that and looking forward in the Southern Lakes area to having the opportunities of musical events that other communities enjoy, I'll just ask the question, again, given that the Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes area is a national treasure: How is the minister going to mitigate flaring LNG wells, if we start to develop oil and gas in the Whitehorse Trough area?

I remember driving the Stewart-Cassiar Highway coming here — as we both agreed how wonderful and blessed we are to be here — looking to my left and seeing the clear-cuts and saying to myself also on that trip, "Boy, am I ever glad I'm not living here."

So will the minister please respond to the plans to explore the cultural centre community house — are there plans to move forward on that in Carcross?

And would the minister foresee also the advantages of cultural events in a community club there?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I do appreciate the questions coming forward from the member opposite.

With any development happening in Carcross, as the member is bringing up, that information is still going back and forth from the department to Carcross, so I'm not going to comment on the specifics of those discussions. So that information will be forthcoming, but I can honestly say we don't quite know where it's going yet. But we are in communication with the Carcross-Tagish First Nation and other people looking at developing in that area.

With respect to your question on oil and gas, this minister will continue to promote tourism throughout the Yukon and all the regions. I have my full confidence in the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to take those questions when he's on the floor of this Legislature defending his budget.

**Mr. Barr:** I understand that there's a direct ratio to investing in the marketing of tourism and the Yukon, and that if we invest \$1, we receive \$27 in return. I would ask in this budget about the marketing dollars, which seem to have remained the same. If we have studies that prove year after year that we can enjoy a 27:1 return, why would we not be increasing our marketing dollars knowing that it's a good bet that up to \$27 — if I gave you \$100, I get how much money back?

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

**Mr. Barr:** \$2,700? Wow, that seems like — why not?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I appreciate the question coming forward from the member opposite. The member opposite is narrowing in on really one area of the department.

Truly, by investing in all areas of this department, whether it be investing in Northern Cultural Expressions, whether it be investing in the Cultural Services branch or Heritage Resources or sending staff up to Rampart House, Herschel Island, Forty-mile or out to the *A.J. Goddard* and promoting all these areas — we have the historic sites unit; we have the museums that we are investing in; and the Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre. The arts section — there has been a huge investment by the Yukon Party government over the last 10 years. We are investing in things like the Old Fire Hall, Archives and the attractions at the Whitehorse International Airport. This fiscal year, we have in total just over \$22.5 million in O&M and a little more than \$2.1 million in capital, for a total of \$24.69 million — a 10-percent increase over last year. On a general basis, all the money that we invest in this department will continue to get the attention of potential visitors on the global market.

Again, I thank the member for his question, and I appreciate his thoughts on the amount being invested in this department now.

**Mr. Barr:** Yes, I realize the interconnectedness and how even somebody who isn't getting paid to be down there runs into somebody in Vancouver and he says, "Where are you from?" "I'm from the Yukon," and "Wow." Then that translates — I was speaking to the direct dollars that are a concentrated effort out there, understanding that there is a 27:1 ratio and we could enhance that a bit in the future.

Moving on to Dawson City — again, I love to go to Dawson City. I didn't realize the film festival was there this weekend. I also understand that a huge part of the tourism is the pre-mining that happened. The historical site just driving into Dawson is amazing. I remember going up there and thinking I was back in the Wild West when I first got there — the dirt streets and hanging out at the Westminster and looking out over the streets.

I was younger then and I was amazed. So I do know that Dawson has been trying to become recognized under UNESCO as being a heritage site. Are there efforts being made to support Dawson City in its efforts to become a UNESCO site by this government?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Just to provide a little bit of background on the Klondike World Heritage Site designation — the world heritage community evaluates sites put forward by countries that have ratified the *World Heritage Convention*. Only sites that are considered to have outstanding universal value are designated as World Heritage Sites. In 2004, the Klondike, including the route from Skagway, was placed on Canada's tentative list of 11 potential world heritage sites. Only sites on this list may be nominated for a designation.

The Klondike is currently one of nine on Canada's tentative list. At the request of the Klondike Visitors Association, the department met with community stakeholders in November 2009 to investigate interests, implications and whether a stand-alone Klondike nomination was even possible.

An ad hoc working group was formed to steer this research consisting of representatives from the city, from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, KVA, the Klondike Placer Miners Association, Parks Canada and Tourism and Culture. In the intervening

months, a survey, interviews, presentations from experts, public events and consultation with national experts in the federal government — Parks Canada, Ottawa — were conducted. The conclusion was that the Klondike nomination was valid and would be possible; however, it could take up to five years to complete at a cost of upwards of \$2 million.

This information was communicated to stakeholders through the ad hoc steering group, along with the Yukon government expectation that community interests would be expected to actively contribute financially and other resources if a nomination were to be pursued. Letters to the minister of the day were subsequently received from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation and from Klondike Placer Miners Association with the former indicating that they cannot support this initiative, citing resource considerations; the latter withdrew from participating in designating the Klondike, indicating their concern with possible effects on placer mining in the region.

The City of Dawson sent a letter to the minister on June 29, 2011, indicating their ongoing interest in the proposal. They felt the positions of Klondike Placer Miners Association and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation were manageable and extended an offer of assistance to Yukon and Parks Canada on any efforts that might be undertaken to mitigate the concerns raised. Further, they sought clarification as to what impacts the Klondike Placer Miners Association and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation positions have on the intention of Yukon and Parks Canada to pursue this initiative.

So there has not been any formal Yukon government response to the letters. Pro-nomination interests remain hopeful that a Yukon-led solution to address THFN resource considerations can be found and that KPMA concerns can also be mitigated. So the Klondike has been included in Canada's tentative list for world heritage sites, as it is an outstanding example of landscape that illustrates the exceptional adaptation and innovation by First Nations for thousands of years up to present day — in responding to a challenging environment — and as an outstanding example of a mining landscape that includes resource, transportation, supply and administrative and institutional components. So Yukon will continue to work with the Dawson community and Parks Canada to explore the interest and resource considerations around the potential nomination of the Klondike for world heritage site designation.

**Mr. Barr:** In recent discussions in the House, we have heard a lot about the Peel. I'm wondering what the Minister of Tourism is doing in regard to mitigating impacts for the wilderness outfitters, not only in the Peel, but throughout the territory, as we move forward with industry-driven proposals that are of a mining nature or an oil and gas nature.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** As the member is fully aware, this process is underway and, at this time, there is nothing to mitigate. As I mentioned in my previous response, when the member was asking about oil and gas in the Whitehorse Trough, this minister and this government provide their full support and have full confidence in the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to take us down that path. So I would suggest diverting those questions over to that minister when he has the floor. As I

mentioned before, this minister will continue to promote Yukon as a whole.

**Mr. Barr:** I'm happy to hear the minister say he's going to support tourism and that there is nothing to mitigate; however, I would differ.

I was up to Keno last spring. Over the years, I have driven up to Keno — and it's pre-mining history up there. I think the population of Keno was 16 at the time. They put their lives there, they continued to stay there, and they developed tourism in that town — beautiful little cabins, worked on buildings, and had places for people to stay — you can even get pizza in Keno. I don't know if you knew that. What I see as a concern that I think is immediate and requires mitigation, and I think should have required mitigation is not allowing the blasting throughout the day right beside a local bed and breakfast. I think that that deserves a response from the Minister of Tourism and Culture — to respond in support of the efforts of people who had nothing, but built something, and their tourism livelihood is definitely affected by that.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I appreciate the questions coming from the member opposite. It sounds like he has a lot of questions to ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources when the minister is on the floor here in this Legislature.

If the member wants me to talk about what we are doing to promote tourism in that region, I can do so. I can even give a little bit of background. Silver was discovered in the Keno area in 1903, and Elsa was established in 1928 and was expanded when the mill was moved there in 1937. Elsa played a major role in the community's economy during the 1950s. United Keno Hill's mine was the second largest silver producer in Canada and the fourth largest producer in the world. Low silver prices forced its closure in 1989, and from the mid-1950s to the mid-1980s, Elsa had a year-round population of actually up to 500 people.

The Elsa site has significance as the only historic, permanent mining camp left in the Yukon. Infrastructure such as fire suppression and steam heat in each building, the generation of power and delivery of water on-site for residential and industrial purposes and for nearby mine sites is not duplicated elsewhere in the Yukon from this time period.

In 2001 Canada, through its type 2 mines program, took over the management of the containment waste of the Elsa site and other mine sites in the Keno mining district, owned by the UKHM.

Alexco Resource Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Access Consulting Group and the Elsa Reclamation and Development Co. Ltd. have a contract with Canada to mitigate the pre-existing environmental liabilities. ERDC took over the site for a fixed price contract with Canada in 2006.

Yukon has done extensive work recording the structures in the town of Elsa and the site over the past two years. The Cultural Services branch in the Department of Tourism and Culture is working with the community and mining company, Alexco Resource Corporation, to identify and explore the feasibility of preservation of the most historically significant buildings.

The Yukon government does not have the resources to undertake the preservation of the historic buildings in Elsa and surrounding area.

Over the past six years, the department has done further work recording historic sites in the Keno mining district to create a baseline data and record for posterity. Cultural Services branch can provide technical support and act as a project manager to assist the company as they undertake a heritage impact assessment on historic resources in the Keno mining district. We continue to invest in the Silver Trail through museum assistance programs and the scenic drive program to highlight the Silver Trail route, supporting the tourism kiosk at the Stewart, in partnership with the Silver Trail Tourism Association. But for the member opposite and the leader who has been speaking with him over last few minutes, any questions pertaining to the Peel or mining — I have my full confidence in the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to answer those questions when he's on the floor. Thank you.

**Mr. Barr:** What I am asking the minister opposite, as the Minister of Tourism and Culture, is what is he doing to advocate for the people who are involved in tourism and cultural activities, on their behalf, to support them in the decline of their tourism opportunities as a result of it.

I would also like to ask the minister opposite if he has driven the road to Keno lately? If you're a tourist trying to get up there, I would think you might turn around. As the Minister of Tourism and Culture, whether it's in the Peel, whether it's in Southern Lakes — all over the Yukon we see tourism opportunities being lost by people who are miners — in Keno, for example — who have turned to tourism, but with the blasting in town and the roads basically becoming inoperable unless you're a big — you could go on *Ice Road Truckers*, and probably get some footage on that road these days. Could the minister let me know what he is doing to advocate for tourism people?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** As I mentioned just a few brief moments ago, speaking about what I'm doing to promote tourism in Yukon as a whole — and it really is as a whole — we will continue to work with the communities such as Keno and Elsa and Dawson and Old Crow, Haines Junction, Watson Lake and so forth to build upon the important work that the department has done over the years to really ensure that the tourism industry remains strong in Yukon.

The member asked what I'm doing to advocate on behalf of the tourists and that's where I talked about the investments that we're putting into delivering programs throughout the Yukon for tourists to take part in. I spoke about the museums. I spoke about the Beringia Centre and the visitor information centres, and we'll continue to build upon those partnerships. Faro, for example, had requested, because their visitor information centre is not run by the Yukon government, to send their staff to our VIC training.

We are doing everything we can to make that happen for them. That's what I am doing to promote tourism in the Yukon as the minister working with this incredible department that just has a real ton of experience and knowledge and is just a real professional group of people. I also work with the Minister

of Energy, Mines and Resources. I work with the Minister of Community Services and the Minister of Environment, the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health and Social Services. It's a team over here. We all work together to really promote a team approach and we work together on different files. If you have questions about mining and those types of things, I am going to continue to refer you to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, but I do appreciate the question and I do appreciate the concern.

**Ms. White:** I would like to congratulate the department on the Travel Yukon website. I have spent some time on there and even for someone like me, who is a bit of a troglodyte, it's excellent.

I have questions about the funding for marketing initiatives for local businesses and local tour operators. Can the minister elaborate a bit on that for me, please?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I appreciate the question coming forward from the member opposite asking about marketing initiatives and what we're doing to promote Yukon.

I'm going to kind of go back to what I was —

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

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I'm sorry, does the member have the floor or do I have the floor here?

**Chair:** Order please. Mr. Nixon has the floor.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate that.

So, we're working with industry. We're working with the Heritage branch. We're working with the museums. We are working with product development and research. We're working with Canada's North marketing campaign. We're working with the overseas travel destination awareness marketing campaign and visitor services.

The department is bringing GoMedia up to Yukon where there will be about 150 tourism experts from all across the nation. All these things in combination really do promote Yukon; they promote marketing. The department really prides itself on the relationship it has with the NGOs such as TIA, KVA — relationships like that really are second to none when these people are promoting Yukon as a brand.

**Ms. White:** I apologize; I didn't mean to offend. What I was trying to ask and the question was this: For local businesses that are trying to access funding from marketing initiatives, I was just wondering what initiatives were encouraged or funded, or what kind of things could be assisted by the department.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I appreciate the question coming forward from the member opposite.

This department will continue to work with industry, the NGOs, small business, through the Tourism Industry Association of Yukon and the senior marketing committee to develop programs that meet the needs of the industry and position Yukon as a travel destination really throughout the globe.

Last year there was \$700,000 added to the tourism cooperative marketing fund, and 155 applicants were able to tap into that fund. This is an example of one initiative that we are using to promote tourism on the global stage.

**Ms. White:** If a small tourism business in the Yukon was looking to promote itself with alternative media — I know that the department has just mentioned its new initiatives with Facebook and YouTube and Flickr and all those other things — would they be able to access funding for a video production?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The department has the tourism cooperative marketing fund, as I mentioned just previously. That fund is eligible to Yukon businesses for leveraging their marketing resources. I will also suggest that member ask the same question to the Minister of Economic Development, because there are resources through that department as well.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for those answers. I am not sure if people know, but I am an avid mountain biker, and I spend an awful lot of time in the Carcross area in the summertime. I am not sure if everyone in the House is aware, but the Yukon has become a world renowned mountain bike destination, and we are getting kudos in almost every publication around right now.

Has there been any relationship between Carcross-Tagish First Nation and the Yukon government for promoting Carcross and Montana Mountain, specifically, as a mountain bike destination, and with that, assistance with trail construction and trail maintenance and similar things?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I, too, have been known to ride a mountain bike from time to time, and I appreciate the question coming forward.

The Department of Tourism and Culture has been working with the Carcross-Tagish First Nation and the groups specifically that have worked with those incredible trails over the last few years. They have acquired money through the community development fund to assist in the development of those trails. It's really initiatives like that — and the work that's going on out at Mount Sima with the new chairlift and promoting mountain biking down there and now with the new zip line. I am very much looking forward to going down Mount Sima at 120 kilometres an hour with the WildPlay that they're supporting. So, it's really those initiatives that are coming to fruition and putting the Yukon on centre stage. It's grabbing the attention of maybe a different market for Yukon. So hopefully we see those things continue. Hopefully the individuals and the group that's working on the trails out at Carcross will continue to expand on those, maybe.

Really, the diversity of product only strengthens Yukon's appeal as a destination, as I've mentioned before, on the global market. We're tapping into so many markets and there are really some truly magnificent key markets that we're looking at. We all know about the Fulda Challenge. I'll be going over to Germany in August to meet with Fulda. I'll be meeting with Condor over there, and I will also be meeting with the Hanover Zoo to look at their re-creation of aspects of Dawson City. They're very excited to have a Yukoner coming over. I think that just a small delegation going over there will really raise some interest for Yukon. Again, we're on the centre stage on the global market, so we'll continue those initiatives.

**Mr. Tredger:** I, too, have ridden a mountain bike and my chiropractor encourages me to do it again; it's good for his business.

One of the nice things about being in the Legislature is the pleasure that everyone here takes in their riding and where they're from, whether they're from Pelly-Nisutlin, or, like me, from Mayo-Tatchun, or whether they're from Dawson City. We all love where we're from. It makes it an easy product to promote and put forward, but I must commend the Department of Tourism and Culture for the job that they do and to all their staff.

We do have a wonderful territory and it is filled with well-known sites and a lot of hidden gems. I'll put out a challenge to all members of the Legislature —

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

**Mr. Tredger:** You could come to Mayo for the Mountain Madness or the Midnight Marathon and run a marathon, which is held in June. My challenge to all the people here is to promote Yukon as a destination and let's encourage each of us to do some travelling and some visiting locally — going up to Kluane, going to Watson Lake to see the Northern Lights Space and Science Centre, stopping at Faro for the Crane and Sheep Viewing Festival, coming to Mayo for the Midnight Marathon and the Mayo Arts Festival.

I think local travel is an important aspect and something we could all do to help tourism in the Yukon. There are a couple of areas that affect me very directly, and I would like to commend the Heritage staff and Selkirk First Nation for the partnership they have developed over the years at Fort Selkirk. My home is very close to there and, in fact, many of the people travelling by travel by my home. I have watched the development over the last 20 years and have been very impressed. I've seen the pride that Selkirk First Nation members take in the area. I've seen the pride that Heritage staff has for the cooperation and partnerships they have developed. This is a wonderful opportunity and, thanks to Parks Canada, many Yukoners are able to get there on Parks Day.

The other thing that came to mind when the minister opposite mentioned Fulda is that the Yukon Quest travels through my property and through much of the Mayo-Tatchun area. This is a fabulous opportunity.

It can be expanded upon, and I would encourage Yukon Tourism and Culture to do everything in its power to ensure its viability long term and that it continues to bring tourists to the Yukon in the wintertime.

I have a couple of questions. One was on the archaeological sites and the participation in YESA. I noticed that we have 3,700 archaeological sites. Their YESA reviews have remained at 200 to 210 over the last year. Is there any anticipation that with the increase in exploration and development in the area that there may be a demand for more? What contingencies do we have in place if many of the areas that have been identified or are yet to be identified — that we are able to contribute to YESA? One of YESAB's concerns is that while they are stressed and stretched in handling their workload, it's important that the various departments and various contributors are still able to make enough contributions and get enough input so that they are able to do a proper assessment.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for his question. Someone remind me not to go mountain biking with

him. The increase in placer mining activity in response to high gold prices has really led the industry to expand into new ground where less is known about potential heritage resources that might be impacted by mining. As a result, the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board has, in a few cases, asked placer miners to submit information on potential heritage resource impacts. The heritage resource unit in the Department of Tourism and Culture is working with the placer industry to assist them in meeting the obligations of the *Yukon Environmental Socio-economic Assessment Act* and process and the *Historic Resources Act*.

The heritage resources unit has developed placer mining best management practices for the Heritage Resources to raise awareness in the industry concerning potential heritage resource effects of their activities.

Further, the unit is submitting an application for CanNor funding that will enable the government to collect better baseline data to assist in some aspects of mine planning, which in return will help placer miners address the YESAA requirements.

With the government and industry working cooperatively, we are confident we can ensure the efficient management of the heritage resources. I appreciate the member's question.

**Mr. Tredger:** On the same topic, I guess a couple of my concerns are that we now have more than 200,000 claims staked. It is one thing to work with placer miners who have a vested interest in the territory and who are long-term residents. They worked with local boards and were able to develop a relationship. When we are talking about 200,000 active claims, as they start to move into the exploration phase, my concern would be that there will be fly-in/fly-out companies that may be here for a short period of time. They may be going into areas they don't know. Placer miners tend to know the area they are going into; they tend to be very familiar with it.

From an exploration perspective, we're moving into a new phase and my concern is that we're going into a lot of uncharted territory and we need to be working with the First Nations to identify possible sites. We need to be working with the archeological branch and we need to gather, as mentioned, a lot of data. I'm just concerned that last year the forecast estimated 210 reviews and we ended up doing 200. This year we're forecasting another 210. Is there sufficient leeway in the Tourism and Culture budget if there is a 30-percent increase in demand for reviews?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for his questions. With regard to encouraging Yukoners to explore their own backyard, I couldn't agree more with the member opposite. This team Yukon works together collaboratively and tourism interests will be a real important part of all decisions that this government makes.

For example, we've invested \$500,000 in the budget for the Silver Trail. I would encourage all Yukoners to visit [www.travel yukon.com](http://www.travel yukon.com) to learn about all the things that there are to see and do, including things like scenic drives and events occurring during the year.

I know the members opposite continue to ask questions about the YESAB process and mining and so on and so forth,

so again, I'll refer the member opposite to when the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has the floor. I will continue to work with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, as I have a continued relationship with all the other ministers on this floor. But the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources really can answer those questions better than I can.

**Mr. Tredger:** I guess I wasn't asking the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources questions about archaeological sites. That is under this minister's purview, but I'll go on. There are a couple of other things. I did want to congratulate Tourism and Culture for their support of the Mayo Midnight Madness, as I mentioned earlier, and the Mayo Arts Festival. It occurs on June 23 every year and it's a wonderful time to come to Mayo. I invite you all there; you can even participate in the marathon if you like.

Culture and heritage centres: there is one in Carmacks run in conjunction with Little Salmon-Carmacks First Nation; there's one in Pelly — the Big Jonathan House; there's Binet House in Mayo; and the Keno City Mining Museum. All of those are centerpieces for the community. A lot of tourists stop and visit them and they are a wonderful thing. It is important, though, that we make sure they're maintained and that there is sufficient money in the budget to take care of any increases that are necessary to keep them in good order and make them inviting places for our tourists. I thank the department for the work on that.

I have mentioned roads many times and I have just a couple of comments.

As Minister of Tourism and Culture, I understand you are not responsible for highways, but I would encourage you to speak from a tourist's point of view in that it is important that our highways are able to handle additional traffic, wherever it comes from, so that we are able to get tourists in and out of the territory. It is becoming increasingly apparent that RV traffic to the Yukon is important, and it is critical to many of the tourist companies, but they are also a fairly finicky population. If the road coming up is not maintained well, if they end up in long lineups, if they are competing with industrial traffic or local traffic, the word gets out there fairly quickly that they don't want to travel here. So, I would encourage the Minister of Tourism and Culture to advocate within Cabinet for passing lanes and pullouts. People I have talked to have mentioned the signage and the interpretive signs that are along the way and the interpretive centres. Those are all very good things and I would encourage this minister to continue to advocate for them.

As far as the road to Keno you mentioned, I will just say I believe there is \$400,000 or \$500,000 for the Silver Trail. I'm not sure whether that will be spent on the portion of the Silver Trail from Stewart Crossing to Mayo, or from Mayo to Keno. I will reserve that question for the Minister of Highways and Public Works, unless this minister has an answer to that now — and perhaps what is going to be accomplished by that \$500,000. I'm just as happy to go to the Minister of Highways and Public Works.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I will defer the member to the Minister of Highways and Public Works. I have my full confidence in him. But I can say from personal experience — from my

journey to Mayo and Keno and Elsa, and from talking to visitors who have made that trip — it is truly a Yukon experience. I think whether the roads are paved or gravel, I really do think that people appreciate where they are and where they're going. I'm glad that the member opposite brought up the various places to attend while in Mayo and Keno.

Those are places I have been at and hope to be back to one day soon.

**Mr. Tredger:** I just got a note — when I was talking about the YESA Board reviews, I was talking about the archeological and heritage ones. Just for the minister's reference — I may have forgotten to mention that.

One final question concerns outfitters, not necessarily in the Peel area, but throughout. We have seen a number of conflicts between the extractive industry and outfitters and other tourism and cultural opportunities. I would just ask the minister this question: Will he speak up for tourism within his Cabinet and encourage the Yukon government to make land use planning a priority so that we don't continue to have these uncertainties and conflicts between users? Once land use planning is in place, the idea is that they should lessen. I guess my question to the minister is this: Will he encourage his Cabinet or his government to make land use planning a priority so that tourism can develop?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for his question. The Yukon government has land policies in place to manage all public and industry needs, except for remote commercial wilderness and recreation. Permitting and certainty of tenure for a remote commercial purpose remains a priority for the Yukon government.

In September 2009, the Yukon Forum recommended that the Yukon government begin work on considering new sites for big game outfitting, working in concert with proposals that may be considered through a new commercial wilderness policy. So my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, is seeking a mandate to begin discussions with Yukon First Nations as part of working toward an integrated remote land policy. I will continue to work with my colleague in Energy, Mines and Resources and the other ministries, as I have mentioned before, on this initiative.

**Mr. Silver:** I rise today to speak on the Department of Tourism and Culture's budget with respect to its resources that it allocates to different priorities, and how adequate and effective those allocations are. I will also take the opportunity to offer some observations on tourism in the Yukon and ways in which we could better support our tourism operators and organizers. To help us move through all the departments, as well as the multiple pieces of legislation on the agenda for this sitting, I will keep my comments brief and I will offer them on behalf of the Liberal caucus.

The budget of the Department of Tourism and Culture should be the means by which the government applies what it knows about the current tourism industry, where we want the industry to go strategically, and what the most effective methods of developing the industry are likely to be. Unfortunately, the department does not currently gather the most useful information about how many and what kind of travellers the terri-



tory attracts. Yukon visitor statistics staff counts the number of people who drive into the Yukon, either in their own vehicles or in motor coaches. The numbers do not include, as far as I know, people who arrive by air, train or the water into Dawson City. Given the recent, expensive, international additions to the Whitehorse airport, it's clear that this methodology leaves out an important piece of information.

Madam Chair, it is that kind of baseline information that we need when we are developing tourism strategies and spending money to advance these strategies. The Department of Tourism and Culture will spend almost \$25 million this year. Responsible oversight requires that we know where the money is going and if the expenditures are being effective.

Under the guise of marketing spending — for example, this budget includes roughly \$6 million for the marketing operation O&M, and there is another \$125,000 for marketing North America's websites, and then appropriations for specific tourism undertakings — which I am sure includes some promotions and marketing there as well. It's important that when the government dispenses \$6 million from the public purse, they are getting a good bang for the buck.

What performance measures are in place for marketing? How does the government determine if a marketing campaign is bringing in new tourism dollars? How often are marketing practices evaluated and adjusted, based on government findings as to their effectiveness?

Buying expensive advertisement space isn't the only way to market the Yukon, and I encourage the minister to consider other, more effective ways of getting the message out.

For example, creative low-cost marketing partnerships could get the Yukon more exposure. As we speak, there are people in the Yukon scoping out people and places for television. Entertainment professionals are here right now and there is a great opportunity to show them the best Yukon has to offer.

As far as Klondike tourism and Dawson City tourism, the arts have a significant impact on our economy and on the community. Last year, the Dawson City Arts Society released its report, *The Economic Impact of Dawson City's Visual and Performing Arts*. The report applied a conservation methodology that included only the economic footprint from the major organizations. That would include the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture or KIAC, Dawson City Music Festival Association, the School of Visual Arts, and the performance arts spending for the Klondike Visitors Association. They found that these four arts organizations alone made up five percent of the local economy contributing \$2.68 million and the equivalent of 49.5 full-time jobs.

Some members of the arts and culture community question the vision of Tourism predominantly informing the department's activities as that of RVs and adventure or wilderness companies. There is less funding and support for the development of authentic cultural attractions.

Government involvement in the industry should focus more on strengthening the infrastructure of existing cultural institutions rather than creating new projects. Existing cultural institutions are already embedded in the local fabric and they provide the foundation for cultural tourism. The power of

strong cultural institutions also retains citizens, which is particularly important in isolated communities. The Dawson City Music Festival is one such existing cultural institution that is affected by the current government's approach to cultural tourism. There are currently no programs that cover not-for-profit organizations. Tourism Yukon's current product development partnership program does feasibility studies for project-ready funding, but does not fund not-for-profits as they are not creating commercial, export-ready products in the traditional sense.

The Dawson City Music Festival organization would benefit from government support to develop scheduled events showcasing talented ambassadors who can then spread the word beyond Yukon about Dawson City as a place to create and to perform.

Another option would be for the Department of Tourism and Culture to provide three years' worth of funding for a marketing and developing coordinator. That would be enough time to enhance and expand the event for the position to become self-sufficient.

The Dawson City Music Festival already generates 70 percent of its own revenues. Temporarily funding a market and development coordinator would increase the revenues and strengthen the festival for the long term. Local marketing initiatives for this and other Dawson City events are limited by funding. The marketing budgets for Klondike Institute of Art and Culture and the School of Visual Arts and the Dawson City Music Festival are small. This is due to the fact that there is no staff to implement a marketing budget, even if it did exist, and housing for staff and volunteers remains a major impediment to developing the local tourism and arts community.

There are dwindling numbers of summer workers for the music fest. Most recruitment occurs by word of mouth from the previous years' volunteers. People come to town and work in the service industry because of a desire to be involved with the festival or because they have heard that, because of the festival, Dawson is a cool place to be. We should add on this appeal by enhancing our cultural institutions and facilitating the needs for staff and volunteers.

Finally, I would like to talk briefly about the Highland Games that are starting up in Dawson City. I'll take this opportunity to invite members of this House and all Yukoners to the first annual Top of the World Highland Games in Dawson City, which will be June 15 to 17.

The games will include the caber toss, the hammer throw, the tug of war and the draw on both the Scottish heritage in the area and Dawson City's rugged character. As I have said before, the Klondike has an incredible history in forming our tourism and culture today. This event is, in fact, a continuation of past community events. On the Queen's birthday in 1899, large crowds gathered on Front Street to enjoy such, and I quote, "Scottish diversions as caber tossing, shot-putting, sword-dancing and a bagpipe competition" and we hope to see all of you there.

Madam Chair, my Gaelic is a little bit rusty, and my grandfather, Alexander "Stuff" MacDonald would probably be rolling around in his grave with the state of my brogue, yet I must extend a hundred thousand welcomes to all — Ciad Mile

Fàilte, Kh Add Mall Fai-cuh — and once again invite you all to our festival.

In closing comments, we have a great opportunity for enhancing our tourism and arts sector throughout the territory. We have the culture, the history, the environment and the industry and community partnerships to put Yukon on the world stage. We appreciate the continuing good work of the officials and the personnel in the Department of Tourism and Culture. For that, I would also like to say, “Slàinte mhòr agad” which is “Cheers” and yes, I already spoke to *Hansard* about these words.

**Chair:** Would the members like a recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

#### *Recess*

**Chair:** Order. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. We'll continue debate on Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and thanks for the break. I appreciate the question coming forward from the Member for Klondike.

The Department of Tourism and Culture remains market-driven and research-led and, with that, the department is committed to working with our industry partners to develop a new Yukon visitor tracking program to measure the performance of Yukon's visitation by air and road and sea. The information from this program will provide industry and government with the tools necessary to properly assess the value of visitation to Yukon, better to understand who our visitors are and support a strategic approach to growing tourism revenues and to the future. A public tender for this project closed on February 28, 2012, and two proposals were received.

A joint industry department evaluation committee will review the proposals in early March and select a contractor. The department will then work with CanNor to determine if they will provide funds for this project. A pilot survey is planned to commence in May of this year, with the full survey slated to start June 1.

With regard to the Klondike region, Yukon Tourism's overall approach is to — as I mentioned before — market Yukon as a whole. We do this through a number of marketing activities, including raising awareness of Yukon among consumers or potential travellers; working with the travel trade to promote Yukon travel products; working with media to encourage media stories about Yukon as a travel destination.

In our consumer marketing materials, such as our vacation planner and the [www.travel yukon.com](http://www.travel yukon.com) website, as well as through our visitor information centres, we do actively highlight Yukon's regions and encourage travellers to visit and explore them.

The vacation planner has sections devoted to each region, including the Klondike. This section includes a profile of communities within the region, local attractions, an accommodations guide and other information specific to the region.

The website [www.travel yukon.com](http://www.travel yukon.com) also highlights Yukon's regions and communities in a number of ways. For example, the scenic drive section of the website highlights driving routes that intersect the Klondike region and the loop. There is a wealth of other information on that website, [www.travel yukon.com](http://www.travel yukon.com), and I would encourage all members in this Legislature to take a look at the website and become familiar with it.

I'm trying to answer all the questions. The member asked about marketing performances. How do we measure the performance of our programs within T&C? As I mentioned before, we are market-driven and research-based. Each year, the department assesses the performance of its campaigns to ensure they meet the objectives.

The department does this in partnership with Yukon industry. I'm pleased to report that the department's programs are indeed meeting our objectives. I only have to point to the annual report card the department produces, which highlights our successes.

Talking about partnerships — I have been meeting with the department over the past five months now, and the staff should be commended. They are very proud of the partnerships they have developed with industry in the Yukon over the years. This includes the senior marketing committee, TIA, wilderness tourism, the Yukon Convention Bureau, the Yukon Quest, Yukon First Nations and the Yukon First Nations Tourism Association that is being re-established, we well as the Klondike Visitors Association.

We are also proud of our partnerships with our air carriers, the Canadian Tourism Commission and our neighbours in Alaska, B.C., Alberta, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Through these partnerships, we're able to leverage our brand — our Yukon tourism brand — and position Yukon as a year-round travel destination and, of course, the promotion of all regions of the Yukon, but, in your case specifically, to the Dawson region — that's incorporated through marketing the visitor guide and the website and other services like that.

I hope I got to all of the member's questions. I think it's worth mentioning that shortly after I was appointed the Minister of Tourism and Culture, I spoke to the Member for Klondike about issues pertaining to RV rental crossing for visitors trying to bring RVs into Canada and also working on the Little Gold Creek border crossing, so I've been following up with the minister, my federal counterpart, on both of those issues and will continue to do so.

We do feel very optimistic that there will be a positive outcome, so as soon as I have more information on both of those circumstances, I'll let the member opposite know. As I said, we're optimistic that we will be able to reach some sort of a compromise, per se.

The government, along with the Klondike Visitors Association and the City of Dawson, has encouraged the federal minister, as I mentioned, to reinstate the former 12 hours of operation for the Little Gold port of entry. The reduction in hours — for those who aren't aware — interrupted the flow of Yukon-destined visitors from Alaska, resulting in a loss of tourism revenues, which has had a significant negative impact

on the community of Dawson and the region, and we have heard of people driving from Alaska toward Dawson and getting to a closed border in the early evening. In many cases, if they are not “driving their accommodations,” they’re forced to turn around and drive two to four hours to find a place to stay.

I suspect that, in many cases, they would just continue going on the Alaska Highway, diverting from Dawson City, and we really do want to avoid that. The short notice given for this announcement, the subsequent alteration of hours, and the lack of consultation with the stakeholders have all been raised as issues of concern. As I just mentioned, the lack of hours really did inconvenience many visitors. We are supportive of efforts to improve border efficiency as it is critical for the tourism industry, in particular, and for promoting healthy economic activity in general.

I have had the pleasure of meeting with Minister Toews in Ottawa, just this past February when I was at the FPT meeting. While our Yukon contingent was taking part in the Winterlude activities as well, I reminded him that my Yukon constituents and my government have been actively seeking some resolution to the new operating hours at Little Gold Creek and, as I mentioned, we are optimistic that we will talk more about that in the near future.

**Mr. Barr:** I would like to ask the minister a question about Condor’s schedule and also if there have been further talks with Edelweiss Air and if that’s proceeding — or where that’s at coming into Whitehorse.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Thank you to the member opposite for his question. This is an important one to the territory.

First, I’ll speak about Edelweiss, which flew in here last year — a Swiss airline. They have actually discontinued service to Yukon and Alaska, but I do believe that they’re diverting their flights to Vancouver and potentially working with other air carriers if people are interested in coming up here.

The relationship with Condor continues to grow and continues to see an increase in ridership. They will continue to offer once-weekly direct air service from Frankfurt to Whitehorse, starting May 27 and ending September 30 this year and connecting service with Air North — so they built that partnership — until October 27. Tourism has entered into a \$40,000 cooperative marketing agreement with Condor to promote their seasonal flights with a specific emphasis on the September flights. Several German tour operators that Tourism Yukon maintains cooperative marketing agreements with utilize Condor as their carrier of choice.

Air access is vital to Yukon’s tourism industry and Tourism Yukon will continue to work with Yukon tourism operators, travel trade partners and air carriers to enhance air access and connectivity to Yukon. Tourism Yukon does not solicit access into the domestic or U.S. markets.

Tourism Yukon actively pursues air access and services from overseas markets, including code-share and interline connectivity. When domestic or U.S. air carriers approach Tourism Yukon, we make every effort to provide them with the information they are requesting. Normally, the request is for market intelligence, stats, business contacts, cooperative marketing opportunities and website presence.

**Mr. Barr:** I just have a few comments before we move into line-by-line debate.

I’d just like to once again commend the Tourism and Culture staff and department and the minister. I look forward to working with the minister to resolve some of the issues it seems we couldn’t get to here. I would like to also comment that I’m happy to see that the Artist in the School fund is continuing. I do know that since its inception many youth are benefiting from the opportunities from musicians going into the communities and the schools, and there have been a lot of young, budding musicians, which I am always happy to see — and in all the arts, with the touring funds.

There was one situation I have brought up before, though — and I believe it falls under the advanced artist award. If there is going to be an expansion of the ability of someone who is doing a recording, now that there are so many acts that are international touring acts — they may have started out recording in the Yukon and using the great studios that are here and the musicians who are here. As we know, the benefits of — I do, as a musician — being able to add some new flavour to a recording or a song or what that might be — I do know that some folks would like to expand that flavour to some other artists within Canada, or maybe some studios that would offer a little bit of a different approach in their advanced careers.

I am wondering if there is any movement on spending some of those funds, say in Vancouver, or is it to be the remaining — only recording dollars obtained in the Yukon channelled to recording studios in the Yukon?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I’ll be very brief on this for the member opposite. As my colleague, the Minister of Economic Development, has pointed out, there is indeed a fund through Economic Development for this. So if I can defer that question when he has the floor in this Legislature, he’ll be happy to answer that for you.

**Mr. Barr:** Thank you for that clarity, honourable member opposite. Just before I sit down, I would also like to invite, as one of my elders reminded me — I’d like to invite everyone to Carcross for the sunrise ceremony on Aboriginal Day, June 21. Come and be with us. There is a lot going on in Carcross on that day, and we begin when the sun does rise, so please come. I invite all our members here to be with us.

I would be happy to move into line-by-line debate.

**Chair:** Is there any further general debate on Vote 54? Seeing none, we’ll proceed line by line, starting on page 16-6.

***On Corporate Services***

***On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures***

*On Deputy Minister’s Office*

*Deputy Minister’s Office in the amount of \$532,000*

*On Directorate*

*Directorate in the amount of \$199,000 agreed to*

*On Human Resources*

*Human Resources in the amount of \$192,000 agreed to*

*On Finance and Administration*

*Finance and Administration in the amount of \$484,000 agreed to*

*On Information Management*

*Information Management in the amount of \$194,000 agreed to*

*On Policy and Communications*

**Ms. Hanson:** I just need a quick confirmation. I'm not sure if we asked or received the information that we were going to get from each department about the number of FTEs, and while we're on communications here, what is the number of FTEs devoted to communications?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for her question.

In policy and communications, there are five FTEs. There is one director and those five FTEs consist of the following: one director of policy and communications; two policy analysts; one communications officer; and, one communications coordinator. Thank you.

**Ms. Hanson:** Just to clarify — the total personnel in Tourism and Culture?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The total budget for Tourism staff is \$9,062,000.

**Ms. Hanson:** I appreciate the answer in terms of the gross amount of money. In the general debate on the budget at the beginning, the Minister of Finance declined to answer the question in the terms of personnel or FTEs and suggested — actually directed us to raise this question with each minister.

I am simply asking for the number of people who work for the Department of Tourism and Culture here. Just as a heads-up — I mean, we have asked this question of every minister and we would ask that of every minister. Again, it's part of the overall accountability issue. Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** With the exact number, I'll get back to the member opposite.

*Policy and Communications in the amount of \$577,000 agreed to*

*Corporate Services Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$2,178,000 agreed to*

*On Capital Expenditures*

*On Information Technology Equipment and Systems*

**Mr. Barr:** What would be the increases in this amount?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** This funding was for workstations and equipment, network infrastructure and systems development.

It's an increase of \$58,000 or 42 percent from the 2011-12 estimate to the 2012-13 estimate, and it's based on replacement schedules and priority projects.

*Information Technology Equipment and Systems in the amount of \$197,000 agreed to*

*On Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space*

*Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space in the amount of \$7,000 agreed to*

*On Prior Years' Projects*

*Prior Year's Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

*Corporate Services Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$204,000 agreed to*

*Corporate Services Total Expenditures in the amount of \$2,382,000 agreed to*

**Chair:** We will proceed to Cultural Services. Is there any general debate?

**Ms. Hanson:** Just a clarification, if I may. I'm interested to confirm that the cold-storage expansion and this whole sort of looking after archival material — is this a one-year project or is this a multi-year project and this is the first of several years?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** This is multi-year planning.

**Ms. Hanson:** Multi-year — three years, five years?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The planning is undergoing this year, so from that planning we'll determine the entire length of the project.

**Chair:** Is there any further debate on Cultural Services? Seeing none, we'll proceed to line by line.

*On Cultural Services*

*On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures*

*On Directorate*

*Directorate in the amount of \$483,000 agreed to*

*On Heritage Resources*

**Mr. Barr:** I just would like to understand the jump from \$866,000 to \$1.146 million.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for his question on this as there is a significant jump. Heritage Resources coordinates and manages all aspects of land-based heritage resources including archeology, paleontology, geographical names and licensing of scientific research. The Heritage Resources budget is estimated \$1.146 million and is made up of \$758,000 in personnel, so that is 7.5 FTEs, which is made up of one manager of Heritage Resources, one toponymist, one archeologist, one site-assessment archeologist, one site-development archeologist, two paleontologists and a .5 paleontologist assistant.

There is also \$368,000 and that's made up of \$69,000 for travel in and out of the territory, small research grants — or contracts, sorry — \$150,000 for a contract for a feasibility study for a paleontology facility in Dawson City; and, \$16,000 for program materials related to purchase of film, recording tapes and film processing, reference and technical books, heritage resource public awareness brochures, videos and other print material. There is \$43,000 for rentals, subscriptions, postage, training and miscellaneous supplies; and \$20,000 in government transfers for the Yukon Science Institute, support for a major public lecture series toward increasing public awareness of historic resources, and research and preservation.

So this is an increase of \$280,000, or 32 percent, from the 2011-12 estimates to the 2012-13 estimates.

That's a result of \$20,000 for benefit adjustments and collective agreement impacts; \$100,000 for 1.5 FTEs in the paleontology program and \$10,000 for travel and other expenses related to the paleontology program, as well as \$150,000 for a feasibility study for the paleontology facility in the Dawson area, as I mentioned. So, that's a total of \$280,000.

*Heritage Resources in the amount of \$1,146,000 agreed to*

*On Historic Sites*

*Historic Sites in the amount of \$1,186,000 agreed to*

*On Museums*

**Mr. Barr:** I see another jump with the estimate to the 2012 estimate of approximately \$300,000.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The increase of \$332,000, or 16 percent, from the 2011-12 estimates to the 2012-13 estimates, is a result of \$13,000 for benefit adjustments in collective agreement impacts. There is a \$70,000 increase in funding for Haines Junction Cultural Centre; \$100,000 increase in funding for the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre; and \$139,000 increase in funding for the northern strategy project with Yukon College.

*Museums in the amount of \$2,313,000 agreed to*

*On Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre*

*Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre in the amount of \$354,000 agreed to*

*On Arts*

*Arts in the amount of \$3,767,000 agreed to*

*On Archives*

*Archives in the amount of \$1,320,000 agreed to*

**Cultural Services Operation and Maintenance in the amount of \$10,569,000 agreed to**

**On Capital Expenditures**

*On Heritage Resources — Paleontology Trailer*

**Mr. Tredger:** Could the minister opposite please explain what the trailer is and whether it will be traveling to the communities?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I appreciate the question coming forward from the member opposite. It is a mobile trailer so the potential is there that it could go to other communities. But right now, it is based in Dawson City just as a result of unavailability of other unique and proper space for them to use. So the \$50,000 is identified to purchase the trailer for enhanced presence in Dawson City.

**Mr. Tredger:** So is it a residence or is it a display kind of trailer?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** This is a very temporary residence and also used for storage of artifacts and other things needed for the people in Dawson.

*Heritage Resources — Paleontology Trailer in the amount of \$50,000 agreed to*

*On Historic Sites — Historic Sites Maintenance*

**Mr. Tredger:** I'm just noticing the forecast for 2011-12 is considerably more than the \$100,000. It's \$135,000 extra. Could the minister explain that please?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** There is an increase of \$135,000 from the 2011-12 estimates to the 2011-12 forecast.

That's a result of a revote of \$10,000 and an approval of \$125,000 identified for the restoration workshop.

*Historic Sites — Historic Sites Maintenance in the amount of \$100,000 agreed to*

*On Historic Sites — Fort Selkirk*

*Historic Sites — Fort Selkirk in the amount of \$160,000 agreed to*

*On Historic Sites — Historic Sites Planning*

*Historic Sites — Historic Sites Planning in the amount of \$25,000 agreed to*

*On Historic Sites — Interpretation and Signage*

*Historic Sites — Interpretation and Signage in the amount of \$70,000 agreed to*

*On Historic Sites — Rampart House*

**Mr. Elias:** Can I get a breakdown, please?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The \$60,000 that's allotted here is for staffing. It's to work with the First Nations to buy material. As for an exact breakdown, I would have to get back to the member opposite with the specific details of that breakdown.

*Historic Sites — Rampart House in the amount of \$60,000 agreed to*

*On Historic Sites — Forty Mile*

**Mr. Silver:** I would like a breakdown of that line item, please.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** This project provides funding for Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine historic site preservation, management and development pursuant to the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement*, and the site management plan of 2006, and the interpretation plan of 2007. As it is stated here, it shows no change for the 2011-12 estimates to the 2012-13 estimates.

*Historic Sites — Forty Mile in the amount of \$90,000 agreed to*

*On Historic Sites — Yukon Sawmill*

**Mr. Barr:** Where is Yukon Sawmill?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Shame — Dawson City.

**Mr. Barr:** Can I get an explanation of these expenditures?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I will also state that there are actually two Yukon Sawmill buildings. There is one in Dawson City and there is one at the Hannover Zoo in Germany. This project provides funding for the rehabilitation and necessary maintenance of the historic Yukon Sawmill Company office building in Dawson City and this shows no change from the 2011-12 estimates to the 2012-13 estimates.

*Historic Sites — Yukon Sawmill in the amount of \$30,000 agreed to*

*On Historic Sites — Heritage Trails*

**Mr. Tredger:** I'm intrigued by this item. Can I have an explanation of where the trails might be and how they're being developed?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** These heritage trails are primarily with the Kluane First Nation, in that region of Yukon.

*Historic Sites — Heritage Trails in the amount of \$40,000 agreed to*

*On Museums — Military and Industrial Artifact Assessment*

**Mr. Barr:** I'd just like to understand the \$60,000 increase here.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Actually, before I'm going to answer the member opposite, the Leader of the Official Opposition was looking for a job breakdown for Tourism. There are 93 FTEs in total.

Getting back to the member's question about Military and Industrial Artifact Assessment, this project provides funding support to assist with the conservation assessment and treatment of the B-26 bomber that was discovered during the summer of 2009 in Watson Lake.

*Museums — Military and Industrial Artifact Assessment in the amount of \$60,000 agreed to*

*On Museums — Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre Museums — Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre in the amount of \$90,000 agreed to*

*On Museums — Prior Years' Projects Museums — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

*On Visual Arts — Visual Arts Acquisition Visual Arts — Visual Arts Acquisition in the amount of \$25,000 agreed to*

*On Arts and Cultural Development — Prior Years' Projects*

*Arts and Cultural Development — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

*On Archives — Archives Preservation Projects Archives — Archives Preservation Projects in the amount of \$25,000 agreed to*

*On Archives — Building Maintenance*

**Ms. Hanson:** I'd like to clarify — this building maintenance — is this related to the cold storage expansion? Otherwise, I'd be interested in knowing why it went from zero to \$258,000.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The \$258,000 — building capital maintenance projects identified and selected by property management for completion. So, not specific to the project that the member opposite spoke of.

**Ms. White:** Does that have to do with the fire suppression that accidentally got set off earlier this year?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for the question. In fact, no, it doesn't have anything to do with the fire suppression system. It has to do with siding and windows and general maintenance issues like that.

*Archives — Building Maintenance in the amount of \$258,000 agreed to*

*On Archives — Cold Storage Expansion*

*Archives — Cold Storage Expansion in the amount of \$291,000 agreed to*

*Cultural Services Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$1,374,000 agreed to*

*Cultural Services Total Expenditures in the amount of \$11,943,000 agreed to*

*On Tourism*

*On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures*

*On Directorate*

*Directorate in the amount of \$340,000 agreed to*

*On Product Development and Research*

*Product Development and Research in the amount of \$1,580,000 agreed to*

*On Marketing Operations*

**Mr. Barr:** I'd just like to query the approximate \$600,000 increase there.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** There is an increase of \$669,000 from the 2011-12 estimates to the 2012-13 estimates, which is a result of \$79,000 for collective agreement impacts and \$590,000 CanNor funding for the overseas campaign.

*Marketing Operations in the amount of \$5,996,000 agreed to*

*On Visitor Services*

**Mr. Barr:** Where would this service be enhanced or is it multiple visitor services?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** There is an increase of \$72,000 or four percent from the 2011-12 estimate to the 2012-13 estimate as the result of benefit adjustments, collective agreement impacts and staff changes.

*Visitor Services in the amount of \$1,919,000 agreed to*

*Tourism Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$9,835,000 agreed to*

*On Capital Expenditures*

*On Visitor Information Centres — Capital Maintenance and Upgrades*

*Visitor Information Centres — Capital Maintenance and Upgrades in the amount of \$310,000 agreed to*

*On Travel Equipment, Displays and Productions — Purchase and Maintenance of Displays*

*Travel Equipment, Displays and Productions — Purchase and Maintenance of Displays in the amount of \$20,000 agreed to*

*On Marketing North America — Interactive Website*

*Marketing North America — Interactive Website in the amount of \$125,000 agreed to*

*On Marketing North America — Banners*

**Mr. Barr:** Just wondering where these banners would be. Are they for across the Yukon?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** These banners are distributed throughout the Yukon communities and they have a shelf life of about two years, so this is for the replacement of those banners.

*On Marketing North America — Banners in the amount of \$75,000 agreed to*

*Tourism Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$530,000 agreed to*

*Tourism Total Expenditures in the amount of \$10,365,000 agreed to*

**Chair:** Page 16-20, Tourism and Culture — Revenues. Are there any questions?

Seeing none, page 16-22, Tourism and Culture — Government Transfers. Are there any questions?

Seeing none, Tourism and Culture — Changes in Tangible Capital Assets and Amortization. Are there any questions?

**Ms. Stick:** I glanced away, and I'm lost for a moment. Can I just have the page number you're on, please?

**Chair:** Page 16-24.

That concludes line-by-line debate for Vote 54, Tourism and Culture.

A five-minute recess has been requested. Committee of the Whole will recess for five minutes.

*Recess*

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

**Department of Justice — continued**

**On Correctional Services — continued**

**On Institutional Facilities — continued**

**Chair:** We're going to pick up on the Department of Justice. We're already into line-by-line on Correctional Ser-

VICES. The line that we have been discussing is Institutional Facilities in the amount of \$9,933,000.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The Member for Copperbelt South asked a question about overtime at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. I have a response, based on what I think her concerns were with regard to staff health and safety. The overtime hours for the last year at WCC have been really impacted by the amount of training that has been undertaken by the department for correctional staff. The amount of overtime over the last six months has been particularly high, with as much as \$48,000 per pay period as a high while we got ready to open the new centre. There was a low of about \$1,800 that occurred at the beginning of January 2011, a typically low period in the year for overtime. This compares with nearly \$35,000 in overtime paid for about the same time period 2012. We expect the overtime pay to be high for the next few pay periods going forward, while training is completed for staff at the Correctional Centre and while we settle into the new building.

This could be as low as a couple of hundred dollars to \$15,000 where there is a statutory holiday in a pay period. In a 24/7 facility such as the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, I should note that the pay during weeks where there is a stat holiday causes more overtime to be paid due to the collective agreements. The department is of course concerned about the expenditure of overtime hours both in terms of cost, but also in terms of staff health and well-being. Staff members are not called in to work overtime without consideration being given to how many hours they have already worked in the current period. Certainly, in a facility such as the Correctional Centre, well-rested staff are important to have in order to manage the inmates safely, and we will continue to recruit and train more staff as the need arises.

Outside counsel contracts are entered into by the Department of Justice on behalf of other departments. Managing counsel at the Legal Services branch manage all aspects of the billing arrangements on behalf of departments, including reviewing and approving billing, paying billing and sending requests for payment to the department being represented by the internal journal voucher system.

The typical reasons for retaining outside counsel are if the matter is of such a magnitude that it would not be possible for legal services to provide services while continuing to meet the needs of our clients, or the work requires expertise not available within Legal Services and the use of a Legal Services lawyer may cause a conflict of interest.

In 2011-12, there were approximately 18 civil court matters involving the Government of Yukon that were handled by outside counsel. A couple of those were, as we'll remember, Norcope and Hamilton Boulevard, the francophone school board, the 11 historic sex abuse files, Turner versus YG — and that's just to name a couple.

In 2011-12, there were 68 outside counsel contracts, with a total value of these contracts being \$2.8 million.

The actual billings on these contracts to date is \$2.1 million. So, as minister, I can't comment on the specifics of these cases, but the judgments are typically posted on the Yukon Courts website, as the matters are resolved, if members are

interested in seeing those. Thank you, Madam Chair, and I look forward to questions from members opposite.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I thank the minister and the department for those answers on the outstanding questions I had. The Institutional Facilities line item, which covers the operations of Whitehorse Correctional Centre, I understand would also cover the operational costs of the arrest processing unit, and I do want to address a couple of questions to the minister about that.

I've just recently received a phone call from a citizen who had reported an intoxicated person, who was at risk of harming himself and others. They reported that to the RCMP, and was very pleased with the prompt and professional response, and that the RCMP also phoned back to advise that the person had been located and taken to the arrest processing unit. I want to ask whether the RCMP are necessarily the means of transportation to and from the arrest processing unit, or whether others — for example, if an ambulance is called but the person doesn't need to be admitted, would there be any other means of transportation to that arrest processing unit?

When and where would the formalities of charging be carried out? Would there be an assessment first?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for her question. Indeed, in this specific case, the RCMP brought the individual into APU, so they were then in the care of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre staff. The staff of Whitehorse corrections was able to provide the individual with a ride to where they were going. As for charges pertaining to that case, or any other case, it's the RCMP that would lay those charges, not the Whitehorse corrections staff, so I wouldn't be able to follow up on that request.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Is there any assessment done on a person who arrives at the arrest processing unit? For example, would the persons affected be assessed for FASD, and is it lawful to have a person who is not formally charged being held at the arrest processing unit in the Correctional Centre?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** In order for an individual to be brought to the arrest processing unit, they indeed need to be under arrest. As far as assessment goes, certainly the medical staff members up there are available.

They do test for sobriety, but as far as other assessments, it would be very general.

*Institutional Facilities in the amount of \$9,933,000 agreed to*

*On Community Residential Centre*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Could the minister please provide a breakdown on this line item?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** This is an increase of \$36,000 for a one-time transfer in the 2011-12 year to the Community Wellness Court, Justice Wellness Centre, to facilitate its programming.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I just want to clarify that we're on the Community Residential Centre line item. I do have questions on the Community Wellness Court line item, but I don't believe we're there yet. The Community Residential Centre — that's the ARC, the Adult Resource Centre, I believe — and there has actually not been an increase if you look at mains to mains, so I didn't understand the minister's response.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** It is the ARC that provides some housing for clients who are attending the Community Wellness Centre, so that's the impact there.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Well, I would just note that the minister indicated that there was an increase. The increase in fact is from the forecast to the estimate, which is something the government has previously said shouldn't be looked at. I mean, we would argue that it's an appropriate amount to look at if the forecast is that \$668,000 will be spent and it is \$704,000 in the current year — it is in fact an increase.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** In fact, it was a transfer in 2011 that is not expected to happen this year, so that is why that number is out a bit.

*Community Residential Centre in the amount of \$704,000 agreed to*

*On Community Wellness Court*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Madam Chair, I would like to draw to the minister's attention a resolution of Canada's access to information and privacy commissioners on the subject of open government from their meeting in Whitehorse on September 1, 2010. The privacy commissioners from across Canada called for greater openness and transparency for governments to transform their traditional reactive information dissemination methods into a mode that facilitates proactive disclosure. Open government is linked to access-to-information legislation.

While access to information provides a right of access to government information, the laws are fundamentally reactive because access is granted only after a request is made.

A sound, open government strategy would ensure there was a commitment of governments at all levels to lead a culture change conducive to open government. Governments need to develop robust programs to ensure that access mechanisms are built into the design and implementation stages of all new programs and services to facilitate and enhance the disclosure of information. Open, accessible and reusable information means that information should be disseminated free of charge or at a minimum cost and supported by data structures to assist in the discovery, understanding and interpretation of the information.

So the commissioners five resolutions were to endorse and promote open government as a means to enhance transparency and accountability, which are essential features of good governance; to call on all federal and provincial and territorial governments to declare the importance of open government; to build access mechanisms into the design of programs and services; and through ongoing consultations with the public, governments should routinely identify data sources and actively disclose information in open, accessible and reusable formats. Finally, territorial and all provincial and the federal government should give due consideration to privacy, confidentiality, security, Crown, corporate and all relevant laws.

Now, the Minister of Justice, by virtue of his office, is responsible for upholding the laws of the Yukon, and I want to ask the minister if he does endorse and promote open government.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** In fact, yes. The answer is yes to that. As a matter of fact, it was this Yukon Party government that brought ATIPP into working order — but also remember-

ing that court documents are not accessible, in section 2 of the ATIPP act. But we have a lot of other information at the government offices and lots of information on-line. We'll continue to build upon that.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I appreciate the minister's declared commitment to a standard of open and accessible government. I am not actually looking for court records, and I want to point out that the purpose of the Yukon's *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* is to make public bodies more accountable to the public by giving the public a right of access to records. I would like to ask the minister if he would provide a copy of the Community Wellness Court's policy manual. There is no personal information in it. It's how the court operates, and an open government would act proactively on disclosure of public records.

I have just spoken about the joint resolution on open government and proactive disclosure from the information and privacy commissioners who met here in 2010. Again, I would like to ask the minister this: Would he be prepared to provide a copy of the policy that governs the Community Wellness Court?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I'm happy to provide the member opposite with the evaluation from the Community Wellness Court, but I would have to consult with Judge Ruddy pertaining to providing the procedures of the actual court itself.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Can the minister make a commitment that he will consult with Judge Ruddy then and try to respond with a legislative return before the end of this sitting as to whether the information can be made available and provide the information, or, if there are reasons why it cannot be made available, provide that?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Indeed, I will have the department follow up with Judge Ruddy and provide a letter to the member opposite.

*Community Wellness Court in the amount of \$459,000 agreed to*

*Correctional Services Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$13,408,000 agreed to*

*On Capital Expenditures*

*On Correctional Facilities Renovations*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Can the minister provide the rationale for this, please?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Madam Chair, this budget is for emergency repairs at the facility as required throughout the year and to ensure the health and safety of both the staff and inmates is maintained at an acceptable level.

*Correctional Facilities Renovations in the amount of \$80,000 agreed to*

*On Arrest Processing Unit*

*Arrest Processing Unit in the amount of \$2,385,000 agreed to*

*On Old Corrections Centre Demolition*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Can the minister give us an indication of when he thinks the contract might be let for the demolition of the old Correctional Centre and if they anticipate that that would be completed within the 2012-13 fiscal year?



**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** In fact, that tender process will go out through the Department of Highways and Public Works, so I would defer that question to the member when he is up defending his budget. What I can tell you is that tender will go out by the end of this fiscal year, so it may be next year or it may be the following year.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Does the minister have an idea of how long that process would take and whether it would be completed within three months or six months, or if it might carry into the next year?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The simple answer to that is no. But you can ask the Minister of Highways and Public Works that very same question and he may have a little bit more insight into that process for you.

*Old Corrections Centre Demolition in the amount of \$850,000 agreed to*

*On Prior Years' Projects*

*Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

*Correctional Services Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$3,315,000 agreed to*

*Correctional Services Total Expenditures in the amount \$16,723,000 agreed to*

*On Community Justice and Public Safety Division*

**Chair:** Is there any general debate?

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I do have some questions in general debate on the Community Justice and Public Safety Division.

Seeing the time, I move that you report progress.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Ms. Moorcroft that the Chair report progress.

*Motion agreed to*

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker resumes the Chair*

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

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

#### **Chair's report**

**Ms. McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 6, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, and directed me to report progress.

**Speaker:** You have heard the report of the Chair of Committee of the Whole. Are you agreed?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

**Speaker:** Enjoy your long weekend, and all the best for Easter for all of you. The House now stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10.

*The House adjourned at 5:26 p.m.*