

**Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Tuesday, April 24, 2012 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

**DAILY ROUTINE**

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

Tributes.

**TRIBUTES**

**In recognition of International Polar Year**

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** I rise today to pay tribute to the International Polar Year. Millions of people around the world celebrated Earth Day this past Sunday. This week, a delegation from Yukon is joining over 2,000 delegates from around the world who have gathered in Montreal for the International Polar Year 2012 Conference.

We have a major story to tell the world about how our area is changing because of climate change and how we are taking action through research and innovation to adapt to these changes. We will be there with Yukon College, as well as the Cold Climate Innovation Centre, to highlight the collaborative relationship we offer for researchers. Our delegation includes the Yukon government's senior science advisor; our senior representative on the Arctic Council, as well as officials from the Climate Change Secretariat and the Water Resources branch; the Department of Highways and Public Works; the Yukon Research Centre; the Yukon Cold Climate Innovation Centre and the Northern Climate ExChange.

The Yukon Research Centre and the Cold Climate Innovation Centre at Yukon College can be considered strategic investments as we look for new solutions to the emerging climate change adaptation challenges. The Yukon government supports the work of the Cold Climate Innovation Centre, because we know that we need to create commercial solutions that address cold climate issues affecting northerners.

As I have said before, as Minister of Economic Development, the commercialization of cold climate technologies will provide important economic opportunities for Yukoners and contribute to the diversification of Yukon's economy.

Our delegation, of which several members are no strangers to the international climate change and polar arena, will be there to encourage the international community to consider Yukon as a destination for polar research. We will be telling the delegates that we have the facilities, the researchers and the support available to ensure their success. As well as informing the international community about the research potential, we will also be talking about the research projects in progress or that have been completed. Part of that presentation includes collaboration on video presentations produced with the help of Tourism Yukon to communicate original research that has been carried out here.

As you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, the work of the Government of Yukon to respond to the challenges of climate change and coming up with solutions to climate change adaptation does not rest or end with one program or one department. It is a shared responsibility, whether it comes from Environment Yukon; Highways and Public Works; Education; Community Services; Yukon College; the Yukon Energy Corporation; Energy, Mines and Resources; Economic Development; or the Executive Council Office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**In recognition of Caring Canadian Award winner  
Wendy Callahan**

**Ms. White:** It is with great pleasure that I rise on behalf of the Yukon Legislative Assembly to pay tribute to Wendy Callahan, recipient of the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award. This year, His Excellency, the Rt. Hon. David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, presented the award to 28 outstanding Canadians during a ceremony at Rideau Hall last week.

The Governor General's Caring Canadian Award was created in 1995 by the late Rt. Hon. Roméo LeBlanc. His objective was to thank the thousands of Canadians who give so much time and energy to their communities. Awarded this year during National Volunteer Week, it helps highlight volunteers whose engagement and compassion reflect our Canadian character.

These unsung heroes volunteer their time, their efforts and a great deal of their lives to helping others build a more caring nation, all without expecting anything in return. As the Governor General said, these volunteers are examples of everything that is right and good about our country.

The award's emblem speaks to the work these Canadians do. Designed in blue and gold, it has a maple leaf to depict the people and spirit of Canadians, a heart to show the open hearts of volunteers, and these symbols are supported by an outstretched hand that portrays caring Canadians' boundless generosity and willingness to help others.

We are very lucky to have in our midst today our very own Caring Canadian. Since 1999, Wendy Callahan has taken part in the Run for Mom campaign, a local fundraising event that raises funds for breast health in the Yukon. Thanks to her dedication and determination, to date she has raised over \$85,000. I'm sure that most everyone here has been approached by Wendy at one time or another to donate toward this very worthy cause. She can be seen with her pledge sheets months in advance of the run.

Through her positive attitude, persistence and involvement, Wendy has provided a service of real benefit to all Yukoners. The Run for Mom has provided a wonderful opportunity for Yukoners to become more comfortable talking about breast health and breast cancer. I would like to ask the House to join me in welcoming Wendy Callahan, her husband Kip, her son Kip Jr., her parents, Rudy and Janet Couture, sister Judy Mozell and her friend, Nancy Irvine. Also in the House we have representatives from the Run for Mom.

On behalf of all Yukoners, Wendy, I would like to thank you for all your hard work, support and dedication.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Introduction of visitors.  
Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

## TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Mr. Elias:** I have for tabling today a letter dated April 24, 2012, from the Hon. Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. It was sent to me, and it is regarding the safety of salmon and other foods imported from Japan.

**Speaker:** Are there any reports of committees?  
Are there any petitions for presentation?  
Are there any bills to be introduced?  
Are there any notices of motion?

## NOTICES OF MOTION

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to use the 2012-13 budget to increase the operations and maintenance budget for solid-waste management.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to continue using the 2012-13 budget to expand the economy and invest in energy, transportation and communication infrastructure.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to continue working with the City of Whitehorse, rural municipalities, First Nations and private developers to make land available for sale to Yukoners for residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial purposes.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I give notice of the following motion:  
THAT this House urges the Yukon government to establish a supportive living environment such as a halfway house for women that provides:

- (1) personal safety;
- (2) advocacy for dealing with legal processes, financial aid, housing, family and children's services and social services;
- (3) support to reunite with family;
- (4) access to counselling and treatment, including First Nation cultural support where appropriate; and
- (5) help with identifying plans to meet their basic needs and succeed in their community.

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

THAT this House urges the minister responsible for the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board to work with the board of directors to create a new employers' advisor/advocate position to assist employers as they navigate the organization's complex regulatory processes.

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

THAT this House urges the Minister of Justice to build on the *Sharing Common Ground* implementation committee's work regarding domestic violence, dual-charging, and RCMP policy updating, by developing primary aggressor legislation that enshrines in law the distinction between primary domestic violence perpetrators and victims responding in self-defence.

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

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: Affordable housing

**Ms. Hanson:** Mr. Speaker, we are reminded on a daily basis of the extreme shortage of affordable rental accommodation in Whitehorse, whether its elders in retirement, young families struggling to find a place to live or employers unable to attract workers for lack of affordable rental housing options. The lack of affordable rental units is all too evident.

Condo conversion is the most recent threat to the supply of affordable rental units. We were recently told about plans to convert affordable rental units into condominiums in Whitehorse.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are asking if the minister can tell this House what information he has about the rate of conversion of affordable rental stock to condominiums and the impact condo conversion will have on the availability of affordable rental accommodation.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** In answer to the member opposite's question, again, there are a number of different housing categories in the Yukon all along the continuum: emergency shelters, transitional housing, supportive housing, social housing, the private market rental that the Leader of the Official Opposition spoke about in her question, and home ownership. Again, we continue to make investments all along that housing continuum, whether it's investing in transitional housing for Kaushee's Place or the extensive lot investments that are going on — staff housing investments being made by the Yukon Housing Corporation — and again, building on the good work and the increase in the social housing portfolio that was introduced by previous Yukon governments.

**Ms. Hanson:** Mr. Speaker, the question was with respect to the conversion of existing housing stock, existing rental accommodation. We know that the vacancy rate for rental accommodation in Whitehorse for the last couple of years has ranged between 1.0 and 1.4 percent.

Mr. Speaker, this is perilously low. It is far below the 3-percent rate that is considered to be a healthy private rental market rate. The experience in other parts of Canada is that where the vacancy rate is extremely low, condo conversions of rental units actually shrink the rental market more. Condo conversion of rental units will worsen, not solve the problem we have of not enough affordable rental units.

Will the minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation tell this House what action this government is taking to

mitigate the impact of condo conversion on the availability of affordable rental units?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** When it comes to the affordable rental market, we witnessed two short days after we were sworn in as government — there was a call for an expression of interest on Lot 262, which included the development of affordable rental units. My understanding is that the request for proposals will be closing shortly on that. So those are the types of initiatives, working with the private sector, that we have undertaken to ensure that we can get the private rental market — those affordable rental options out for Yukoners.

Through the Yukon Housing Corporation, several programs aimed at increasing the number of units and improving the quality of accommodation — the rental rehabilitation program and the rental suite program, which both provide loans for rental suites in private homes and for garden suites on private property.

I think there are a number of partners that we need to engage when it comes to this issue, including the private sector, municipalities and First Nations, as well as the work that's being undertaken by a number of departments throughout the government. So we continue to work on this issue.

**Ms. Hanson:** I'll try again. I'm talking about the actual rental accommodation that's threatened by conversion from rental to condo status. In some jurisdictions they have concluded that the condo conversion of rental units needs to be regulated — for example, with regulations that state rental units cannot be converted to condos when rental vacancies are below three percent. There is often resistance to this kind of government leadership, but this is about affordable rental options for consumers. We are looking for the government to take leadership on the issue of affordable rental stock to address this housing crisis. So, my question is how will the government protect existing renters threatened by the conversion of their rented homes into condos?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** What we on this side of the House choose to do with our spending priorities, of course, is invest all along the housing continuum, as I mentioned in my earlier answer. Again, \$35 million in the budget that's before the House is for lot development.

Working with the private sector is something we continue to do, again through those rental suite loan programs that I spoke about in an earlier answer, and engaging the private sector on issues such as the development of Lot 262. We certainly admire and recognize the contributions of the private sector into the economy here. We want to work with them to solve the housing crisis, as well as work with other partners, such as the municipalities and First Nations.

#### **Question re: FASD supportive housing**

**Ms. Stick:** The Options for Independence Society is advertising a special general meeting on April 30 to elect a new board of directors. Expanding this housing complex for individuals with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder with this society was in this government's election platform. In the fall sitting, we heard from the minister that this organization was under review by Corporate Affairs for not being in compliance with

the *Societies Act*. We also heard that there would be conditions laid out for the organization before any projects went ahead.

Can the minister tell us what the current situation is with regard to the status of the Options for Independence Society and the status of the planning for this project?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Options for Independence is definitely holding a general meeting on Monday, April 30, to elect a new board of directors. We expect that this new board of directors will address several areas of concern to this government and move the society into a position of good standing. The society has recently made a number of changes, which the minister to my left has accepted as resolving some of the issues around their standing. The meeting is in response to the request from the registrar of societies to have an AGM and elect a new board of directors.

**Ms. Stick:** This project is in the current budget to receive just over \$2.95 million from the Yukon Housing Corporation. Other organizations in our community, such as the Yukon Council on DisABILITIES have never been approached or consulted for input on this or any other projects that would assist with housing for individuals with disabilities. It is their suggestion that, when considering such planning, the U.N. Convention on the ts of Persons with Disabilities — and there's a whole housing section in there — should be considered as the starting point when looking at best housing practices.

Can the minister tell us what further consultation and planning with groups that provide services to persons with FASD or advocate on their behalf will take place before this or any other projects move ahead?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** This whole project was a result of request for proposals. Other organizations and NGOs had the opportunity at the time to put in a response to our request for proposals and this specific proposal was selected as the most appropriate at the time. At the time, both the Yukon Housing Corporation and Health and Social Services weren't aware of the difficulties under the *Societies Act*, so we have been working with OFI to remedy the areas of concern. We think now that most of them are ironed out, but before any further progress is made on this file, we'll have to ensure that. But any of the projects that we put forward such as this will be done in consultation with the NGO groups in the city or in the territory and we won't sole-source any of these kinds of contracts.

**Ms. Stick:** I am pleased to hear from the minister that there will be further consultation. Groups such as the Yukon Council on Disability are more of an advocacy group rather than providing services such as residential services to persons with disabilities.

It is their belief that there should be a continuum of housing services for individuals that respect real choice for individuals, affordability and community inclusion. Gone are the days of large institutions, but we should not be replacing them with smaller institutions. That being said, there should be supportive programming to enable a person to live independently and safely in our communities.

Can the minister share the proposal put forward by Options for Independence with us or tell us what the supportive pro-

gramming would be for this expansion, or any other new programming being planned?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Speaking from a Health and Social Services point of view, I would be only too happy to share with the members opposite the kinds of supports that my department will put in place as a result of the expanded programming at OFI, if the project is deemed acceptable and goes ahead.

As for the release of the actual proposals, I will have to consult with the minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation, because to date we have not released the actual proposals. As far as the ongoing programming in the Options for Independence Society, we'd be happy to share that.

**Question re: Whitehorse Correctional Centre, aboriginal liaison officer**

**Mr. Elias:** After hearing from inmates, their families, elders and Justice officials, the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes and I asked the Minister of Justice to create an aboriginal liaison officer at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. Inmates at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre are there for less than two years, which means they will be re-entering regular life, coming home to their families, caring for their families and supporting themselves. Having the liaison support while they are incarcerated will help them create opportunities for healing and readjustment, and rejoin our communities successfully.

Has the minister had the opportunity to consider this request, and will he be moving forward with implementing an aboriginal liaison officer at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for his question. As the member opposite is well aware, our government on this side is always interested in ensuring that the correctional system is functioning well and is addressing the concerns of the First Nation community, as well as the concerns of the inmates and, more so, the safety and security of the staff. It's an interesting proposal that the opposition has brought forward, and I have passed it forward to my officials in the department to see how it would address the issues brought forward by First Nation offenders.

I think it's also important to note that just yesterday we were tributing Victims of Crime Awareness Week. While we talk of offenders, it's very important to remember that there are victims out there, and there are good things that this government is doing. The *Victims of Crime Strategy* includes areas of focus that include strengthening the focus of the needs of victims of crime, focusing on addressing violence against women, exploring legislative options, mentoring and capacity-building in communities and integrated responses for victims of offenders and families. Just this morning, I met with a group of people from Victim Services and from Justice that were putting on a presentation and, really, a get-together for the good work that they're doing. So the RCMP was involved in that and the department —

**Speaker:** Order please. Time has elapsed.

**Mr. Elias:** This is not a new concept. There are similar positions in the hospital with health advocates and the educa-

tion system with community education liaison coordinators. There are First Nation employment capacity advocates. Even the Executive Council Office has a First Nation liaison person. These positions have a tremendous amount of success and have been proving themselves. Aboriginal inmates are excessively overrepresented in our corrections system.

Getting them effective support while incarcerated will help reduce the recidivism that keeps bringing them back. In other jurisdictions, support for aboriginal inmates has been shaped by elders and traditional teachings that emphasize regaining one's spiritual and cultural heritage as a means to prevent recidivism. Even Public Safety Canada has reviewed aboriginal offender and transitional programming in a number of jurisdictions where steps were taken to address the high rates of aboriginal incarceration and recidivism. Does the minister believe that a Yukon aboriginal liaison officer providing similar supports would also be a reasonable response to First Nation justice issues here in our territory?

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

We have been working with the First Nations through the correctional redevelopment project to improve conditions for First Nation offenders. We have had elders working with inmates for years at Whitehorse Correctional Centre, and we have also supported an aboriginal courtworker program to help First Nation offenders navigate the court system.

In addition, we have culturally relevant programs for First Nation offenders at the correctional facility, an elders advisory group works with management and staff to provide advice on the operations of the Correctional Centre and ensure First Nations traditions and values are appropriately reflected, and an array of First Nation programming activities will continue to be offered to inmates at the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre, such as elders counselling, talking circles, traditional crafts, individual counselling, traditional parenting and solstice gatherings and feasts.

**Mr. Elias:** Mr. Speaker, let's make no mistake here. The community at large has approached me and the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes to do something about this. This is not a new concept out there, and they realize that this is part of the solution. That's why I'm on the floor of the House today in Question Period, asking the Minister of Justice to do something here. There's a reason why we're doing this. With a \$70-million facility that we have up on the hill there, this is not too much to ask. This is a legitimate concern, and we're presenting a reasonable solution on the floor of the House today.

I want to make something very clear, also, Mr. Speaker. This position would be for all inmates. This is a win-win situation here. There's an example in Alberta. It's called the Stan Daniels Healing Centre in the Edmonton area, and it delivers a unique aboriginal program to build better community skills and lower incarceration rates.

With 80 percent of Whitehorse Correctional Centre inmates being of First Nation ancestry, does the minister share our view that an aboriginal liaison officer would help inmates transition back into community life? Answer the question.

**Speaker:** Order please.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** General programs and services at Whitehorse Correctional Centre currently are substance abuse programming, anger management programming, spousal assault programming, sexual offending programming — I've stated these before — mental health services, and education upgrading through Yukon College. To back it up a little bit, this week and just yesterday in this House, we did do a tribute to Victims of Crime Awareness Week. This government has developed a plan for supporting victims of crime in all communities. In fact, the group that I met with this morning is planning events this week throughout Yukon. We're now in the process of implementing that. Victims of crime emergency funding, including emergency cellphones, has been implemented to address costs of being victimized.

I would like to ask all members of this Assembly and those listening to drop off their old cellphones and chargers at the drop box in the Department of Justice building. These phones can be refurbished and provided to victims who need them.

**Question re: Oil and gas development, Whitehorse Trough**

**Mr. Tredger:** Though I applaud the minister for calling a five-year time out to any oil and gas development in the Whitehorse Trough, most of the Yukon is still up for grabs. The clock is ticking toward the next oil and gas disposition deadline. The rules allow for undisclosed companies to express interest in a parcel of oil and gas development every six months.

The minister has said the interest in the Whitehorse Trough caught the government by surprise. Then they were surprised by the massive public outcry.

I want to help the minister avoid future surprises. In meeting after meeting and in hundreds of comments, Yukoners have said "no" to hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking". Will this government listen to the people and place a moratorium on fracking? Yes or no?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** What would be helpful to begin with is if the NDP would actually listen to what the government said and accurately reflect that to people instead of, at best, quoting excerpts, leaping to conclusions and making wild accusations directed at government with regard to areas, including the oil and gas process. Again, I would point out and remind members that while the government consistently said at the start of the review of the request for postings that we would consider whether to allow bids in all of the areas, some of the areas or none of the areas, the members consistently told the public something else and unnecessarily led to public concern.

**Mr. Tredger:** The minister has said that the government will ban shallow fracking. The public isn't fooled by a ban on shallow fracking. Shallow fracking is a non-issue. There are few jurisdictions in North America where it is still being done, and those few are phasing it out. The minister should know this.

His own Oil and Gas Resources branch have said a discussion of shallow fracking is a waste of time; it is a non-issue. The Yukon public has been loud and clear: The oil and gas rules need to change to protect our fresh water and our public

safety. A shallow fracking ban is window dressing. The public wants to see a complete ban of fracking.

Will the government do what is right and ban fracking — yes or no?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Again, I have to point out that we have the NDP, again, inaccurately reflecting the facts. The Member for Mayo-Tatchun just said that the shallow fracking is a non-issue. Contrary to what the member said, in fact there are jurisdictions that allow it, and it is an activity that shows a higher risk, which is why we will not allow that if an application is made for that type of activity. I would again point out and remind the members opposite that the legislation and regulations brought in by the NDP left the door wide open for shallow fracking.

Again, I will remind the members of the importance of reflecting the facts. I have to point out that when I announced that the government would not issue oil and gas rights in the Whitehorse Trough at this time, I indicated that one of the factors that we would want to see is a shift in public opinion before considering a future request. We did not announce a moratorium on requests, contrary to what the member said. Really, if future requests were made, that would be in the hands of the public through that process, whether their opinion had shifted or not.

**Mr. Tredger:** To correct the record, it was a Yukon Party government who changed the rules for oil and gas in 2006 that allowed the oil and gas industry and not the public government to drive the process. The authoritative U.S. Geological Survey has conducted a comprehensive study on the issue and reported there is a definite link between fracking and increased seismic activity. The minister should know that the Yukon is in a seismic zone. This connection and the link between fracking and drinking well contamination by carcinogenic fracking fluids have moved governments in Quebec, New York, New Jersey and France to ban fracking. Placing a moratorium on this controversial practice is not radical. In fact, it is the conservative thing to do. If this government wants to see the oil and gas industry thrive in the Yukon and be supported by the public, then it needs to swiftly shut down the riskiest and most odious practices. When can Yukoners expect this government to listen to its citizens, learn from the ample evidence and follow —

**Speaker:** Order please. The member's time has elapsed. Please take your seat.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Mr. Speaker, again what I would point out to the member, is that contrary to what the NDP has consistently said, the government has consistently followed what we said we would do. As I indicated at the start of the recent review on the request for oil and gas postings in the Whitehorse Trough area, we had identified during the election support for the responsible development of oil and gas in north Yukon and southeast Yukon but did not have a position on the Whitehorse Trough and wanted to hear from the public on that. Really, that was our first opportunity and review on that unexpected request.

What I would remind the member is that the NDP process that he touted wasted a lot of time and money on issuing un-

necessary postings. The process the Yukon does now reflects what is done in most other jurisdictions. It still allows for the control by the government and the public in the review process and, of course, led ultimately, in this particular case, to not issuing oil and gas rights in the area.

Again, I have to remind the member that the NDP left the door open to shallow fracking. That is a risky activity, or, I should say, there are significant questions about its risks and so we would not allow that at this point. I have to remind the members that there is no fracking going on in the Yukon and there is no proposal to do fracking. There's only fracking in the member's mind.

**Question re: Water management strategy**

**Ms. White:** I want to hear from the Minister of Environment and give him a chance to come clean. When will the wholesale transfer of water inspections and monitoring on quartz mining projects be transferred from the Department of Environment to the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources?

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** Mr. Speaker, as I've said numerous times in this House, the departments of Energy, Mines and Resources and Environment work together quite collaboratively when it comes to the inspections for water use at mining sites. In the case of placer mines, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has conducted the inspections for a number of years now. When it comes to the specific case of the Minto mine, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources conducts those inspections as well.

To answer the member's question, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources already conducts some inspections, and the Department of Environment works very closely with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

**Ms. White:** Mr. Speaker, if this government is going to make a decision and act, it must clearly state what they intend to do, provide the reasons why and defend their actions. The public deserves this. This government is transferring the responsibility for water inspections and monitoring on quartz mining projects from the Department of Environment to the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. We know this. It's well-known that the minister wants to change the regulatory process for the benefit of industry. We know this also. The public wants to know how this government will be moving this transfer forward. What's the time frame? Will there be new staff hired? Will the staff and resources be relocated from Environment to Energy, Mines and Resources?

Will this government come clean and let Yukoners in on their transition plan for the transfer?

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** What's becoming increasingly clear is that the NDP has absolutely no faith in the department staff, particularly in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. They continually attack those officials and seem to be implying that they won't do their jobs professionally. The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources staff have conducted inspections for water-related issues at mine sites, including placer mines and the Minto mine, for a number of years now, and have done so quite well. They conduct themselves professionally and they conduct themselves in respect to their obliga-

tions to the law and to the public trust. I have the utmost faith in my officials in the Department of Environment as well as the officials in Energy, Mines and Resources and indeed all officials in the Yukon government.

**Ms. White:** I'd like to remind the minister opposite that we are talking about ministerial responsibility from one minister to another. This government is transferring responsibility of water inspections and monitoring on quartz mining projects from the Department of Environment to the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. They must have a transition plan to ensure that this transfer will work, and it builds on accumulated knowledge and expertise of public service in the Department of Environment. Their evasive responses to my very direct questions will provide little comfort to the public. It certainly does nothing to build the case for their actions. Industry needs water, and industry has strong opinions on rules and institutions that regulate their use and access.

Other than the transfer of responsibility for water inspections and monitoring, what other industry-friendly changes is this government entertaining when it comes to access and use of Yukon's freshwater supplies?

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** The member opposite has a very strange interpretation of ministerial responsibility. I can take water samples and conduct mine inspections just as well as I can do a necropsy on an animal corpse or inspect hunting regulations in the Watson Lake region. I require department officials to conduct a number of activities on our behalf. We trust that officials would do that in full respect of their legal obligations and their respect of the public trust. I can't be expected to inspect mines, nor can I expect to do any of the activities that my officials are tasked with. We on this side of the House expect that government officials will conduct themselves with full professionalism, respecting their legal obligations as well as the public trust.

**Question re: Acutely intoxicated persons at risk**

**Mr. Barr:** During the first session of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Assembly, the New Democrats introduced a private member's bill, Bill No. 113, the *Acutely Intoxicated Persons Care and Protection Act*. It proposed a process to deal with acutely intoxicated persons in custody, their release and a follow-up treatment option. Has the Minister of Health and Social Services read this proposed act and does he agree with its premise?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I have not read it, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Order please.

**Mr. Barr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Health and Social Services, could you repeat your answer. I do not think that your microphone was on.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Mr. Speaker, I have not read the act.

**Mr. Mr. Barr:** `r: It has been 16 long months since the report from the Task Force on Acutely Intoxicated Persons at Risk was presented. The Yukon government has had 17 reports at its disposal since 1989 with many similar recommendations to the task force report. Seven years ago, this government brought us the *Substance Abuse Action Plan*, which has yet to be implemented to any degree. Now the minister has

announced the he will be responding to recommendations from the task force by introducing nursing staff at the Sarah Steele Building. He also promises to once again consult First Nations and agencies to once again look at program redesign, to once again evaluate current programming.

Can the minister give us a deadline for actually implementing these actions in response to recommendations that we have been aware of for more than 20 years?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I cannot answer for what happened 20 years ago; I'll answer for anything that has happened in the last five months. In the last five months we have made substantial progress in this area. We have implemented a number of recommendations on the Beaton and Allen report. We have also, just today, announced that we will be going ahead with the medical detoxification at the Sarah Steele Building as a budget item of some \$770,000. We are also working together with the Northern Institute of Social Justice at Yukon College to put together a program to train, not only government, but non-government workers — front-line workers — to deal with acutely intoxicated persons. As soon as we get that program developed and the people hired, we will be going ahead with the medical detoxification at Sarah Steele.

**Mr. Barr:** There is an option for a more progressive approach to dealing with acutely intoxicated persons at risk that can be implemented almost immediately. It is contained in the task force report on page 22. It is to rewrite the Yukon *Liquor Act* to define how a person can be detained, what services will be provided and under what conditions the detention is ceased.

Will the minister include revising sections 91 and 92 of the Yukon *Liquor Act* in his actions to provide, as he says, "a broader continuum of care and achieve better health and social outcomes"?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Again, I can't speak for another minister here in the Legislature. All I can reiterate —

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

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Is it okay if I answer the question, or does the member want to stand up and answer it for us?

### Speaker's statement

**Speaker:** Order please. Keep your comments directed through the Chair.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I lost my attention there for a second. I can't answer, as I said, for the Minister responsible for the Yukon Liquor Corporation. I am attempting to deal with an issue here of acutely intoxicated persons. We are implementing a number of the task force recommendations. We will continue to do that. We will continue to consult with people all around the territory with respect to what the next steps would be. In this recent budget we have funding to begin the initial design of a new Sarah Steele Building and that will open up a whole number of avenues for treatment of intoxicated people. I look forward to that process. Thank you.

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

### Notice of opposition private members' business

**Mr. Tredger:** Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I would like to identify the items standing in the name of the Official Opposition to be called on Wednesday, April 25, 2012. They are Bill No. 102, standing in the name of the Member for Riverdale South, and Motion No. 175, standing in the name of the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes.

**Mr. Silver:** Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I would like to identify the item standing in the name of the Third Party to be called on Wednesday, April 25, 2012. It is Motion No. 16, standing in the name of the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin.

**Speaker:** We will now proceed to 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's statement

**Chair (Ms. McLeod):** Order please. Prior to proceeding with Committee of the Whole, the Chair would like to make a statement about some of the language used yesterday during consideration of Vote 52, Department of Environment.

At one point in yesterday's proceedings, Ms. Hanson said, "I'll just remind the minister opposite that regarding the Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment, this Yukon Party government, again, is breaking its own law in terms of not reporting on it or having disbanded it."

Compliance with acts passed by this Legislature is an important issue for this House. Members must have the opportunity to pursue that line of questioning, if they believe compliance is absent or incomplete. At the same time, members have to keep in mind that the Assembly is not a court of law and that the House does not have the authority, or the appropriate processes, to determine whether an individual has broken the law.

Reminding a member that he or she has a duty to uphold the law is in order. Citing instances where a law is not being complied with, in the opinion of a member, is also in order. However, it is not in order to inject into debate a direct accusation that a member has broken the law.

If a member wishes to make a charge against another member, he or she must do so by way of a substantive motion for which notice is required.

We will now proceed with Committee of the Whole. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 6, Vote 3, Department of Education.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agree.

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

*Recess*

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

**Department of Education — continued**

**Chair:** Order. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 6, *First Appropriation Act, 2012-13*. Today we're going to continue with general debate on Vote 3, Department of Education.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Just to remind members that it's in all of our interest, of course, to get through this current budget that we're debating — the entire budget. I know there has been a commitment by the Official Opposition and, as well, a commitment by the government to try to get through this as expeditiously as possible.

Now, to date, we have gone through general debate and cleared line by line on three departments only: Economic Development, Environment, as well as Tourism and Culture — an amount that's approximately \$72 million. Now, I know we have only a little over one-third of the time left in this session. Of course, three of those days will be dedicated to private members' business, so we do have eight days left for budget debate, as well as some pieces of legislation that have yet to come before the House. So we look forward to an expeditious debate and moving forward as quickly as possible.

Now, I know that the Official Opposition — and again, this isn't the practice that I was used to in my previous time in the Legislative Assembly — where a traditional critic role was used. There are two critics, I believe — the Official Opposition and NDP — for Education. Public schools — we have been engaged in lengthy debate, but good debate, with the Member for Mayo-Tatchun over the past — I believe we spent one afternoon and then parts of a couple more hours over a couple of other days debating Public Schools through Education. I look forward, obviously, to working with or engaging in debate with the Member for Copperbelt South, as I believe she's the critic for Advanced Education and Yukon College, as well as looking forward to hearing from the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin, who is the Education critic for the Third Party Liberals.

I know on occasion other members of the New Democrats have asked questions — just in my experience over the past number of days through debate. So hopefully, what I can do right now in order to provide a little bit of information is just to speak to some of the highlights of funds that we're seeking on behalf of Advanced Education. I would assume that we're close to moving out of Public Schools perhaps and into Advanced Education.

The Yukon government signed both the labour market agreement and the labour market development agreement with the Government of Canada in July of 2009. What these two agreements do, Madam Chair, is reflect the Yukon government's cooperation with Canada to enable education, training and skill development for Yukoners, to help Yukoners respond to opportunities and meet Yukon's labour market needs. With these two agreements, Yukon employers will enjoy greater

flexibility to respond to changes in the local economy and labour markets because these agreements help train Yukoners to do the work those Yukon businesses need to get done.

The labour market development agreement gives the Yukon government the authority to provide support services that help eligible Yukoners to upgrade their skills, get on-the-job experience, find a job or become self-employed. The labour market agreement — the second agreement — is aimed at helping Yukoners find jobs or obtain better jobs.

What's exciting about this agreement is that it helps Yukoners who are not necessarily eligible for employment insurance. Over five years, the labour market agreement is bringing almost \$6 million — \$5.896 million — from the Government of Canada to help Yukon create new career opportunities for our citizens. For businesses to prosper, employers must have staff with the necessary skills. This government is proud to be part of the solution to the skilled labour shortages. Implementation of the labour market framework that began through 2011-12 will continue through 2012-13. For this we are requesting \$233,000 in this budget. This funding is provided through the community development trust. The funding will be used for the development of labour market information materials and for a staff person to coordinate the implementation of the labour market strategies with our many partners.

We are also requesting an additional \$180,000 to continue with the two positions that were previously funded under the community development trust, which supports the Yukon nominee program and the immigration strategy. In addition to supporting programs under these agreements, the Department of Education works in other ways to expand every available labour pool to assist employers in fulfilling their labour market needs. The government is also requesting \$200,000 in funding for the immigration portal. This amount is fully recoverable from the Government of Canada.

The portal provides Yukon-specific information on-line for anyone interested in immigrating to Canada and living in the territory. The government is committed to reducing immigration red tape and fast-tracking immigration applications so that Yukon employers can have access to the workers they need to have their businesses and organizations flourish.

We are also requesting \$163,000 for the foreign credential recognition program. This amount, again, is fully recoverable from Canada, and the program will be used to recognize the qualifications of foreign professionals, so they can practise in Canada. This funding also supports one-term positions to coordinate Yukon's role in this national initiative.

The department also supports learners as they transition from school to the workplace with programs such as the student training and employment program, or the STEP program, and the summer career placement program. These programs pay students a good wage for summer work and provide them with the skills and experience they need to enter the workforce.

This government also continues to support Yukon College. The total support for Yukon College is approximately \$22 million for 2012-13. The department works with the college in promoting the skilled trades as a smart career option. We also work with Yukon employers as they develop skilled trades



training opportunities in the workplace. I know that this past weekend, the Skills Canada Yukon qualifier was held here in Whitehorse, and I look forward to joining Team Yukon that will represent us in Edmonton, starting on May 13, for the Skills Canada National Competition.

Enrolment in apprenticeship programs has grown over the last four years and has now levelled off after its peak last year. We are pleased to support growth in trades training. An important part of ensuring the long-term health of our economy includes providing opportunities for Yukoners to gain access to careers in skilled trades. We also work with Yukon College to ensure that they have the support they need to provide the best educational facilities possible for our apprentices. The college is the leader in trades education in the territory and it also offers certificate and diploma programs. It delivers degree programs through articulation agreements with other post-secondary institutions in Canada and Alaska.

\$18.176 million is requested to support Yukon College for their base operational funding. This increase supports their request for one-time funding for IT security upgrades; additional ongoing funding of \$175,000 to address day-to-day funding pressures and collective agreement impacts; and \$474,000 will be provided to Yukon College to continue operation of the School of Visual Arts in Dawson City. I understand that they are holding their graduation this weekend, so congratulations to SOVA in Dawson City. I wish them well. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the ceremonies, but I want to send my greetings and well wishes to those in Dawson City who are participating in that ceremony this weekend.

Something I'm very pleased to announce is that the licensed practical nurse program has been extended for four years. This extension will allow up to 30 more practical nurse students to graduate and find work in the Yukon. The program has been extremely successful, with all graduates either working or actively pursuing work. The current cohort of graduates we expect to be placed in work right here in the Yukon as soon as they graduate.

The targeted initiative for older workers provides an opportunity for workers between the ages of 55 and 64 to develop skills to find and retain employment. This program was initiated in 2007 and has been so successful that it is extended to 2013-14. For this current budget year, \$240,000 is requested to continue this initiative, an amount, Madam Chair, that's fully recoverable from Canada. As of January 2012, a total of 202 participants have enrolled in the program and 85 percent of past participants were employed or enrolled in either training or college.

In addition, \$1.088 million will be provided to Yukon College to support the Research Centre of Excellence. That's an announcement of a \$5-million, five-year commitment that I made in conjunction with the Minister of Economic Development just prior to this sitting.

\$377,000 is also being requested for the Northern Institute of Social Justice.

This institute provides training and education to Yukoners in a wide variety of social justice fields. We also heard during Question Period today that there will also be work undertaken

with respect to intoxicated persons and the training will be done through the Northern Institute of Social Justice. I thank the Minister of Health and Social Services for that. Again, this institute was created to address challenges in recruitment, development and retention of a qualified workforce to deliver programs and services with a social justice component.

That brings to a conclusion my opening remarks. Hopefully, I've been able to frame what we'll be talking about this afternoon and hopefully we'll be able to clear the Department of Education today and move on to some of the other departments that have yet to receive scrutiny, such as Health and Social Services or the Public Service Commission. Energy, Mines and Resources has yet to come up for debate. We've had partial debate on Community Services, Highways and Public Works, Justice, and the Women's Directorate. So again, I look forward to hopefully clearing the Department of Education, but I also look forward to the questions and engaging with the members from the Official Opposition and the Third Party when it comes to Public Schools, Advanced Education or the more traditional critic role that the Liberals employ, which is just an Education critic. Thank you.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I thank the minister for his remarks this afternoon speaking to the Yukon College and Advanced Education budget. Perhaps I will start with some questions related to Yukon College. The Yukon Party government, during the election, put into its platform that it was committed to supporting the college to become a university. One of the members opposite introduced a motion related to that. I would like to ask the minister about his plans to support Yukon College becoming a university. What does he see as the necessary steps in order to do that? I will also be asking him to respond to the question of the college endowment lands. I've asked a couple of questions in the House during Question Period when the minister indicated that they were working on it and they were holding meetings and said they would get back to us in due course. The area near and adjacent to the college is already in use for experiential science programs and for research when it comes to the McIntyre Creek area.

I would like to hear from the minister whether he does support those lands becoming part of the college endowment lands as he moves toward supporting the college to become a university. Virtually all universities in Canada have a significant base of land. It is a requirement for being able to move forward as a university. Could the minister respond to that, please?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** With respect to the first question regarding a university of the north, the 2011 Yukon Party platform, as the member indicated, states, to create a university by "... developing Yukon College into a northern university" and "explore university models, identify which model is best suited for Yukoners and northerners alike and commit to achieving that goal." I am just following up on my predecessor who, in spring 2011, signed an MOU with the other two territorial ministers of education committing to working collaboratively and cooperatively to explore options for a northern university development. There has been a working group established in the

three territories under the MOU to research and explore options.

However, as a new minister, I have sent through officials to my colleagues in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, hopefully the opportunity to meet prior to the July meeting of national ministers of education to discuss, among other things, this university concept and the models that we may employ to move forward when we're looking at a northern university.

I should also say that, again, Yukon College currently does have degree-granting authority and offers a number of degrees in collaboration with the University of Alaska at some of their campuses and then working with colleges and universities Outside. So we're very pleased with the changes, I believe, to the *College Act* that took place that allowed that to occur and the work that has been undertaken by the board, the former president and the current president of the college.

Now with respect to endowment lands, I did answer a question during Question Period earlier on in this sitting. There hasn't been any substantive changes to that. I will reiterate for members opposite that representatives of Education, Energy, Mines and Resources and Community Services have met with Yukon College and they're looking at options for the endowment lands.

In our platform we did commit to provide land for additional student residences and a potential school of mining. So that's what we're intending to follow through on. Those are short-term objectives for the college. We also want to look at the medium- and longer term objectives that the college wants to do as they plan over a longer time horizon.

So there's nothing new to report to the House yet on that process. After these meetings, there are some meetings that need to be held with the City of Whitehorse and First Nations. After the questions in the House last week, I did run into the Mayor of Whitehorse at an event for Habitat for Humanity and she mentioned that there has been some initial dialogue with the City of Whitehorse. I'm not sure if there has been dialogue yet with First Nations but we look forward to that and then bringing those options through the Cabinet process and addressing the issue of endowment lands at that point.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The minister could certainly play a leadership role in engaging in that dialogue with the mayor, as he said he saw her at an event, but he could also formally meet, not only with the City of Whitehorse, but with First Nation governments and others to move forward their goal, as they identified, to work toward the college becoming a university. I would be interested in hearing what kinds of models they have identified to look at, and hope that the collaboration with other northern territories goes well.

There has been previous collaboration across the circumpolar north for the University of the Arctic initiative, with Yukon College involved, and I would be interested to know what discussions have been done as far as drawing in the University of the Arctic activities?

Earlier in Education debate, the minister spoke about the Yukon Mine Training Association, Energy, Mines and Resources bridge financing — and the Yukon Mine Training Association working with Yukon College on mine training. I

would like to ask the minister how many and what nature of mine training courses have been offered for Yukon residents and also for temporary foreign workers, or for people who may be engaged in the Yukon nominee program?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Just to respond to the first part of the member's question, I think that I have been playing a leadership role when it comes to looking at models for Yukon College to turn into a university. I've mentioned that I have requested a meeting with northern counterparts to follow up on the memorandum of understanding that was signed in the spring of 2011. Again, when it comes to the endowment lands, we directed senior department officials from Education, Community Services and Energy, Mines and Resources to work with the college to come up with some options and then bring them back — again, it will go through the Cabinet process. I'm pleased with the work that has gone on so far with respect to the endowment lands and developing Yukon College into a northern university.

When it comes to the Yukon Mine Training Association, again I thank the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources for identifying in this budget bridge funding to get that organization through until such time as we can come up with a more long-term solution for that organization.

With respect to Yukon organizations or groups that are linked to mine industry employment and funded through Advanced Education branch, I can say that Yukon College, through the Ross River campus, is investing slightly over \$43,000 in truck driver training programming and it's delivered right in the community of Ross River. There is also a heavy equipment mechanic pre-employment program offered at Yukon College — again, close to \$45,000. These are all funded through community training funds. Millwright pre-employment program — just slightly under \$42,000. There is the support that is given to Yukon Women in Trades and Technology for their annual career fair, tools, school visits, workshops, operational costs, website maintenance and other promotional activities. That's almost \$100,000 — just slightly over \$98,000, in fact.

There is support that we give to Skills Canada Yukon — close to \$80,000 — again, this is for their annual Yukon skills competition and qualifier event, Canada skills competition event, operation of the Skills Centre and development and delivery of skills clubs in Whitehorse and the communities.

There is Community Training Trust Society for \$75,000: Campbell Region Training Fund Committee; Haines Junction Champagne and Aishihik Training Fund Committee; Klondike Region Training Trust Fund Committee, Silver Trail Training Fund Committee, Watson Lake Training Fund Committee; and the labour market development agreement that I spoke of in my earlier remarks, and, of course, support for Yukon College and the Government of Alberta.

I should also mention that the Department of Education will be participating in an upcoming Chamber of Mines event — an exploration discovery camp at Shipyards Park — as part of the Mining Week celebrations where we will be sponsoring a "Mines and Minds" tent, which will hopefully be a great educational tool for those students in public schools.

Again, part of the collaboration between many of our departments — Energy, Mines and Resources, through the Yukon Geological Survey, has an official assigned to liaise with the public schools. So there are students travelling in from as far away as Watson Lake are interested in learning about geology and all that it has to offer. So we're quite proud and pleased with those activities and thank the Yukon Chamber of Mines for putting on such a great event and helping Yukoners to understand the modern face of mining and the activities.

Again, there is the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining, as well, which is an activity undertaken by the college.

Phase 1 of the study was completed in early March of this year. It clearly indicated the current and future needs for a trained workforce for mining and exploration. Phase 2 is a model to address training, education, research and innovation needs within the sector, based on existing mine training and education programs across Canada, will be developed. This part of the study will be available in June 2012. To assist the college with this study, \$75,000 in funding was provided by the Department of Economic Development, with an additional \$40,000 from CanNor as part of the grant for mineral resources technician technology program development. There is a substantial amount of work going on with respect to mining.

The member touched on the immigration programs. Of course, the Yukon nominee program is the one most Yukoners are familiar with. The annex to the temporary foreign worker program has not been signed off by Canada yet, so we don't have any people coming into the territory under that annex as of yet.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The minister spoke about training, but he didn't give any indication of the numbers I was looking for, as far as how many Yukon residents have engaged in training.

Looking at the labour market programs and services and training programs budget, which exceeds \$13 million, I would like to ask the minister about what he thinks has been the greatest success in labour market programs and training programs. Can the minister give us an idea of how many Yukon residents have engaged in training and been provided services through the expenditures for the labour market programs and training programs?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** With respect to the numbers, I will take a look for them, but I have just been informed by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources that 1,100 Yukoners have been trained through the Yukon Mine Training Association — 700 of whom are now employed as of last count. I thank him for providing me with that information.

Again, when it comes to the labour market framework and the actions plans, a number of strategies, were created under the LMF, the labour market information, the comprehensive skills and trades training, immigration, national recruitment and employee retention. We have seen a number of initiatives undertaken by the jurisdiction of Saskatchewan that I think we'll hopefully be able to emulate here. I know that that jurisdiction recently sent employers from universities and colleges in Saskatchewan, as well as government officials, to the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada meeting in Toronto

where they were looking to identify — Canadians, you know, sort of putting out the "help wanted" sign, which I think is a very innovative thing that I commend the Government of Saskatchewan for doing. I look forward to working with colleagues, including of course, the ministers of Economic Development and Energy, Mines and Resources on perhaps doing something similar from a Yukon perspective at future trade shows and industry shows similar to that one.

I think the Province of Saskatchewan also recently went on an international recruiting trip — I think to the Country of Ireland — where they were looking again to entice immigrants to come to their province. Although they're substantially bigger than we are population-wise, I think they face the same issues that we do where 10 to 15 years ago a number of their children were moving away and not coming back to work in that province.

I guess that's evidenced by watching a Calgary Stampeders football game and seeing a number of green jerseys in the stands when they're playing the Saskatchewan Roughriders — just how many people from Saskatchewan are now living and working in Alberta. I think we can perhaps have dialogue, and I look forward to dialogue with national Education ministers and Immigration ministers at upcoming meetings where we can talk about the challenges they face and identify solutions. When it comes to the specific numbers that the member opposite asked for, unfortunately, I'm unable to track them down at this time, but I will commit to getting those numbers to her in the not-too-distant future.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The minister indicated in a previous answer that the annex to the agreement governing the temporary foreign workers had not been signed yet from Canada so that was not in place. I was present at a meeting in December when the department was offering some information about the four changes that the federal government had made to the nominee programs.

Because of their concerns about the former affidavit of support, they have moved to a guaranteed employment offer and made some other changes.

That session was very well-attended. It is clear that a number of employers take advantage of that program. I would like to ask the minister if he can provide the following information: What is the total number of employers who are part of the Yukon nominee program, and what sectors do they work in? What kind of work is it? Resource extraction industry? Service sector, and so on?

What is the total cost of the nominee program, and Yukon's share of the temporary foreign worker program?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Again, I don't have the employer numbers that the member opposite is looking for, but I will ask department officials if we can track those down for the member opposite.

With respect to immigration, there are three streams for the nominees: the business stream, which is for entrepreneurs and is administered by the Department of Economic Development, the skilled worker stream and critical impact worker stream — both of those are administered through Advanced Education.

Since 2007, there were 597 nominees approved through the program, the vast majority of whom are in the service and retail sectors and also in the hospitality industries. Increasingly, nominees are also finding employment in industrial and mining sectors. Several nominees of higher skills are employed in aviation, engineering, accounting, child care and technical fields. Immigration funding — the information that I have at hand that I can give to the member opposite is not just the nominee program, but Advanced Education, and the budget that we have before us currently has \$997,128 budgeted for this fiscal year. This includes funding for an immigration coordinator, a compliance and settlement position, two labour markets immigration officer positions, and two terms positions. One is funded under the immigration portal, which I spoke about earlier, and one under the federal credential recognition program.

In addition to these positions, there is also \$146,000 in funding to administer the foreign credential recognition program that I spoke of; \$118,000 to administer the immigration portal and a further \$25,000 for the day-to-day operations of the unit. Funding for the immigration portal will end on March 31, 2013, and I believe in a previous — with my introductory remarks I mentioned that that funding was fully recoverable from Canada.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Can the minister explain how the wage rates are determined for nominees and how does the department ensure nominees are paid that rate? Does the department have statistics on the wage levels for nominees by occupation?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Those wage rates are set through HRSDC, which is a Government of Canada department, of course, and they set them by industry sector. We conduct an internal monitoring process and we also conduct surveys, the results of which I don't have here with me in the House today, but I'm happy to provide those results to the member opposite.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** It's my understanding that once having accepted and signed the MOU for the Yukon nominee program, those workers have the same labour rights as any other Yukon worker. That would include employment standards, human rights, workers' compensation, occupational health and safety. Prior to signing this MOU, do those workers have those rights?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Under the nominee program, workers are guaranteed employment; that's part of the process. So as soon as they arrive in the Yukon and begin work, they're also extended those rights that are extended to Canadian citizens or, of course, other Yukoners who are employed here in the Yukon, including employment standards, workers' compensation and the other ones identified by the member opposite.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Can the minister tell us how occupational health and safety rules are enforced for the nominees and temporary foreign workers, and how employment standards rules are enforced for nominees and temporary foreign workers?

In addition, is the minister aware of whether any complaints have been made to the office regarding the nominee program by nominees or by employers? If so, how many complaints have there been?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** When it comes to employee standards or occupational health and safety, I think that specific questions regarding those programs are probably better addressed to the Minister of Community Services, who has the responsibility for employee standards. We have had witnesses here from the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board to address that. Some complaints have come to the Department of Education from some of the nominee workers; however, it is my understanding that they have been relatively minor and were able to be addressed.

Again, once the nominee arrives in the Yukon, and before they commence work, an entry interview takes place, at which the nominee must produce their temporary work permit. The memorandum of understanding is a contract between the employer, employee and Yukon government. It is explained at that time and signed by all parties. The memorandum of understanding sets standards for work schedule, wages, travel expenses, housing, medical care, workers' compensation, support services, termination of employment and the monitoring by Advanced Education. That regular monitoring is done to ensure that employers are in compliance with the memorandum of understanding.

Once the foreign worker has obtained permanent residency, commonly known as "PR status," the memorandum of understanding becomes void at that time. Workers are nominated in response to Yukon-specific labour shortages. There is no relationship between Yukon and any other provincial or territorial program, and nominees cannot simply transfer their visa from one region in Canada to another.

Again, other than deferring some of those answers to other ministers or officials from Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, I hope that provided the answers the member opposite is looking for.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** In part, the minister indicated that there have been some complaints from nominees and that those were relatively minor. How was it determined that those complaints were minor? Was it officials within the minister's department who conducted an investigation into those complaints and determined that they were minor?

Could I ask the minister when he is responding to also indicate what the outcome was of the complaints?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** With respect to the first question, department officials conduct the first investigation of these complaints and if it's determined at that time that they require more attention, then we bring in the Border Services Agency or Citizenship and Immigration Canada to assist at that point. With respect to individual complaints subject to privacy and those types of things — I'm not prepared to discuss individual complaints on the floor of the Legislature.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I would like to follow up on my questions regarding the wage rates for nominees and ask how the department ensures that nominees are paid the right rate. Does the department have statistics on wage levels for nominees by occupation, and can they send this information by legislative return?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I believe I answered this in a previous question. Although I don't have that information here with

me, I did commit to get that to the member opposite. The memorandum of understanding is that contract between the employer, the employee and Yukon government. That MOU sets the standard for, among other things, wages and work schedule — that type of thing. Regular monitoring is done by the department to ensure that employers are in compliance with the MOU. As I mentioned earlier today, I will get the information on the wage rates to the member opposite.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** With the raised minimum wage in the Yukon to \$10.30 an hour, are any nominees getting paid less than the minimum wage?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Not to my knowledge, however, again, the wages, as I mentioned earlier, are set by HRSDC and are outlined in the MOU. Regular monitoring is done to ensure that employers are in compliance with the MOU. So it's my understanding that it's an average — depending on the industry sector. That's what the wage rate is set at. So, again, I'm assuming that all of them are paid over the current minimum wage. Again, that's part of the employment standards and those types of regulations are set out in the Yukon. So, again, although these are set by Canada, it's my understanding that there are no nominees being paid below minimum wage at this time.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The minister referred to non-compliance orders. How many non-compliance orders have been issued to employers over the last year and over the course of the program since it came into existence?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Again, that level of information I don't have with me here today. I will endeavor to get that for the member opposite and provide that to her at a future date.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I am looking for an assurance that there is adequate monitoring and enforcement so that nominees are not exploited and that their rights under the memorandum of understanding — whether that is wages, or health and safety — are respected. If they do not have those rights, then what is stopping an employer from paying below the minimum wage? The minister has committed to coming back with information. I would like to put on the record information that I would like. I would like a breakdown over the years since the Yukon nominee program started; the total number of temporary foreign workers in the Yukon; the total number of those workers who then entered the Yukon nominee program; and then the number of those workers who became permanent residents. I would also like the minister to provide information on the number that may have been sent back to their country of origin without successfully entering the Yukon nominee program, and the number sent back to their country of origin who entered the Yukon nominee program but then did not become permanent residents.

If the minister could provide a breakdown of the above items by national occupation class, that would be helpful.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** With respect to the monitoring that is done to ensure that employers are in compliance with the memorandum of understanding, it's my understanding that we are one of only a few jurisdictions in Canada that conducts that monitoring. Again, I would like to thank department officials for conducting that monitoring. I'll of course review the Blues

for the member's previous question and provide any information that we can to the member regarding the list that she asked for.

Again, just to clarify, for the temporary foreign worker program, there is no Yukon annex signed as of yet. It's a Canada program that allows eligible foreign workers to work in Canada for an authorized period of time if employers can demonstrate that they are unable to find suitable Canadians or permanent residents to fill the jobs. The temporary foreign worker program is jointly administered by HRSDC, or Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, and Citizenship and Immigration Canada under the authority of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and its regulations. I know that there is a meeting upcoming of national ministers responsible for immigration that will be held, I believe, in June in Ottawa.

I look forward to attending those meetings and getting a sense of what other jurisdictions are doing with respect to labour market shortages and how, through the temporary foreign workers program and the nominee program, those issues are being resolved by other jurisdictions, as well.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I understand the nominee, the employer and the department signs the MOU. If the minister doesn't have this information, perhaps he can bring it back. I'd like to know how many MOUs have been signed. Does every nominee have a signed MOU? The MOU puts responsibility on the employer for the nominee's housing. This is something that was identified by Canada in looking at their review and revisions to the program. I'd like to ask the minister how housing provisions in the MOU are enforced.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Perhaps what I could do is identify some of the statistics for the Yukon nominee program. In 2008, there were 186 approved applications. In 2009, there were 127 approved applications. In 2010, there were 148 approved applications.

In 2011, there were 129 approved applications. So over the past four years, we have had 590 approved applications through the Yukon nominee program. I can commit to providing the member opposite a copy of the MOU that will hopefully be helpful in laying out those standards for work schedule, wages, travel expenses, housing, medical care, workers' compensation, support services, termination of employment and the monitoring process that is conducted by officials in Advanced Education.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I thought that I saw a copy of the MOU on the website. I know there was information provided at the meeting in December. How does the Yukon nominee program ensure that workers can provide informed consent at various stages throughout the process, whether it's signing the MOU or during inspection? I'm thinking about translation or access to representatives or advocates during those interactions who might speak the first language of the workers.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Again, there is regular monitoring done by officials at the department through the Advanced Education branch to ensure that employers are in compliance with the MOU. Advanced Education also has an ongoing agreement with the Multicultural Centre of Yukon for language instruction, testing, and settlement type services that this agreement provides the Multicultural Centre with \$85,000

provides the Multicultural Centre with \$85,000 annually for these services. In addition, Advanced Education is currently negotiating an agreement with L'Association franco-yukonnaise to promote francophone immigration to the territory. This agreement is expected to be in the range of \$55,000 per year, dependent on the number of activities planned in the forthcoming year. Those are the types of supports that we are giving for immigrants to address English as a second language, and provide the supports for francophone immigrants to the territory as well.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Does the minister know how many nominees are staying in the jobs that they were hired for after they receive permanent resident status? Does Advanced Education have any information as to where nominees go once they become permanent residents, in case they do not stay with the employer who hired them?

Does Advanced Education know if nominees are usually underqualified or overqualified in their Yukon jobs, or are they hired according to their qualification?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** There are provisions in the MOU that allow us to track the information that the member was talking about after the foreign worker has obtained permanent residency. However, once they do obtain that permanent residency, the MOU is voided. So there's no requirement, I guess, at that point, for the worker to do that. Again, that's the stipulation. So once that foreign worker has obtained permanent residence, the MOU does become void, although we're hopeful that we can continue to track it.

With respect to the second question, the program is employer-driven, so the workers are hired on a basis of what the employers need. Again, we've talked about a number of the industries where they are finding work, such as the retail and retail sectors and service sectors and those types of industries.

That's where we are seeing a lot of the nominees placed. Again, these are employer-driven immigration services that we have through the Yukon government.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I realize that the minister has committed to coming back to me with a lot of information, but I do want to ask him whether he might have this information with him. I am interested in knowing what the uptake has been of the agreement signed with Canada on fast-tracking workers for mining and service sectors. Have there been applications for a large number of workers to a particular employer, and does he know how many applications have come forward specifically from the mining sector and the service sector?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** What the member opposite is referring to, of course, is the temporary foreign worker annex, which we have negotiated with Canada, but we are still waiting for it to go through Canada's process. So, I have recently sent correspondence to the minister responsible for immigration at the federal level.

I know that I have had several inquiries, not only from the mining community, but also the tourism sector, as to when we can expect that. So the annex was signed in December 2010 as an addition to the Yukon agreement. It's one response to Yukon employers' immediate skills and labour shortages. It's designed to provide a seasonal workforce, I believe, and that's

why it's particularly attractive to the exploration industry and the tourism industry. So I'm hoping to hear back soon from the federal minister on when we can expect this annex, so that we can move forward quickly in identifying candidates under this program who will come and work in the mining exploration industry, as well as the tourism sector.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Is there any threshold or percentage that regulates how much of a business's workforce can be staffed with nominees? Does Advanced Education keep track of those numbers?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** The number of total nominees who can come into the country is set by the federal government, and then it's divided up among the jurisdictions participating in that program. Again, I think something that the employers have to prove is that they can't find anybody in the local labour market or in Canada to take on that job. So that's how that is addressed, I guess — on an employer-by-employer basis. To my understanding, there's no percentage of employees who can be in that program. Again, it's incumbent upon the employer to ensure that there are no local labour market candidates who will take that position.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** As the minister just referred to, the criteria for the critical impact worker program does talk about labour shortages, as does the criteria for the skilled worker program. Can the minister speak about how those are determined? What is the standard of proof that employers have tried to recruit locally and nationally? How do we ensure that the Yukon nominee program is not displacing Yukon workers and workers who have historically suffered high unemployment and lower wages, such as aboriginal people, youth, women and people with disabilities?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Again, it is my understanding that, as part of the process, they have to show proof that they have advertised or explored local options for this type of employment before they apply through the nominee program, which again is administered through the Yukon government.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** What's the vision for the future if there are three more major mines operating? Does this government see the Yukon nominee program and the temporary foreign worker accord, which is still awaiting the signature of the federal minister, but is pretty much anticipated will go ahead — does this government see those as being the vehicle for supplying labour to new mines?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I think immigration is a very important aspect in addressing the labour market needs of the Yukon going forward, but of course it is only one aspect.

We're seeing significant investment in comprehensive skills and trades training and a great partnership emerging in the Yukon between Yukon College, Yukon Mine Training Association and the existing producing mines as far as providing training that they need to ensure that as many Yukon residents as possible can obtain employment with those producing mines on a go-forward basis. Immigration is a key element and this is all part of the labour market framework that I spoke about earlier. Recruitment is going to be a big aspect of that; employee retention and then gathering the labour market information.

So I think there are a number of different ways that we need to address the labour market needs of the Yukon, not only the mining industry, but the service and supply industry, the tourism industry and all industries, in fact, on a go-forward basis. I know that there are a number of committees that were created last summer to oversee implementation, monitoring and evaluation of those strategies that I mentioned under the labour market framework and they're now in the process of updating action plans and developing an evaluation plan to guide the monitoring and evaluation of the strategies on a go-forward basis. While immigration is an extremely important part of solving some of the labour market issues in the territory, there are other aspects that I think we need to continue to work on, such as the skills and trades training and recruitment and retention initiatives.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I just have a final couple of questions for the minister. One is in relation to the Yukon nominee program and temporary foreign worker programs. What information has been produced in other languages for people who may be coming in to work in Canada, but whose first language is not English? I understand that they do require a certain level of proficiency in English, but it may be useful to have information available in other languages.

Can the minister also tell us whether there is an advocate available for participants in the program for workers if they do encounter difficulties in their workplace?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** The member mentioned in her remarks that there is a level of English proficiency that's required as part of the nominee program.

I referenced in earlier remarks here today about the support that Advanced Education gives to the Multicultural Centre for English language training. Again, we have a very, very active Filipino association here in the Yukon as well that — and again, I would say, the vast majority of immigrants over the past couple of years has come from the Philippines. It is maybe an opportunity for me to mention how much they have enriched Yukon's culture and the types of activities that are taking place through that organization. I think every Member of the Legislative Assembly is probably proud of the activities and how enriching that community has been to our territory over the past number of years. Again, the department, through Advanced Education, provides an advocacy role with respect to the memorandums of understanding and assisting those nominees through the process.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Earlier, I asked some questions of the minister related to whether there had been complaints from the program participants, whether it was concerns of employers or concerns of employees. I would like the minister to tell us if there has ever been a violation of employment standards by an employer regarding a nominee and, if there has, what has Advanced Education done to prevent this from reoccurring?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Without getting into specifics of individual cases, it is my understanding that the department has acted on initial complaints through the monitoring or that have been brought forward by the particular nominees or employees, and it is referred to Border Services at that point. Not to my

knowledge has there ever been any violation of employment standards by employers.

Rather than getting into specifics on a case-by-case basis — respecting the privacy of individuals — in general terms, to my knowledge there have not been any violations of employment standards.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Certainly we want anyone who is participating in the Yukon workforce, whether it's a Yukon resident or a temporary foreign worker or someone who is involved in the Yukon nominee program to have a good experience of the workforce. I'm not asking the minister questions about specific incidents. I just want to know on a general level that the minister and the department are making sure that the workplace experience is one where health and safety is followed, where the wages are paid according to the rate determined and the memorandum of understanding is respected, and if there are, in fact, any complaints related to violation of employment standards or health and safety, that those would be investigated in the same way for every person, regardless of whether they're coming in from outside the country or are a resident of Canada.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I think through the MOU and the successive monitoring that's being done and the fact that initially, as I mentioned before, once the nominee arrives in Yukon and before they commence work, that entry interview takes place in which the nominee must produce their temporary work permit. The MOU is introduced, which is the contract between the employer, employee and Yukon government. It's explained at that point and signed by all parties. To my knowledge, there has been no violation of the types of things that have been set out in the MOU such as standards for work schedule, wages, travel expenses, housing, medical care, workers' compensation, support services, termination of employment and then, again, the ongoing monitoring that is done by Advanced Education.

I'll reiterate that it's my understanding we're one of only a few jurisdictions in Canada that conducts that regular monitoring. We at the department and I'm sure all members of this House want to ensure that no matter where our workforce comes from, that they're protected in the workplace just like any other employee would be — a Canadian citizen or someone who enters the Yukon through the nominee program.

**Mr. Elias:** I have been listening and reading over the last several days with regard to general debate in the Department of Education. We are in the late stages of the spring sitting in the budget. In terms of participating in general debate, I do understand that there has been a tremendous amount of debate and questions asked on the floor of the House. I appreciate the minister's and his officials' responses to those questions. In recognizing that we are in the late stages, and we still have hundreds of millions of dollars to scrutinize on the floor of the House in various departments — we do have questions from the Liberal caucus to the minister; however, we are going to forego those questions in general debate and deal with them directly with the minister.

I will say this — our caucus appreciates the leadership style of the Education minister in his new role.

We recognize that this is his first budget dealing with the portfolio of Education and dealing with the Liberal caucus, in terms of the education issues and priorities that we have, not only in our ridings, but throughout the Yukon. We are going to forego questions in general debate. We might have questions in line-by-line. Again, we appreciate the discussion and the debate that has gone on for several days here, but we do need to get to other departments that we do have questions in — large departments, such as Health and Social Services and Energy, Mines and Resources, and we still have to finish off Highways and Public Works, and the list goes on and on.

I will just leave our comments at that, but we will be approaching the minister with some of the priorities that we have in terms of education. Thank to the minister and thank you to the rest of the MLAs, who did delve into the Education portfolio in some detail and great depth. We appreciate that, and we appreciate the answers from the minister. So we will possibly be asking questions in line-by-line.

**Chair:** Is there any further debate? We are going to proceed with line-by-line on Vote 3, Department of Education, starting with page 8-6.

***On Education Support Services***

***On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures***

*On Administration*

*Administration in the amount of \$725,000 agreed to*

*On Corporate Services*

**Ms. Hanson:** I apologize — my colleague here indicated he didn't ask this question and I was curious about the expenditure per student with respect to busing. This is School Support Services. I can't see the correlation here.

**Chair:** We're on Corporate Services.

**Ms. Hanson:** Corporate Services, yes. Sorry, I'm ahead of you one line. Sorry, Madam Chair.

*Corporate Services in the amount of \$2,897,000 agreed to*

***On School Support Services***

**Ms. Hanson:** Thank you for the clarification. My question is with respect to the breakdown between rural and Whitehorse expenditures here. The second part to that: Has the department given consideration to Whitehorse itself — as part of its overall greening strategy — to looking at the use and also trying to augment the struggling City of Whitehorse bus service to using the City of Whitehorse bus service for school students, which is done in other jurisdictions with some success?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** As part of that School Support Services line, there is \$3.135 million for student busing activities. Then if members turn to page 8-7 under Statistics, you'll find that the annual expenditure per student estimate in this budget is \$1,393.

I don't have the breakdown of rural to Whitehorse students, unfortunately, for the member opposite. I can also mention that through the work of the environmental stewardship program at the Department of Education, we are undertaking a school transportation pilot project in the City of Whitehorse that will involve working with the City of Whitehorse to see if we can utilize, for the older students, in particular, the use of the Whitehorse transit system as a busing alternative.

**Ms. Hanson:** I have a very enthusiastic colleague here. The minister's words obviously resonated with the Member for Mayo-Tatchun, and I thank the minister for that response. Perhaps not in the discussion here today, but we would be interested in that breakdown between rural and urban expenditures for busing.

*School Support Services in the amount of \$3,853,000 agreed to*

***Education Support Services Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$7,475,000 agreed to***

***On Capital Expenditures***

*On Information Technology Equipment and Systems*

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

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** The project description for that \$60,000 is to purchase computer software and hardware for the central administration of the Department of Education. So equipment upgrades are \$50,000, and hardware and network infrastructure are \$10,000.

*Information Technology Equipment and Systems in the amount of \$60,000 agreed to*

*On Prior Years' Projects*

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

***Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$60,000 agreed to***

***Education Support Services Total Expenditures in the amount of \$7,535,000 agreed to***

***On Public Schools***

***On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures***

*On Administration*

*Administration in the amount of \$395,000 agreed to*

*On Program Delivery*

*Program Delivery in the amount of \$81,612,000 agreed to*

*On Learning Support Services*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** This line item was formerly identified as "Program Support — Special Programs." I'd like the minister, if he could, to give us a breakdown for this line item and, in particular, to identify if there are any changes because of the change in name.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** The "Learning Support Services" line used to be called "Program Support", and the line below that, "Student Support Services," used to be called "Special Programs". I can give the member a breakdown of the Learning Support Services. Hopefully that helps her out with the question.

The personnel allotment is a substantial portion at \$4.716 million, but the other allotment of \$3.76 million — \$105,000 identified for professional development; \$134,000 for Gadzoosdaa residence; \$627,000 for textbooks and school library resources; \$292,000 for recruitment costs; \$534,000 for distributed learning and IT support; \$471,000 for student information support; \$327,000 for French language program support; \$80,000 for early years initiatives; \$117,000 for early intervention initiatives; \$52,000 for resilience and transitions; \$61,000 for the WNCP secretariat support; and \$276,000 for the travel and day-to-day operational costs for consultants; government transfers allotment is \$1.5 million.



Would the member like me to just go through those transfers as well?

Just to go quickly through those government transfers: \$10,000 for teacher training under French bursaries; \$627,000 for Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon; \$250,000 for L'Association franco-yukonnaise; \$35,000 for French cultural activities; \$45,000 for education-related organizations; \$365,000 for the home tutor program; \$98,000 for the whole child project and \$141,000 for student accommodation, which is the boarding subsidy which is offered to students.

*Learning Support Services in the amount of \$9,363,000 agreed to*

*On Student Support Services*

*Student Support Services in the amount of \$2,118,000 agreed to*

*On First Nations Programs and Partnerships*

**Mr. Elias:** Can the minister please provide a breakdown of this line item?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** This line supports the liaison services provided to First Nations by Public Schools. We have a personnel allotment of \$881,000 in that line item. The other allotment of \$526,000 expenditures in this area include the day-to-day operational costs and resources for consultants and support for First Nations. I'll give the members a breakdown. We have \$107,000 for day-to-day operational costs and partnerships; \$160,000 for curriculum and resource development; \$78,000 for First Nation language support; \$31,000 for Yukon First Nation secondary experiential program support; and \$148,000 to support the Southern Tutchone bicultural program.

Of the transfers allotment of \$344,000, expenditures in this area consist of \$24,000 for special payments for education-related events and student activities; \$50,000 for the First Nation elder program; \$20,000 for First Nations community orientation; and \$250,000 for school cultural activities.

*First Nations Programs and Partnerships in the amount of \$1,751,000 agreed to*

**Public Schools Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$95,239,000 agreed to**

**On Capital Expenditures**

*On Facility Construction and Maintenance — F.H. Collins Secondary School — Replacement Planning*

**Mr. Tredger:** When I add up the figures, it comes to just a little over \$5 million. What percentage of the total cost of F.H. Collins has been spent in terms of construction — the total projected costs?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** The total projected costs at this point for F.H. Collins are just slightly over \$50 million, so approximately 10 percent has been expended. What we're looking for in this particular item that adds up to the \$1.293 million is the balance of the design work for \$465,000; site infrastructure, which is civil works and landscaping for \$200,000; geothermal for \$20,000; building permits and utilities for \$190,000; portable relocation, which I believe is to relocate the existing weight room that is housed in a portable, which is \$100,000. Remediation of old school for \$200,000; administration for \$58,000; and the YACA training position, which is the agreement that we have with the Kwanlin Dun First Nation, which is

a \$60,000 cost. So that should add up to the \$1.293 million that we're seeking in the current budget.

*Facility Construction and Maintenance — F.H. Collins Secondary School — Replacement Planning in the amount of \$1,293,000 agreed to*

*On Facility Construction and Maintenance — F.H. Collins Secondary School — Prior Years' Projects*

*Facility Construction and Maintenance — F.H. Collins Secondary School — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

*On Facility Construction and Maintenance — Johnson Elementary — Old Wing Demolition*

**Mr. Tredger:** Does that amount include site restoration and landscaping after it's demolished?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** This amount is strictly for demolition. When it comes to site improvement and landscaping and that type of thing, we do expect to work with the community, the staff and students at Johnson Elementary School, the parents, of course, and the entire school community when it comes to identifying the alternative space requirements. I did have the opportunity to visit that school in January with the MLA for Watson Lake. I want to assure the parents, the staff and students of Johnson Elementary School that we will provide some space planning for them to assist with what I understand was a very rushed transition from the old wing, when the structural difficulties were first identified, into the newer wing at the school.

Again, we will work with the school community to identify the appropriate space and address those landscaping and site-improvement requests that were identified by the Member for Mayo-Tatchun.

*Facility Construction and Maintenance — Johnson Elementary — Old Wing Demolition in the amount of \$500,000 agreed to*

*On Facility Construction and Maintenance — Strategic Planning — New School*

*Facility Construction and Maintenance — Strategic Planning — New School in the amount of \$250,000 agreed to*

*On Facility Construction and Maintenance — Site Improvement and Recreation Development*

**Mr. Tredger:** Does that include an upgrade of Carmacks recreational facilities around their school grounds? Could I have a breakdown of the \$130,000?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** With this project, this line item represents funding provided for site upgrading and maintenance projects that are undertaken at various schools throughout the Yukon.

The projects that are planned for 2012-13 are as follows: paving repairs at Hidden Valley School, \$12,000; repair the sidewalk planters at the Wood Street Centre, \$38,000; Hidden Valley School playground equipment replacement, \$74,000; and replace the playground sand at various schools, \$6,000. Unfortunately, this doesn't include what the member opposite was asking about at Tantalus School, as far as that goes. However, that is not to say that we can't do that work and identify it in a future supplementary.

**Mr. Tredger:** Can I ask the minister to certainly include it in future years? They have been making the request ever since the building was constructed a number of years ago; hence my asking about Johnson Elementary School. I think one of the things we tend to do is build a school and not look after the grounds. It is quite important to the functioning of a school building.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Again, there are a number of requests that come from all schools when it comes to site improvement and recreation development.

My understanding of the specific request from the Tantalus School in Carmacks is for a soccer field. There are some top-soil issues and some ongoing maintenance issues that we have to address with that. So, again, I will commit to the member here today that we will engage in discussions with that school community about how best to move forward on developing that specific recreation infrastructure.

**Mr. Tredger:** In many cases, it is a safety issue. I know at Tantalus School, when the new school was built, many of the old construction materials were just buried and, as the grounds settle, these are starting to appear on the playground. So when they talk about making a soccer field, they want a place that is safe for their children to play.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** It's my understanding that there was some exposed rebar that was identified to the department as a health and safety issue, and we have since removed that. Again, to my understanding, there hasn't been any more construction material that has surfaced.

But, again, if that is the case, health and safety of all Yukon children when they're engaged in activities at our schools is of utmost concern to the department and me. So if there are other specific safety concerns that have emerged, I would encourage either the school or members of the school community or, of course, the MLA to let me know and we'll move quickly to remedy them.

*Facility Construction and Maintenance — Site Improvement and Recreation Development in the amount of \$130,000 agreed to*

*On Facility Construction and Maintenance — School Initiated Renovations*

*Facility Construction and Maintenance — School Initiated Renovations in the amount of \$125,000 agreed to*

*On Facility Construction and Maintenance — Various School Facilities Renovations*

*Facility Construction and Maintenance — Various School Facilities Renovations in the amount of \$114,000 agreed to*

*On Facility Construction and Maintenance — Capital Maintenance Repairs*

*Facility Construction and Maintenance — Capital Maintenance Repairs in the amount of \$1,418,000 agreed to*

*On Facility Construction and Maintenance — Roof Repairs*

*Facility Construction and Maintenance — Roof Repairs in the amount of \$93,000 agreed to*

*On Facility Construction and Maintenance — Prior Years' Projects*

*Facility Construction and Maintenance — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

*On Instructional Programs — Distance Education*

*Instructional Programs — Distance Education in the amount of \$25,000 agreed to*

*On Instructional Programs — School-Based Equipment Purchase*

*Instructional Programs — School-Based Equipment Purchase in the amount of \$435,000 agreed to*

*On Instructional Programs — School-Based Information Technology*

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

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** What this line represents is that it is used to purchase computer hardware, software, network infrastructure upgrades and school connectivity costs. These items are placed directly into the classrooms and computer labs. It also provides funding for upgrading and maintenance of the YSIS — the Yukon student information system software — used in all school offices, and the new school library management software used in several school libraries. The Mac platform is used in our schools.

As far as the funding breakdown for supporting the computer labs at Watson Lake Secondary and Grey Mountain Primary, Johnson Elementary School, Elijah Smith Elementary School, Tantalus School in Carmacks, St. Elias Community School, Whitehorse Elementary, l'École Émilie Tremblay — those are the computer labs that will receive funding from this line item. Maintenance and support is \$77,000 and the connectivity charges for schools are \$318,000, which is all represented in this capital line item.

*Instructional Programs — School-Based Information Technology in the amount of \$1,064,000 agreed to*

*On Instructional Programs — Special Education Equipment*

*Instructional Programs — Special Education Equipment in the amount of \$70,000 agreed to*

*On Instructional Programs — Prior Years' Projects*

*Instructional Programs — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

**Public Schools Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$5,517,000 agreed to**

**Public Schools Total Expenditures in the amount of \$100,756,000 agreed to**

**On Advanced Education**

**On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures**

*On Administration*

*Administration in the amount of \$283,000 agreed to*

*On Labour Market Programs and Services*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I'd like to ask the minister to provide us with the breakdown for this line item, please.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I'm happy to read into the record the breakdown, but again, I point to a document I sent over to the Member for Copperbelt South, the Member for Mayo-Tatchun, as well as, I believe, the acting chief of staff for the Liberal Party caucus. On page 6, the breakdown is there for this under (c), but I'm happy to read it into the record.

The Labour Market Programs and Services line includes personnel allotment for \$1.746 million. There are 17 FTEs budgeted here for the delivery of the labour market programs and immigration services. Under the other allotment of \$504,000, these expenditures include the day-to-day operational costs for the administration of the labour market programs and immigration services and are broken out as follows: \$115,000 for labour market framework; \$69,000 for the labour market development agreement; \$289,000 for immigration activities; and \$31,000 for the day-to-day operational costs.

As far as government transfers, the allotment there is \$5,251,000. Expenditures in this area consist of \$2,357,000 for the labour market development agreement; \$1,500,000 for the community training fund; \$852,000 for the labour market agreement; \$275,000 for Yukon Learn; \$200,000 for youth-at-risk initiatives; \$35,000 for the Yukon work information network, or what it's more commonly referred to as "YuWIN"; and \$32,000 for the labour market framework.

*Labour Market Programs and Services in the amount of \$7,501,000 agreed to*

*On Training Programs*

*Training Programs in the amount of \$6,625,000 agreed to*

*Advanced Education Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$14,409,000 agreed to*

*On Capital Expenditures*

*On Labour Market Development Agreement*

*Labour Market Development Agreement in the amount of \$500,000 agreed to*

*On Student Financial Assistance System*

*Student Financial Assistance System in the amount of \$30,000 agreed to*

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

*Advanced Education Total Expenditures in the amount of \$14,939,000 agreed to*

*On Yukon College*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The minister did make some opening remarks in relation to the budget expenditures for Yukon College before clearing the one line item. I would like to ask the minister if he can read into the record the expenditures associated with the line item of \$22,585,000 for Yukon College.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** This is the operation and maintenance budget for Yukon College: operational funding, \$18,176,000; support for the Yukon Research Centre, \$1,088,000; seat purchases, \$780,000; Yukon native teacher education program, \$540,000; older workers initiative, \$240,000; School of Visual Arts, \$474,000; licensed practical nurse program, \$463,000; Northern Institute of Social Justice, \$377,000; bachelor of social work, \$370,000; innovators in the school, \$57,000; and training support for the board of governors, \$20,000.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The amount for the Yukon native teacher education program remains the same this year, although the program is not being offered this year while an evaluation is being completed. Can the minister provide some information regarding that expenditure for the current year and when we

anticipate that the evaluation will be completed for the Yukon native teacher education program?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** The program hasn't been suspended for the year. There is, however, an evaluation of that program that's underway. There's just no new intake of students this year. However, students that do come forward and wish to enrol in that program will be offered general studies courses that are offered by Yukon College that will be equivalent to their first year of the program. The evaluation that is being conducted under the direction of the college and the Board of Governors — it's an important step, obviously, in program improvement. It's the second time, I understand, the program has been evaluated in its 20-year history, and we look forward to the findings of the college's evaluation. It's my understanding it's supposed to be complete in June of this year.

We look forward to reading that report and getting a sense of what the evaluation is. Again, I must just state that those who are currently enrolled in the program will continue to receive instruction throughout the next school year. That is why the line item is still identified in the current year's budget.

**Chair:** We are going to go on to the line-by-line now. That was general debate on the program.

*On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures*

*On Yukon College*

*Yukon College in the amount of \$22,585,000 agreed to*

*Yukon College Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$22,585,000 agreed to*

*On Capital Expenditures*

*On Prior Years' Projects*

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

*Capital Expenditures in the amount of nil cleared*

*Yukon College Total Expenditures in the amount of \$22,585,000 agreed to*

*On Revenues*

**Mr. Tredger:** Under Public Schools — Canadian Heritage — French Language Programs, is that both French immersion and l'École Émilie Tremblay? What is the split there?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Under that particular line item there is \$1,226,000 for French first language services, which, of course, are delivered through l'École Émilie Tremblay and the Yukon francophone school board and then \$1,017,000 for French second language and French immersion services to schools.

*Revenues cleared*

*On Government Transfers*

*Government Transfers cleared*

*On Changes in Tangible Capital Assets and Amortization*

*Changes in Tangible Capital Assets and Amortization cleared*

*Department of Education agreed to*

**Chair:** We will continue with Vote 55, Highways and Public Works, but Committee of the Whole will recess for 15 minutes.

*Recess*

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

**Department of Highways and Public Works — *continued***

**Chair:** We're resuming general debate on Vote 55, Department of Highways and Public Works. Ms. White has the floor.

**Ms. White:** When we last left off, I was speaking to the Minister of Community Services in her role as the minister responsible for the French Language Services Directorate. Understanding that the French Language Services Directorate officials are not here today, I am going to pass on the floor to my colleagues, who may have questions for the Minister of Highways and Public Works, and look forward to the opportunity of coming back to the French language services at a later date.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I look forward to more questions in general debate.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** We have debated Highways and Public Works on a couple of days here in this sitting, and there were some questions that I had put forward to the minister and he was going to come back with information. I would like to ask if the minister has any information at present or does he anticipate bringing forward a legislative return or providing that information later in the sitting? For example, there were questions relating to contracts for printing.

There was a considerable list; I won't go through it all again here since I did put those on the public record. But if the minister has statements, perhaps he could deliver them.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I can answer to the Queen's Printer. The question that was asked had to do with the increase in printing. The actual increase of that — around \$1 million that we were looking for — was put forward for PSC for advertising for jobs. But two-thirds of the work is done by the private sector when it comes to printing; one-quarter in-house by Queen's Printer and 10 percent of that is done outside the Yukon; nine-tenths — 90 percent by Yukon firms and one-tenth in-house — so one percent outside of the Yukon.

The rest of the information the member opposite was looking for is still forthcoming. We are still trying to gather all that together.

**Mr. Elias:** I just wanted to begin by thanking the minister for forwarding to me the answers to a lot of the questions I had — that I didn't necessarily ask on the floor of the Legislature. So I appreciate that. He answered a lot of my questions with the information that was provided to my office, and I thank the minister for that.

I do have a couple of questions that came up in general debate. One has come to my attention with regard to — it's a policy issue; I realize that, but it did affect some constituents. That is with regard to performance appraisals — well, the lack thereof is what the concern was from my constituents. They felt that it was an impediment. I guess there is a policy — correct me if I'm wrong — that if an employee within Highways and Public Works wants to advance, they have to have a performance appraisal. In this case, they are not necessarily always done, and that is one instance.

The other instance was with regard to the students apprenticeship program. In order for them to get their "ticket" — as a lot of people call them in various trades and technologies — they also require a performance appraisal in order to receive that apprenticeship trade certification. That is not necessarily happening. If this is correct, can the minister inform the House how he is going to rectify this situation? It is a pretty serious matter. If I am off-base here, please let me know, as well. Can the minister speak to that specific instance? I realize that this is a policy issue, so I will wait for the minister's answer. Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I think what the member opposite is getting at is employee evaluations, which are to be done yearly for all employees. When it comes to the apprenticeship program through YTG there are also supposed to be yearly employee evaluations. The issue the member was talking about in our prior discussions is a hiring issue. It is a staffing issue that the minister does not directly get involved in or make recommendations on whether certain people should be hired or not hired.

As the minister, I have put forward to the department that they make sure that these performance appraisals that the member is talking about — employee yearly evaluations — are done for all different levels within our department, because that helps when you want an increase within the department, or to working your way up, or in applying for transfers within the department. Sometimes these employee evaluations don't always get done, which I believe was the case, but I have pushed the department to make sure that we do do these in the future and that they are done on a regular basis.

**Mr. Elias:** I appreciate the response from the minister. Thank you. My next question used to be under the auspices of Community Services, I believe, and it is in regard to changes to the *Motor Vehicles Act* that are now under the Department of Highways and Public Works, and that's the use of hand-held electronic devices while driving. It might be too early to ask, but I'll ask it anyway. Statistics are important with regard to how the education program is working. Have there been any tickets issued or any statistics with regard to that? Does the minister have any information that he can provide to the House today?

It's also important to note that since the Yukon adopted this legislation — that I somewhat had a hand in helping develop — I believe three jurisdictions in Canada have adopted this similar type of legislation. It deals with drivers in the graduated drivers' licensing program; it deals with driving privileges and things like that. Does the minister have any statistics with regard to people being fined and if so, how many? How is the education program working? What are the costs of the program being implemented? I realize that this has just been a recent transfer to the minister's department, but if he has any statistics with regard to this, that would be great.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Back to the member opposite — as he was discussing the fact that DMV just moved back over to Highways and Public Works with that. The actual statistics when it comes to people who were fined for using their cell-phones while driving — I don't have that statistic handy. I'm

not sure if they actually have those statistics. It's the RCMP that gives out the tickets. I can commit to looking into it. I know the costs of implementation and the education aren't a big cost to the department, because we're already in the process of doing a lot of educational stuff when it comes to driving, whether it's reducing speed during construction — there are many things out there that we already do. So it's just something that we would add on to it. When it comes to the statistics, I'll look into it and see if they actually have the statistics, if I can get them from the RCMP. I'm working with the RCMP right now on sharing some of our information when it comes to the amount of traffic on our roads. We do traffic counters, working with them a little bit so they can plan some of their campaigns, whether it's the Christmas drinking and driving or whether it's excessive speeds through a construction zone or when the RCMP goes out to do some of their campaigns.

**Mr. Elias:** I appreciate the minister's commitment to get statistics. Basically, what I am looking at here is the overarching question: Does it save lives? There are insurance implications; there are safety implications, obviously for the reasons why we put forward this legislation to the House. We would like to know what is working and what is not working to be able to analyze whether or not this legislation is achieving what it was meant to achieve. Before the legislation was actually put forward on the floor of the House, the then Minister of Community Services conducted a public survey with regard to trying to demonstrate a need. It was overwhelming, I understand — the results from that survey. Maybe the minister could develop a similar survey in terms of what the public thinks of the existing law now as it's being implemented. I think over time that that would be valuable to the system. I make that recommendation to the minister.

Other than that, I did have some questions with regard to the 2004 and 2007 Auditor General audits of the transportation capital and programming and all that other stuff. I did receive adequate answers from the minister with regard to those requests and what concrete actions the minister has been taking to resolve the Auditor General's concerns within the department. Again, I appreciate those.

Other than that, we've gone on at length in debate and I appreciate the minister and the staff and the diligence they've provided to the House in general debate. Again, if there are no other questions in general debate, I suggest we go into line-by-line, and we might have further debate and questions for the minister.

**Chair:** Is there any further general debate on Highways and Public Works?

We're going to proceed, line by line, starting with page 13-8.

**On Corporate Services**

**On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures**

*On Deputy Minister's Office*

*Deputy Minister's Office in the amount of \$451,000 agreed to*

*On Human Resources*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Could the minister give us a breakdown for this line item, please?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** This activity includes 16 FTEs at \$1,117,000 and other funding for support costs of \$32,000. It's a \$57,000 increase from 2011-12 estimates that's due to primary collective agreement — and you'll see that quite a bit through here — and manager increases.

*Human Resources in the amount of \$1,149,000 agreed to*

*On Finance and Administration*

*Finance and Administration in the amount of \$2,973,000 agreed to*

*On Policy and Communication*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Could the minister provide a breakdown for this line item, please? Could the minister also indicate whether there are any new policy initiatives underway covered in this line item?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** The breakdown for these activities is as follows: \$821,000 for personnel costs for nine FTEs; \$35,000 for other funding, which consists of \$9,000 for contracting and \$26,000 for other support costs; a \$28,000 increase for the collective agreement and manager increases. When it comes to policy-related stuff, the department is in the initial stages of working with Energy, Mines and Resources and Environment and a few other departments on a rural access road policy that we are looking at.

Also, with some of the other things, if you have read about it — my esteemed colleague across the way has been talking about ATVs and looking at existing regulations that we have and the *Motor Vehicles Act* and things like that.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Since the minister has just mentioned ATV use, I did have a question that I was going to bring up at a later line item, but I will ask it now: Does the minister think that helmet use should be mandatory for ATV use in the Yukon?

I see the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is providing him with an answer. I'd like to say to the minister that I —

**Chair:** Please address your comments through the Chair.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Thank you, Madam Chair.

Could the minister tell us whether he thinks that helmet use should be mandatory for ATV use? I know that it concerns all of us when young people die on ATVs, and it is not uncommon for youth to be riding ATVs without helmet use. It is a matter of public safety.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I'm a Canada Safety Council ATV instructor, and I personally believe that anybody riding an ATV should have a helmet on. Whether it comes to this government — all members here — that's the stuff we talk about in caucus. Once we have done our internal working group and work forward on this, we will have an answer for the general public.

*Policy and Communication in the amount of \$856,000 agreed to*

**Corporate Services Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$5,429,000 agreed to**

**On Capital Expenditures**

*On Information Technology Equipment and Systems*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I'd like a breakdown for this line item, please.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** This request will support three major elements in the department's information strategy. This was something that was interesting to me too. There is \$345,000 for system development, which will upgrade, enhance and replace several small information systems and plan for larger obsolete system replacements. There is \$39,000 to replace older model desktop computers, laptops, monitors; \$21,000 to replace aging and failing printers, servers, switches.

I would like to get into the breakdown of the \$345,000 for system development. This is an Archibus property management information system and that gets into our asset management and space management stuff that we're doing. There is \$15,000 for Transportation Maintenance branch legacy apps, planning and assessment; \$10,000 for contract registry system enhancements.

That's our on-line stuff that we're working on, so you can work on-line for looking at contracts. \$200,000 is for Moodle learning management and \$150,000 for I-Drive projects.

*Information Technology Equipment and Systems in the amount of \$405,000 agreed to*

*On Operational Equipment*

*Operational Equipment in the amount of \$12,000 agreed to*

*On Prior Years' Projects*

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

*Corporate Services Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$417,000 agreed to*

*Corporate Services Total Expenditures in the amount of \$5,846,000 agreed to*

*On Information and Communications Technology*

*On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures*

*On Planning and Administration*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Could the minister give a breakdown for the line item, please?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** There is \$845,000 for eight FTEs, which is personnel costs; there is \$74,000 of other funding, which consists of \$38,000 for professional contracts and \$36,000 for other support costs. There is an increase of \$144,000, which is attributed to collective agreements and managers' increases.

*Planning and Administration in the amount of \$919,000 agreed to*

*On Technology Infrastructure and Operations*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Could I get the breakdown for this line item please?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** There is \$2,926,000 is for personnel costs for 31 FTEs; \$2,862,000 is broken down into other funding which consists of communications at \$1.755 million, \$904,000 for repairs and maintenance, and \$203,000 for other. There is \$77,000 increase for the collective agreement and managers.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The minister indicated there was \$2,862,000 for communications. How much of that cost is associated with Internet or electronic use? Or is this other forms of communications?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Just looking at some of the information here, I don't have the exact breakdown on it. There was actually not the complete amount. The communications part was \$1.755 million, but that gets into storage and protection of the government's information assets.

It's also to facilitate the public access to government records while protecting the privacy of individuals. Some of the other stuff involved in here is to manage some of the essential information. There is communications technology infrastructure, including our Yukon-wide mobile radio service for government use which is accessible also by the RCMP, EMS and others.

*Technology Infrastructure and Operations in the amount of \$5,788,000 agreed to*

*On Development Services*

**Mr. Elias:** Can I get a breakdown for this line item, please?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** There is \$552,000 for 4.8 FTE personnel costs; the rest is \$102,000 which consists of two things: \$54,000 for repairs and maintenance and \$15,000 toward training.

*Development Services in the amount of \$654,000 agreed to*

*On Corporate Information Management*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Could the minister give us a breakdown for this line item, please?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** There are 21 FTEs at \$1,615,000 and "other" is broken down for \$245,000, which is contract services for \$94,000, rental for \$75,000, repairs and maintenance for \$33,000, and \$43,000 for other support costs. There is a decrease of \$115,000 from the 2011-12 estimates, primarily due to two position transfers to other areas.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Can the minister provide some information regarding the 21 FTEs and the work they do on corporate information management? Is this to process *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy* requests, among other things?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Job titles — this is the ATIPP office, where these people work. Also, it is the central records management, and that is where we bring people from other departments in and also train them on records and advise them on working with ATIPP coordinators.

*Corporate Information Management in the amount of \$1,860,000 agreed to*

*On Service Agreements*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Could the minister provide a breakdown for the line item for service agreements, please?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** The breakdown of the total amount is as follows: \$3,350,000 for communications; \$64,000 for repairs and maintenance; \$101,000 for contract services; \$35,000 for electricity; \$5,000 for other costs and support costs. There is \$2,772,000, which are internal recoveries. There is an increase of \$85,000 from the estimates, primarily due to increase in maintenance required for a community radio and TV system for \$60,000 and a mobile radio system increase in electrical costs at the mountaintop sites, which is \$25,000.

Some of the major service agreements include our mobile radio system, related southeastern remote site radio mainte-

nance and then Internet community metropolitan area network within the communities, Whitehorse metropolitan area and the community radio and TV systems. There is a lot in there.

*Service Agreements in the amount of \$3,783,000 agreed to*  
**Information and Communications Technology Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$13,004,000 agreed to**

**On Capital Expenditures**

*On Corporate Information Technology Equipment and Systems*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Could the minister provide the breakdown for the \$2,910,000 for Equipment and Systems under Corporate Information Technology?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** This request supports YG's IM and IT requirements to deliver programs and meet our business needs. There is \$1,375,000 for systems development; this is addressing corporate applications: the corporate financial management systems, \$300,000; project management and support, \$445,000; Geomatics Yukon, \$200,000; corporate records management software, \$30,000; other applications, \$20,000; human resources management systems, \$200,000; research and planning, \$80,000; LAN interest management systems, \$100,000. That's system development stuff.

Now we get into network infrastructure, which is \$1,523,000. This is for upgrading, replacing and repairing assets on an ongoing basis. There are servers at \$780,000; network connectivity at \$415,000; other hardware and network components at \$180,000; network security, \$130,000; data centres, \$10,000; printers, \$8,000. The last is \$12,000, and this is the purchase of PCs for ICT staff. This includes life-cycle replacement of older PCs, and some upgrades of \$12,000.

*Corporate Information Technology Equipment and Systems in the amount of \$2,910,000 agreed to*

*On Mobile Radio System*

*Mobile Radio System in the amount of \$425,000 agreed to*

*On Community Cell Phone Service*

**Mr. Elias:** Could the minister break this down?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** For the member opposite, this is a subsidy to Latitude Wireless for the full amount of \$201,000. It is to offset the high cost of serving the small market.

**Mr. Elias:** Are there any communities that are directly affected by this line item? Has Latitude Wireless identified which communities they will be using this money for?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** It's for all 17 existing communities. It's blanketed across them.

*Community Cell Phone Service in the amount of \$201,000 agreed to*

*On Prior Years' Projects*

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

**Information and Communications Technology Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$3,536,000 agreed to**

**Information and Communications Technology Total Expenditures in the amount of \$16,540,000 agreed to**

**On Transportation Division**

**Ms. Moorcroft:** This is one of the main areas within the Department of Highways and Public Works — managing the transportation infrastructure and systems and protecting

public safety through appropriate driver licensing and vehicle registration programs. I'd like to ask the minister whether trails are considered part of transportation systems and infrastructure?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Under the *Highways Act*, trails are part of the roads. We have identified, through the department over the years, monies that go forward toward existing identified highways. Those are the highways we maintain and work on — not all existing trails are.

Part of the Select Committee on the Safe Operation and Use of Off-road Vehicles — the mini working group that was put together — this issue was brought forward, which I alluded to earlier. The definition of "highway" under the *Highways Act* is something we're looking at. It is one of the recommendations we are looking at coming forward.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** How is the minister's department responsible then for regulating use of transportation systems and infrastructure when it comes to trails? The minister, in his answer to my previous question, indicated that trails were considered to fall under his mandate. Is that correct? Is that what he indicated?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** As I alluded to with the example I gave with the policy on resource access roads, we're exploring these avenues as we speak.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Are there any expenditures in this budget related to establishing or maintaining trails that are off the main roads?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** One that comes to mind is our monies put forward in the budget for the Takhini Road upgrades. There will be some trail maintenance on either side of the road on that. But as for the normal trails way back in the bush somewhere, we don't identify funds or maintain them.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I think I heard the minister just saying that there were expenditures planned for trails off the Takhini Hot Springs Road and I'd like to ask him: Is that something that the department has expended funds on before, building trails adjacent to roads rather than putting budget funds into the building and maintenance of roads themselves?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** When we did community consultations, this was something that was identified. There were existing trails on either side, so when we were to widen the road and make the road better, it was part of the process. If you go to the community of Destruction Bay or you go to the community of Haines Junction, trails along side — sometimes if it's identified by the community, upgrades are done to those trails.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Can the minister tell me what the costs are anticipated to be for the building of trails, then, in relation to the project he just identified, the Takhini Hot Springs Road?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I don't have the exact breakdowns for that, Madam Chair. There are two phases on the new upgrades to the Takhini Hot Springs Road. No, I don't have the exact breakdown on it, but just part of the process — next year is when the trails are done. You don't build trails and then a road. It is all done together, so they are just concurrent costs.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Perhaps the minister, then, could provide the information on what the cost was for building trails. He referred to this having been done in the Haines Junction area previously. Can the minister tell me what the cost would be? I know the department calculates the cost per kilometre of road construction. I know that the department manages the transportation systems and infrastructure within this division. Surely the minister can explain what the cost would be for a separate building of trails aside from road construction.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Actually, I can't, because the trail we're talking about in Haines Junction is paved. The trail in Destruction Bay is gravel. All trails are different. There is a cost allocated to each one. I suppose I could sit down and break down if we were going to build a trail three metres wide, paved at this — and that's in the previous years' budgets, so I don't have that information readily available here. I'll look into that and get back to the member opposite.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Would the minister commit to providing a legislative return that gives the total cost of the anticipated construction of the trails that he just identified related to the Takhini Hot Springs Road project?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Once the project design is complete and all parties have agreed to it, I can provide that information to you.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Who are the parties the minister is going to be speaking with when he says that all "parties" will agree to it prior to construction?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I'm not quite sure if community consultation has been completed on that. I know the community — from some of the e-mails that I've seen through my system — is divided on exactly what was required. But what was required was an upgrade to the Takhini Hot Springs Road, which is long overdue, and that's what this government committed to do. We're going to iron out the people who can't get along — that, hopefully, will be able to get along, so everybody gets to use existing trails and don't have to travel on the road, whether it's with their dog team, their bicycle, their snowmobile, their four-wheeler, their cross-country skis, snowshoes, or by foot.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I agree that the Takhini Hot Springs Road is in need of construction and repair, and I'm pleased to see that after — I believe it has been five years or more of Hot Springs Road rural residential planning. But I am concerned when the minister says that he's talking about building two trails on either side of the Hot Springs Road, and he can't tell us how much this would cost per kilometre.

Is this a precedent that this government is intending to set — so that if cyclists wanted to see a trail alongside the Alaska Highway in the Whitehorse corridor they could approach the Department of Highways and Public Works for funding of that? Or, if others have secondary roads throughout Yukon, and people were to ask for the construction of trails, is this a new approach for the Department of Highways and Public Works — to invest in off-road trails? Will the minister provide an answer as to how much it is going to cost before he'll proceed with investing in this?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Our focus in Highways and Public Works is roads. Trails are not our focus. This is a case-by-case issue, like the trail through Destruction Bay. When we go and do our community consultation, it's not something that we look for — that every road will have 17 trails on either side for every user group. We just go on a case-by-case basis when we go out to public consultation. But our main goal here is to — I'll allude to what came up earlier — safe use of our public highways and doing upgrades as funding becomes available.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I just want to confirm with the minister, then, that earlier in the exchange he indicated that he would know the costs of constructing trails once the project engineering work was completed. Will he provide that information by legislative return after he has it?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I will provide the information to the member opposite once the project is done.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I am actually looking for the minister to have this information before he proceeds, rather than, as he just indicated, providing the information after the project was done. Will the minister provide the information about how much the trails will cost once he knows how much that expenditure is and prior to the actual construction beginning?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Absolutely, I can do that.

***On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures***

*On Transportation Administration*

*Transportation Administration in the amount of \$3,705,000 agreed to*

*On Highway Maintenance*

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

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I look forward to this. Highway Maintenance: \$38,246,000. Of this, \$15,325,000 is personnel costs and that's 183.11 FTEs; \$22,921,000 is other funding which consists of \$7,634,000 internal charges for use of equipment in the road and airport equipment fleet; \$6,566,000 for program materials; \$4,651,000 for rental expenses; \$1,720,000 for heating fuel and electricity; \$768,000 for communications; \$645,000 for travel in the Yukon; \$455,000 for contract services for construction; \$201,000 for contract services for consulting; \$135,000 for petroleum, oil and lubricants; \$146,000 for other support costs; garage operations for \$5,098,000, which is personnel costs of 57.4 FTEs; and all internal recoveries of \$5,637,000; \$539,000 is other funding which consists of \$294,000 for heating fuel and electricity, \$91,000 for program materials, \$43,000 for internal charges, \$35,000 for communications, \$30,000 for repairs and maintenance, \$18,000 for travel in and out of the Yukon, and \$28,000 for other support costs.

There is an increase of \$1,119,000 from the 2011-12 estimates due primarily, as I alluded to in some of the other departments, to collective agreement increases.

*Highway Maintenance in the amount of \$38,246,000 agreed to*

*On Aviation*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I'd like a breakdown for this line item, please. I'd like to ask the minister what priorities they have in the Aviation line item for this year.



**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** \$5,639,000 are personnel costs at 65.85 FTEs. This includes internal labour charges from other program areas, such as highways maintenance and support work on aerodrome runways just using our Highways department for upgrades. \$3,893,000 of other funding is broken down as follows: \$1,280,000 that is contract services, mainly to cover our observer, communicator and security contract services; \$1,006,000 is for heating fuel, electricity and utilities; \$487,000 for charges for use of equipment in the road and airport equipment fleet; \$309,000 for rental expenses; \$302,000 for program material; \$163,000 for travel within and outside the Yukon; \$92,000 for liability insurance at the Whitehorse and Watson Lake airports; \$85,000 for communications; \$169,000 for other support costs.

There is an increase of \$351,000 from 2011-12 again, due to the collective agreement and manager increases. Some of the stuff that we are working on within Aviation would be the upgrades to the Whitehorse airport. We also have a running tab on all our aerodromes. We look at usage and upgrades to those, as necessary, with increased usage for some of the rural airports. Those are some of the main things we're doing.

*Aviation in the amount of \$9,531,000 agreed to  
On Transport Services*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Again, I would like the minister to provide a breakdown for this line item, please.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** There are 35 FTEs at \$3,056,000. \$659,000 breaks down into the following: \$191,000 for program materials; \$86,000 for professional contracts; \$79,000 for supplies; \$60,000 for travel in and out of the Yukon; \$51,000 for communications; \$47,000 for heating fuel, electricity and utilities; \$43,000 for rental expenses for vehicle rentals from Fleet Vehicle Agency; \$23,000 for printing; \$21,000 for advertising; \$15,000 for repairs and maintenance; \$8,000 for training; and \$35,000 for other support costs. There is \$107,000, which is a contribution agreement to operate the Whitehorse waterfront trolley, which is the beautiful trolley we see on a regular basis in the summer, and there is a \$2,000 contribution agreement to promote the Car Safety Week — which was actually the first thing I did as Minister of Highways and Public Works, which was good.

*Transport Services in the amount of \$3,824,000 agreed to  
Transportation Division Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$55,306,000 agreed to*

*On Capital Expenditures*

*On Transportation Facilities — Transportation Facilities and Equipment*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Could we have a breakdown, please?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** You'll see an increase from the 2011-12 forecast and that's mainly due to \$500,000, which is the repower for the *George Black* ferry — a new engine and the marine gear. There's the Pelly barge regulatory and safety upkeep of \$45,000; there are power source generators down at Blanchard, where we have to redo the generators because they're timed out for \$120,000; we're replacing the small generator for the *George Black* ferry for \$30,000; then we have some control panels and meters for \$50,000; purchase steam generators for glacier control for \$15,000; loader ramp re-

placement, new standard safety issues for \$30,000; Watson Lake weigh station operation equipment for \$15,000; Whitehorse weigh station for \$15,000; Haines Junction weigh station for \$5,000; Cassiar Junction weigh station for \$5,000; weigh station system support equipment of \$10,000; community dump in Swift River, Drury Creek and Eagle Plains for \$90,000; and Whitehorse waterfront trolley and track maintenance for \$50,000 — there is some work to be done on that.

*Transportation Facilities — Transportation Facilities and Equipment in the amount of \$980,000 agreed to*

*On Transportation Facilities — Aviation/Yukon Airports Operations Support Equipment*

**Mr. Elias:** I'd also like to get a breakdown of this particular line item in the budget.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** \$385,000 is to be used for the replacement and purchase of airport equipment that is operated outside of our revolving equipment reserve fund. The reason is because it does not fit the operational parameters of the system. In there, we have a snow-blower for \$250,000 for Watson Lake — they get snow; we could probably discuss that at a later date — loader buckets, forks, rake and auger for Haines Junction for \$25,000; the GPS and GIS Airfield inspection incursion system for \$60,000, and an equipment shelter for \$50,000.

*Transportation Facilities — Aviation/Yukon Airports Operations Support Equipment in the amount of \$385,000 agreed to*

*On Transportation Facilities — Prior Years' Projects*

*Transportation Facilities — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

*On Transportation Planning and Engineering*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I would like a breakdown for this line item, please.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Some of this resource will be put toward engineering, pre-design, mapping, surveys, industrial analysis, policy development, feasibility studies and airport development plans, just to broad base it.

There is \$1,250,000, which is seven of our FTEs. We have \$400,000 for land and granular resources; \$350,000 for transportation capital planning; \$300,000 is for engineering support and inventory management. There is \$100,000 for research and development; \$100,000 is for intelligent transportation system — this is a computer electronic based system, for those who didn't know that — the services to support and assist our transportation system operations as a whole.

Then there is \$300,000 for one FTE, transportation and aviation planning and engineering support required to support the delivery of the capital program as a whole; \$180,000 for capital project officer and associated program costs; \$50,000 for surveys and zoning which will be audited by Transport Canada. There is \$50,000 for specialized management industrial analyst assessment of emergency needs. This is a new federal regulatory requirement. Then there is an additional \$20,000 for map and aerial photo digitizing.

**Mr. Elias:** I am looking in the budget line items, and I thought that this would be the line item to do the planning and engineering so that the Alfred Charlie Old Crow Airport and the Dawson City Airport could be planned and engineered so

that they can receive jet service in the future. There are some issues with regard to the actual runways so a Boeing 737 jet can actually service those two northern communities. I thought it was in this line item, but apparently I didn't hear it.

Is there anything in the actual Highways and Public Works budget that addresses the concern about the upgrading of the Old Crow and Dawson City airports so that they can receive northern jet service?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** That capital line would have been under Aviation, which we have covered already, but we are working with the carriers. We work with all the carriers within the Yukon, whether it is jet service to Old Crow or lengthening a runway in Pelly for Twin Otters. It is on an ongoing basis, as I alluded to earlier when we were debating Aviation, toward increased traffic. That is where we are at with it right now. There are big expenditures when it comes to jet services, but it is something we are working with the aviation industry on and looking at time frames and stuff.

*Transportation Planning and Engineering in the amount of \$1,550,000 agreed to*

*On Highway Construction — Non-YG Funded: Alaska Highway — Shakwak*

*Highway Construction — Non-YG Funded: Alaska Highway — Shakwak in the amount of \$15,000,000 agreed to*

*On Highway Construction — Partial YG Funded: Alaska Highway — Prior Years' Projects*

*Highway Construction — Partial YG Funded: Alaska Highway — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

*On Highway Construction — Partial YG Funded: Building Canada Fund — Campbell Highway*

*Highway Construction — Partial YG Funded: Building Canada Fund — Campbell Highway in the amount of \$1,553,000 agreed to*

*On Highway Construction — Partial YG Funded: Building Canada Fund — Bridges — Numbered Highways — Upper Liard Bridge*

*Highway Construction — Partial YG Funded: Building Canada Fund — Bridges — Numbered Highways — Upper Liard Bridge in the amount of \$6,000,000 agreed to*

*On Highway Construction — Partial YG Funded: Building Canada Fund — Prior Years' Projects*

*On Highway Construction — Partial YG Funded: Building Canada Fund — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

*On Highway Construction — Infrastructure Stimulus Fund — Prior Years' Projects*

*On Highway Construction — Infrastructure Stimulus Fund — Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

**Mr. Elias:** The bridges cleared pretty quickly here. I don't know if it is appropriate to ask this question, but I understand that there is a plan for —

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

**Mr. Elias:** Am I allowed to do this? Anyway, I would like to ask the Minister of Highways and Public Works —

#### **Unanimous consent re: revisiting a line**

**Chair:** Mr. Elias, is there a particular line item you are referring to?

With unanimous consent, we can return to a line item.

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

*On Highway Construction — Partial YG Funded: Building Canada Fund — Bridges — Numbered Highways — Upper Liard Bridge — revisited*

**Chair:** We seem to have unanimous consent. Can the member tell me which line item you would like to go back to?

**Mr. Elias:** To the "Bridges — Numbered Highways and Public Works — Upper Liard Bridge".

**Chair:** What page?

**Mr. Elias:** On page 13-14.

**Chair:** The "Bridges — Numbered Highways" we haven't gotten to yet. Sorry — "Partial YG Funded" one?

**Mr. Elias:** Yes. First of all, I would ask the minister for a breakdown on this line item.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** The budget is \$6 million for this. There are 2.18 FTEs. It is the Upper Liard bridge rehabilitation at kilometre 991.5 and this breakdown includes the following: deck replacement; seismic upgrading as well as bridge and approach rail upgrading; repainting of the splash zone is scheduled for 2012-13. To allude to the next question that the member would probably like to ask me, we prioritize our bridges by doing risk assessment on them and it is done case by case as we find funding to upgrade each bridge as required.

**Mr. Elias:** Coming to my question, yes: Is it in the minister's short-term priorities to replace the deck on the Teslin River bridge and the deck on the Eagle River bridge on the Dempster Highway — Nisutlin Bay bridge deck?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** No, it's not in this year's budget, but there are monies identified in the future for the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin's bridge — \$9 million.

**Mr. Elias:** Well, that's the first I heard of that announcement. I also asked about the Eagle River bridge on the Dempster Highway. The reason why I asked about that was because a couple of years ago during this time of year, I was up there and the actual water, unbelievably, was going over the deck of the bridge and did some damage to the structure. I understand it has been obviously fixed and it's safe, but over time, if that structure continuously gets that kind of environmental damage to it, then there's going to be an issue. Obviously, the Dempster Highway is one way in and one way out to a lot of people and there are safety issues, as well, for my constituents. It's in my constituents' riding and they asked me to ask, so it has been asked. I look forward to the answer about the Eagle River bridge.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Let's talk about the Eagle River bridge. It was repaired. It's safe. It was checked, seismic-wise. It's not on our radar in the near future, but I can find out for the member opposite. I will give him an update on that bridge and what we are looking at for the future of other bridges. I will get back to the member opposite.

*Highway Construction — Partial YG Funded: Building Canada Fund — Bridges — Numbered Highways — Upper Liard Bridge in the amount of \$6,000,000 agreed to*

*On Highway Construction — YG Funded: Alaska Highway Highway Construction — YG Funded: Alaska Highway in the amount of \$1,280,000 agreed to*

*On Highway Construction — YG Funded: Klondike Highway*

*Highway Construction — YG Funded: Klondike Highway in the amount of \$2,000,000 agreed to*

*On Highway Construction — YG Funded: Campbell Highway*

*Highway Construction — YG Funded: Campbell Highway in the amount of \$7,197,000 agreed to*

*On Highway Construction — YG Funded: Dempster Highway*

**Mr. Elias:** Can I get a breakdown for this line item, please?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Absolutely, Madam Chair. This is for erosion control. There is \$400,000 for erosion control from kilometre 95 to kilometre 115. This is replacement of some protective rock blankets known as “rip-rap” on the side slopes of the Dempster Highway where it’s routed along the shoreline of the Blackstone and Ogilvie rivers. Engineer Creek is scheduled for the following year. Work includes production of suitable armour and filter materials by drilling and blasting, as well as placement of these materials in areas identified as being susceptible to severe erosion. A continuing program is proposed for future years. This is ongoing preventive maintenance. Then there’s \$500,000 for the Dempster Highway resurfacing. This project includes aggregate production, haul-in-place calcium chloride application — cuts down dust; we know all about that. This initiative is being developed to bring the road surface to a gravel standard that can be adequately bladed. Some sections have no gravel remaining on the surface due to wind. So a lot of that is just upgrades and ongoing maintenance.

**Mr. Elias:** Just so the minister knows, on the Dempster Highway around kilometre 247.5 or 247.8 — somewhere around there — it has washed out several times in the last decade. It is because of the time of year. All that needs to go there are some larger culverts. Maybe to minimize the budgetary costs of continuously having to fix that area of the Dempster Highway, there should be bigger culverts. Anyway, I put that on the minister’s radar.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I’ll put it on my radar.

**Ms. Hanson:** I just have a question. I understand from media reports that the Town of Inuvik is moving to import LNG since their natural gas source is essentially depleted, and I am wondering where in the Yukon-funded transportation budget do we see — is there anticipated, or do they anticipate increased traffic on the Dempster Highway? How is the contingency built in with respect to incremental demands placed on the highway for increased traffic that the Town of Inuvik has projected will be significant?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** There will be increased traffic on the Dempster Highway. We do ongoing maintenance on the Dempster Highway, but in the past we’ve had increased traffic. It comes and goes with development. This is just another project. I think there will be a total, under the correct understanding, of 200 trucks travelling up there. We have a lot of trucks

travelling on our highways. That’s why we do ongoing maintenance. It is on our radar — has alluded to being on our radar.

The companies that will be trucking up there fall under Transport Canada regulations when it comes to dangerous goods, and they have to follow what every other company travelling our highways follows.

Madam Chair, seeing the time, I move that we report progress.

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

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Istchenko that the Chair report progress. Are you agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agree.

**Some Hon. Members:** Disagree.

**Chair:** Can I see a show of hands by those who disagree? And for those who agree?

Those who agree are five? Would you like to do a recount? Can I have a show of hands?

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

**Chair:** The count is five to eight, which means the yeas have it and we will report progress. I declare the motion carried.

*Motion agreed to*

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

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Cathers that the Speaker do now resume the Chair.

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker resumes the Chair*

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

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

### Chair’s report

**Ms. McLeod:** 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 from the Chair of Committee of the Whole. Are you agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

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

*The House adjourned at 5:24 p.m.*

**The following document was filed April 24, 2012:**

Salmon imports from Japan: Letter (dated April 17, 2012) from The Hon. Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Government of Canada, to Darius Elias, MLA, Vuntut Gwitchin (Elias)