

**Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Thursday, May 10, 2012 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

**Speaker's statement**

**Speaker:** Order please. Before we start with the Order Paper, on behalf of all members, I welcome those in the public gallery to observe today's proceedings. Public observation of the Assembly's proceedings is an integral part of the relationship of accountability that exists between Yukoners and those who have been elected to serve in this institution.

I see the newspaper advertisements encouraging people to attend today's sitting spoke of respect for democratic land use planning and First Nation agreements.

I would ask all present to also respect the rules of this Assembly and to not disturb or participate in the proceedings. This includes comments and/or applause. Also, please turn off any cellphones, cameras, or other electronic devices you may have with you. If you wish to use them, please exit the gallery and then return when you are done. Thank you.

**DAILY ROUTINE**

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

Tributes.

**TRIBUTES**

**In recognition of Flo Whyard**

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I rise today on behalf of the House to pay tribute to a distinguished Yukoner, Flo Whyard, journalist, author and politician. Flo passed away on April 22, 2012 at the age of 95 years. She left her indelible stamp on Yukon. Flo was the daughter of a newspaper man. Her father, W.E. Elliott, was a reporter with the *London Free Press* in London, Ontario.

In the 1930s, Flo went to the University of Western Ontario as a general arts student and ultimately graduated from Western with a bachelor of arts in 1938. When World War II began, Flo's father moved to Ottawa to help run the newsroom in the information branch of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

Flo, a licensed pilot at the time, tried to join the Royal Canadian Air Force, but was told women need not apply, so instead, she joined the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service.

In Ottawa, she met and, in 1994, married James Whyard, a graduate engineer who had worked on surveys in the north and taught map-reading to his reserve army unit.

In 1945, James was transferred to Yellowknife to help create order out of the staking boom in the Northwest Territories and Flo joined him there. Ten years later, the Whyards moved to Whitehorse, and Flo started writing for the *Whitehorse Star* and eventually became its editor. In the mid-60s, Flo provided daily news copy for the fledgling news service of CBC Radio.

In 1974, Flo entered Yukon politics and won the Whitehorse West seat on the Yukon Territorial Council, which is now called the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

Flo served as a Cabinet Minister of Health, Welfare and Corrections. After a four-year term, she went back into journalism and community life, but politics soon called her again and she became the Mayor of the City of Whitehorse in 1981. These were hard times for the Yukon. As Mayor, Flo was faced with a major flood, the closure of the largest producing mine and the shutdown of the White Pass Railway.

Flo Whyard achieved many accomplishments over the course of 95 years of an extremely active and productive life.

Of all her accomplishments, she was perhaps proudest of her role in promoting Martha Black's Yukon legacy. Flo authored and updated a version of Martha's biography called, *My Ninety Years*, and eventually succeeded in having a Canadian icebreaker named after Black, a fitting tribute to another woman who cut her path.

Yukon's long-serving Conservative Member of Parliament, Erik Nielsen, put his trust in Flo's skills with words, allowing her to write some of his speeches.

Flo helped found the Yukon Transportation Museum. She helped lead a campaign to save Whitehorse's Old Log Church. Joyce Hayden, another distinguished Yukoner, and former member of this House, devoted a chapter to Flo in her book, *Yukon's Women of Power: Political Pioneers in a Northern Canadian Colony*.

Flo received considerable recognition during her lifetime for her many accomplishments. In 1979, she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Western Ontario, where she had graduated from 40 years earlier. In 1984, she was invested as a Member of the Order of Canada.

As current members of this House are well aware, the Yukon's legislative press gallery was recently named after her. Flo was predeceased by her daughter Mary Ellen and her husband James. She is survived by her son Bill, daughter Judy, and six grandchildren.

On behalf of all Yukoners, thank you, Flo, for all that you have done for us. Your legacy will live forever. May God bless.

I'd like to just note that in the gallery today, we have Flo's daughter Judy Whyard and two of her grandsons, Daniel and Andrew Anton. We'd like to welcome them.

*Applause*

**In recognition of Skills Canada Team Yukon**

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** It's indeed my pleasure to rise on behalf of all members of this Legislature today to pay tribute to the Skills Canada Team Yukon and wish them well at the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Canadian skills competition, May 13 to 16 in Edmonton, Alberta. Fifteen young women and men from the Yukon will compete in over a dozen different disciplines that are all highly relevant for Yukon's and Canada's economy. They include heavy duty mechanics, electrical wiring, carpentry, mechanical CAD, plumbing and baking.

These Yukoners are high school students and Yukon apprentices and I'm very pleased to say that not all of them originate in Whitehorse. We also have rural students, such as Timothy Kleedehn from Carcross and Nick Ball from Dawson City.

This event is an Olympic-style trades and technology competition, and it is a pre-qualifier for the WorldSkills Competition, which is going to be held in Leipzig, Germany in July of 2013.

It's a celebration of Yukon's excellence in trades and technology and our opportunity to recognize our competitors and their supporters. In this respect, it is worth noting how much local support this event is receiving. Several educators from Porter Creek Secondary School, F.H. Collins Secondary School and Yukon College will join Team Yukon for their trip to Edmonton. I wish to thank everyone who is volunteering their time and effort to help support Skills Canada.

There is one notable absence — a fixture, indeed, Mr. Speaker. A person who has travelled with Team Yukon to a number of these competitions won't be accompanying them to Edmonton this year — Stephanie Churchill, the long-time president of Skills Canada Yukon, is travelling to South Korea this weekend to represent Canada as our delegate to WorldSkills. It's a tremendous honour and a tremendous testament to such a fantastic volunteer and supporter of trades and technology.

Mr. Speaker, Team Yukon is a cooperative effort, with Skills Canada Yukon working with Service Canada, Advanced Education, industry supporters, youth from across the Yukon and countless volunteers. Industry, government, high schools and Yukon College are working together to create a team that is envied from coast to coast.

Mr. Speaker, we expect 35,000 spectators to watch the competitors perform in Edmonton — evidence of the important role that trades and technology play for the general public.

How much Yukon has to give to Canada can also be judged by the fact that seven Yukon residents were chosen as Canadian experts to help facilitate the event in Edmonton.

In closing, I hope everybody in this House will join me in wishing Team Yukon much-deserved success at this high-profile event in Edmonton. I would also like to welcome the executive director of Skills Canada Yukon, Mr. Dan Curtis, to the gallery here today. I look forward to travelling with Dan and Team Yukon to Edmonton this weekend to take in the competition.

*Applause*

### **In recognition of Asian Heritage Month**

**Ms. Stick:** I rise on behalf of the Yukon Legislature to pay tribute to Asian Heritage Month. Canada's cultural diversity adds to our social, political and economic strength. This celebration in May gives us an opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of Asian Canadians. Canada's history of contact with Asians from China, Japan and South Asia has not always been a positive one. We must remember the head tax imposed on Chinese workers in the last century and the forcible removal of Japanese families from the west coast during World War II.

The *Komagata Maru*, a ship with hundreds of South Asian immigrants, was turned away from Vancouver harbour in 1914. All of these actions have resulted in formal apologies from the Government of Canada.

The Yukon has a long history with the Asian community. At the beginning of the gold rush, there is a recording by the North-West Mounted Police of a Mr. Tanaka from Yokohama,

Japan crossing the Chilkoot. By 1901, over 80 Japanese individuals and seven Chinese were living in the Yukon. After the gold rush, Asian residents of the Yukon established themselves as miners, labourers, household servants, sternwheeler crewmembers, entrepreneurs and even special constables for the North-West Mounted Police.

Since then, Yukon has continued to see a growing population of individuals and families of Asian descent and ancestry. Like many of us, they have come here from other places, including China, Japan, the Philippines, India, Pakistan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Korea, Malaysia — a partial list. They have come to raise families, establish businesses, volunteer and grow community. They are our friends, our neighbours, our doctors; they are our children's playmates, their music teacher, their soccer coach.

This month we can participate in celebrations in Whitehorse, recognizing the diversity of our Asian community. Some events have taken place, such as the sharing of stories about immigrating to Canada last week, and Tuesday night's impressive Japanese classical theatre presentation. On May 30, watch for "Reflections on Japanese Canadian history — 70 Years After Internment", at the Whitehorse Public Library. We are indeed fortunate to share this Yukon with such a diverse and lively community of Asian individuals and families.

### **In recognition of Dawson City Gold Show**

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I am pleased to rise today on behalf of the Legislative Assembly to recognize the Dawson City Gold Show, taking place May 18 to 19. This annual spring consumer and trade show celebrates the Yukon's gold rush history and modern placer mining in the Klondike and throughout the Yukon. The Klondike Placer Miners Association holds their annual general meeting over this weekend, and the Gold Show provides an excellent opportunity to network and catch up with old friends, as well as with business contacts before the summer mining season begins.

With over a century of history in the Yukon, the placer mining industry is not only a mainstay of the Yukon's economy but, of course, through the Klondike Gold Rush, was responsible for the creation of the Yukon as a territory. Gold mining and placer mining, in particular, is part of our identity as Yukoners. Yukon's gold potential was first recognized in the great Klondike Gold Rush of 1898.

Over 20 million ounces, or \$30 billion worth of gold in 2012 prices, of placer gold have been recovered from the Yukon and production is ongoing. Several other areas of the Yukon, such as Mayo, McQuesten, Dawson range, Livingstone Creek, Kluane and Whitehorse South, have historical and recent placer gold mining activity.

Today, nearly all placer operations are small, family owned and operated, with three or four employees in many cases. In 2011, there were over 140 active placer mining operations directly employing approximately 450 people in the territory. The placer industry contributes significantly to the Yukon economy. The total value of Yukon placer gold produced in 2011 was approximately \$58.5 million. An estimated 92 percent of placer mining operating expenses are spent directly here in the Yukon. The Dawson City Gold Show provides us an

opportunity to thank past and present miners who have been a mainstay of the Yukon's economy for over a century.

### **In recognition of National Emergency Medical Services Week**

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I'm very pleased and privileged to rise on behalf of all members of the Assembly to pay tribute to Emergency Medical Services in recognition and celebration of National EMS Week, which takes place from May 20 to 26 in Canada.

Yukon's emergency medical services are provided by a team of dedicated emergency responders, many of whom are community-based volunteers and all of whom provide us with critical support in times of need.

I wish to acknowledge our ambulance attendants, critical care nurses, paramedics, emergency response communications officers and the entire EMS team for the professional, high-quality care that they provide when Yukoners need help the most.

Mr. Speaker, on March 7 of this year, a local newspaper printed a letter from a resident of the Village of Mayo who found herself in need of an ambulance and a medevac flight. Even in her time of need, she made a point of saying "hats off to the men and women of EMS," noting "it gave me pause to value the work of volunteers, the professionalism of medical staff and the skills of the pilot," adding that, "This is my note of thanks and appreciation."

It's not every day that we have a chance to thank our emergency responders or that we pause to reflect upon the services that they provide in our communities, but it is very important that we do. Being an EMS paramedic or other professional within the service is hard work and it's not a job that everyone can do. It's a tough job and it's because of the caring, dedication and professionalism of these Yukoners that we're able to provide an excellent service across the territory.

As Minister of Community Services, and on behalf of this Legislative Assembly, I wish to extend my thanks to the men and women of Yukon's Emergency Medical Services for their commitment to public safety. Acting together, our career and volunteer Emergency Medical Services team makes our communities healthier, more vibrant places to live. They make our communities safe and provide peace of mind. We all benefit from knowing that there are well-trained and equipped responders to provide not only emergency medical services, but also volunteer fire department and search and rescue services. Our community-based volunteers wear many hats in their communities and oftentimes the local ambulance attendant in an unincorporated community is also a member of the volunteer fire department and the search and rescue team. While it can be challenging not knowing what the next call will entail, it speaks volumes about our emergency responders who move seamlessly from one hat to the next.

I invite and encourage Yukoners across the territory to look at EMS and other volunteer opportunities in our communities. Getting involved in your local EMS or emergency response organization can be tremendously rewarding.

In closing, I would also like to extend this tribute to the families and the friends of our Emergency Medical Services

team and all other emergency responders whose support and understanding allow them to serve their communities.

### **In recognition of Mother's Day**

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute on behalf of all members of this House to Mother's Day. We celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of each May to acknowledge, honour and appreciate our mothers and the role they play in our lives. Many people in Canada express their gratitude toward mothers and mother figures on Mother's Day. Mother figures may include step-mothers, mothers-in-law, guardians and family friends. It is the time for people to thank mothers and mother figures who took the time to care for them and help them through life's challenges.

In Yukon, one way we pay tribute to our mothers is by participating in the Run for Mom. In October 1997, the first breast cancer run — a CIBC Run for the Cure — was held. It was a successful event, and a portion of the proceeds were used as the first deposit toward the new mammogram machine that was purchased for the Whitehorse General Hospital in 2002.

Two years later the first Run for Mom was launched to raise money for breast health awareness, and all the proceeds stayed in the Yukon. To this day, the tradition continues each Mother's Day as a thank you to mothers and all they have done for us.

As we honour today's mothers, we also reflect upon the memory of those who have passed as well. I would ask that all members join me in wishing our mothers a very happy Mother's Day.

### **In recognition of the *Hansard* staff**

**Ms. Moorcroft:** If I may, before this sitting ends, I would like to acknowledge the patient *Hansard* staff, who so diligently capture almost every word that we utter. I am sure that all members will join me in saying, "Thank you."

*Applause*

### **In recognition of Katimavik**

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I rise on behalf of the opposition parties to pay tribute to what has been one of this country's greatest assets for over 30 years. I speak of Katimavik. Katimavik delivers national programs that are universally accessible to Canadian youth between 17 and 21 from all walks of life, from all social backgrounds, and from all over Canada.

Katimavik was founded in 1977 as a youth volunteer program and, since then, it has "... played an important role in the lives of thousands of young Canadians by providing them with unique volunteering opportunities that enhance their work and life skills while improving the lives of other Canadians." That quote is from the Hon. Stephen Harper in the 2010-11 Katimavik annual report. The Prime Minister goes on to commend everyone involved with Katimavik for their commitment to nurturing responsible citizens and for encouraging Canada's youth to achieve their full potential. He wishes them continued success.

As we all know now, on March 31, the headquarters of Katimavik received a letter from the Department of Canadian

Heritage that confirmed that the federal government had decided to end its funding commitment to the organization.

Katimavik was entering the third year of a three-year funding agreement. This decision was all the more surprising since the last evaluation of the program made it clear that the program was relevant, important and valuable, that the organization attains its targets and that its programs tie in with government-wide priorities and the Heritage department's strategic objectives.

Since its inception, more than 30,000 youth have made a difference in communities from coast to coast to coast. In the past year, nearly 600 volunteers contributed 81,770 volunteer days, valued at over \$10 million, in 64 communities, with more than 500 community work partners. That's a success.

In Whitehorse in the past year, Katimavik volunteers worked in over a dozen non-government organizations and took part in fundraisers, such as the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life. They painted a mural to encourage youth voting and assisted at the animal shelter, among other activities.

The mission of Katimavik was to engage youth in volunteer service and foster sustainable communities through challenging national youth learning programs. They made a positive impact for youth, for communities and for Canada.

Katimavik volunteers participate in poverty reduction, social services, environment, arts and culture, sports and leisure and social justice initiatives across Canada. According to many past and present Katimavik volunteers I've spoken to, the experience of civic engagement stays with them forever. There many indeed be current and former Katimavik volunteers in the gallery today. Katimavik has been a valuable program, and we are sorry to see it come to an end.

### In recognition of la Journée de la francophonie

**Ms. White:** Je m'élève de la part du chambre pour payer le tribut à la Journée de la Francophonie.

Depuis plus de 25 ans, l'Association franco-yukonnaise — AFY — est le porte-parole officiel d'environ 3,550 francophones au Yukon.

Organisme à but non lucratif, l'AFY vise à améliorer la qualité de vie en français des francophones du Yukon.

J'aimerais remercier personnellement les francophones du Yukon. Grâce à votre présence dans notre communauté, mes parents ont eu le choix de m'envoyer dans un programme d'immersion. Et vous continuez à me donner des opportunités de parler en français.

Nous sommes tous et toutes chaleureusement invités à venir célébrer la Journée de la francophonie yukonnaise. Cela aura lieu le Mardi, 15 mai, de midi à 13 h 30, dans la cour intérieure du musée MacBride.

La communauté francophone constitue une grande partie vitale de notre société multi-culturelle. La Journée de la francophonie est une célébration des aspects particuliers des franco-yukonnais.

Je termine avec le vers final de l'hymne franco-yukonnais — écrits dans trois langues:

“Y'a des trésors cachés dans le Nord,  
 “Plus précieux que l'or,  
 “On les cherche encore,

“Le Yukon m'appelle,  
 “Et il m'ensorcelle,  
 “Le Yukon m'appelle,  
 “Et il m'ensorcelle.”  
 Merci.

### In recognition of the democratic right of self-determination

**Ms. Hanson:** I rise on behalf of the Official Opposition to pay tribute to May 10, a day steeped in the history of the advances and setbacks in the struggle of democratic rights and freedoms. May 10 is a day to celebrate the democratic right of self-determination, the day that people of the land and not those in a far-flung capital across the sea, would determine how they are to be governed.

On May 10, 1857, there was the Indian Mutiny, which marked the beginning of the struggle for independence in India from colonial rule. On May 10, 1877, Romania declared its independence from the Ottoman Empire. On May 10, 1979, the Federated States of Micronesia became self-governing. May 10 is also a day to be aware of the attempts to censor and stifle the democratic right of freedom of expression and assembly.

On May 10, 1924, J. Edgar Hoover was appointed the director of the United States FBI — Federal Bureau of Investigation — a position he held for almost 50 years, during which people's organizations were undermined and state spying prevailed.

On May 10, 1933, in Germany, the Nazis staged massive public book burnings.

On May 10, 1990, the Chinese government announced that it was releasing 211 people arrested during the Tiananmen Square crackdown. This was nearly a year after the peaceful protests largely composed of students were held in a number of Chinese cities calling for greater democracy and freedom. Everyone in this Assembly will recall the bravery of the solitary man standing still in front of a massive tank with the eyes of the world on him, prepared to give his life to the cause of freedom. The number of protesters grew to nearly one million until the government responded with troops sent in to crush the protests. Thousands of the protesters were killed.

But May 10 is also a day to be hopeful that through democracy, we can tackle the worst injustices and build a better world. It was on May 10, 1994, that Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as South Africa's first black president after decades of apartheid. May 10 is an important day to reflect on our democratic rights and responsibilities and the threats to them.

As members of the Legislative Assembly, we are reminded each day that we were elected to represent the interests of all citizens.

We do well to recall the words of Winston Churchill, who said that government is a servant of the people, not the master. Democracy is not an abstract concept. It is you; it is me; it is all of us. As representatives, we must have the strength and the humility to consider all ideas and act on citizens' concerns. Through an engaged and organized citizenry, we can build the world we want to see.

### In recognition of Table Officers, legislative staff and pages

**Speaker:** I'd like to make a tribute on behalf of the members assembled to the staff of the Legislature — the Clerk, Deputy Clerk, the pages, and the other staff — for their work in helping us conduct our work here in this Assembly — and their patience.

*Applause*

### INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Mr. Hassard:** I'd like to ask all of you to join me in welcoming my daughter Kelsey today.

*Applause*

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

### TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I have for tabling the annual report of the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues for 2011-12.

### INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** And with your indulgence, I would also like to introduce Betty Irwin, who is the chair of the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues. I would also mention that she is a councillor for the City of Whitehorse, and thank her for being here today.

*Applause*

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

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

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to recognize June 2012 as the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the staking of the Crest iron ore deposit, which is the largest identified iron ore deposit in North America.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to develop energy solutions that will meet our present and future needs and recognize the importance of:

(1) transitioning away from fossil fuels to renewables in transportation, space heating, and for industrial and commercial uses;

(2) demand-side management initiatives to reduce energy consumption;

(3) creating progressive incentive programs on energy retrofits and other matters; and

(4) electrical reliability for our society and economy.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to build on the legacy of knowledge from International Polar Year by committing to utilize the best independent science to inform the government's policies, in order that:

(1) innovative local and aboriginal knowledge;

(2) increased youth capacity; and

(3) northern scientists' information

influence development in Yukon.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to fulfill its responsibility to ensure fairness and transparency in the contracting process, as well as to ensure that sound stewardship and value-for-money objectives are being achieved, as it awards about 24 percent of annual expenditures on contracting for services, or \$236 million of about \$1.1 billion in annual expenditures; and

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to act to address the deficiencies in how it awards and manages contracts raised in the Audit of Contracts follow-up report written in December 2011, which identified that only one of the 21 recommendations has been fully implemented.

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

THAT this House urges the Minister of Health and Social Services to review the social assistance regulations with a view to fairness, specifically the policies of reducing social assistance rates for persons who receive:

(1) the child tax benefit supplement;

(2) the Yukon seniors income supplement;

(3) the veterans disability pension; and

to eliminate the payment back of overages in usage of utilities and heating fuel.

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to follow the initiatives proposed by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to meet the current rental housing crisis by acting to lower barriers to investment and implementing supportive policies, such as:

(1) providing low-interest loans to finance new rental construction;

(2) reforming the tax system to prevent the demolition and conversion to condominiums of existing lower rent properties; and

(3) providing incentives to lower rental costs through better energy efficiency.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to, regardless of any modifications, variances or changes the Government of Yukon may desire, put before the public the *Final*

*Recommended Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan* for consultation as required under 11.6.3.2 of the *First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun Final Agreement*, the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement* and the *Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement*.

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

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: Peel watershed land use plan

**Ms. Hanson:** Mr. Speaker, the Yukon Party has mismanaged the Peel planning process. They have had ample opportunity to provide clear and concise input to the Peel Watershed Planning Commission before the final recommended plan was released last July. They failed to do so. This government has called into question the views and efforts of thousands of Yukoners. Yesterday it cast doubts about the quality of work done by the Peel Watershed Planning Commission. The Yukon Party also blindsided the four affected First Nation governments and the planning commission by releasing its own new principles because they did not like the result of the process.

It's time for this government to be clear. Do they or do they not respect their obligation to take the final recommended Peel plan, as written, to the public for consultation?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** What I would point out is once again, we have the Leader of the NDP and the NDP not reflecting, in fact, what the government has said in their comments in their questions.

Again, I would point out to the member that I have consistently said — and this government has consistently said — that we will continue to follow all of our obligations under the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and continue to follow the process. The members, in fact, do not seem to understand the process, because the process specifically provides for democratic oversight by the Yukon government and by First Nation governments, not final decisions by unelected commissions.

**Ms. Hanson:** The minister clearly does not understand the process. Yukoners have been told repeatedly by the minister that the Peel plan should be more like the north Yukon plan. Well, as we discussed yesterday, this does not adequately reflect the facts. The Peel is simply not like the north Yukon. An entire third of the north Yukon region was protected before the planning process even started. The management tools that work on the flat terrain of the north Yukon simply don't apply to the Peel and its mountainous terrain. To suggest, as the minister opposite has done, that these plans for these very different regions should be alike is, at best, naive and a misguided idea.

It's time for the Yukon Party to stop promoting the inaccurate comparison between the Peel and the north Yukon and take the final recommended Peel plan out to the public consultation as required. When will he do so?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Again, what I would note to the member — we see what has become a pattern with the NDP.

They do not do adequate research. They bring forward questions here that are at odds with the facts. I would point out again that the NDP has been, at best, very quick to rush to con-

clusions and very quick to make accusations that have no basis in fact.

I would again point out the fact that under the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, the process specifically provides for oversight by the elected governments — the Yukon government and the parties — those being the First Nation governments. The majority of Yukoners did not participate in the process run by the Peel commission. The majority of eligible voters did participate in the 2011 election, and they re-elected the Yukon Party with an even larger majority than last time.

Mr. Speaker, during final stages of the process, government will be presenting potential modifications to the proposed plan and will be seeking public input, community input and First Nation input on them prior to making any final decisions.

One of the things I have indicated, on behalf of the government, is that we think that perhaps the final plan should be more like the north Yukon plan. Contrary to what the Leader of the NDP said, I did not say that the Peel commission didn't do its job. What I said is that the north Yukon commission did a better job of coming up with a plan that balances the interest of all users in a fair and equitable manner.

### Speaker's statement

**Speaker:** Order please.

Once again, I ask people in the gallery to please respect the process that is going on here. This is a timed process. There is only a certain amount of time during the day to conduct this business. Your interruptions and applause do not benefit either side or take away from either side. The interruptions eat up the time for the members to ask questions and give responses. So, once again, I ask visitors in the gallery to please be tolerant and respectful.

**Ms. Hanson:** The minister opposite is clearly not understanding the process set out in the First Nation final agreements. It is clear that the minister opposite and government have the option and the responsibility after consultation on the final plan, as recommended by the Peel Watershed Planning Commission. After that final plan has been taken to the public — not before, not to try to influence the outcome of the discussions, but to reflect, to hear what Yukoners have to say. He cannot simply change the rules midstream.

We have seen time and time again this minister cherry-picking — his favourite term — on the approach that is going to be taken. He has an obligation to take this final plan as submitted by a commission, constructed of representatives from all parties. This was not a one-sided event. This is really quite simple: When will the minister take the final recommended Peel plan, as written, to full public consultation?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Again, I would point out to the member that this is an issue — there are very strong views on all sides of this issue. As we said in the election and have said since, the debate has become overly polarized. I would point out that the people who are on the other side of this debate were filling the gallery on Tuesday of this week. This is an issue. All sectors of the economy employ Yukoners.

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

**Point of order**

**Speaker:** Member for Copperbelt South, on a point of order.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** On the point of order, the public is invited and welcome to attend in this gallery. The Official Opposition did not orchestrate —

**Speaker's ruling**

**Speaker:** Order please. The public is invited to attend the gallery at the discretion of the members and the Speaker. Whether they were invited by a particular group or not is immaterial right now. I'd ask the member to not refer to invitations to the gallery by particular parties. The people of the gallery are here of their own volition.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I think the NDP member who just rose on a point of order was not listening to what I said, for in fact, what I pointed out — there are people who, on the Peel issue, have very strong views on both sides, and many of the people who are employed by the mining sector, who work in the mining sector, and whose livelihoods and their ability to feed their families depend on mining were here in the gallery on Tuesday of this week.

Again, what I would point out, Mr. Speaker, is that the government will continue to follow all of our obligations under the planning process, including proposing potential modifications to the plan and seeking the input of the public, of communities, and of First Nations prior to making final decisions.

**Question re: Affordable housing**

**Ms. White:** The Yukon Party has had 10 years to implement a reasonable housing strategy or any housing strategy at all. Now we find ourselves in a housing crisis where rental housing has nearly disappeared.

What is this government's plan to spend the \$13 million in federal dollars earmarked for affordable rental housing that has been sitting in the bank for years?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** When it comes to investing in housing, of course, this Yukon Party government, like our predecessors, has made substantial investments in housing. There has been a 40-percent increase in the social housing stock made by the previous government. We see a number of projects that are being debated in this current budget that is before the House right now, including \$35 million in land development, transitional housing for Kaushee's Place. There are certainly a number of initiatives that are underway, including the options for independent projects as well, which I understand are close to being back on track, working in conjunction with the Minister of Health and Social Services.

There are a number of initiatives that we are investing in currently and there are plans to continue those investments moving forward throughout this mandate.

**Ms. White:** For the past two months, the government has refused to answer my questions regarding the \$13 million they have left in the bank. It is clear by these non-answers that they have no plans to spend that \$13 million that was set aside for affordable housing on affordable housing. This government's first and only step toward constructing rental housing

was the failed attempt of Lot 262, where the buck was passed to the private sector.

Mr. Speaker, my question is simple: What's next and when will we see affordable rental units?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Again, as I have said, we are making significant investments in housing. Like the previous Yukon Party governments, we continue to invest not only in this budget, but one only has to refer to our platform to look at a number of the other projects and commitments that we're making with respect to addressing the housing issue.

The unfortunate part about the NDP government is their disdain for the private sector. I think the private sector is going to play an incredibly important part in investing and assisting us with providing housing solutions for Yukoners. We choose on this side of the House to work with them and embrace their role in helping us address the housing shortage that is out there for Yukoners.

**Ms. White:** I'm sure the minister's words make families facing homelessness feel more secure in where they stand today. I congratulate this government on its one and only concrete solution to date on the housing crisis: 10 new mats for the floor of the Salvation Army — a band-aid solution to a gaping wound for homelessness, when other, more compassionate ideas were put forward. When can we expect a response on this current crisis — more than just a strategy they say that was in their platform? When can we expect real action?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** The member opposite fails to recognize the real action that has been taking place and has taken place over the past number of years. As I mentioned before, there has been a 40-percent increase in social housing stock. There are a number of projects — \$35 million invested in lot development. The housing continuum is very broad, and it does involve the private sector. Again, it's disappointing that every time we mention the private sector and their contributions to affordable housing and housing in general, the NDP always lights the torches and grabs the pitchforks and heads to the streets. So it's very disappointing for me to have the member opposite —

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

**Point of order**

**Speaker:** Member for Takhini-Kopper King, on a point of order.

**Ms. White:** Imputes false or unavowed motives. I have no pitchfork.

**Speaker:** Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, on the point of order.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** On the point of order, the minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation was employing a metaphor. I don't think he was actually suggesting that any NDP member had a pitchfork or torch in this Assembly.

**Speaker's ruling**

**Speaker:** There is no point of order, but I would like to remind members that comments like that are not necessary.

**Question re: Fiscal management**

**Mr. Elias:** In our endeavours this sitting we've relied on the efforts of Yukon government employees. We've relied on their work on legislation to modernize our land titles system, to empower communities to control public drinking and to coordinate business laws and security provisions. The *Act to Amend the Ombudsman Act*, which was successfully presented and passed through this House under the leadership of the Member for Riverdale South, will ensure confidence and continuity in the Office of the Ombudsman. We thank you; congratulations. Despite these successes, later today this House will authorize spending 70 percent of the budget — that's \$830 million — without fully examining these expenditures, Mr. Speaker.

Does the Premier think that this is adequate due diligence when it comes to spending Yukoners' money or does he think we could have done better?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** When we started this session, we talked about the budget coming out and the few pieces of small amendments to legislation. The members opposite talked about a more thorough examination of the budget, to which we respond that they too have an obligation in terms of ensuring that we get through the budget.

The members opposite are fully briefed in terms of all the departments and their budgets, and they have the ability to budget their time accordingly to ensure that they can get through all of that. I think that what we've seen this year is more discussion, more debate about the budget than has happened historically, so I think that's a point forward.

**Mr. Elias:** It has been a very interesting legislative sitting to this final day. We all arrived in this House having made recent commitments to decorum, to cooperation, to getting the public's work done to the best of our abilities and to the best of our efforts. There have been some high points in which all parties worked together in the best interests of Yukoners. Through all of it, constituents have judged our behaviour whether watching this House in person, or through our public statements, and there also have been moments in which we may have fallen short.

Does the Premier believe that we have lived up to our constituents' expectations this sitting?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I think at this point I would like to commend the Liberal Party for their actions through this session in terms of ensuring that their questions were relevant on the budget and to the point.

Unfortunately, I cannot say the same for the Official Opposition. For example, many times different members would ask the same question and really take the opportunity to waste that time. They certainly could have been a little more prepared and we could have actually got through the whole budget; although, I must say we have actually debated practically every department to some degree.

**Mr. Elias:** Six of 12 government departments and all three of the corporations did not get debated in this House. However, the Liberal caucus commends the cooperation that saw unanimous support for the enhanced trades and technology training that our growing economy needs, and that will position

Yukoners for well-paying, skilled jobs close to home. We applaud all members' support for sending a united message to Ottawa to ensure that healthy affordable food is accessible to the people of my community of Old Crow; we celebrate that meaningful action is finally being taken on whistle-blower protection, and we thank the members opposite for their willingness to accept our deadlines and deliverables.

Would the Premier also consider this to have been a successful sitting?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I thank the member opposite for the question. Certainly, I think that we have accomplished a lot. I think that he has highlighted some of the things — 10 unanimous votes, a couple of them with friendly amendments, as well. There was the passing of a private members' bill from the opposition, which is something that is practically unheard of in the Westminster system. That has occurred during this session. I think there are a lot of examples. The other one that the member talked about in terms of the support for the food program for Old Crow and the Vuntut Gwitchin — again, there are a lot of areas where we have really worked well together.

Again, I'll get back to budgeting. For example, when it came to the minor amendment to the *Liquor Act* that was asked for by the community of Mayo — the municipality and the First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun — we spent two and a half hours in debate to only have the opposition support the amendment, as well. So, I guess it's about also looking at what we're doing and ensuring that we're spending the time wisely and doing the government's business. I think that has been accomplished.

**Speaker's statement**

**Speaker:** Order please. I'd just like to remind members to address their questions and comments to and through the Chair.

**Question re: Electoral reform**

**Mr. Elias:** The gallery is full today of citizens making their voices heard to their government and I salute them. Citizens must feel that their public government listens to their concerns, that it acts on their priorities and that if the government should go astray in their public policy, it would correct its course when the public reminds it to do so. Showing up in the Legislature isn't the only way for public to be heard.

Public engagement should be strongest at the ballot box. We believe that a non-political commission on electoral reform should seek out Yukoners' views on our electoral system.

Does the Premier support this independent commission, and will he form one through his government?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** Mr. Speaker, we have discussed this, and certainly this government, back in 2005, did have a senior advisor do a study and have a look at the situation. The consequence of that study was the report that said we should really focus on legislative renewal. That is something we have included within our platform.

Under the section "Practising Open, Accountable, Fiscally Responsible Government", the Yukon Party government committed to promoting consensus-building, collaboration and compromise, rather than confrontation in government, and



working to improve the conduct and decorum of members in the Yukon Legislative Assembly. I think we have lived up to that side of the bargain, Mr. Speaker.

We reinvigorated the Public Accounts Committee, which had not been functioning properly. We established an all-party standing committee to oversee government appointments to government boards and committees that had been included in the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly for years but never implemented by the NDP or the Liberal governments.

**Mr. Elias:** Mr. Speaker, we need to always remember that democracy works best when people like my fellow citizens here in the Chamber today claim it as their own. All democracy is grassroots democracy. All valid political direction comes from the people, and we are responsible to them. I suggest that we build on the community leadership of citizens who are already involved in this issue. An independent and representative citizens' commission would research various options and inform as well as consult with the public. Political leadership is needed to make this happen.

Will the Premier form an independent citizens' commission to re-engage Yukoners in their democracy?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** The government recognizes that there are Yukoners who believe that an electoral system that provides proportional representation to political parties based on the party's share of the popular vote would be better than the Yukon's current system. We also note that there are some Yukoners who advocate for abandoning party politics completely and changing back to a system that's similar to what we see in Nunavut or in Northwest Territories at this time.

While we respect both of those viewpoints, and appreciate anybody who contributes to the discussion about improving our system, we are really focused on those priorities that we told Yukoners that we were going to deliver for them.

**Mr. Elias:** No one political party has all the good ideas or the answers. It's incumbent on a responsible government and a responsible opposition to represent 100 percent of Yukoners. I respect each and every one of our platforms, because there's something good in each and every one of them. It is incumbent upon us to represent that as elected officials. As elected representatives, we are bound to listen to our constituents and for us to act as they direct us. Many of them are directing us to improve our voting system. We must ensure it's done right, because there's very little room for error. I think we should learn directly from Yukoners instead of asking them to sign off on reforms that elected officials presented to them. Does the Premier share our view that Yukoners should tell us how they want their democracy to operate and that it's not up to elected officials to dictate it to them?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** The Yukon Party government established more all-party committees of the Legislature to conduct public consultation on matters of importance to Yukoners, such as anti-smoking legislation, human rights legislation, whistle-blower protection, the *Landlord and Tenant Act* and safe operation and use of off-road vehicles. When we talk about engagement, I automatically go to what happened

through 2011. The Yukon Party government saw a membership that was in excess of 3,000 members.

As I mentioned, this government has continued to focus on those things that we told Yukoners in our platform that we would deliver for them— such things as health care, education, roads, transportation, infrastructure and electricity. This is our commitment and this is where we will continue to stay focused.

#### **Question re: Wetland protection**

**Ms. White:** I would like to revisit an issue with the Minister of Environment, namely the protection of water in the Yukon. If the minister thinks that the plan by his government to move the monitoring, inspections and enforcement of water protection to another department is a well-kept secret, it is not. This side of the House believes that keeping the protection of our water resources and watersheds separate from the department that encourages mining and other resource extraction is just good public policy. It encourages transparency, accountability and faith in the system.

Will the Minister of Environment tell this House right here and now, in front of all of these people, whether he will be transferring responsibility for the monitoring, inspection and enforcement of Yukon's water to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources?

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** We have addressed this question a number of times in this Legislature earlier this session. As I have said before, the role of the Department of Environment and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is to work together when it comes to the inspections of mining water use.

In the case of placer mining operations, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has, for a number of years, conducted those inspections. In the specific case of the Minto mine, those inspections are conducted also by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. To date, they've both been very successful, and we hope that the departments of Energy, Mines and Resources and Environment will continue to work together collaboratively.

**Ms. White:** I was looking for a yes or no. We know the departments have and will continue to work together on various files. That is not the question. We are talking about responsibilities in the Department of Environment right now that the minister himself is responsible for and wants to give away.

Industry wants the harmonization of environmental regulations regarding water so as to expedite mineral development. Industrial development is the biggest user of our water. This is not about staff; this is about direction from the top, about ministerial responsibility. Yukoners are concerned that during this time of rampant development that their government is not doing enough to protect our water or our ecosystems.

I would ask the Minister of Environment — who's responsibility this currently is — if he will ensure that environmental protection will remain in his department and not be shifted to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources?

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** Once again, I have to reiterate for the member opposite that her impression or interpretation of ministerial responsibilities is a confusing one.

I, of course, rely on staff to conduct inspections on our behalf, as government. Regardless of which departmental cap they wear to work in the morning, we expect them to do their job in full obligation of the law and of the public trust. We have utmost faith in our departmental officials to conduct themselves in a professional manner and respect the law and the public trust, and do a good job.

**Ms. White:** I'd like to point out for this House right now that the only person who ever talks about staff is the minister opposite, not me. Again, Mr. Speaker, Yukoners know that this transfer of water protection is well past the planning stages, but the minister has refused to talk about this. He has refused to answer my very direct questions. This is just bad policy.

This is a simple question: Will the Minister of Environment recognize his role as the chief steward of our environment and tell this House he will not allow this transfer of his responsibilities?

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** I have to say, actually, I disagree with the member opposite. I think it is incumbent on all departments in all sectors of the government to respect the environment and do our due diligence to ensure that our activities have the least impact as possible on the land and on our environment.

The Department of Environment obviously takes the lead in a number of instances in terms of the protection of the environment. We conducted a number of strategies and plans to ensure that Yukon government conducts itself in an appropriate manner and we're going to continue to do that.

The member opposite points out the water is an important resource to Yukoners and we absolutely agree; that's why we've committed to developing a Yukon water strategy for Yukon to ensure that Yukoners have safe access to drinking water and that our water resources remain a key component of Yukon's environment.

#### **Question re: Energy policy**

**Mr. Tredger:** Let's review the Yukon Party's management of the energy file. On their watch, they've thrown good money after bad on controversial schemes like diverting the Gladstone. They tout costly billion-dollar-plus dreams to connect our grid to B.C. or Alaska. They pledge they want to develop oil and gas resources for local use and benefit but won't commit to review the regulations that would make this a reality. The backdrop of this is that we will soon be running over full capacity as new mines come on-line — mines they've encouraged and mines they've pledged Yukon has a duty to power. When will this government move beyond promises and platitudes and come up with real energy solutions that address our present and future needs?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Again, the NDP has a very interesting view of things. What I'd remind the member is that the NDP's legacy of managing our electricity still shows up as a cost on Yukoners' bills. It's still an ongoing subsidy by the Yukon government to pay for their mismanagement of energy.

As I've indicated before, we're taking a number of steps in working with the Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation. We believe that government needs to

work through a closer working relationship with a utility to effectively manage Yukon's energy assets to take advantage of opportunities, but, first and foremost, government needs to focus on providing cost-effective, reliable, affordable power to Yukon citizens.

**Mr. Tredger:** While the minister opposite can blame the NDP, his party has been in power for over 10 years. He can deny it if he likes. He can deny reality if he likes, but our capacity to produce electricity is falling behind the demand.

A real energy solution for the future would include demand-side management. Managing demand means the supply we already have can go further. Demand-side management is about containing costs and saving money.

Japan has recently shown what can be done and has had great success with demand-side management after deciding to reduce nuclear power generation after the tsunami. An obvious first step is demand-side management and it should have been taken years ago. There has been very little action to advance this obvious energy solution. When can Yukoners expect to see energy solutions that reflect the importance of managing energy demand?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Mr. Speaker, again, the member just fails to recognize the facts. As I have noted before in the House, there have been significant steps taken through the energy strategy — including the results of the good energy program. There has been a significant reduction in demand through people moving to more energy-efficient appliances. That program is ongoing.

Again, the NDP's legacy is still on the electrical bill as a cost to the Yukon taxpayer. In reference to specific projects that the member is referring to, I became minister responsible for the Yukon Development Corporation and the Yukon Energy Corporation for the first time on November 5, 2011. Since that time, I have met a number of times with the chairs of the boards of the Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation and with the CEO.

I met with the boards this morning, and one of the things we identified as a priority is that the focus needs to be on cost-effective, energy-efficient operations and providing reliable power to Yukoners.

It is a subject of concern for us, how much money has been spent on exploring projects like the Gladstone diversion project. In fact, I expressed concern to the CEO a number of years ago about the feasibility of this project ever proceeding to a successful outcome.

**Mr. Tredger:** Mr. Speaker, the facts are that we are rapidly reaching a point where we cannot produce as much power as we need.

There are some really good, progressive ideas that other jurisdictions have implemented to move toward a green energy economy. Unfortunately, it appears the Yukon Party's mandate just does not consider the good ideas of others.

Other jurisdictions have aggressively implemented incentives for renewables like solar, wind and geothermal. Other jurisdictions have created bold housing retrofitting programs, recognizing the importance of space heating in the overall energy question. Other jurisdictions have reduced energy con-

sumption through demand-side management. Other jurisdictions have comprehensive, integrated plans to start to make that shift, but this government has shown an unwillingness to be creative.

Why has this government been so resistant to support energy solutions that work?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Mr. Speaker, quite to the contrary, in fact — we have outlined through the *Energy Strategy for Yukon* a number of steps we will be implementing, including steps related to demand-side management, the development of an independent power producer policy, net metering policies, both of which have had consultation and we look forward to implementing, once they are in their final form. We want to make sure it is right, because we think there is significant opportunity for encouraging Yukoners to engage in power production on a small scale through renewable sources.

Again, what I would point out to the member, as I have before, the Yukon government and I are concerned about the cost of energy.

I have identified, as I have stated before to the corporation, that we are concerned about some of the money that has been spent on pursuing projects like the Gladstone diversion project, which, as I pointed out, three or four years ago I identified my concerns related to the feasibility of that project ever proceeding to a successful completion.

Again, we will be working cooperatively with the corporations, trying to improve the governance structure and to ultimately ensuring that we are collectively fulfilling our responsibility to Yukon citizens to responsibly and effectively manage their energy assets to ensure that a focus is on reliable power, on cost-effective operation, and on affordable energy for Yukon citizens.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker leaves the Chair*

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Chair (Ms. McLeod):** Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 6, *First Appropriation Act, 2012-13*. We will be resuming debate on Vote 51, Department of Community Services. Ms. Taylor has the floor.

Would members like a recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agree.

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

*Recess*

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

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

**Chair:** The matter before Committee of the Whole is Bill No. 6, *First Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, continuing debate in Vote 51, Department of Community Services.

### Department of Community Services — continued

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** It's an honour to be back into the debate on this fiscal year's budget.

Of course, where we left off in Community Services, I actually was remiss in being able to complete the remainder of my Budget Address. It is with pleasure that I'll just start by saying a few words about where we left off and that was with Emergency Measures Organization. Of course, housed within the Department of Community Services is the Protective Services branch, comprising the Emergency Measures Organization.

Of course, as I alluded to earlier, this week marks Emergency Preparedness Week, and it's an opportune time to extend our heartfelt thanks and to tribute the men and women of service who are the first on the ground, in terms of providing that emergency response, whether they're in Emergency Medical Services, whether they're in fire protection, whether they are the Emergency Measures Organization or Wildland Fire Management. So I have had the opportunity over the course of the last five or six months in this particular role as Minister of Community Services to become much more familiar with the functions and the valued services provided by each of these organizations within our branch and the multitude of stakeholders that continue to partner, whether they be or volunteer or career, to ensure that we have safe, vibrant, healthy and sustainable communities.

The budget we're currently debating on the floor of the Legislature is that of Yukon Emergency Measures Organization. Of course, when we look at our capital budget, it includes just over \$200,000 in support of search and rescue, with a new rescue boat, upgrades to emergency communications equipment, and upgrades to the joint emergency operation and coordination centre, which serves as the incident command centre in event of emergency. The operation and maintenance budget also includes just under \$600,000, which comprises dollars for personnel, training, communications equipment, contributions for marine radio distress systems and search and rescue support. Of course, Yukon EMO will also continue to lead the review of the government's internal emergency coordination plans, so that, as I alluded to in my earlier remarks during our tribute earlier this week, the organization is very much prepared in the event of emergencies.

In addition to wildland fire, structural fire and emergency measures, the department continues to also enhance Yukon's emergency medical services. I had the privilege of being able to provide a tribute to EMS and all that the emergency responders provide on a daily basis on behalf of Yukon's citizens.

The caring men and women of this service do a tremendous job in protecting our communities, and we certainly are on the right track in terms of moving forward in a collaborative manner, and in terms of working toward providing those individuals with the services, equipment, training and capacity to do their job in an effective manner.

This year's budget identifies just over \$7.5 million in support of emergency medical services operations, which includes salaries, wages for nearly 60 personnel, maintenance of our ambulances and stages, upgrades to our communication equipment, training and more. In addition to that, we have just over \$110,000 allocated for volunteer training and recognition.

I would also be remiss if I didn't mention that just recently, in collaboration with the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin as well as the Ministers of Environment and Economic Development, we were able to just recently approve through the community development fund a contribution of around \$276,000, if I'm not mistaken, in support of paramedic training that will be delivered here in the Yukon at Yukon College for the first time ever. So that is indeed a really great step in the right direction. As members may or may not be aware, this training has traditionally been offered in southern jurisdictions. We have had to certainly pay and offer up training expenses to enable individuals to take that training. But of course, as members would appreciate, that does result in tremendous costs and it does result in a tremendous amount of time and commitment on behalf of Yukon citizens who volunteer and who are also career responders. So this allotment that was recently approved and will be announced shortly through CDF is a great step.

It's one that I know the emergency responders have been asking about for some time and I know that it has been on Yukon College's radar for some time as well. So we're very pleased to be able to partner with Yukon College to deliver that training and hopefully it will serve to enhance and build capacity among our communities and ensure also that we can deliver these critical services here at home, rather than outside.

There is \$206,000 also allocated for the replacement of an ambulance, as well as \$110,000 for the replacement of medical equipment. I had the opportunity to see the state-of-the-art ambulance first-hand, up close at a formal event when we were able to launch the news about the replacement ambulance. I also have to say that it was at an event during Education Week, as well, that I was able to visit the many members of the Protective Services branch who were also present to show the equipment and showcase what they do on a daily basis on behalf of Yukon citizens. I brought my son along — seven years old — and so he was keenly interested in seeing all of the state-of-the-art equipment.

Unfortunately, by the time we got out of there — because we get out of here later on — they were all gone. But fortunately for us, we then headed over to Subway and grabbed some dinner. It was at that time that we were able to run into some emergency responders, at which time we were then provided a tour of the new state-of-the-art ambulance. So it certainly has wow factor from the seven-year-old's perspective, and, I have to say that ambulances have come a long way in terms of providing functions and efficient services. It certainly

helps the many men and women do their job on a very timely and efficient basis.

A key investment in this year's budget also includes just under \$6 million for the construction of the second ambulance station. It's really entitled a new emergency response centre, which will house the second or the primary ambulance station in the City of Whitehorse. This has been a great and very important initiative that has been in the works for some years. It's one that is of utmost importance, particularly to the residents of the City of Whitehorse and certainly to the constituents that I have and continue to serve over the past nine and a half years.

By enabling an emergency response centre to be more strategically located in the centre of the City of Whitehorse, it will also supplement services currently being provided at Whitehorse General Hospital, but it will also serve to enhance response times significantly to better meet our national standards and to be able to better address the growing families that continue to move into the City of Whitehorse. One only has to look at the Hamilton Boulevard and all of the respective communities that continue to grow. The Ingram housing subdivision, for example, is but one that I would encourage all members to take a drive through and see first-hand the number of individuals. When it is fully built, that subdivision alone — never mind all of the other subdivisions of Arkell, McIntyre, Granger, Copper Ridge, Valleyview and so forth — but Ingram alone will certainly service just over 225 dwelling units at the end of the day.

It certainly does place a greater demand on our EMS services and all protective services. We are very pleased to see that this project is going ahead. We're very pleased to see that construction is about to get underway. One only has to take a look at the groundwork that is occurring as we speak whenever one heads up the hill. The pile foundation work was completed last fall at a cost of just over \$700,000. In all, we have just under \$7.5 million budgeted over two years for the response centre, which ought to be operational next year. As I mentioned, it will provide much needed expansion space for EMS in Whitehorse and is of course more strategically situated to reduce the response times around the city. Likewise, with the build-out to the Whistle Bend subdivision as well, it will also serve to enhance response times to that — again, accentuating the services that are currently provided through the station housed at the Whitehorse General Hospital.

I would also just like to mention that this particular facility is strategically situated at the Protective Services compound. For that reason alone, it will provide a much more integrated, efficient delivery of services, whether it's wildland fire, whether it's serving to work with EMO, working with the Yukon Fire Marshal's Office and, of course, all of the storage is currently housed at the complex as well. So, again, it's going to provide a tremendous benefit to the residents, but also to the responders themselves by having that more integrated delivery of service. So, as I mentioned, we're very much committed and proud of providing our responders with facilities, infrastructure, equipment and the training that they need to do their jobs, to the best of their ability, and to provide care for Yukoners. I also just wanted to make mention that we were also very pleased to announce just a couple of days ago our commitment

also to enhancing structural fire protection in the Yukon communities. Of course, that has been something that has been in the making. That's something that has been requested for some time. I think that it does certainly acknowledge the very importance of emergency responders when it comes to volunteer career firefighters who help us in those times of greatest need.

Of course, as I mentioned at the announcement here, we know that there have been a significant number of changes on the regulatory side. Occupational health and safety changes that were brought about in 2006 have literally changed the way that fire services are delivered, with increased emphasis on firefighter safety, the need for appropriate equipment, training and oversight. Certainly, we welcome those changes but, at the same time, we also know they have greatly increased the costs and the ability of many fire departments to comply with those current standards.

So the announcement that we were able to make on behalf of the Department of Community Services really follows a year of discussions with municipalities, fire chiefs, as well as the Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs and fire department officials within the departments themselves as to how we can really move the territory forward in a manner that will not only add value to all fire departments, but ensure the autonomy of our fire departments and improve the ability of firefighters to do their jobs.

So we are very pleased to be able to provide an additional \$1.9 million for the territory's Fire Marshal's Office that will see enhanced training, support, oversight, equipment and services. Specifically, we're doubling the number of deputy fire marshals from two to four and are basically doubling our office. That will allow for greater focus on training, providing resources for territory-wide fire prevention and education. We're also investing in a live mobile fire training facility that will be of great benefit to all municipal fire departments, as well as unincorporated communities. Likewise, we're also pleased to now have the capacity to enhance the number of new fire trucks for a fleet from one to two per year. That's also a significant factor in terms of bringing our fleet up to a modernized standard and to be able to more efficiently deliver those services on behalf of Yukon citizens. In addition, we're also pleased to provide additional turnout gear, personal protective equipment, and fire suppression equipment to further increase safety and effectiveness. So, all in all, it will add tremendous value to the work of municipal fire services and each of our 16 unincorporated fire departments and, in doing so, will also go a long way with helping with recruitment and retention of volunteers, ensuring, overall, a strong, professional, sustainable fire service in the territory.

Madam Chair, I see that my time is probably expired and so perhaps I'll carry on when my time is up next. Thank you.

**Mr. Barr:** I would just like to start by thanking the workers and the staff at Community Services for all their hard work and also to the minister for the latest announcements on the additional dollars that will go to the Fire Marshal's Office. I think that it will be most welcomed throughout the communities by all those who volunteer their time. Hopefully this also will assist in increasing the volunteerism within the communi-

ties as I know they struggle from time to time. When we look at the volunteer base generally in the communities — there are handfuls — and so the additional training opportunities with the mobile unit will I guess lessen their time to be travelling or whether or not they can commit to stepping up to the plate. I think it'll make things go much more smoothly, so thanks for those announcements.

I really only have two questions and the first one is that I've sent a letter to the Minister on behalf of a constituent, who is looking for clarification of the rules under which electrical contractors are licensed — class C — and able to obtain electrical permits. I will take this opportunity in general debate to see if I can get some information from the minister, and hopefully, I will get some clarification.

The *Electrical Protection Act* states in section 7(3): "An inspector shall not issue a permit except to an owner or to an electrical contractor who holds a valid and subsisting licence issued pursuant to section 14." It goes on to state, in section 14 (1), "The Minister may issue to a qualified electrician or person who employs a qualified electrician an electrical contractor's licence to engage in business as an electrical contractor." The act then defines class C licensees as being able to do electrical work up to 200 amps, 300 volts single phase.

The training and the experience required to get a class C licence is found in section 13(3), Class C — "a qualified electrician with four years of electrical experience relevant to the scope of the licence and adequate house wiring experience or training."

It is my understanding that the electrical journeyman certification requires four years of combined on-the-job experience and training. In reading the *Electrical Protection Act*, it would appear that a person with electrical journeyman certification would be entitled to receive a class C licence and thus be able to obtain electrical permits. Is this the correct interpretation? I look forward to a response and whether the minister agrees with this interpretation.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Madam Chair, I actually do have a response on my desk as I recall. In fact, I believe I had signed it off a couple of days ago, if I'm not mistaken. So my apologies if the member has not already received a copy.

I appreciate the questions that the member's constituent has raised. Unfortunately, I don't have the response in front of me, but I can say that as with all of our respective statutes, the regulations are all clearly set out in the legislation and in the regulations. If after his constituent receives a full, detailed response — if he or she feels compelled for additional information, I would encourage them to contact the Building Safety branch for additional details on that.

As I mentioned before, it is an opportune time. The member opposite made mention and clearly recognized the employees within the Department of Community Services. I very much appreciate that because it is a very busy shop. It provides an all-encompassing, very comprehensive delivery of a wide range of programs and services that touch on pretty much every aspect of our lives as we know it. Building Safety branch is but one of a number of branches housed within Community Services. When we look at the previous year, just inspections for

building, plumbing, development, electrical, gas, boiler pressure vessels, it is quite interesting how they were able to complete almost 5,000 inspections. There were over 3,500 permits issued, over 2,200 building file information requests completed — a very busy shop indeed.

Of course their job is to support, administer, enforce building and plumbing — all the standards in conjunction with reviewing the development permits, maintaining the building information repository. As I mentioned, they issue permits and licences and perform inspections under a litany of legislation, including the *Electrical Protection Act*. Of course the branch also provides advice to the public and the construction industry regarding the requirements and the interpretation of the acts and regulations. If the members opposite — if their respect constituents have any specific questions after receiving or are in receipt of the response, I would encourage them to contact the branch for clarification of the interpretation of the act and the regulations.

Hopefully that provides a bit of clarity and, as I mentioned, we work very closely with the City of Whitehorse as well on developing those shared inspection standards and developing those common standards with our own building inspectors under the Government of Yukon as well.

**Mr. Barr:** Would it be possible for the minister to ask the staff to bring down a copy of that letter, so I can ask follow-up questions in the House?

I have extended dates for the minister to come to meet with the residents of Carcross. Long before being elected to represent the citizens of Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes and the communities in the riding, I heard many concerns about the infrastructure in Carcross and the state of its aging infrastructure. The residents have many views and priorities. Some want a youth centre and some want to see investments in emergency facilities, a potlatch house, a community centre and more recreational facilities. There is a meeting scheduled for May 23 in Carcross.

I will maybe ask the page to deliver this letter of invitation and I would ask if the minister would attend our meeting on May 3.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I want to thank the member opposite for raising that question. When it comes to communities, I think that this government has been very responsive to working with all of the communities throughout the territory on meeting their capital priorities. We certainly recognize, as we have referenced a number of occasions in the Legislature, the need to update and modernize our facilities, to meet the standards, certainly to make them more energy efficient and very much responsive to the citizens that they serve.

I can say that thanks to investments through a number of infrastructure funds, whether it is Building Canada, I think that it is the Canadian strategic infrastructure fund or the municipal rural infrastructure fund, we have been able to make a significant amount of progress in the community of Carcross — something to the tune of over \$9.5 million over the last number of years.

I pulled up some information here, of course. We have been working on a number of initiatives at the community's

request over the years to revitalize the community and the downtown core. I think it's taking shape. It's a significant transformation and I thank the department officials working collaboratively with the community residents and with the local advisory council, as well as the chamber of commerce, the Carcross-Tagish First Nation and many other stakeholders to recognize their respective priorities.

There have been a number of initiatives that have been fully advanced, including a pedestrian bridge, there a Bennett viewing deck and restroom facilities — those were completed in 2008 — the visitor bureau, the visitor base infrastructure — that, in itself, has been a tremendous asset to the community.

When we talk about, for example, the Gateway Pavilion and adding more additional washrooms to facilitate the enhanced motorcoach traffic visitors to the area — it's a wonderful facility and it has had great use by the community residents.

Likewise, we have also been able to work with the community on a welcome sign. That is a feat in itself, I can say, in trying to find a consensus on a "Welcome to Carcross" sign. I know the artist who contributed to the completion of that sign. She did a fantastic job, as she has done on pieces within the City of Whitehorse.

Carcross boat launch dock parking lot and the Carcross carving facility I had the privilege of being able to officially honour, in collaboration with the Carcross-Tagish First Nation. Again, that is a fantastic facility that adds to the base visitor infrastructure, but also is serving to help build that capacity among the carving community within the Carcross-Tagish First Nation. The pedestrian bridge, as I mentioned, and the viewing deck, the restroom facilities on the deck, the *SS Tutshi* memorial — I might add that I again had the privilege of being able to participate in the actual opening, or the launch, of that memorial. Again, it is a testament to the collaboration among the community to come together and to find that consensus as to what to do with the remains of the *SS Tutshi* — whether or not to move them out altogether or to put up a structure that would commemorate the history of that vibrant vessel that once sailed and is resulting in the memorial.

Landscaping — there have also been other initiatives over the years in terms of — as we mentioned — road enhancements, turning lanes and tourist pullouts. So there have been a significant number of investments made over the years. Likewise, as I mentioned, there have also been a number of water system upgrades that have been incorporated, thanks to the Building Canada fund, which has also contributed — I think it is something like \$265 million worth of infrastructure by the time all the funds will have been spent.

Again, that's a shared fund between Yukon and Canada — 75 percent Canada, 25 percent Yukon. So we have been able to work toward revitalizing and developing the Carcross waterfront, but we also have invested in a number of community infrastructure upgrades through the fund itself. In turn, we have been able to also help leverage other funding programs and investments from the private sector, in partnership with the governments, to help, again, further realize and develop the community of Carcross.

So I congratulate them. It has been a very significant investment over the years, and it is testament to the community commitment to work collaboratively with the respective governments on a vision that they would like to see move forward.

In terms of moving forward, there have been a number of meetings. Of course, the member opposite made mention of a specific meeting that he would like to host. I just wanted to point out that the Department of Community Services, and specifically Community Affairs staff — they regularly attend South Klondike Local Advisory Council monthly meetings.

In fact, the community advisor has been to at least nine meetings in Carcross in the last year alone. As well, Community Affairs staff speaks with the local advisory council and other Carcross residents many times on a weekly basis on issues of importance to the community. As well, our sports and recreation staff have participated in a number of meetings and will continue to participate in meetings with the community with regard to improvements to their recreation infrastructure as well.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that our officials are very much engaged with the community on a number of these fronts and will continue to be engaged on a number of these fronts. Likewise, I know that there is a great amount of interest and we will facilitate additional discussions with the Department of Highways and Public Works. Really, they are, in terms of leads and in terms of government infrastructure, identifying the need and the priority in making those investments as to which facility should receive priority improvements or replacement. In fact, we just had a presentation the other day from the officials from the Department of Highways and Public Works on formalizing the framework and process to go forward, and how we prioritize those capital initiatives.

A great deal of work has been done among the deputy ministers of those respective departments and officials within, but there are a tremendous amount of needs. We recognize that there is a tremendous deficit in terms of infrastructure needs and priorities, but we also need to prioritize, because there are only so many resources on an ongoing basis. We have to pay attention to our budgets and ensure that we do have surpluses that will enable us to have that flexibility moving forward.

I have to thank the Minister of Finance and the previous Minister of Finance for their good work in being able to maintain the bottom line and ensuring that we have net healthy financial resources — money in the bank, so to speak — that enables Yukon to be able to continue to invest in initiatives, whether it is repairing, resurfacing, or improving drainage on the roads within Burwash Landing.

We're also investing just over \$1 million for a geothermal heat project; wellhead protection; safeguarding sources while providing heat to public buildings in Burwash Landing. Also, in this year's budget, we have just over \$2 million for upgrades to the Carcross water treatment plant, again, in order to meet new drinking water regulations and standards.

Very important, indeed, that, again, when we look to the future — and what we have been able to do with funds such as Building Canada — we have been able to take a look at some of these regulatory requirements — whether it is drinking wa-

ter, whether it is treating solid waste, whether it is rural roads; investments in green energy, and the list goes on. We have been able to really work with all of the communities in the Yukon and prioritize that list identified in our Yukon infrastructure plan. Of course, we have been working with our partners in Highways and Public Works and the communities to come up with a priority list.

So, I just wanted to reassure the members opposite that work will continue to go on. We recognize that there are a number of requests and a number of priority capital initiatives identified within the community of Carcross.

The member opposite made reference to the fire hall, the library and rec centre. I think that also, the Carcross-Tagish First Nation has made mention of their desire to move forward with their potlatch house and their cultural facility. All of these are great initiatives, but they also require a great deal of prioritization, as well. One thing that we would certainly encourage the community to continue to do is come together in a consensus on what are the most important needs identified by the community, and work with the governments, of course, to move those initiatives forward.

We'll continue to work, as I mentioned, on a priority basis, just as we have. When you look at the fire hall, for example, and the replacement in Beaver Creek that's going ahead — planning to occur this year with the actual construction next year — a significant investment and something that has been long in the making. Likewise, there have been other investments. We talked at great length about other investments throughout the Yukon.

For example, in this year's budget, we have just under \$800,000 for completing the replacement of the existing Carmacks waste water collection facility, constructing a new sewer main, lift station and secondary connection lines. We are proceeding with \$75,000 for a long-term water infrastructure improvement plan for the City of Dawson; \$900,000 to upgrade the community water supply in Rock Creek; \$200,000 to design and construct a local sanitary collection system in Destruction Bay, replacing aging infrastructure; over \$1 million to replace several sections of water and sewer mains in Faro; just over \$4 million for expanding the Haines Junction water reservoir and pump station to meet the public drinking water standards and that of the fire department; just over \$1 million for designing and constructing new water mains in the residential and commercial areas of Haines Junction and providing arsenic removal water treatment upgrades.

We have just under \$3 million for improving roads, extending water and sewer mains in Mayo, as well as for the Na Cho Nyäk Dun residential area for upgrading services and accommodating future development.

Likewise, we also have just over \$300,000 for the planning necessary to increase the capacity of a new community well and treatment in the community of Mayo.

In Old Crow — and I know that the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin is always keenly interested in what occurs there — we have \$32,000 for improving drainage and resurfacing roads; \$900,000 for addressing solid waste within the community — something that has been in the works and something that I have

certainly heard loud and clear over the course of the years. I thank the member opposite for his thanks and for his accolades for the government's actions. That's great to hear.

This year's budget also comprises just under \$4 million for completing construction of the new water treatment system in Old Crow —

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

#### Point of order

**Chair:** Mr. Barr, on a point of order.

**Mr. Barr:** Standing Order 19(b) — I simply asked the minister opposite if she would come out to a meeting on May 23 to discuss with the community of Carcross the infrastructure needs, and it's just a yes or no — or a confirmation that I'd like.

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

**Chair:** Mr. Cathers, on the point of order.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** On the point of order, Madam Chair, I think the member is misinterpreting the Standing Orders. 19(b) speaks to something other than the matter that's under discussion, like a bill. You know the Standing Orders, Madam Chair. I don't believe there is a point of order. The budget is under discussion and the Minister for Community Services is talking about the budget and matters related to her department that are performed through the resources outlined in the budget.

#### Chair's ruling

**Chair:** There is no point of order.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I'm just trying to articulate to the members opposite in sharing, really, the breadth and the depth of the efforts being made by the department and by the Government of Yukon to address all community infrastructure needs throughout the territory.

As I mentioned before, we are investing just under \$4 million for the new water treatment system in Old Crow. That is a significant investment, indeed. It is one that has been in the works for some time. I'd like to thank Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and all residents again for their work in moving this initiative forward and again to the department. It's an extremely complex initiative going forward.

Particularly when we provide infrastructure in outlying communities, it does add to costs and it does add to the complexities of initiatives, but it is something that we are delivering.

Likewise, we were also able to invest just over \$800,000 for the Selkirk public workshop in Pelly Crossing to complement the work already completed on a new water treatment facility. We are very pleased to invest just over \$1 million for completing upgrades to the Ross River water treatment delivery system designed to comply with the national standards for drinking water. We have also identified \$1 million for reconstructing community roads in Ross River, also improving drainage; also just under \$1.8 million for completing the water treatment plant Public Works building in Ross River. We are also investing \$750,000 for engineering design renovation of

the Taku Subdivision drinking water fill point in Tagish; and, just over \$1-million for improvements to Teslin roads.

The list goes on and on and on. All told, in this year's budget I believe we are investing in this department alone some \$65 million in support of community infrastructure projects.

I just wanted to point out that there is a lot going on in the Department of Community Services in addition to the \$35 million allocated for land development and in addition to many other initiatives housed within the department. As I mentioned, Protective Services branch — whether it is sport and recreation or many others — and I just commend the officials in the infrastructure area branch of the department for their expertise and for continuing to work with the communities, and the municipal governments in particular and local advisory councils to continue to meet the priorities as identified within their respective communities.

**Chair:** Is there any further general debate on Vote 51?

**Mr. Elias:** I am listening to the minister go over a couple of items that I was going to ask about in this department. They are about the thermal oxidation system that's going to be delivered to the community of Old Crow. The other question is — I know she mentioned that it's approximately \$900,000. Some history with regard to this oxidation system is that it has been in the making for about eight years. The community of Old Crow has basically run out of real estate where the actual waste management facility has progressed over the last couple of decades. Right now — I brought it up in this Legislature many, many times — is that we've run out of real estate and we need some other type of system to deal with the community waste.

In partnership with the Department of Community Services over the years, we have initiated a number of solutions to the issue. However, this is one of the last options I believe that was discussed some eight years ago. It's good to see that this thermal oxidation system is actually going to become a reality in Old Crow.

Some of my constituents have questions with regard to the unit that is going to be shipped by Hercules in the next couple of weeks. For the minister, has this type of thermal oxidation system been used in the Arctic before and, if so, does she have any idea whether it has been successful? I know that there are different types of thermal oxidation systems that have been used. Some can actually generate power for electricity. I do not know if the one that is going to Old Crow can actually do that. That is another question that is coming from my constituents.

Another question is what type of operation and maintenance is going to need to be established for this system? Is there actually somebody who is going to be hired to look after the system? Is the general public going to have access to it? The other one is with regard to air quality and the emissions. Hopefully it meets the Canadian air emission guidelines and regulations. I think, for the most part, those are the main questions that my constituents have with regard to the waste management system that's going to be flowing into Old Crow.

The other question that I had and the minister did respond to this is with regard to the new water treatment facility. It was very good to see last fall that the foundation was being built at



the present site. It has been a long time in the making and we thank the minister and her department for this investment and for listening to the community of Old Crow and the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation in partnership.

The same sorts of questions revolve around this \$4-million investment in the community of Old Crow. Is it going to be maintained by a person who is going to have to be on-site? If she can explain a little bit to the House today about how the system actually filters the magnesium, the arsenic and the other metals out of the water. I was asked about what some of my constituents would consider to be such a complicated system within the water treatment facility because there was a scare earlier a couple of years ago that the levels of arsenic within the water were at levels that did not meet the Canadian drinking water guidelines. So they wanted me to ask the question if that is why we have to have a very complicated system for water treatment.

I've looked at some of the initial plans for the water treatment facility and it's an excellent initiative. It's something that we can hopefully lay to rest finally in the community, because we've talked about this for a long time and again it's much appreciated. I thank the minister opposite for this investment.

In talking about the budget, I really hope — I really wish that I could — those are two questions first of all that I'd like the Minister of Community Services to answer. The other thing is with regard to the water treatment facility. What is the estimated time of completion and water actually being able to be delivered through the system to the residents of Old Crow? I understand that there was a cost increase to the system. I'm not aware of what was the increase in costs. Was it because of the building of the foundation? I don't know, but maybe if she could elaborate on those, that would be great.

I sure wish that I could take this time to comment on the Minister of Justice's comments yesterday, but maybe at a later date. I don't know if that's allowed in general debate, because I can delve into it to make it budget-accountable. I won't go there today, but I sure wish I could respond to what was said by the Minister of Justice yesterday in debate during the motion I put forward.

But anyway, back to the Minister of Community Services — if she could answer those two questions about the two major investments.

Again, on behalf of my constituents and the community of Old Crow, we thank the Yukon government under for these investments in our community the leadership of the Minister of Community Services.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I'd like to thank the member opposite for his questions and for extending his thanks for these investments in his community. These are investments that, of course, we have and continue to work on directly with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. When it comes to addressing solid waste in the community of Old Crow — likewise in many other communities — it has been a work in progress.

But we continue to work in collaboration with the government itself in identifying their priorities and looking at all the options on the table and moving forward in a measured and responsive manner. I think that's what we have been able to do.

As the member opposite is aware, we certainly have been moving toward the no-burn, and one only has to take a look at the permits that are submitted or issued by the Department of Environment, which permits all of our solid-waste facilities in the Yukon to operate. They establish the conditions under which a facility must operate and the member opposite is fully aware of that. Community Services operates some 20 facilities in unincorporated Yukon, which includes the community of Old Crow. We have been adhering to the permit terms and conditions. We continue to work on ways that we can enhance the way that we deliver solid waste or we treat solid waste in the communities. I think we're making significant progress.

I want to say that when I was Minister of Environment back a few years ago, the idea of putting together a solid-waste action plan was just really in its infancy. I think that since the *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan* was put together, and now things have evolved, there has been some significant progress since 2009 when it was first introduced, including an end to the open burning of domestic waste.

Last January, in all of our unincorporated communities, the facilities themselves have been either transformed into transfer stations or full-service solid-waste facilities. When it comes to the community of Old Crow — of course, given its location, given the lack of road access any given day and where it is situated — it really is an anomaly unto itself. For that reason, we have worked with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation on really a go-forward basis on how we can best meet their needs in a responsive manner. I just wanted to say that this particular system, in response to the member opposite's question, is actually in place in smaller remote communities in Alaska, and as I understand from officials from the department as well as members of the actual company, so to speak, who have visited many of these communities in the past. I can't say when, in fact, but in the last year, to really take a look first-hand to see how they operate, to see if they're working efficiently and if there are any concerns. Of course, that has all been shared with VGFN and so hence the decision to move forward with this type of system.

As we speak, I understand that there is or there will be staff in Old Crow on the ground getting ready for the arrival and the deployment of the actual unit itself, so making those advanced arrangements which include setting up the fence, protection of the actual unit itself. Of course, to the member opposite's questions, the operation and maintenance will fall within the responsibility, the purview of the Yukon government. It is one of our facilities and it is our commitment to move forward on that basis. Again, any decisions pertaining to this facility going forward — when it is eventually deployed — we'll continue to make in partnership with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation as well. That work is currently underway.

I just wanted to make mention that training will be offered by the company itself in collaboration with the department, as well as help build that capacity among the community to help operate that facility. It is new technology for Yukon, so to speak, so there will be training and that is part of the contribution agreement or part of the contract in place that we have

with Waste to Energy Canada, who received the bid through the public tendering process moving forward.

Basically, in terms of emissions, it is meeting the standards as are set out within the Department of Environment. Permits that have gone through the Department of Environment comply with those respective conditions. So we're excited to see the arrival of the actual unit itself and see it in action.

We have also shared the community's desire — while we're transporting this unit from Yellowknife, as it works out, to also possibly facilitate the transportation of the school van/small bus. So we're just putting that contact information between Community Services and the necessary officials within Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation.

I just wanted to also build on some of the other goals we have been able to adhere to within the *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan* — this year's budget — getting back to that as well. The budget includes an increase of just under \$800,000 in our operations and maintenance budget for solid-waste management — that, with also just over \$3 million in additional capital dollars towards the improvement of solid-waste facilities. So that includes projects identified under the gas tax fund and the Building Canada fund, as I mentioned, as well. So again, helping to improve composting, recycling, waste diversion initiatives, enhancing waste handling systems and site safety — again, continuing to install ground water monitoring stations, improving household hazardous waste management at all of our remaining facilities throughout the Yukon.

We'll also be undertaking a territory-wide education campaign for recycling and waste diversion, which is absolutely necessary in moving forward and looking to develop a composting program and further work on the regional coordination of site delivery as well — very exciting.

I just want to commend the communities and their leadership, working in collaboration with all of the folks in the Department of Community Services in moving a lot of these initiatives forward, as outlined within the *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan*.

**Chair:** Is there any further debate on Vote 51? Are the members ready to move to line-by-line?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Barr:** Madam Chair, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 51, Department of Community Services, cleared or carried, as required.

**Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 51, Department of Community Services, cleared or carried**

**Chair:** Mr. Barr has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 51, Department of Community Services, cleared or carried, as required. Are you agreed?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

**Department of Community Services Total Expenditures in the amount of \$187,242,000 agreed to**

**Department of Community Services agreed to**

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

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

**Chair:** Order. Committee of the Whole will now come to order, continuing general debate on Vote 53, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

**Department of Energy, Mines and Resources — continued**

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** It's a pleasure to rise here again in debate on the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. What I'd like to begin with is a few questions that had been asked either earlier by members of the opposition or had been asked in the budget briefing, noting that I had been asked about the expected type 2 site expenditures for 2011-12 by the members.

Of course, that's the last fiscal year. There's Faro care and maintenance estimated expenditures of \$10 million, as some of these matters have to be closed off in finalization of the year-end contracts and are subject to review and payment by the federal government. Faro care and maintenance, \$10 million; project investigation, design and early remediation for Faro, \$24 million; environmental monitoring, \$1 million; project management, including consultation, communications and affected Yukon First Nations, \$3.5 million.

I recognize that these matters are pertaining to the last fiscal year, but they had been asked by the members and as this session draws to a close, we're running short of time to convey that in budgetary debate, and last year's budget has also concluded.

Madam Chair, other matters related to 2011-12 expenditures for type 2 mines — again, emphasizing the fact that these are subject to payment by Canada, so it's effectively flow-through federal dollars. Mount Nansen care and maintenance, \$2.5 million; project design and early remediation for Mount Nansen, \$3.9 million; environmental monitoring, \$110,000; project management, including consultation and communications and work with affected Yukon First Nations, \$1.5 million.

Madam Chair, you're indicating to me that my time in this segment is running out, so I will conclude my remarks.

**Mr. Tredger:** Welcome back to the Chamber to the official from Energy, Mines and Resources.

Since both the minister opposite and I have had ample opportunity to conclude our introductory remarks in a previous sitting, I will keep my questions to the point in hopes of giving the Energy, Mines and Resources budget and the staff who developed it the respect they deserve.

My first question was somewhat answered already. But in light of the recent statements by the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development — a number of my constituents phoned about the type 2 mine at BYG or at Mount Nansen. Could the minister tell us how much money Mount Nansen has cost to date — I believe since 1995 — and how

much is projected in the future and when the cleanup is projected to be completed?

Just give us a sense — and whether we are in talks with the federal government, so I can ensure my constituents how much money it is going to cost, and whether that has been allocated and whether there is a plan for the final reclamation.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** In answer to the member's question, as far as the expenditures on Mount Nansen and the amount of funding received from Canada for type 2 site remediation since 2003-04 — Mount Nansen, in the fiscal year 2003-04, the amount of funding received from Canada for that site is \$958,217; for 2004-05 for Mount Nansen, \$1,331,686; for 2005-06 for Mount Nansen, the amount of money we received from Canada was \$1,096,994; for the fiscal year 2006-07 for Mount Nansen, \$1,516,619; for fiscal year 2007-08, we received \$1.2 million, or precisely \$1,250,786.

I would like to also continue to answer requests the member or other members of the opposition made during the budgetary briefing by department officials — they had asked about the amounts being spent on Clinton Creek, as well, and again, in this case the question that was asked specifically was the expenditures for the 2011-12 fiscal year at Clinton Creek of \$150,000 spent on care and maintenance; \$2.4 million on project design; \$100,000 on environmental monitoring; and \$200,000 on project management and that includes consultation/communications and work with affected Yukon First Nations.

Madam Chair, for Clinton Creek, amounts we've received from the federal government for this project: for the fiscal year 2003-04, we received \$863,364; for fiscal year 2004-05 at Clinton Creek, we received from the federal government \$1,142,797; for fiscal year 2005-06 for Clinton Creek, we received from the federal government \$429,966; for fiscal year 2006-07 for Clinton Creek we received \$488,516 from the federal government for type 2 site remediation; and for fiscal year 2007-08 we received \$179,001.

Madam Chair, for United Keno Hill mine, we received from the federal government in type 2 site remediation money for fiscal year 2003-04, the amount of \$1,937,178. For fiscal year 2004-05, for United Keno Hill mine site we received from the federal government \$3,766,471. For fiscal year 2005-06, we received the amount of \$4,041,722 from the federal government. For fiscal year 2006-07, for the United Keno Hill mine site we received \$2,493,336 from the federal government. For fiscal year 2007-08, we received \$2,910,213 from the federal government for United Keno Hill.

Moving on to other projects, we have Faro — in 2003-04 we received from the federal government \$84,247. In fiscal year 2004-05, we received \$629,313. For fiscal year 2005-06 for Faro, we received \$908,118 from the federal government. For fiscal year 2006-07, we received \$1,218,262 from the federal government. And for the fiscal year of 2007-08, we received \$2,827,640 from the federal government for the Faro mine site.

Madam Chair, in giving these historical references this is in response to questions asked earlier by the members that don't pertain specifically to this fiscal year, but I think are re-

lated to, if I understand correctly, their desire to understand what has been spent on these sites and what is planned to be spent.

Continuing on with the Faro mine site, we spent in 2008-09, \$4,791,127. Again, that's money received from the federal government. We received from the federal government in 2009-10 for Faro, \$16,975,277. For fiscal year 2010-11, we received \$26,715,256. For fiscal year 2011-12, we received \$16,258,387. I believe I missed giving the totals for Mount Nansen, Clinton Creek and United Keno Hill for 2008-09, as well as 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 so I will go through that now.

Mount Nansen — we received from the federal government for type 2 site remediation in fiscal year 2008-09, \$2,206,922. We received from the federal government in fiscal year 2009-10, for Mount Nansen, \$2,752,281; and we received in fiscal year 2010-11, \$442,003 for Mount Nansen. In fiscal year 2011-12, from the federal government we received \$2,493,977 for Mount Nansen. For Clinton Creek, we received in fiscal year 2008-09, \$230,779; and in fiscal year 2009-10, for Clinton Creek, we received \$801,058; in fiscal 2010-11, for Clinton Creek, we received \$637,378 from the federal government; and in fiscal year 2011-12, for Clinton Creek, the amount we received was \$903,939; for United Keno Hill, we received in fiscal year 2008-09, \$274,055.

In fiscal year 2009-10, we received \$84,749 and for fiscal year 2010-11, we received zero dollars, as well as for fiscal year 2011-12, we received zero dollars.

With United Keno Hill mine site, the decline in federal remediation dollars down to zero for fiscal years 2010-11, and fiscal years 2011-12, is related to Alexco bringing that site back into production as we've debated here in the past. As I've mentioned a number of times, Alexco has a unique responsibility as both an operating mine and remediating historical workings left by United Keno Hill. That is a result of work that they are doing on that site and monitoring related to both development and the remediation responsibilities they are tasked with under that agreement.

They have identified environmental liabilities that were previously unknown related to United Keno Hill's workings. But again, pointing out that the environmental liabilities and the health and safety and environmental issues related to them were present in the environment. Before, they simply were not assessed. So, in fact, there have been some environmental and health and safety benefits as a result of actually having that additional monitoring testing and inspection occurring.

The total by mine site to date since 2003-04 was when the Yukon government, pursuant to the devolution transfer agreement, took over responsibility for care, maintenance and remediation at type 2 mine sites while the federal government retained and kept the financial responsibility for those sites: Mount Nansen, \$16,049,485; Clinton Creek, \$5,676,798; United Keno Hill, \$15,507,724; and for the Faro mine site, \$70,407,627.

Again as I've said in the past, what is important to emphasize for members and for those who may be reviewing *Hansard* or listening to the radio is that in fact the Faro mine site is the

largest environmental liability on the federal government's books — larger even than the Sydney tar ponds. It is the “poster child” for lack of a better term coming to mind for exactly why the Yukon has changed our mining regime in terms of putting in place much more active inspection and monitoring than occurred under the federal watch and that is through significantly increased resources than occurred under the federal watch. In fact, with our security policy and taking security both for workings, and in some cases — like at Yukon Zinc and Wolverine mine sites — we have taken security from the mine for the reclamation of a road into the site. Those are aimed at ensuring that cleanup does occur and that if something were to happen where the mine went bankrupt or had other interruptions, such as occurred in the case of Faro, that we would have security and money necessary to perform that work.

Another element of the security policy there that is really key to claiming up environmental issues or preventing environmental issues at the earliest possible opportunity is that under that policy when we take a bond and take security from a company, we in fact then are in a situation where if a company performs work on a section of workings and effectively achieves the necessary remediation, they can receive money back for that portion of the workings for which they posted security, and that has occurred in the case of Capstone and, previous to that, Sherwood at the Minto mine site. Really, again by having that flexible security policy, what that does is encourages mines — simply put, if a mine would not receive any security back for doing reclamation until after the mine ceased operations, there would be a tendency in some cases to leave that cost of doing remediation until the very end of the mine's life by providing them some money back for it. In fact, they can remove that environmental liability from their books.

They can address it and can receive a portion of their security back. It is all aimed at trying to have the most modern and sensible and effective regulations we can around ensuring that the Yukon responsibly monitors, manages and regulates mines that are in operation. Certainly, as we've debated in the past — sometimes productively, sometimes not productively in this Assembly — mining is a very important part of the Yukon economy. If one looks in a historical context in the past 100 some years since the Yukon became a territory, every time the Yukon economy has been doing well, the mining sector has been strong, and every time the mining sector has been very weak, the Yukon economy has not been doing well.

Members, again, forget sometimes in the debate that occurs these days where things were in 2002 and, in fact, that the matters we're debating today, such as a shortage of housing, were not an issue, because one of the biggest issues in the 2002 election was people who were concerned — with great and due cause of the fact that there was a real shortage of opportunities for tradespeople, for young workers, especially — those entering the workforce in early stages. Many were going down south.

As I have said before, really, in 2002, we were in a situation that we were exporting our young people rather than copper concentrates, as we are today. The increased activity in both the exportation and development areas of the mining sec-

tor really lead to a lot of spinoff benefits throughout the entire economy. In fact, many retail shops, restaurants and others that don't necessarily think of themselves as being dependent on mining receive a significant portion of the money walking through their doors — and are being paid for their products and services — coming from people who are either directly or indirectly employed by the mining sector.

That being said — and in contrast and contrary to some members of this Assembly have framed in their debate in the past — I am concerned and this government is concerned, and officials are very much concerned about ensuring that we have a very modern and effective regulatory structure that is aimed at ensuring that we never have another Faro-type environmental liability, or another Clinton Creek-type environmental liability, or United Keno Hill, or Mount Nansen — that these types of liabilities are never left to the taxpayers in the future.

We need to ensure that companies come in and, in exchange for any financial benefits they derive, they're also required to take the appropriate steps so as not to leave any liabilities with the Yukon taxpayers and the Yukon public.

Moving briefly to funding projections for the remediation funding from Canada for type 2 mine sites that is projected for the various type 2 mine sites outlined in the devolution transfer agreement — the projection for Mount Nansen is \$8,076,000 to be spent on that site. They are currently developing a remediation plan for the site working with Canada and Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation to select an option for remediation, and we hope to have a remediation approach decided on later this year — again, estimated spending — a little over \$8 million this year.

For Clinton Creek site, funding projections are for just under \$3 million, but that does include \$2.4 million in contingency.

For United Keno Hill mine, \$175,000 this year.

Madam Chair, you're indicating to me that my time has elapsed, so I will wrap up and look forward to further comments and questions.

**Mr. Tredger:** If my numbers were right then for BYG, we have currently spent about \$16 million, another \$8 million this year, which adds up to \$24 million. I didn't quite understand whether that concluded the cleanup — whether that would completely remediate it, or whether it would set in a plan that would add continual liability.

However, just around security — security is requested to ensure that a company complies with the regulations and fulfills its commitments to local residents to the Government of Yukon — in other words, that there is money to restore the environment to an acceptable condition. It's put in place to ensure that after the area's resources have been depleted, or are no longer viable to be extracted, there is money there to ensure that corrective or clean up measures can be taken. It is important that the amount be set high enough to ensure that it is cheaper for the company to comply, rather than walk away or declare bankruptcy or to change names. It is important, I say, that the amount be high enough that it is in the company's best interest to comply.

We don't want the government and Yukoners to have to assume responsibility, as we have in previous mine sites in the past, described so succinctly by the minister opposite. That liability could be a burden on Yukoners for many generations. It's no longer a Canada liability, but a Yukon liability.

The total amount of security taken at the Capstone mine pursuant to the *Waters Act* and the *Quartz Mining Act* is currently at \$15,200,000. Since that was set, there have been several altercations — there have been problems with the water licence; the dry tailings have started to slump toward the valley and nearby creek, raising the potential costs of treating the contaminated water dramatically.

Minto is about 10 times larger than BYG and is expanding. Capstone Mining so far has proven to be a good and reliable corporate citizen. They have worked closely with Energy, Mines and Resources, with the people at Selkirk First Nation, and with people in the area.

However, should, for any reason, Capstone not live up to its agreements — should there be a bankruptcy, a major drop in the price of copper, an environmental disaster, raising the costs — if transportation costs should rise to the extent that mining is no longer feasible — the Yukon government may have to work with them to reclaim the site.

Currently, it's costing between \$3 million and \$5 million per year to maintain and contain the tailings and treat the contaminated water. Should the government have to take over because of an unfortunate incident — and hopefully, it won't happen — and I'm sure the shareholders and the company at Capstone would agree with me there. But these things have to happen, and the government must ensure that Yukoners are protected. So, should they have to take over, we'd be spending \$5 million to maintain and contain the tailings and treat the water. Two years later, we have only \$5 million left to do the cleanup. It doesn't add up.

When I look at all the required security for all the mines and activity in the Yukon currently needed, it altogether adds up to \$37,779,000. That includes Alexco, Brewery Creek, Alexco Bellekeno, Carmacks Copper mine, Kaminak Gold Corporation, Ketz River Holdings, Kudz Ze Kayah, Minto, Sa Dena Hes, Selwyn, StrataGold Corporation, Yukon Zinc Corporation — together adding up to \$37 million. As I see, we have already spent about \$4 million on BYG.

My question for the minister and for the department is whether they would review how security is determined and consider increasing the amount of security, and keeping that security until the mine operation is fully closed and reclaimed.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** First of all, in answer to the member's question, I have to point out that I do not do the calculation of what security is necessary. Staff does that based on their assessment of what the appropriate amount would be to protect the public and government interest in the event that the mine went bankrupt or otherwise ceased operations and did not fulfill their obligations. I have confidence in the work that staff does, but I don't personally evaluate those costs or amounts. Those amounts in fact are reviewed whenever there are any significant changes to what is going on at a mine site and in fact that review occurs based on the work that is ongoing and

the estimated amount of security that staff believes is necessary to retain in the event that the mine ceases operation.

The other part of the member's question — whether we'd consider keeping all the money until afterwards — I just finished explaining to the member in my previous response why it's a good idea to give mines back a portion of their security if they reclaim a portion of their workings. The reason is that it encourages them not to leave that all to the end. It reduces the chance that, if the mine were to go bankrupt or otherwise cease operation, the government having to take responsibility for doing that work.

So in fact that reduces the risk to the public — without giving them a portion of that money back for that portion of the site would discourage them from spending money at an earlier date, because they would be given a financial disincentive rather than a financial incentive, which is what we currently do. So the matter in which security is reviewed is something that is looked at on an ongoing basis. It will always be looked at on the basis of what those with technical knowledge related to that believe is the appropriate calculation. I have confidence in them doing their job.

Without returning too much to some of the negative debate that has gone on here in the past, I think the NDP has had a tendency to characterize staff of certain departments as being diligent in fulfilling their responsibilities and those of certain other departments, including Energy, Mines and Resources, but also the Public Service Commission and Finance —

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

#### Point of order

**Chair:** Ms. Hanson, on a point of order.

**Ms. Hanson:** The minister opposite is mischaracterizing the statements by the NDP. The NDP have been clear that we're not talking about staff. We have said that repeatedly. We refer to ministerial accountability and responsibility. Any comments that he may construe as negative have to do with his stewardship of his responsibilities as minister. We're talking about ministerial responsibility, never about the staff.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** On the point of order, that's not a point of order and the member knows it.

#### Chair's ruling

**Chair:** There is no point of order. This is a dispute between members.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** What I would point out, in contrast to what the Leader of the NDP has attempted to claim on a number of occasions, when members of the New Democratic Party bring forward direct criticisms about whether jobs with which staff are legally tasked and for which they take on legal responsibility and obligations related to — when the members are saying that those tasks are not being performed, in keeping with those legal obligations, the members are accusing those staff of not fulfilling their legal obligation to the public and not upholding their responsibility and the public trust.

They can try to whitewash that one as much as they want, but the reality is that the members have stood up and made accusations that department responsibilities are legally tasked

to staff and to officers under the department who have not fulfilled their responsibility. They have again repeatedly stood in this House and not showed appropriate respect to staff of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Department of Finance and the Public Service Commission, to name a few. This government does not consider that an appropriate level of respect coming from the Official Opposition to those dedicated staff. We respect —

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

### Unparliamentary language

**Chair:** Ms. Hanson, on a point of order.

**Ms. Hanson:** On a point of order, the member opposite is continuing with his tirade — his comments about the opposition — and it has nothing to do with the matter at hand, which is the budget debate. You gave the floor to speak to general debate on the budget. Madam Chair, I did not raise a point of order on the use of the word “whitewash”. He cannot call one on this one.

**Chair:** Mr. Cathers, on the point of order.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Madam Chair, the member, in using a word that began with a “t” that has been ruled out of order recently is deliberately demonstrating lack of respect for the Speaker’s ruling. There is no point of order. The member does not like the point I am making in debate about how the NDP have acted in this House. They do not like being reminded of their record.

### Chair’s ruling

**Chair:** The word “tirade” and the word “whitewash” are out of order. I ask the members not to use that terminology. I ask you both to stick to the matter at hand, which is debate on Vote 53, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** In concluding, let me just say again that I have confidence, this government has confidence, that staff of every department who are tasked with serious responsibilities and who take on legal obligations to the public respect their duty, respect the public trust which is placed upon them and fulfill that obligation.

Madam Chair, what I would also like to point out as this session wraps up — I’d like to particularly thank the Liberal members and the Liberal House Leader for the manner with which they have conducted themselves during this Assembly. I’d like to thank the Member for Klondike for the manner in which he has engaged constructively during House Leaders’ meetings and following the long-standing practice of actually identifying business of the caucus at that morning meeting, rather than doing, as the NDP has done every day this week — bringing up matters of business that they did not place on the agenda, playing games around tributes, including calling tributes they didn’t say they would, and giving tributes on behalf of the House they never identified, and politicizing tributes. So without dwelling on that too much, I want to commend the Member for Klondike for the constructive nature with which he has conducted himself during this sitting.

Again what I would note is that the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has a lot of regulatory responsibilities.

Staff do, contrary to assertions that repeatedly come forward from members who wear orange coats, take the responsibility quite seriously.

In talking about the budget, since we were not hearing much of that from the members, I’d like to note that the overall budget for the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources for 2012-13 is \$87.9 million, with most of it being allocated to operation and maintenance — \$86.5 million — and \$1.4 million being allocated for capital.

The total operation and maintenance appropriations are estimated at \$86.5 million, which represents a \$25.6 million increase from the previous year’s estimate. The primary contributor to this 42-percent increase in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources operation and maintenance budget is attributed to the Oil and Gas and Mineral Resources division, which is budgeted for an increase of approximately \$25 million from the previous year to a total estimate of \$64.3 million this year. As I’ve noted before, that is due to the increases under the Assessment and Abandoned Mines branch, as the cost estimates for remediation and care and maintenance of the Faro mine rise with increased project understanding and definition and due to increased amounts at Mount Nansen type 2 site.

What I again have to note is that both myself as minister responsible and staff of Energy, Mines and Resources really are the ones that are reviewing and seeing the legacy left by the federal government’s failure to adequately and appropriately manage the Yukon’s mines from a previous era. The focus that we place as a regulator is on ensuring that we do the very best possible to ensure that we have a modern and effective regulatory structure, including a modern and effective structure around the security policy.

Again, as I noted to the member, the member’s request that the government not return any money taken for security until the very end of the operations of that mine would be very bad public policy, because by returning whatever portion of security is allocated to a section of workings that becomes fully reclaimed and inspected and is deemed reclaimed — by giving a portion of security back to the company related to that area, it is an incentive for them to do the work now at the earliest opportunity once they have completed that work, rather than the other way as proposed by the NDP, which would be very bad environmental policy because it would leave the environmental liability for a later date by the very nature of companies not wanting to undertake expenditures at an earlier date than necessary.

It would create further risk that any contamination related to that section or workings or potential cause of contamination could spread. In the issues of matters, such as the Faro situation, I would point out that in case members are not aware, which they may not be, that it’s really the result of the oxidation of that ore — the combination of the ore, air and water that resulted in the creation of acid rock drainage, and had those tailings been reclaimed and secured immediately following their workings, that acid rock drainage would never have happened. So the major cause of liability and environmental risk at the Faro mine site would not have existed if that had been reclaimed at an earlier date. So that is why we very firmly must

disagree with the NDP's proposal that we not encourage remediation at the earliest possible date through a flexible and effective security policy, including returning a portion of it if they complete remediation work and secure any section of tailings or workings that is applicable.

Again, the policy proposed by the NDP would be very bad environmental policy. In the case of a mine with similar issues such as Faro, it would, in fact, create an environmental liability that would not have needed to occur if that had been reclaimed, secured and sealed at the earliest possible date.

Moving on to other matters within this year's budget — amounts to be appropriated under capital: total capital appropriations are estimated at \$1.4 million, which is a 26-percent increase from the previous year's estimate. This is primarily attributed to a \$300,000 increase in the capital estimate for sustainable resources to \$1.1 million. This 38-percent increase stems from the joint First Nation/Yukon land management project. Capital estimates for this project or toward the sawmill road residential land development project include road and infrastructure development work. This project is a joint initiative between the Teslin Tlingit Council and the Yukon government to make land available to Yukoners on both settlement and non-settlement land. These lots were originally intended to be 30-year leases, renewable for a second 30-year term, which can be transferred on a private market.

However, as I have noted earlier, my colleague, the Member for Pelly Nisutlin, has received a number of requests from his constituents to move toward a fee simple land structure where, simply put, selling title to the lots is commonly the case with most Yukon government land. We're looking forward to hearing more from both the Village of Teslin and the Teslin Tlingit Council prior to determining whether that change will be made, but we appreciate the request from the citizens. We appreciate their perspective and I want to thank the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin for his diligent work in representing his constituents.

Madam Chair, the amounts to be outlined within this year's budget's financial summary — the amounts to be appropriated — Corporate Services is budgeted for \$3.3 million, which is approximately a \$131,000 increase from last year, representing roughly four percent. This increase primarily originates from slight increases in operation and maintenance in all three branches/offices — the deputy minister's office, human resources and finance and administration — mainly due to collective and management increases. The largest part of the Corporate Services branch is assigned to Finance and Administration, which is the largest branch within Corporate Services.

The Sustainable Resources division has a budget of \$8.8 million, which is an increase of \$33,000, or roughly 0.4 percent from last year. This division includes the assistant deputy minister's office, Land Planning branch, Agriculture branch, Land Management branch, and Forest Management branch, with the majority of that going to the Land Management and Forest Management branches.

The Energy, Corporate Policy and Communications branch has a budget of \$3.9 million, which is a \$134,000 increase from last year. Madam Chair, Corporate Policy and Planning and the

Energy Solutions Centre have the greatest budget allocations in the division at \$1.5 million and \$1.2 million respectively.

The Oil and Gas and Mineral Resources branch of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is budgeted for an increase of approximately \$25 million from the previous year to a total estimate of \$64.3 million.

As I noted before, that is due to the significant increases under the Assessment and Abandoned Mines branch — an increase of \$25 million to a total of \$50.8 million is allocated to cover significant increases to work requirements and estimated costs for the management of abandoned mines in the new fiscal year.

This doubling of the operation and maintenance estimate mostly falls under the contracting and financial category and, again, the bulk of the work is planned for the abandoned Faro mine. Of the total \$50,800,000 required, over 98 percent of that is federally funded, or \$49.9 million. The Assessment and Abandoned Mines branch, as I noted, has the largest budget allocation within this division, followed by Yukon Geological Survey at \$5.5 million, Mineral Resources branch at \$4.4 million, Oil and Gas at \$3 million and the assistant deputy minister's office at \$685,000.

Another area that I'd like to highlight when I refer to the increase in inspection and monitoring is that on top of the increase that we allocated to Client Services and Inspections branch last year, we have Client Services and Inspections set to increase again to \$6.3 million. This category represents two branches — the Client Services and Inspections branch, which has the lion's share of the budget at \$6 million and the Placer Secretariat at \$340,000. The Client Services and Inspections branch employs 50.3 FTEs.

**Mr. Tredger:** I guess I'm somewhat taken aback. I wasn't talking about staff. I wasn't even implying that what was being done was wrong. I simply asked a question so I could reassure constituents in my area and Yukoners that the security being taken was ample. I asked the minister opposite to consider increasing the amount, to evaluate how it's being done, how it's being arrived at and to determine whether or not that needed any more work. It's a legitimate question that people in my constituency and in the Yukon have.

I think it's essential, and I think miners would want to know that that type of answer is important to the people of Yukon. If we're going to work together, if this isn't going to be an either/or proposition — and I don't believe it has to be. I believe that Yukoners can work together — that because I want to be able to enjoy the environment, because I feel I'm a responsible steward of the environment, doesn't mean that my daughter can't mine the lands. It can be done together and in a responsible way. The minister opposite makes it difficult.

As a principal, I often dealt with students whose way to solve a problem or to win a debate was to use put-downs or name-calling. Most people grow out of it by about grade 6; the minister opposite has some growing to do.

One of the concerns that seems to be happening because we don't have land use planning is the amount of staking that is taking place.

Currently, there are over 200,000 active claims in the Yukon. That is about 12 percent of the territory. The intensity of activity and the cumulative effects are becoming of concern. The size of the claims and the claim blocks are growing. Much of this is happening not in residential areas, although some is. Much of this is happening in my area of Mayo-Tatchun. I have previously referred to some of the conflicts that are arising from that. Again, residents of Mayo-Tatchun, because they want to work with the mining industry, are not anti-mining. They are not anti-industrialization.

We are looking for a way that we can co-exist — where neighbours can go to work in the morning without having to fear being called names or being put down and where I can invest in a mining company where children we teach can work in a mining company.

There are reasonable solutions. When we don't have land use planning, it creates a problem. Often, we refer to YESAA as something that is going to help us. While it may come as a surprise to those who have had to get a permit to put in a power pole, it's not a surprise to the residents of Mayo-Tatchun, who have seen their private lands staked, who've gone to their fish camp or hunting camp and found that staking has occurred. It's not a surprise to the First Nations, who have had staking occur on category B land. It's not a surprise to the people from the Whitehorse ski club, who one day found their land staked. It's not a surprise to the people in Dawson on the Dome Road who one day showed up and their land was staked.

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

**Mr. Tredger:** Pardon me?

**Chair:** Order.

**Mr. Tredger:** Thank you.

One of the concerns is that staking is allowed and no permitting is necessary. There is no prior reporting necessary. Once the land is staked, the claimant has a period of time before they need to make a report. This worked in the past, when claims were a small size, when people who staked came from the area, when they talked to the people in the area. Today, we have people booking blocks of 20,000 claims. We have full-time professional crews flown in from the south who are staking the Stewart River valley, who are staking the White Gold area, who are staking the Casino area. As I said, 12 percent of our lands have been staked. Now, what surprise was I talking about?

We will recall that I mentioned that this can happen without a permit and prior to reporting. Once a claim has been staked without a permit, prior to reporting, the following can happen: structures without a foundation intended for use for a period of not more than 12 consecutive months can be built; number of person-days per camp not exceeding 250; number of persons in a camp at one time not exceeding 10; storage of fuel and total amounts stored not exceeding 5,000 litres; storage of fuel for containers not exceeding 2,000 litres; construction of lines not exceeding 1.5 metres in width and cut by hand or with hand-held tools; construction of corridors not exceeding five metres in width; construction of corridors not exceeding .5 kilometres in total length; trenching not exceeding 1,200 square metres in a group of three or more adjoining claims; 400 square

metres per claim that is not part of the group; number of clearings per claim, including existing clearings, not exceeding eight; number of clearings, helicopter pads and camps — no more than two of the eight clearings in referenced in item 10; clearings' removal of vegetative mat — no removal of vegetative mat within 30 metres of a water body.

Surface areas of clearing not exceeding 200 square metres, except for clearings for helicopter pads and camps, which cannot exceed 500 square metres; off-road vehicles in summer must have low ground pressure, vehicles only; off-road vehicles in winter, low ground pressure vehicles or vehicles with a gross vehicle weight not exceeding 40 tonnes used over a distance of not more than 15 kilometres; uses of explosives not exceeding 1,000 kilograms in any 30-day period; construction of underground structures — tunnels — in which not more than 500 tonnes of rock is moved to the surface.

That can be multiplied by the number of claims in a block, except in the case of camps. The intensity and cumulative effects have risen dramatically. We currently have over 200,000 claims.

I don't have a calculator and I can't do the math on that, but for anybody whose home is in the country, for anybody whose residence is in the area that has been staked, for anyone who lives nearby, for the First Nation whose category B land has been staked, for people who have hunting and fishing and want to use the land — this is a concern.

We are not opposed to mining, but we need to sit down and look at the regulations and how it is being done so that we can do it hand in hand, so that our children can enjoy what we have come to enjoy, so that our lifestyles can be maintained, and so that we continue to drive cars and use metals and minerals. If we don't do this in a responsible manner and if we don't do this in a manner with integrity that respects the land, there will be a backlash.

Mining companies know this and they spend a lot of time and energy working with local residents. They have departments that will work with the people and figure out ways to do it. What the Yukon people are looking for is for the government to set up regulations that protect those mining companies that mine with integrity — the Victoria Golds, the Predators, and the other mining companies that are out there and working hard to do a good job, and working hard to work with the people of the Yukon. Those are the people we need regulations for because they are following them already, and they are respectful of the land. So we have over 200,000 claims.

I would like to ask the minister opposite how many reports have been submitted on these staking claims. Who reads them? What percentage are not reported or inspected? How does the government make a determination about which one of those claims to inspect, and which ones not to? Is there any consideration being made or provision to inform residents and people who live in the area who is accessing their land? Who is giving permission to people who come on private land? Who is letting their neighbours know? Who's letting the landowners know? Who's letting the First Nations know?

All of us know what it's like or have heard what it's like or can imagine what it's like to have their home broken into. At



the same token, what would it be like to come home one day and find that people have staked your land and they have the right to drive on to your land? They have the right to use explosives on your land. They have the right to trench, to dig. If they're cooperative — and that's an "if" — and most companies that I personally have dealt with have been very cooperative and very willing, but the onus is on them to be cooperative. They might say, "Well, we'll do our exploration when you're not there," or "We will take into consideration," or "We will let you know when this is going to happen."

How does the department account for the need for increased oversight of land and reporting to determine which sites to visit? Has the minister considered working with municipalities to restrict free-entry staking within the municipal boundaries? Will the minister look at prohibiting free-entry mining within residential areas and on private lands? Has the minister talked to the First Nations about category B lands and the staking there? Will the minister consider introducing a requirement for security on staked areas if someone is allowed to use explosives, to trench, to build a camp? What provisions are there for security? The intensity and scope of the activity is increasing all the while.

We move on to YESAA. We look to YESAA because it is one of the most forward-thinking pieces of legislation in the country. It was designed to help people live and work together. In order to be effective, it must be transparent and reliable. The size and the scope and the number of projects being considered is growing all the time. New project proposals are coming in at the rate of one per working day. To support and facilitate YESAB, it is important that they have reliable and accurate data. It is important that the federal and territorial departments of environment work to ensure that YESAB has the information necessary to make informed decisions so that they can respond to the proponents in a timely manner.

The residents of Yukon need to know that their voices are being heard; the First Nations need to know that they have an opportunity to be heard. The capacity of both is being stretched. We have a challenge as a society. We must work together to do it. The size and number of projects coming on-stream, as mentioned often, is huge. The mine at Minto is 10 times larger than the mine at BYG and growing. The mine projected at Casino is massive. We need the funding, the base land data, and the resources to ensure proper evaluation of oncoming projects.

I urge this government and hope they will consider this in a positive light. I look opposite at the members. They have hopes and dreams and they love the Yukon, just like the people on this side. We have a challenge in front of us, but we can do it and we can work together. We have a very creative and robust civil service, and I am proud of them. I do get upset when I am told something to the contrary. Name-calling and put-downs will not help us succeed; we need to find a way to work together.

I see that my time is up.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I want to thank the Member for Klondike and his colleague, the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin, for the manner in which they have engaged in debate and in

Question Period, in this sitting of the Assembly. The Member for Klondike and Member for Vuntut Gwitchin have lived up to what they said they would do in an attempt to raise the bar of debate.

I give them credit for the fact that with very few exceptions, they have kept their comments confined to constructive criticism and debate on matters of policy and have not engaged in personal attacks.

I cannot say the same for the members of the NDP, including the last comments by the Member for Mayo-Tatchun, which I will not bother to comment on further, other than noting that it's rather ironic for someone to suggest others are engaging in name-calling and then spend a significant amount of time doing the same himself. I would also point out that the NDP members in this session have demonstrated a pattern that they do not debate the policy; they are very quick to rush to conclusions and very quick to make accusations of the government and of ministers and of members of the government and of departments that have no basis in fact. At best, they are rushing to the worst possible conclusions about the intent of others and at worst, they are engaging in a type of debate that — I can't think of any terminology for it that doesn't contravene the Standing Orders.

As this session draws to a close, I would point out specifically some of the comments the Member for Mayo-Tatchun made — some of the assertions he has made related to areas on the Dome Road and ski trails. In fact, some of those are claims and even Crown grants, in the case of the ski club, that pre-date residential development and ski trails by quite some time. If the member was actually listening to debate earlier and reading the Blues, he would recognize that I have noted we are currently working with the City of Whitehorse on a staking withdrawal within the City of Whitehorse.

We have also had very preliminary conversations with the municipality of Dawson City about the possibility of doing an additional staking withdrawal from quartz within that area. Placer claims cannot currently be staked within any municipality; quartz claims can, but there are areas including within the City of Dawson where withdrawals exist and they cannot be done. Again, I've had preliminary conversations with the mayor and, as noted by the Member for Klondike and asked by the Member for Klondike in a question about whether we would consider doing that with Dawson — certainly, we are very much prepared to have that conversation with the municipality about what steps we might take together in better reducing the possibility for future land use conflicts. It really has to be recognized that with pre-existing claims, whether they be quartz or placer, the owners of those claims also have rights and when those rights come into conflict with residential rights, there are processes in place to manage those rights.

As I've noted, what we would look to do is try to come up with ways to reduce the possibility for future conflict.

As we near 5:00 p.m. on the last day, I would like to note that the thresholds the member referred to under YESAA apply to wilderness tourism just as much as they do to mining, and those same opportunities apply to each. They are set up in federal legislation, and that federal legislation was quite some time

in development. In conclusion, as we near 5:00 p.m., I would like to thank my government colleagues and thank, again, the Member for Klondike and Member for Vuntut Gwitchin for living up to their commitments to try to raise the bar of debate, to work constructively — we've passed a number of motions unanimously — and for the cooperation that has occurred.

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

**Chair:** Order please.

The time has reached 5:00 p.m. on this, the 32<sup>nd</sup> day of the 2012 spring sitting. Standing Order 76(1) states: "On the sitting day that the Assembly has reached the maximum number of sitting days allocated for that Sitting pursuant to Standing Order 75, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole, if the Assembly is in Committee of the Whole at the time, shall interrupt proceedings at 5:00 p.m. and, with respect to each Government Bill before Committee that the Government House Leader directs to be called, shall:

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

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

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

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

It is the duty of the Chair to now conduct the business of Committee of the Whole in the manner directed by Standing Order 76(1).

The Chair would now ask the Government House Leader to indicate the government bills now before Committee of the Whole, which should be called.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** The government directs that Bill No. 6, the only government bill remaining on the Order Paper, be called at this time.

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

**Chair:** The Committee will now deal with Bill No. 6, *First Appropriation Act, 2012-13*. The Chair will now recognize Mr. Pasloski as the sponsor of Bill No. 6 for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I move that all clauses, schedules and the title of Bill No. 6, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, be deemed to be read and carried.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Pasloski that all clauses, schedules and the title of Bill No. 6, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

*On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures  
Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$925,144,000 agreed to  
On Capital Expenditures*

#### *Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$231,619,000 agreed to*

*Clause 1 and 2 agreed to*

*Schedules A and B agreed to*

*Title agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** Madam Chair, I move that you report Bill No. 6, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, without amendment.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Pasloski that Bill No. 6, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, be reported without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

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

*Speaker resumes the Chair*

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

**Speaker:** I will now call the House to order. May the House have a report from the Chair of Committee of the Whole?

#### Chair's report

**Ms. McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 6, *First Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, and directed me to report it without amendment.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

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

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

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

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

I shall, therefore, ask the Government House Leader to indicate whether Bill No. 6, the only government bill now standing at third reading, shall be called.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Mr. Speaker, the government directs that Bill No. 6 be called for third reading at this time.

#### GOVERNMENT BILLS

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I move that Bill No. 6, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, be now read a third time and do pass.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Premier that Bill No. 6, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2012-13*, be now read a third time and do pass. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall put the question. Are you agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Division.

### Division

**Speaker:** Division has been called.

### Bells

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

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Agree.

**Ms. McLeod:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Dixon:** Agree.

**Mr. Hassard:** Agree.

**Ms. Hanson:** Disagree.

**Mr. Tredger:** Disagree.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Disagree.

**Ms. White:** Disagree.

**Ms. Stick:** Disagree.

**Mr. Barr:** Disagree.

**Mr. Elias:** Disagree.

**Mr. Silver:** Disagree.

**Clerk:** The results are 10 yea, 8 nay.

*Motion for third reading of Bill No. 6 agreed to*

**Speaker:** I declare the motion carried and that Bill No. 6 has passed this House.

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

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

### ASSENT TO BILLS

**Commissioner:** Please be seated.

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

**Clerk:** *First Appropriation Act, 2012-13.*

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

Before I leave you today, I want to say a couple of brief words. First of all, as you see today, I have both my aides-de-camp here, Staff Sergeant Major Al Hubley and Captain Mark Patterson. I mention them because these are two gentlemen who volunteer to work for the Commissioner in this role and at our beck and call and never, ever refuse. They always come to

serve the Commissioner in the role that they play. In particular, at this time, Captain Mark Patterson to my right is going to be leaving the military and so this will be his last opportunity to be in the House serving the Yukon people as an aide-de-camp to the Commissioner of Yukon. So I would like you all to give them a hand for their service.

*Applause*

**Commissioner:** Last but not least, this is the last day of the session. I know that it was one that I always cherished or relished, more so when I was in government than when I was in opposition. It is a day when you have a chance to sit down and evaluate what you have done, what you have accomplished and what you have learned.

I am hoping all of you will go away from this session with some good ideas and thoughts of what happened, and a good feeling of accomplishment about what you have done.

Have a very safe and healthy summer, and hopefully, we are going to have a warm one this year. I hope you can all enjoy your summer break.

*Commissioner leaves the Chamber*

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

As the House has reached the maximum number of days permitted for the spring sitting, as established pursuant to Standing Order 75, and has completed consideration of the designated legislation, it is the duty of the Chair to declare that this House now stands adjourned.

*The House adjourned at 5:12 p.m.*

### The following Sessional Paper was tabled May 10, 2012:

33-1-44

Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues Annual Report (April 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012)

(Taylor)