

Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Thursday, April 11, 2013 — 1:00 p.m.

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

Prayers

DAILY ROUTINE

Speaker: We will now proceed with the Order Paper. Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of Yukon College

Hon. Mr. Graham: I would like to take the opportunity to thank my friend and colleague, the Minister of Education, for allowing me to give this tribute on Yukon College's 50th anniversary. I appreciate it. One of the reasons that he allowed me to do this tribute was because I was an employee at the college, on an on-and-off basis, for some 29 years, and I enjoyed each and every one of those years. I'm not so sure all members of the college community, while I was there, enjoyed it quite as much as I did. However, it was an enjoyable time.

I should also tell you that I was also the Minister of Education 34 years ago, when where the current college's location was set aside — the land was set aside. Subsequent governments didn't follow through on setting aside all of the land that I wanted to see at the time, so consequently it's not quite as good as it should have been, but the concept is wonderful.

Fifty years of Yukon College in the Yukon is truly something we all should be proud of. Fifty years ago programs were offered in office administration, building trades, automotive mechanics, heavy equipment operation, drafting, food services, practical nursing and hairdressing. Many of these programs are still offered today.

In addition, the college now provides more than 50 academic, career and technical programs, as well as continuing education programs and contract training. It has graduated from offering a small number of programs to offering bachelor's degrees and even master's programs.

Diplomas and certificates have been offered there for a large number of years, as well as university transfer courses that are accepted and welcomed at colleges within the B.C. and Alberta systems and beyond. We've had students graduate from the college with a single-year certificate or a two-year diploma, and they have been accepted almost universally in colleges in eastern Canada too. It was one of my great pleasures to negotiate those agreements over the years with various universities in eastern Canada.

Yukon College has grown remarkably in the past half a decade to include being in demand by prestigious national and international partners and clients. These include the University of Alberta, in its Environmental and Conservation Sciences degree delivery; the Danish Technical University in Greenland for a northern innovation project, Artec; and attracting graduate students from across the country and around the world to study

climate change impacts, such as Larisa Ivanova with Russia's ministry of transportation who only last month contracted with the Yukon Research Centre to deliver a six-day highways permafrost course.

The college now boasts the Yukon Research Centre, which is accredited by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, or NSERC; the Northern Institute of Social Justice, which just contracted with my department, Health and Social Services, as well as Justice, to provide First Nation training for employees in our departments, and this has proven to be a very successful program as well. Soon, the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining will be available as well.

I encourage each and every one of you to attend Yukon College's 50th anniversary party and alumni reunion on November 29 in the Kinnikinnick Kaff, and you should come whether you've attended Yukon College or not. Everyone will be welcome to acknowledge the value of this educational institution to the Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, if I may introduce a couple of people who are here today. I would like to, first of all, introduce Ken McKinnon, a former member of this Legislature and the only member of a former Yukon College Board who sat in the Legislature at the time the Yukon Vocational and Technical Training Centre was established in 1963. So welcome, Ken.

We also have Clarence Timmons, who is a former chair of the Board of Governors. We have Mike Burke here, a board member; Karen Barnes who is the president; Chris Hawkins, VP research and interim VP of academic programs; Clint Sawicki, director of research services in the Yukon Research Centre; Jacqueline Bedard, director of college relations; Dave McHardy is the dean of extension services and acting dean of applied science and management; Gayle Corry, who is the director of finance and admin Jennifer Moorlag, who has taken over my position — and I hear very ably — as registrar at Yukon College; Colleen Wirth, a former boss of mine and advisor in my current position; Kyla Piper, the EA to the president; Brian Bonia, director of human resources; Rob Sutherland, I know, is here taking pictures; and Elaine Austin, wife of my campaign manager — so we have all kinds of family connections here today. Welcome, all of you. Would everyone here please give a big hand to the assembled people.

Applause

Ms. Moorcroft: It is my pleasure to rise on behalf of the Official Opposition, the Third Party and the Independent Member for Vuntut Gwitchin to also pay tribute to Yukon College on the occasion of celebrating its 50th anniversary.

I'd also like to recognize Norma Shorty, who works up at the college, as well as the guests that the Minister of Health and Social Services and former Minister of Education introduced.

Now, the Minister of Health and Social Services hearkened back to the past, when he was the previous Minister of Education, and referred to the issue of land endowment. Of course, he and his colleagues do have the opportunity to increase land endowment for Yukon College in their current deliberations.

Yukon College was born out of the Yukon Vocational and Technical Training Centre, which had provided vocational op-

portunities to Yukoners since the 1960s. The *Yukon College Act* of 1988 made the college an independent, publicly funded institution. The objective of Yukon College, as laid out in the *Yukon College Act*, is to provide educational programs, services and activities to meet the needs of people in the Yukon. Also in 1988, in June, the college moved its Whitehorse campus to the current location at Yukon Place in the Takhini subdivision. Back then, as a college library tech, I had the distinct pleasure of being part of employee participation in the design of the new college facility, including advocating on behalf of employees and students for the inclusion of what remains a popular on-site childcare centre — and I think that that's a model other employers and institutions should emulate — and, of course, to advocate for more space for the library. And how could I forget packing, moving and unpacking hundreds of boxes of books from the old building to the new library at the campus with its modern buildings. Yukon College is truly a lifelong learning centre with programs from early childhood development and the childcare centre itself, through to programs for seniors.

The official opening of the new Ayamdigut Campus at Yukon Place was a moving ceremony. The late elder Angela Sidney gave the site its Tlingit name "Ayamdigut" which means "She got up and went" at a potlatch held in October 1988. At the Ayamdigut Campus official opening, the college was given to the people of the Yukon. First Nations people of the territory were represented by Angela Sidney and George Dawson.

Sidney began by describing how her father's people once built a killer whale house on the banks of a river, but had to move the house because it was close to high water. Observing the similarity between the killer whale house and the new campus buildings, Sidney named the new campus "Ayamdigut", and it was also appropriate because the move was from the building by the river to the new building up on top of the hill.

At Yukon College participation of First Nations continues to grow. There is a director of First Nations initiatives and more than two out of five Yukon College graduates are First Nation citizens. Across the country the face of post-secondary learning has shifted toward older learners, women and part-time students. In the Yukon, the youth population aged 15 to 24 is expected to decline over the next five to 10 years. The average age of Yukon College students is now over 30.

At its 13 community campuses, including one in Whitehorse Correctional Centre, Yukon College delivers academic, trades, mining, continuing education, undergraduate and graduate programs. Many programs are done in affiliation with other post-secondary institutions outside the Yukon, and that has really improved the ability of residents of the Yukon to be able to pursue their dreams of lifelong learning.

At Yukon College, up to two out of five graduates of university transfer and professional programs have gone through academic upgrading. Yukon College is also home to the Yukon Research Centre, the Cold Climate Innovation Centre and the Northern Institute of Social Justice. I want to praise the fact that the Research Centre has been able to attract funding from the prestigious Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, known as NSERC.

The diversity of its students, faculty and staff is the real strength of Yukon College. I look forward to participating in many more college events: graduations — which are always a favourite — strategic planning, public lectures, films, seminars and conferences. Congratulations and sincere best wishes to everyone at Yukon College and the communities you serve this year and into the future.

Speaker: Introduction of visitors.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: With your indulgence, it certainly gives me great pleasure to introduce two grade 11 classes from F.H. Collins Secondary School who, during their social studies curriculum have just recently completed a unit on politics and on government. Accompanying them today are their teachers, Ms. Clare McDowell and someone I have known for long time, one of my daughters, Erin Pasloski, and I would invite all the members to welcome them. I think it's great to see students who are nearing voting age to be engaged in talking about politics and about governance and the important role that they have as young citizens. I think, if time permits — I know they have classes to go to — and they are still around by the time Question Period is over, there would be an opportunity for all members of the Assembly to perhaps meet with them in the members' lounge afterward.

Thank you for coming, and let's welcome them.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motion?

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

THAT this House urges the Department of Education to develop a policy framework that would enable foreign students to attend, and graduate from, Yukon public schools.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to reinstate the Solid Waste Advisory Committee to ensure the voice of the public is heard in the implementation of the *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan*.

Speaker: Is there a statement by a minister?

This brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Foreign worker program

Ms. Moorcroft: The use of temporary foreign workers is a national issue. On Tuesday, HD Mining International

was in a Vancouver courtroom, defending its decision to hire 201 workers from China for its coal mine in Tumbler Ridge, B.C. The media spotlight has also been on the nation's most profitable bank and its use of temporary foreign workers for information technology work, while its employees were "pink-slipped". Even the federal government, which has presided over a massive increase and fast-tracking of temporary foreign workers, now admits perhaps the system is doing something other than just meeting short-term needs, which was the intent of the program. As of last year, 1,370 temporary foreign workers had come and worked in the Yukon. What confidence does this government have that the use of those 1,370 workers was above-board and complied with the program's intent?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member opposite for the question. As members know, the Yukon does not have its own temporary foreign workers program. There has been a delay in implementing our program, and that was done at the request of Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

We are waiting for CIC to provide Yukon feedback on moving forward with delivering our temporary foreign worker program, but, as mentioned by the member opposite, the federal government does operate the temporary foreign worker program. After the incident that occurred in northern British Columbia, and at a meeting I had with Minister Kenney in Ottawa in February, I reiterated that, should similar applications come forward, he certainly should notify us in advance so that we would be able to react to any significant request for temporary foreign workers to come in to the territory.

Ms. Moorcroft: After all the recent bad press, the federal government is reviewing the temporary foreign worker program. The Yukon has negotiated an annex on temporary foreign workers that has sat, unsigned, on the federal minister's desk for a few years now — as the Minister of Education just said — at the request of Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

The other day the minister announced he is moving ahead prior to the completion of the review in order to fast-track temporary foreign workers in the tourism hospitality and resource exploration and mining sectors.

How many jobs in mining and tourism does the minister expect will go to temporary foreign workers this summer?

Hon. Mr. Kent: I'm not sure of the numbers of foreign workers that will apply. Those were the two industries that identified the need when this annex was first being negotiated — again, the mining and exploration industry and the tourism hospitality industry. One of the aspects of our temporary foreign workers annex that's important for Yukoners to know about is that there is a maximum of 50 employees per business. There is not going to be a huge influx, like we saw in northern British Columbia, once our annex is in place. We're not looking to fast-track it. I believe this program has been in the development stage for a couple of years now, as the member opposite referenced in her first question. We're looking forward to being able to bring in a program that works for the Yukon and addresses the labour market needs of our private sector.

Ms. Moorcroft: Labour and many economists have said that what we need is a broader debate about the temporary foreign worker program and whether it's really addressing la-

bour shortages or whether it is undermining job opportunities and wages in Canada.

Youth, aboriginal people, rural Yukoners, persons with disabilities — these are high unemployment within our territory and these problems need to be addressed with training, with employment equity, with a job strategy, and not just by permitting private industry to bring in cheap labour from overseas.

What assurances can the minister provide that applications to fill mining and tourism jobs with temporary foreign workers are not addressing long-term structural labour gaps that are more appropriately addressed by local training and education?

Hon. Mr. Kent: The last part of the member opposite's question allows me to speak — especially with our friends from Yukon College here today — about a number of the training initiatives that are underway. Of course, the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining is a centrepiece of what we want to do to provide opportunities for Yukoners to work in our mines here in the territory. There is tourism hospitality training that is offered at the college and LPN training as well.

The college is doing a great job in delivering training. We have very robust apprenticeship numbers for the territory and we look forward to continuing to provide Yukoners with opportunities for jobs here in the territory and indeed provide Canadians with those Canadian opportunities that exist here in the territory.

Again, we're looking to fill those labour market needs primarily, first and foremost, with Yukoners, but again, with the numbers and the projections that we spoke about here on the floor of the House last Wednesday, I believe, during private members' day, it's going to take a suite of solutions to address the labour market needs of the territory on a go-forward basis.

Question re: Yukon Liquor Corporation social responsibility

Mr. Barr: There has been a reorganization within the Yukon Liquor Corporation in the last two years. It has been brought to my attention that, before, there was a full-time position dedicated to the social responsibility function within the Yukon Liquor Corporation, but apparently that is no longer the case.

We are aware of the variety of initiatives the government supports with various partners, including MADD, the RCMP and schools. I acknowledge with deep respect their extremely important work. My question today does not request to hear those initiatives listed but rather to learn about the training and resources dedicated to the social responsibility function within the department.

Can the minister responsible explain what happened to the full-time position within the Liquor Corporation that was previously dedicated to the social responsibility function?

Hon. Mr. Kent: As all members know, when it comes to personnel issues, that isn't the responsibility of the minister; it's the responsibility of the president of the Liquor Corporation, and perhaps even the vice-president of the Liquor Corporation. As the member opposite mentioned, we have a strong commitment at the Liquor Corporation to social responsibility through our support of Mothers Against Drunk Driving and Be a Responsible Server.

There are a number of initiatives that we've undertaken at the Liquor Corporation over the past while to address that, but specific questions about personnel are certainly not something that I have any involvement in as the minister, but I'd be happy to ask the Liquor Corporation about their restructuring and get back to the member opposite at a future date.

Mr. Barr: As long ago as 2002, the cost of alcohol-related harm in Canada totalled \$14.6 billion. That is a whole lot of suffering. Health Canada, the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse and the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission jointly created an expert working group to develop recommendations for a national alcohol strategy. Among many others, the working group included representatives from the territorial governments and the 2007 working group released its recommendations in a document called *Reducing Alcohol-Related Harm in Canada*. A key principle in the document is that, and I quote: "Action is knowledge-based, evidence-informed and evaluated for results." How does Yukon Liquor Corporation evaluate the social responsibility action it takes?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I thank the member opposite for his question. As the member opposite is well aware, there are a number of different initiatives Justice, the Department of Health and Social Services and the Yukon Liquor Corporation work on. One of these we just spoke about yesterday in this House with the motion to work with Mothers Against Drunk Drivers for their spring campaign, as well as working with the RCMP to look at a variety of programs that we offer within the territory here and perhaps even new programs — emerging programs — from across the country or across the world, exploring those options to see what steps we can take to mitigate people from drinking and driving.

Again, the government is very interested in creating safer roads, as the Minister of Highways and Public Works spoke to yesterday. We do appreciate the member's question and this government is committed to continuing to work together to look for solutions.

Mr. Barr: That reply does not respond to the responsibility in the evaluation of these programs. The season for grad and bush parties is fast approaching and the drinking stats we heard in this House yesterday are alarming. Sadly, these numbers are not new. Alcohol-related harm has been costing Yukoners too much for too long. I have tabled a clip from the *Whitehorse Star* from 1962, entitled "Liquor Tackled". It reads a lot like the recent National Alcohol Strategy report. When it comes to alcoholism, progress is very, very slow.

We appreciate the partnerships and initiatives the minister responsible has listed in this House, but this does not replace the Yukon Liquor Corporation's obligations with respect to social responsibility. In order to be effective, there needs to be a comprehensive and coordinated approach. Will the minister responsible for Yukon Liquor Corporation commit to working with the corporation to reinstate a full-time position dedicated to the social —

Speaker: Order please. The member's time has elapsed.

Hon. Mr. Kent: Again, as I mentioned, I'd be happy to check with the Yukon Liquor Corporation, as they're re-

sponsible for making their own personnel decisions with respect to how they deploy the personnel they're responsible for.

I think one of the things that perhaps I could touch on is the continued decrease in liquor infractions related to premises inspections by the Yukon liquor inspectors. Licensing and Social Responsibility branch of the Liquor Corporation has conducted 2,404 inspections of licensed premises and permitted events. That's for the 2012-13 year. There are four full-time equivalents and one inspector who provide client services Yukon-wide.

Of those 2,404 inspections performed, liquor inspectors observed 78 infractions that resulted in 35 warning letters and six suspensions and three summary conviction tickets. As you can see, we continue to increase the number of inspections and it works out to a 1.76-percent infraction rate of licences and permitted events. Our commitment to social responsibility at the Liquor Corporation is very strong. There are a number of initiatives that the Liquor Corporation undertakes and I applaud them for that. They continue to work with our partners such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Question re: Whistle-blower legislation

Mr. Silver: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice on whistle-blower legislation. Last winter, the Select Committee on Whistle-blower Protection tabled its final report. The report concluded that yes, whistle-blower legislation is needed in the Yukon and recommended that the government move ahead with a new law to protect workers who report wrongdoing in the government.

The ball, as they say, is in the government's court. This law has been a long time coming and the Liberal caucus is pleased that we have reached this point. However, since the report was tabled, there has been no word from the government on how it plans to proceed.

The government simply said, and I quote: "We are looking forward to moving forward with whistle-blower legislation in short order."

When will that legislation be coming before this House?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am responding as the acting minister responsible for the Public Service Commission.

First, I'd like to thank the members of that select committee who did the excellent work to come up with recommendations for us. I know there were a variety of competing views and opinions around that table and, through hard work and collaboration, they were able to reach consensus on a number of recommendations.

Those recommendations have since been forwarded to government and we've indicated that we support them. Now the task falls upon us to move forward with implementing the recommendations and ultimately coming up with a new piece of legislation.

Presently the Public Service Commission is working with the Executive Council Office to coordinate an action plan for moving forward, and that includes speaking with and learning from other jurisdictions that have similar legislation, including Alberta, for instance, which recently passed a new piece of legislation there, to get a sense of what the best practices are

and what other jurisdictions are doing to address this particular issue.

As we've said before, we're committed to this and committed to bringing it forward within this mandate, and of course I look forward to providing further information, as the commission and the Executive Council Office do the good work it takes to bring forward that policy work.

As we've said, we intend to bring forward new legislation on this issue and it's something we look forward to bringing to the House.

Mr. Silver: I would like to correct the minister. The work was fairly easy and the committee did an excellent job of working together, and it seemed we had consensus on most of the issues.

The implementation of the whistle-blower legislation doesn't seem to be a priority to this Yukon Party government though. It has been in office for 10 years and this just never seems to make the cut. If something is a priority — like let's say gutting the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* — it can be done overnight like it was done last fall. No consultation needed. No public discussion. No committee reports. Just straight to the Legislature and then it becomes law.

The government said in December that we would see whistle-blower legislation in short order. Will this legislation be in the fall sitting agenda — yes or no?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Of course the committee provided its recommendations to the Legislature and to the government last year, and since then, a number of work action items have taken place, including the Public Service Commission beginning to work with the Executive Council Office to look at other jurisdictions and to determine what is the best way forward for Yukon. The work they've done includes looking at other jurisdictions like Alberta, which has new legislation of this type. In terms of when we get to this particular piece of the legislation, we have committed to doing it this term. We have indicated that we support the recommendations of the select committee. We do appreciate the work that was done by them in coming up with the consensus on a number of recommendations.

We look forward to implementing those recommendations, likely by the possibility of creating a new piece of legislation, which we hope to bring forward in this mandate.

Mr. Silver: I do appreciate the minister's responses and, for the record, the Public Service Commission — yes, they are looking at other legislation and so did we, as a committee. We looked at all the other legislation across Canada.

A number of unanswered questions remain about what whistle-blower legislation will look like and, judging by the answers that I'm receiving, I'm still doubtful that they might be answered. So here are a few of those unanswered questions: After 10 years of stalling, will the government actually bring forward this legislation? Has drafting started? Is drafting already done? Will there be public consultation? Will there be targeted consultation? Will the bill follow the recommendations of the select committee? And finally, will the bill be ready for this fall, or perhaps next spring?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I don't think I was able to write down those questions as quickly as he was reading them, but I

think, in general, I would say that, yes, we will be responding to the recommendations of the select committee. We have indicated that we support the recommendations. We appreciate the hard work that went into coming up with a consensus among the members of that committee. Despite the fact that they came from all different parties and viewpoints, they were able to come up with a consensus position and recommendations for government. Those recommendations are guiding our work going forward. As far as timelines, with regard to what has occurred and what hasn't occurred — I don't have the details on what level of drafting has occurred at this point, but I am in a position to commit that we would look to bring forward this legislation in this mandate.

Question re: Cancer strategy

Mr. Elias: It's Daffodil Month, which means it's time to reflect upon the thousands of Canadians who live with cancer and to remember those who have died. At home here in the Yukon, there were 130 new cases of cancer in 2012 alone, and 75 people died of the disease. Many types of cancer occur in Yukoners at rates above the national average. We are 43 percent more likely to die of cancer than our fellow Canadians. During recent visits to Vancouver hospitals, several doctors have remarked to me that they see a lot of cancer patients from the Yukon. They express concern that cancer seems to occur at disproportionately higher rates here than in British Columbia. They asked me what we are doing about it. So I'd like to pass the question along to the minister: What is being done to bring Yukon's cancer rates at least into line with the national average?

Hon. Mr. Graham: As part of the healthy living strategy and the wellness initiative, we hope to reduce the incidence of cancer, mostly through early prevention — through people making sure that they don't live the lifestyles that normally cause cancer, such as smoking and other behaviours.

Other than that, we realize that the incidence of cancer in the Yukon seems to be, at this point, higher than many other places in Canada, but until we find out what the root causes of that is, it's very difficult to proceed further than what we've already done.

Mr. Elias: That's why I'm asking the questions, Mr. Speaker.

Being diagnosed with cancer is referred to as "embarking on a journey." Journeys require planning and forethought. They require a map. It's important that strategic infrastructure and information systems be established to assist Yukon citizens with these journeys. This will become even more important after the Canadian Cancer Society shuts down its Whitehorse office next month. Scotland, for example, has established a national action plan that guides that country's approach to cancer. They have documented how they approach the disease from prevention, through treatment, to support for people living with cancer and their families.

Does the government have a documented strategy to guide Yukoners along their journeys with cancer?

Hon. Mr. Graham: We don't have a strategy as such. However, a number of things have occurred in the territory over the past few years.

I think only as far back as the *Smoke-free Places Act* that was implemented by Government of Yukon shortly after the City of Whitehorse did the same thing.

We also introduced a tax on tobacco, which was the largest single increase in Canada on cigarettes. We're trying to discourage at least that part of behaviour that is a known cause of cancer. We're also in the process, as I said before, of implementing the healthy living strategy, the wellness initiative. We also know that one of the root causes of cancer is poverty and social exclusion. That's part of the other strategy that we're bringing forward.

All of these things combined will hopefully reduce the incidence of cancer. As far as the Canadian Cancer Society office closing here in the Yukon, I know a number of interested Yukoners have taken the initiative to establish a cancer society here for the Yukon. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that you're hosting a reception here to assist with the —

Speaker: The minister's time has elapsed.

Mr. Elias: We need to find out through a forensic type of analysis what we're facing here in the Yukon. We need a road map. We need a template that would guide us and inform us for the next 25 years.

Genetic testing is essential to improving prevention rates. We need to better enable citizens to make healthier lifestyle choices. We need to improve our early detection and screening processes to keep them in line with best practices, especially in rural Yukon. To track our progress and improve analyses, we need to build a larger base of statistics. Is the minister willing to put together a cancer task force to develop an action plan for the Yukon that will accelerate our efforts to drive down rates of cancer occurrences and mortality in our territory?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, I'll just finish that little plug for the reception that you're holding on behalf of the cancer organization here in the territory in the next couple of weeks. Some of the other things that are occurring in the Yukon, especially in terms of diagnostics: the MRI machine that is coming into the territory, other diagnostic equipment has been added to the Yukon Housing Corporation, as well as other early detection techniques. All of those things are combining to attempt to fight cancer. It's a well-known fact that the earlier it's caught, the better the chances are of survival. So we're doing those things.

As far as statistics go, gathering statistics is a very sensitive area. We are right now going through with the legislation in the area of medical practices. As we proceed in that area, I will be happy to keep the House informed.

Question re: Day programs for youth

Ms. Stick: Mr. Speaker, in the spring sitting of 2012, Bill No. 38, *Act to Amend the Child Care Act* was passed. The amendments removed day camps, summer camps and youth programs. By removing these groups and programs, there is no longer oversight or standards for hiring staff, such as RCMP checks, first aid or appropriate training in childcare and development.

The Yukon Childcare Association has recently come out with a series of "Did You Know?" fliers, including one addressing parents' concerns about children's safety in these pro-

grams. With summer fast approaching and parents looking at and planning for the best programs for their children, can the minister reassure parents that individuals working with their children have had an RCMP check, first-aid or childcare training?

Hon. Mr. Graham: All those questions were answered during general debate with respect to the changes in the *Child Care Act*. As we said at that time, we are not talking about putting these children into daycare facilities or long-term care facilities where they are going to spend a great deal of their time. These are day camps, generally for children above the age of six years old.

They are summer camps that are operated by either municipalities or organizations, such as hockey camps. Parents are encouraged in many cases to even attend the recreational or day camps that are being offered. So, once again, we went through all of this during the debate, so I'm not sure exactly where this is coming from.

Ms. Stick: Last spring during debate on Bill 38, the minister indicated that there would be a discussion paper called options for assessing summer camp and children's day program safety. The minister talked about plans to meet with NGOs, childcare providers and interested parties, as well as day programmers. The whole purpose was "to work out a set of standards that we believe should apply to anyone who offers a day program".

Can the minister please report on the progress of this discussion paper? Has it been formulated? What groups were consulted? Are these materials available to parents looking at summer and day camps who want to know that their children are protected?

Hon. Mr. Graham: During debate last year we produced a little flyer that provided information for parents putting children into these programs. The only programs that we exempted under this act were programs that had a primary purpose other than childcare and operated for 12 consecutive weeks or less. We're talking about short-term care. If the programs were for children with at least one parent in attendance or if the programs were intended to remain on the premises where the program would operate —

I'm sorry, I kind of lost my train of thought here, but as far as the negotiations or the interaction with NGOs, I don't have that information and I will bring it back to the Legislature as soon as I can.

Question re: Archives expansion

Ms. White: Archives are more than snapshots of a by-gone age. They are the safe keepers of a people's story. Our archives legislation spells out the safe handling of government and private records, correspondence of early settlers, preservation of customs of First Nation people and important legislative documents. If you don't know your past, you don't know your future.

Can the Minister of Tourism and Culture explain why the money promised to expand the Archives vault last year has been dropped?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I thank the member opposite for her question. Time and time again, the government on this side of

the House — the Yukon Party government — has demonstrated great fiscal responsibility in planning for future projects. At this time, the archives vault is being reassessed to determine whether in fact putting it up at the site that was initially determined was the best bang for our buck. Also, are there other options that we can look at as far as collaborating with different sections within the Department of Tourism and Culture or extending it out to other departments? At this time, we are reviewing the initial plan to see if there is a more viable way of moving forward.

Ms. White: In 2007, Yukon Archives and the Property Management division explored options for expanding the Yukon Archives facility. The document, *For the Record: Yukon Archives 1972-2012*, that was released to commemorate the 40th anniversary noted, “The existing vaults are nearly full and more storage space is needed.”

At the time of the anniversary in May 2012, the minister announced funding for vault planning and design and a commitment of \$2.6 million for construction to begin in the 2013-14 fiscal year. This has been dropped, and all that appears in the budget is a paltry \$25,000 in capital spending for Archives. If the vaults are full and more storage space is needed, but this project has been cancelled, how does the minister plan to safely preserve Yukon’s important records?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The Yukon Archives does, in fact, preserve outstanding and irreplaceable documentary records of our territory’s history and development for the benefit for all Yukoners. Record storage at the Yukon Archives facility is nearing capacity and a variety of options, as I alluded to in my first response, are being explored to help address the space challenges. That review will continue over the coming months, but the Yukon government is conducting a functional space planning and options analysis to potentially include Yukon Archives expansion with, perhaps, archaeology and paleontology as well as art storage. Those are just a couple of options that we are looking at. We will continue with a responsible fiscal approach to this and look forward to outcomes in the nearing months.

Ms. White: This government has spent \$291,000 in public funds for planning and designing of that vault expansion, and last year the same government made a commitment to allocate \$2.6 million for construction to begin this fiscal year.

In announcing this commitment, the minister said the project would “ensure Yukon Archives fulfills its legislated role as a repository for both government and private records”. Then he broke this promise and is now jeopardizing Yukon’s heritage.

How does the minister reconcile his responsibility to preserve Yukon’s important historical documents with breaking the promise of funding efforts that would do just that?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I’ll take this opportunity to acknowledge the important role that Archives plays, not just for the government but also, in fact, for the Legislative Assembly — for collection, maintenance and preservation of those documents — but also for some of the outstanding contributions that Yukoners have made over the years. Off the top of my mind, I am thinking of people such as Rolf and Margaret Hougen and the significant impact and benefit they have made not only to

Yukoners, but to all Canadians in some of the work they have done over the years. The Archives plays a very important role for all of us and for our children as well in the future to have the ability to look back and see some of the rich heritage that we do have. This is a project that, once we began to look at it, we began to realize that there might be other ways to work symbiotically to maximize the investment that we have, and we are looking at this. But what I can commit to is that this government will go forward with the project to expand the Archives.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has elapsed. We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I move that the Speaker do now leave the Chair and 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. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Vote No. 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, in Bill No. 10, *First Appropriation Act 2013-14*. Do members wish to take 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.

Bill No. 10: *First Appropriation Act, 2013-14* — continued

Chair: The matter before the Committee is Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, Bill No. 10, *First Appropriation Act, 2013-14*.

Department of Tourism and Culture

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Madam Chair, first off, I’d like to welcome my officials here and their great work with me in the Department of Tourism and Culture. It’s my pleasure to introduce the Department of Tourism and Culture’s main estimates for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

The Department of Tourism and Culture plays a key role in advancing the commitments made to Yukoners by this government under its four pillars: better quality of life, the environment, the economy, and good governance. These commitments reflect our vision for continuing on the pathway to prosperity.

The Department of Tourism and Culture is taking a strategic approach in its work to achieve these goals.

First, the department is focusing on growth in Yukon's tourism industry and has increased sustainability of the arts, culture and heritage sectors.

Secondly, the department is working toward the responsible preservation and increased public awareness of Yukon's diverse arts, culture and heritage.

Thirdly, we are enhancing the capacity of Yukon's tourism industry, arts, culture and heritage sectors to improve Yukoners' quality of life. A key part of our work on these goals is the department's partnerships and collaborations with First Nations, non-profit organizations and the private sector. In arts, the department works closely with many arts organizations, including the Yukon Arts Centre. This budget includes \$778,000 for operating support to the Yukon Arts Centre, which celebrated 20 years of operations this year. The department also works directly with cultural industry workers, supporting training projects that lead to employment in the arts. Through the department's partnership with the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce and the Yukon Arts Centre, the Old Fire Hall continues to be a vibrant community culture venue.

These arts partnerships provide valuable support to the private sector while helping Yukoners succeed in the arts. This spring, Yukon is sending a contingent of visual performing and culinary artists to Canada's National Arts Centre's 2013 Northern Scene festival taking place April 25 to May 4 in Ottawa. This event will give talented Yukoners a unique opportunity to interact with Ottawa crowds and share some of Yukon's charm. The contingent will join artists from Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Northern Scene will be a special event for the artists attending and it highlights the value of collaborative projects that strengthen our northern identity. Similarly, partnerships are very important in the department's work to support the tourism sector. Last year, the department entered into a three-year cooperative marketing agreement with Holland America to increase the number of cruise-tour visitors. Statistics show that cruise-tour visitors account for more than 60,000 room nights in Yukon each summer. This three-year agreement will generate incremental new business for Yukon, further building on Holland America's Yukon cruise-tour program.

In 2012, the department worked in partnership to host three important conventions in Yukon. These conventions helped to raise the profile of the territory to the delegates and give them a taste of what we have to offer visitors. The Canadian Tourism Commission's annual GoMedia Canada Marketplace, Frozen Pasts: The International Glacial Archaeology Symposium, and The Association of Canadian Archivists brought together hundred of delegates who experienced Yukon's hospitality at its best. For its work, the GoMedia organizing team was recognized with two awards in 2012: a Premier's Award for Excellence in the team category, and the 2012 Bravo Award from the Yukon Convention Bureau.

In 2012, and early this year, I was fortunate to travel to a few of the consumer shows attended by the department and industry representatives. I saw firsthand the value of marketing

Yukon at national events where we can highlight the exciting travel experiences that Yukon has to offer.

Complementing the consumer shows are Yukoners here at home who champion tourism through their day-to-day business activities or their personal affiliation with organizations important to them.

Last September, I was pleased to host a breakfast that recognized four Yukoners who shared their love of Yukon with others and energetically encourage visitors to come and experience the territory for themselves.

Working in partnership and seizing the opportunities to collaborate with the private sector is yielding results in Yukon's tourism sector. In 2012, Yukon hosted over 320,000 visitors from around the world, including nearly 34,000 overseas visitors. This was a 4-percent increase from 2011. A record 294,000 passengers travelled through the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport — the fourth straight year of growth and a 10-percent increase from 2011.

The increase in visitation speaks to the work undertaken not only by the department, but by the many tourism and culture businesses and organizations working to promote the territory as a "must see" travel destination.

I would like to now present a few of the highlights for the 2013-14 budget for the Department of Tourism and Culture.

In operation and maintenance, this budget has \$22.8 million allocated for expenditures. This allocation includes a number of key projects and initiatives led by the department's Cultural Services branch.

\$168,000 is allocated to continue the department's enhanced presence in the Klondike gold fields by the paleontology program. In collaboration with the Yukon placer miners, over 3,000 new fossils were collected for the paleontology program just last year. Our close working relationship with the placer mining industry facilitates preservation of Yukon's internationally significant ice age fossil heritage and supports the public enjoyment of this fascinating aspect of our past.

This budget also includes \$135,000 to support historic sites maintenance agreements with Yukon First Nations. The ongoing partnership with the Vuntut Gwitchin in Old Crow to preserve and interpret Yukon's ancient history in the region, as well as the work we do with the Selkirk First Nation to care for the Fort Selkirk historic site, are just two examples of these important relationships.

There is \$117,000 allocated in this budget to support the heritage and cultural capacity development program. This program, in partnership with Yukon College, offers instruction in the heritage field, including capacity building for the Yukon First Nation citizens seeking the skills to work within the cultural resource management field.

The department will also provide \$514,000 to First Nation cultural heritage centres to provide support for their ongoing operations. These centres are instrumental in safeguarding First Nation history, offering the public access to experiencing authentic First Nation cultures, and helping First Nations preserve their legacies for future generations.

This budget includes \$350,000 for Yukon museums through the special projects capital assistance program. This

ongoing support to Yukon museums is instrumental in the sharing of Yukon's legacies with visitors and residents, along with the preservation of our collective cultural heritage.

The Yukon's arts sector is also a key part of the Yukon's economy and community life. This budget includes \$668,000 to provide operating funds to a variety of important arts programs. This important funding helps non-profit art societies with ongoing year-round activities to present programs and services to the public while developing the arts.

In addition, this budget includes \$80,000 for the Advanced Artist Award, \$100,000 for the arts in the school program, and another \$100,000 for the touring artist fund.

Last year, these funds helped advance artists to tour outside Yukon and showcase their work at a variety of public events. It also supported artists' efforts to enhance their own artistic development and share their art. A number of Yukon artists used the funding provided by the department to share their work with students in the schools, giving youth opportunities to experience hands-on art making.

Artists such as Yukon's snow sculpture team and Kim Beggs travelled internationally to places including Italy, the U.S.A., Denmark and the United Kingdom. It is these things of tours that greatly broaden the knowledge of Yukon around the world. Many individual artists were given opportunities to build on their music disciplines by taking workshops and engaging with their new colleagues.

Organizations such as the Adäka Cultural Festival and Society and Breakdancing Yukon Society were able to present their talented contributors to audiences eager to broaden their own cultural experience.

This budget also includes a \$500,000 allocation for the Yukon government's arts fund. The arts fund supports projects that engage our community life and provide Yukoners with opportunities to participate in artistic activities. One unique project funded through the arts fund in 2012 was Les EssentiElles theatre production. Written and performed by Yukon francophone women, the project embodied the richness of living with two official languages and imparting that culture to children.

At the organization level, this budget also includes \$400,000 for the Dawson City Arts Society for their ongoing programs and services and \$150,000 for the Old Fire Hall in downtown Whitehorse. This organizational support enables the continued growth of Yukon's cultural labour force sector while providing opportunities for the public to interact with the arts.

In O&M, the Tourism branch allocation includes \$1.96 million for the operation of Yukon's six visitor information centres and other visitor service initiatives. Often the first stop in our communities for tourists, the visitor information centres provide high-quality visitor information services to the travelling public. The Whitehorse Visitor Information Centre is open year-round and offers visitors information on goods and services throughout the territory. In addition to the year-round Whitehorse visitor information staff, the hard-working seasonal staff in Beaver Creek, Haines Junction, Watson Lake, Carcross, and Dawson provided visitor information to more than 237,000 tourists last year. Another important aspect of the Tourism

branch work is the promotion of Yukon through partnership and collaboration with other jurisdictions. This budget includes \$207,000 for the joint Yukon-Alaska marketing program, delivered with the State of Alaska. This program leverages a matching contribution from the state.

Our work with Alaska is another good example of how the department effectively doubles its marketing investments through partnerships. We will continue to build our strong relationship with British Columbia, Alberta and Alaska through the Tourism North marketing program. This partnership marketing consortium is the most long-standing of its type in North America. It was recognized by the U.S. Travel Association as one of the top marketing programs in the country. This year we have allocated \$120,000 for Yukon's share of this \$500,000 marketing program.

The department will also continue its valued partnership with the Yukon Convention Bureau by providing \$200,000 to support their marketing programs. This program has been successful in attracting meetings, conventions and events to Yukon that collectively generate more than \$3 million each year in direct spending.

Within the Tourism branch, we will also provide operating support to a number of organizations, including \$75,000 for the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous and \$244,000 for the Tourism Industry Association of Yukon.

The department will maintain its highly successful overseas marketing program that will leverage \$590,000 from CanNor in the coming year.

This program has been instrumental in ensuring that Yukon's overseas tourism market has continued to increase its market share in Canada.

I'm sure that many of you have noticed a rise in Japanese visitors to Yukon, with more than 3,500 visiting Yukon last year. This represents an approximate 300-percent increase in Japanese visitors since 2011. The department will invest a half million dollars in the coming year in cooperative marketing agreements with tour operators, the Canadian Tourism Commission and other partners in our target markets around the world. These agreements more than double our marketing investment and they have demonstrated that they increase revenues for many Yukon tourism businesses.

The department remains committed to our partnership with Nunavut and Northwest Territories by continued participation in the pan-north tourism marketing initiative. This program, which is generously supported by CanNor, with more than \$1 million annually, promotes the diverse and extraordinary tourism experiences that are available across Canada's north. Our pan-north investments build on the success of joint marketing that started in 2007 around the Canada Games was relaunched in 2010, leveraging the Vancouver Olympics, and will continue through the coming fiscal year.

I have a number of other remarks I would like to make, but seeing that my time is just about out, I'll open the floor to the members opposite.

Mr. Barr: I would like to thank the Minister of Tourism and Culture for his opening remarks. It is my honour to rise to debate the government's estimates for 2013-14 for the De-

partment of Tourism and Culture. I would like to also thank the officials from the Department of Tourism and Culture for their ongoing outstanding work in this important mainstay of our economy. I would like to acknowledge the work of the staff in the Official Opposition caucus who provide invaluable assistance to us as MLAs to conduct the people's business.

This is my first opportunity to speak in department debate as I've been away dealing with a family emergency down south.

I'd like to take this opportunity if I could to give thanks to the people in the riding of Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes who give so much to improving the quality of life in our little part of the Yukon. My thanks go to the volunteers in our fire departments, our EMS crews, our local area councils and the Hamlet of Mount Lorne council, the folks who volunteer in our community centres for seniors programs and children's activities, the volunteers who flood and maintain the skating rinks and ski trails, the people who put time and hard work into our solid-waste facilities.

We're nearly through another winter and I'd like to give a word of thanks to the highway snow removal crews who do an outstanding job in our riding, given the situations they have to deal with, especially when we have high snowfalls, as we did this year.

Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes is an important tourism area for the Yukon. Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes is close to the City of Whitehorse and the international airport, so many visitors will spend time in the riding. The road from Skagway and access to ferries and the border runs through Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes. There are so many attractions: cross-country ski trails, hiking trails, mountains — Mount Lorne, Mount Michie, four mountains in Carcross — territorial parks, day use areas, highway pull-offs and washrooms, a private museum, restaurants, coffee shops, wildlife viewing opportunities, caribou, bears and mountain goats. We are now in the viewing of the swans, which have returned, so you can go out to Swan Haven, the Tagish bridge and the bay of Bennett and see this beautiful bird up close. There are no ugly ducks in any of those; they're all beautiful swans.

There are also the caribou: if you haven't been down in the Southern Lakes area, there has been work on the Southern Lakes herd for over 20 years now in reclaiming that Southern Lakes caribou herd. This was the first year, while I was out helping Art Johns on his trapline, directly adjacent across from the new proposed campground on the Atlin Road, we personally saw 28 caribou. There have been sightings of 37 caribou in that area. If you've never been out there or have been living out there for many years, you might see one or two caribou, so to see herds of 37 or 28, it has taken a lot of work.

I acknowledge the efforts of all those people involving the cumulative efforts, not only of the Southern Lakes caribou herd recovery program and seeing to the success it is just this winter. I wish them continued growth of this caribou herd. I would also like to acknowledge that there is abundant fishing and boating in the Southern Lakes. Bike trails on Montana Mountain are world-class. It's been noted in magazines lately that this is the number one destination of biking trails, and there's a continued

expansion on these bike trails. There are rivers for canoeing and fishing, and of course the headwaters of the mighty Yukon River, the Southern Lakes, Tagish Lake, Bennett Lake, Marsh Lake, and I have the grace to live on one of the headwaters, Crag Lake, on this great headwaters for the past 26 years. I'll be soon seeing the eagles come back to that lake and the loons that we witness from my front porch every day throughout the summer. It is home to accommodations for tourists, B&Bs, and Inn on the Lake. Mount Lorne Southern Lakes is a tourist gem for the territory.

There are many new places in Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes. I also want to put out to the minister that we're looking forward to the new signs in that area that are not there for new businesses, such as the Six Mile River Resort, the various new B&Bs and different sites that will also direct people to the mountain biking trails in Carcross. I know there is going to be some ongoing work and I'd like to explore signage in Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes further in the debate.

Maybe what I'll do in this point in time before I get into a few questions is say that tourism is a mainstay in Yukon's economy. It's a consistent mainstay that brings forward dollars from people around the world — like the member opposite has stated — who come to see our pristine wilderness. I see our pristine wilderness as an intact renewable resource. We don't have to put money into manicuring the trees. They grow naturally and it's there.

It's something that I want to explore further with the minister in this debate — how we're going to preserve our pristine wilderness with the influx of mining exploration, liquid natural gas exploration, and the impacts they are going to make. I know what the latest *What We Heard* document on the Peel — that many of the people are keeping an eye from abroad that have had input into the *What We Heard* project concerning our pristine wilderness, which is our heritage and our culture to First Nations, our land that gives us life, that is nowhere else in the world do we have intact, first-place ecology places that people can enjoy, can experience.

I would like, at this time, to maybe start off with a question to the minister regarding the plan for a territorial park on Atlin Lake. The Government of Yukon announced it is developing plans for a new territorial campground at Atlin Lake. The government intends that it will be open to the public for the 2015 camping season.

The site of the proposed campground is a 112-hectare reserve on the eastern shore of Atlin Lake, at kilometre 40 of the Atlin Road, just north of the British Columbia border. The Yukon government has identified \$75,000 in the *Supplementary Estimates No. 2, 2012-13* to begin planning, and the 2013-14 budget main estimates will seek \$780,000 to begin construction this summer.

I just briefly mentioned that the wintering grounds of this caribou herd — Southern Lakes — that is finally rising to peaks never seen before. This is exactly the area where I saw this herd of 28, right in the same campground area that they are looking at removing from the caribou's natural winter habitat. If you have driven along this road in the winter, you will see the tracks on the sides of the hills in the snow. You can't see a

spot of just natural, newly fallen snow for the numbers of tracks. This goes on for kilometers, right in that specific area.

I have concerns about how heritage, culture and tourism are going to be mitigated. It's my understanding, in speaking with First Nation elders of the area, that this specific area is of huge importance to the archaeological artifacts that are yet to be identified at the site.

As this plan goes forward, my question to the minister this: What steps is he taking with the stakeholders, the combined First Nations of that area — CTFN, Taku River Tlingit — who have identified that this site contains many artifacts that have yet to be looked for, discovered or explored? I'd like to know the extent of the Department of Tourism and Culture's involvement in planning with the Environment minister as this proceeds and as we look at construction in this fiscal year.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I'd like to take the opportunity to continue with the points I was trying to make earlier when I ran out of time, but I think it's also important to note right now — since I'm speaking with the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes and part of his constituency is the Carcross area — I'm actually very pleased to announce today that a new visitor information centre in Carcross will be ready for the summer tourism season.

The team at the Carcross Visitor Information Centre will be providing exceptional services from the new location. We're expecting another busy tourism season, and the building is ideal for meeting travellers' needs. The Yukon government is entering into a two-year lease of \$101,032 with the Carcross Tagish Management Corporation, on behalf of the Carcross-Tagish limited partnership and Northern Vision Development limited partnership. This lease was awarded through a request for proposals. The new visitor information centre is close to many of the community's already main attractions, and is part of a tourism-focused development led by the Carcross Tagish Management Corporation.

Yukon's seasonal visitor centres in Beaver Creek, Carcross, Dawson City, Haines Junction and Watson Lake will open on May 2.

The Yukon Visitor Information Centre in Whitehorse is open year-round. New this year, the Whitehorse Visitor Information Centre will offer Wi-fi Internet access to assist travellers with planning their Yukon experience while staying connected with friends and relatives.

In my comments earlier I was talking about our pan-northern investments, and this is just one example of how our tourism marketing team leverages more than \$2 million annually through funding partners, tourism operators around the world, and Yukon's tourism industry. This research-based, market-driven approach is enabled through leadership and investments by Yukon tourism operators and businesses. We are working together to grow together.

Moving on to capital, this budget has \$1.69 million allocated for capital projects. For the Cultural Services branch, \$100,000 is allocated to support a variety of repair and maintenance projects to historic properties owned or co-owned by Yukon government. This year work will include projects on the Thirty Mile portion of the Yukon River.

This popular stretch of river was designated as a Canadian heritage river in 1992 for its nature heritage and recreational values. The department will be working to stabilize the Lower Laberge telegraph office and coordinate additional documentation of the Shipyard Island site.

This budget also has \$160,000 allocated for the management of the Fort Selkirk historic site, with \$25,000 to assist with the heritage management plan for the Keno district mining area. The interpretive signage is an important element of increasing awareness of Yukon's heritage while enhancing visitor experiences. \$70,000 has been allocated for interpretation and signage in the 2013-14 fiscal year. This work will focus on Yukon travel corridors, including roads, rivers, heritage trails and historic sites. We are proud of the work to date with interpretive sign panels installed at over 180 sites on scenic routes and points of interest throughout the Yukon.

Rampart House is allocated \$60,000 to enable continuation of the preservation work at that site with a focus this year on stabilizing the Anglican mission buildings. \$110,000 has been allocated for the Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine historic sites, which are managed in partnership with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

We also have \$30,000 in support of the rehabilitation work on the Yukon Sawmill. This year's focus will be repairs and reconstruction of windows and doors. For the Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre, we have budgeted \$124,000 for a variety of maintenance upgrades along with \$60,000 for exhibit upgrades and development. It is worthy to note that the Beringia Centre, together with the MacBride Museum, are the most visited museums in Yukon each year — both welcome more than 20,000 visitors through their doors. The department is also supporting the work of another key visitor and heritage attraction: the Yukon Transportation Museum. This year the department will provide the Transportation Museum with \$338,000 to enable important roof repairs.

Madam Chair, regarding the arts, we have \$25,000 identified for the visual arts acquisition program. This funding allows the Friends of the Gallery Society to purchase new works for the Yukon permanent art collection. This collection is owned by the people of Yukon and managed by the department. The collection is routinely displayed for audiences and visitors in venues throughout Yukon and Ottawa. Selections of the collection can also be seen in special events and exhibitions in Yukon and beyond. Taking care of this valuable collection is a priority for the Department of Tourism and Culture. For the 2013-14 fiscal year, we have identified \$40,000 for art collection storage to help increase storage facilities for the Yukon permanent art collection.

Within the Tourism branch, we are providing \$200,000 for digital development — an increase of \$75,000 from last year's budget. These additional resources will enable the department to make a number of improvements to its digital marketing capacity and its reach. These improvements include strategic enhancements to the department's digital content, e-marketing and social media reach.

This investment will ensure Yukon tourism businesses will have increased access to digital marketing. This will provide

them with new, effective and affordable marketing investment options.

I would like to conclude with a few words about the staff of the Department of Tourism and Culture. The staff of the department work across a wide variety of professional and technical areas. On any given day, department staff may be travelling to the communities to meet with boards and committees responsible for community programming, while at the same time archaeologists may be working with First Nation youth on ice-patch research.

In recent months, Yukon was recognized by *Lonely Planet* as one of the top 10 must-see visit and travel destinations in the world, by *Reader's Digest* as one of the 10 Canadian destinations you need to visit in 2013 and, most recently, was recognized as the top mountain-biking destination in the world by *Outside* magazine. These accolades support the staff of my department, and their vision to be the place the world wants to be and it speaks volumes to the passion, the commitment and the investment by Yukon businesses, our government and Yukoners in building a strong, diversified and sustainable economy.

Now, to the member opposite's question pertaining to the campground on Little Atlin Lake, I will defer that question to the Minister of Environment in later debate this afternoon and he can elaborate more on how the Department of Environment is working with a number of different departments on the creation of the campground on Little Atlin Lake. I do thank the member for his question, but I think it's best answered by the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Barr: I appreciate the minister's deferral to the Minister of Environment; however, I would like to ask the Minister of Tourism and Culture, regarding the archeological artifacts, if there has been any identified at the site to his knowledge, and what has been the extent of the Department of Tourism and Culture's heritage resources involvement in the planning so far, if any.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I'll touch briefly on the member opposite's question. I do believe it is best discussed from the Minister of Environment. As with a number of different areas throughout the territory, archaeological assessments are recommended on a case-by-case basis by Heritage Resources, depending on the likelihood of archaeological historic sites or paleontological resources on that location. For campgrounds, it would be standard practice for the two departments to work together. As the Minister of Environment had also noted, YESAB would be involved. Yes, the Department of Tourism and Culture and the Department of Environment will be working together on the planning process of that campground on Atlin Lake.

Mr. Barr: I'm wondering if the Minister of Tourism and Culture has had any conversations with the two First Nations directly involved with the proposal or plans to have conversations prior to moving forward — or, have they contacted him?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I thank the member opposite for his question. I do need to remind the member opposite that I am the Minister of Tourism and Culture. I'm not a department of-

ficial. So the department officials would have those conversations.

I can speak for a few moments about the Cultural Services branch. It has a budget of \$10.7 million for O&M and an additional \$12 million for capital projects. The Cultural Services branch is responsible for historic sites, museums, arts, archives and heritage resources, which include paleontology and archaeology.

Heritage Resources has a budget of \$1.3 million for all aspects of land-based heritage resources, including archeology, paleontology, place names and scientist and explorer licensing. The Historic Sites unit has been allocated \$1.8 million for the research, preservation, management, development and interpretation of Yukon's historic sites and routes. The department's Museums unit has a total budget of \$2.5 million to enable continued partnership and support of Yukon's vibrant museums and cultural centres. The department provides over \$500,000 to directly support operation and programs at seven Yukon First Nation centres. The Arts section is receiving \$3.8 million this year to enable continued support of Yukon's dynamic art community. The department is supporting the Old Fire Hall with \$150,000 to enable artists and community groups to showcase and market performing arts, literature, visual arts and crafts.

Yukon Archives has a budget of \$1.4 million to enable its continued operation as well as upgrades to its current building. The department is adding new works to the Yukon permanent art collection with \$25,000 budgeted for the visual arts acquisition program.

The museums contribution program provides partial funding support for the annual management and operations of Yukon First Nation cultural heritage centres throughout the territory. Tourism and Culture entered into a 10-year lease with CAFN to house our visitor information in the Da Kų Cultural Centre in Haines Junction. This partnership allowed the VIC — visitor information centre — to showcase the arts and culture with a large First Nation component that is available in all areas of the Yukon.

The tourism and culture arts fund awarded \$35,000 to the Adäka Society for the 2012 Adäka Festival. I want to take a moment to thank the members of the Adäka Festival for their continued hard work and their desire to build relationships within the community, the territory and, truly, the country.

They put on an incredible show that is gaining in popularity across our country. They are working with the Yukon First Nations Tourism Association on its restructuring efforts, in partnership with the Adäka Cultural Festival, to reinvent the organization and support the development of both the First Nation culture and tourism sectors. The First Nation heritage training coordinator continues to work with various First Nations and the Yukon Historical and Museums Association to develop and deliver training opportunities for First Nation cultural centres and museums.

Pertaining to archaeological assessments, there is an established regulatory process — YESAA. That process is followed by Yukon government regulators and archaeologists, and the

Yukon government will follow the process and stay within that process.

Mr. Barr: I'm glad to hear that the minister has committed to refunding the Old Fire Hall.

It has become quite a popular place for visual artists, musicians, craft sales and a meeting place for different workshops. I know that the people down at the Old Fire Hall, and Yukoners, will be happy to know that this venue is going to continue as a place they can gather and share good times.

Also, I would like to come back a little later to the minister's recent remarks about the Archives funding. I thank the minister for the archaeological artifacts, and I will be looking forward to staying in touch with him as things progress with this new campground and to hearing the Environment minister's comments later today regarding the concerns I have brought forward regarding the caribou herd and ongoing negotiations or talks with different First Nations.

I would like to turn now to a few Tourism and Culture related items from the Yukon Party platform, which have been itemized in the 2012 mandate letter from the Premier.

Platform item 98 reads: "Establish Culture Quest as a permanent fund."

Can the minister provide some more details about this fund?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: It's always a pleasure to stand on my feet in this Legislature and talk about the good work that the department is doing.

In my previous comments, I mentioned that Yukon was designated by *Lonely Planet* as a top-10, must-visit travel destination for 2013. Subsequent global media coverage generated tremendous exposure for Yukon and expanded awareness of Yukon as a premier outdoor travel destination.

Following media familiarization trips led by the department, both *Reader's Digest* and *Outside* magazine have also highlighted Yukon as a must-visit Canadian destination, highlighting some of the exciting new visitor experiences that Yukon has to offer.

The department's Tourism branch signed a letter of agreement with the Klondike Visitors Association, committing to work together on a number of marketing-related projects and initiatives in 2012-13, and also in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

The department's marketing project with CanNor resulted in an increase in higher yield overseas visitors, which has offset an anticipated decline in visitors from the U.S. and other countries suffering from depressed economies.

I'll give another little plug out here to some of the other work that the department is working on with Yukoners, and that's Northern Scene. This government is very pleased that Yukon performing, visual, literary, culinary and fashion arts will be showcased at the Northern Scene festival in Ottawa this spring. This unique festival will increase awareness of the Yukon's diverse culture and inspire the audience to discover more of Canada's north.

Northern Scene offers great exposure and career development opportunities for the Yukon arts community. It also supports the department's work expanding and promoting the Yukon brand to global markets.

The member opposite was talking specifically about Culture Quest. The Culture Quest fund has been established as an ongoing funding program with \$157,000 annually for projects that animate our arts and our culture. It is an exceptional program, one that the Department of Tourism and Culture is very proud to promote. I thank the member for his question.

Mr. Barr: I would just like to comment regarding the minister's last couple of remarks. I remember the Minister of Environment last sitting speaking to the — I believe it was *Lonely Planet* — stating that this Yukon Territory is in the top 10 places to visit.

What I didn't hear in the remarks was the remainder of the comments — I believe it was about *Lonely Planet* — as it being one of the top 10 places to visit. But they go on to say you better get there before the presenting mining interests get there — and I see the minister opposite shaking his head. Well, he might want to look at this comment — not the Minister of Tourism and Culture.

I would like to state for the record that this magazine states to get there before the mining interests disclaim the pristine wilderness is intact. I think that this is important to bring forward for *Hansard*, for the public to realize. It is pretty nice to go on about what we do have, but I think it's just as important for all of us to be concerned, especially the Minister of Tourism and Culture, to be working with his colleagues directly and consistently in preserving so that the pending mining interests and LNG interests remove exactly what this magazine is stating — that get there. It is wonderful and beautiful. It's why we live here. It's why people come to visit here, and we want to keep this for the Yukon people and our generations to come.

I would like to maybe read a little bit here, continuing something that has been an ongoing issue within the territory with what we are dealing with regarding the Peel: "Yukon Territory has established an international reputation of being rugged, outdoors, a last frontier." Our tourism is built around this promise and this premise. Since Jack London and Robert Service came and experienced life in the far north, we have been branded as wild, tough and beautiful. Wilderness adventure travel is a growing market. Our territory is fortunate to be known as a region of vast wilderness, where people can come to hike, paddle and explore. We have many businesses in our territory that work in this industry of wilderness adventure, offering visitors a chance to go out on the land for half-day adventures all the way to multi-day expeditions, some of which I have had the pleasure to attend and be on, with business-oriented adventures and with just friends off exploring and hiking the mountains — no trails. It is an amazing place in which we live.

A unique place that we have here in the Yukon, prime for tourism, is the Peel River watershed. This is a region unique, not just to Yukon or Canada, but the world. When you look at the Department of Tourism's website, <http://travelyukon.com>, they have a great section on outdoor activities. They do a fantastic job promoting different activities. I thank the department staff for this fantastic job of the activities that you can do in the Yukon, such as hiking, horseback riding, rafting, flight-seeing, as well as linking potential customers with local operators who

provide these services. The department relies on promoting tourism through promoting our wilderness. When you look up canoeing and kayaking, this website boasts that “There are a couple of traits though that all Yukon rivers share — crystalline clear waters and nature at its most untouched and unspoiled.”

In another spot, potential visitors are told: “The exhilarating Snake, Bonnet Plume and Wind Rivers flow through one of the most remote regions of North America.”

When reading about hiking, visitors are encouraged to “Enjoy unparalleled backcountry ridge hikes overlooking the Wind and Snake Rivers,” and “If there’s a singular trait that defines hiking in the Yukon, it’s the ability to traverse pristine, larger-than-life landscapes without seeing a soul.”

I often drive to Dawson City. I’ve been here close to 30 years now, and it still comes to my mind when I think of Tintina Trench. That’s one area that I remember from when I first came here — and other areas you can just see. I imagine that as far as the Arctic Ocean, I could walk there and maybe step someplace that nobody else has walked on. That’s the feeling I get. I believe people come and they’re in awe of this pristineness.

Intact nature, untouched, pristine — this is what our adventure tourism industry requires to thrive. The impact of allowing industrial development in the Peel watershed will have significant impact on local businesses that provide guided trips into the region. The Wilderness Tourism Association has over 70 members, with each member being a business, association or organization actively involved in adventure-based tourism. They have asked the government to follow the final recommended plan for the Peel watershed region.

According to their website, wilderness tourism companies have consistently been taking visitors down the Snake, Wind, Bonnet Plume, Hart, Blackstone and Peel rivers for several decades. Individuals are attracted to this area primarily because it offers a vast and mostly untouched environment, complete with its clean flowing waters, healthy wildlife populations and lack of permanent settlements or developments.

It is these qualities that make the Peel watershed unique. In February of last year, the Tourism Industry Association of Yukon issued a press release stating that they support the *Final Recommended Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan* and the work done by the planning commission. In their opinion, the Peel River watershed, and particularly the three rivers, is a national treasure. It is an important component of the territory’s long-term environmental and economic health and an invaluable asset for Yukon’s significant tourism economy.

TIA Yukon spoke to this again this January, concerned that anything other than the final recommended plan would create uncertainty for the tourism industry.

TIA Yukon, like the Department of Tourism and Culture, believes that a large reason people are willing to travel all the way to the Yukon for their vacation — at a higher cost than they could go to other places, I might add — is the understanding that coming north is going to feel remote, look pristine and smell fresh. The idea of hiring a guide to go on a two-week trip down the Wind River is to be somewhere where there is little to no trace of humans having been there. TIA Yukon wrote that

infrastructure, such as roads and camps, cannot be hidden in these broad-view, sparsely treed valleys. Development of rights-of-way, bridges and camps accompanied by diesel transports would lead to the deterioration and inevitable termination of these trips. It also speaks to this: for industry, industrial development in the Peel means that we will no longer be able to offer an attractive and highly sought-after wilderness experience. Wilderness tourism companies have consistently been taking visitors down the Snake, Wind, Bonnet Plume, Hart and Blackstone rivers. In 1998, the Bonnet Plume was designated as a Canadian heritage river. One important factor in the successful designation had to do with the level of wilderness still available for recreational use. Some markers of quality included landscape, visual integrity, personal solitude, biodiversity and naturalness and the absence of evidence of prior human use.

This seems to be a common theme — “prior human use”. Those involved in seeking the designation were also aware that being a Canadian heritage river would draw more potential people to visit.

The inherent values of nature are evident in the Peel region watershed. Few places in the world have the same untouched, raw feel of this watershed. We could capitalize on this, promote this and encourage this.

Tourism operators in the Yukon are nervous right now — uncertain about how their business is going to be impacted by decisions made by this government. These are locally based operators who contribute to our communities, are often raising their families here and care about the long-term vision of where the Yukon is going. They want to know that the dream that is being sold to their clients is going to be the same as the reality they experience when they come.

I’d like to know how the minister is working with the rest of his caucus to maintain that what I just said here will continue to be an ongoing, viable opportunity for people running these businesses in their future and the future of their children’s children.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Deputy Chair, the tourism industry remains integral to the lives and economic well-being of many Yukoners. Visitor statistics for Yukon this year show that tourism is growing. In 2012, as I mentioned earlier, more than 320,000 visitors crossed Yukon’s borders, arriving in private vehicles and motor coaches. This is a four-percent increase in border crossings, compared to 2011. Further contributing to the growth in tourism is a 10-percent increase in the number of passengers arriving and departing from the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport last year.

Yukon’s tourism sector continues to be a solid and steady contributor to Yukon’s economy, generating revenues for Yukon businesses of approximately \$200 million annually. 2012 was a good year for tourism in Yukon, with a four-percent increase in visitation compared to 2011 and outperforming the national average for one or more night’s visitation by non-residents. Building on the success of 2012 and reports of a strong winter season, the Department of Tourism and Culture is forecasting growth in visitation of between one and two percent for 2013.

The Government of Yukon is working with the Yukon tourism industry to learn more about our visitors' expectations and changing travel patterns. The year-round Yukon visitor tracking program will provide the tourism industry and government with a better understanding of our visitors and the economic benefits that they indeed bring. Following a review with industry, initial survey results will be made available to the public this spring with the final report covering both summer and winter surveys — it will be released by the end of this year.

Over the last decade, the Department of Tourism and Culture has spent more than \$67.4 million on marketing Yukon to potential visitors in North America and around the globe. Since 2007, the department has leveraged more than \$2.6 million from the federal government to support Yukon marketing and more than \$4 million to support pan-north marketing. Our approach to marketing partnerships, along with the tourism cooperative marketing fund, leverages more than \$1.8 million annually in industry investment for Yukon tourism marketing.

The Department of Tourism and Culture provides business counselling services to tourism operators, businesses, entrepreneurs and investors to support product development. The department participates on government committees and working groups to ensure that tourism interests are considered in Yukon government planning, resource development and environmental assessments.

Working in consultation with industry stakeholders, the department is refining its product development strategy and annual plan to better meet the needs of today's entrepreneur.

It's also important to note that each year with the visitor information centres across the territory, we provide a fairly substantial training session where all the employees can get together under one roof and discuss the approach for the new year. I am pleased to report that the visitor information training session for the 2013 year will be hosted at the Caribou Crossing in Carcross. That may be some useful information for the member opposite.

The Peel region that the member opposite spoke about has significant tourism and heritage values that must be carefully managed and protected in a manner that allows a variety of land uses. The Tourism branch staff participated in community and tourism stakeholder meetings on the final recommended land use plan and Yukon government's proposed new land use designation system. The Government of Yukon will give full and fair consideration to all comments received during that consultation.

Madam Chair, tourism and guided hunting are important activities throughout the Peel watershed region. Tourism values have been identified and considered throughout planning, consultation, and plan review process. Throughout the various stages of the Peel planning process, staff from the Department of Tourism and Culture worked closely with Energy, Mines and Resources and all the other departments involved. The Department of Tourism and Culture officials were involved in the planning for the community and stakeholder consultation and participated in the consultation meetings this winter. Yukon government was pleased to see that tourism businesses and

organizations participated in that consultation. Their input will be carefully considered in the Yukon government's review. Additional information on the Peel subject can be obtained through the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the Minister of Environment.

Tourism Yukon assesses the potential and performance of all its geomarkets on an annual basis, taking into account a number of factors, including border crossings, data from the international travel survey, the Canadian Tourism Commission market portfolio index, exit surveys, visitor interceptions, reports from travel-trade partners and market performance, intelligence provided by Yukon tourism operators. Since 2009, Tourism Yukon has utilized a market assessment model that analyzes each target market based on a number of criteria that are fed by the various sources of intelligence listed about. In the coming year, Tourism Yukon is undertaking a market program assessment that will drive creation of a made-in-Yukon market assessment model that draws on research, industry and departmental intelligence and marketing program key performance indicator reporting. That will enable strategic market assessment which ultimately drives the budget allocation.

For the 2013-16 market strategy and the 2013-14 marketing plan, we will continue to classify our geomarkets as primary, secondary, emerging and monitor. Tourism Yukon's investments, activities and support for each market will be driven by these classifications with some flexibility to respond to strategic opportunities when they arise.

In primary, consumer trade, media relations, PR and meetings, incentives, conventions, and events in Canada are the Canadian market, the U.S. market, German-speaking Europe, Switzerland and Austria. Secondary markets with trade, media relations, PR, and consumer CTC campaigns and trade cooperative marketing would fall under the secondary markets of Australia, the United Kingdom and Japan. Emerging markets for Yukon are the Netherlands, South Korea and France. Markets that the department is monitoring but where there are no planned in-market activities are Mexico, China and Brazil.

Mr. Barr: I was happy to hear from the department officials in a briefing yesterday that we will be able to hear ongoing stats on the website from last year and also for the upcoming fall about the number of tourists coming into the territory and from which ports they are entering.

Hopefully, it will help us with the monitoring and how we can best help those areas to continue having folks coming into the territory to stay another day. I know that within the tourism and culture industry there are opportunities for people to do activities, whether it is to host musical events like the one at Haines Junction — the bakery, which on Friday nights has music. I was wondering if the department has looked into this. I have been approached by other people wanting to provide these opportunities. I wonder if the department and the minister would be willing to entertain expanding this into our campgrounds. I know that this is a practice that is done in other places in the territory, where we might have a person or program initiated where somebody is able to set up in a campground, whether to display their products locally or play some

tunes around some of the campfires. I know that people visiting us enjoy this type of activity.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I'll just remind the member opposite that the campgrounds do fall under the purview of the Minister of Environment, and provided that we get through Tourism and Culture today, they are slated to be up after we're finished with Tourism and Culture.

The Yukon visitor tracking survey is part of the Department of Tourism and Culture's efforts to ensure that the Yukon government remains industry-led, market-driven and research-based. I know there is one individual in particular in the department listening right now who will particularly enjoy those words.

The Yukon visitor tracking survey was developed in consultation with the industry representing the Tourism Industry Association of Yukon and the Senior Marketing Committee. The selection of the contractor to conduct the Yukon visitor tracking program was done through a public tender administered by a joint industry and department committee.

The survey uses traditional exit survey methodology while adding innovative components such as self-administered tablets and the use of indicator sites. In the long term, these new survey techniques will help us refine our approach to ensure we can receive timely, effective and reliable visitor information. Key findings from the summer survey will be made public in the spring at the TIA spring conference the first week of May. A combined report of all findings from the summer and winter surveys will be produced, along with the methodology recommendations for future data collection, by the end of this year.

Tourism Yukon's marketing framework takes a channel marketing approach segmented as media relations, travel trade, consumer and public relations, as well as meetings, incentives, conventions and events. Tourism Yukon is currently in the development and organization of a number of strategic media relations and PR initiatives that, when fully implemented, are poised to have a significant and positive impact on the generation of unpaid media coverage from the Canada, the U.S. and international markets.

Tourism Yukon's primary strategic media PR initiative will be the implementation of its global media relations strategy. Key objectives incorporated into the global strategy include: integration of North America media relations activities within consumer and trade platforms; the integration of North America and overseas media relations and PR initiatives; and activation of appropriate social media initiatives, as outlined in both the global media relations strategy and the recently developed digital strategy.

The successful implementation of these new initiatives are expected to enhance communications with media contacts, thereby increasing the potential to generate on-line, traditional print and electronic unpaid media coverage. The travel trade channel is critically important to Tourism Yukon, particularly in the overseas markets. Many international visitors to Yukon choose to book their vacation through a travel agency.

Travel agencies typically purchase from a tour operator who packages and promotes Yukon tourism products and experiences. Our support of the travel trade varies, depending on

the market, but generally includes a number of other activities, such as attending key travel trade marketplaces to meet with key accounts and identify potential new travel trade partners. I did have the opportunity to travel to Germany last fall to meet with a number of these individuals in both Germany and Zurich, Switzerland, and I must tell you that they're very excited about selling the Yukon brand to people in their country.

Artists and organizations can apply to the department's funding programs — arts fund, Advanced Artist Award, arts operating fund — for campground art activities, and proposals are evaluated according to fund criteria and adjudicated at arm's length from the department. I thank the member for his question.

Mr. Barr: I thank the minister for his clarity on the assistance with promotions for artisans and people in the arts — the funding they can access.

I would like to continue with some more platform items. It goes to arts and the arts policy. It's about item 100 and is regarding the public arts policy to incorporate Yukon art for new public buildings. The goal was echoed in the *Functional/Facility Program* for the Dawson City hospital written in 2009. On pages 1 to 29, where the design concept is described, the element of local art is included, and I quote: "Public displays of artwork created by local artisans". It has come to our attention that in fact the Yukon Hospital Corporation is not sourcing Yukon art; rather, we are told they are looking for art from B.C. and Alberta. With so many fine Yukon artists producing beautiful works, hopefully the rumour we have heard is not true.

Can the minister confirm if the Yukon Hospital Corporation is procuring local Yukon art for the two new hospitals under construction?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: There is a history of including art in public buildings such as Yukon College, the Law Centre and, most recently, in the Haines Junction Visitor Information Centre, but there is no established principle or policy to allow for a consistent approach.

A public art policy would create a process to incorporate art commissions into the design, budgeting, construction and fit-out stage of new government buildings. The department has issued a tender for research into the role public art plays in public buildings. This research will help the Department of Tourism and Culture determine the next steps for indeed creating a Yukon public art policy.

Public art provides economic opportunities for Yukon artists and it really creates cultural experiences working in or visiting our public buildings. The Government of Yukon recognizes the potential of visual art to enhance public spaces while reflecting the diversity and creativity of Yukon's arts community.

The department is currently developing a consistent and cost-effective approach to acquiring Yukon art for display in public buildings. This approach will acknowledge the growth and development of Yukon visual arts and enhance the government buildings for the benefit of the public workers and for visitors.

I can speak about the government funding that supports Yukon artists in reaching international audiences. Just last December we announced that a number of artists would receive a total of \$22,515 in funding through the Yukon touring artist fund. At that time I said that the Yukon government is pleased to support Yukon artists in their efforts to share their work beyond our borders. I also said these tours will bring the creativity, diversity and energy of Yukon's arts community to new audiences while supporting the growth of these professional artists.

Also just last December, we made an announcement — a number of projects encouraging artistic expression and community engagement are receiving government support. At that time, there were six organizations that shared \$126,000 in funding through the Yukon arts fund. I had indicated at that time that the Government of Yukon was again very pleased to support community projects that foster artistic development and public engagement. Yukon artists and audiences benefit from the opportunity to participate in favourite annual events, as well as new projects exploring diverse aspects of Yukon culture.

I again thank the member opposite for his question and look forward to further questions.

Mr. Barr: Regarding the minister's response, I am aware of the Yukon government's permanent art collection. In the briefing, it was explained that it is, I believe, \$25,000 to bring the permanent art collection to our public places throughout the territory. I'm sure that the artists in the territory — and I know that some of their art has been selected to become part of the permanent art collection that does get displayed throughout our public buildings, some of which the Northern Cultural Expressions Society is now involved with. They do have pieces that are on display, along with displays in our airport from that society of these young carvers. I do know that when I have spoken with artists throughout the territory, since they have become aware that these two new hospitals will be looking Outside for their art, they are quite disappointed. For example, prints that we may be see coming into the territory — many, if not all, of these artists of the original works have prints that are available here.

There could be — and I believe there is — time to approach the local stores, to work out deals or commissions on larger inventories of the prints that are available right now. This would provide work, not only for those artists to produce more prints, but also for the frame shops. I see one of our local frame shops is now out of business. They had been in a place for many years.

I think that as we are building more and more, especially when we consider the number of rooms —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Mr. Barr: Right across the street, actually — he would be happy if he was still in business. The rest of them would be able to frame these prints, especially when we're looking at hospitals and foyers — the number of rooms that would have local artists. Thinking of their art on public display not only brings pride to our territory, but a greater vision of not only providing the opportunity to create art, but an opportunity

that goes hand in hand with someone trying to make a living — to have their art purchased.

Perhaps the Minister of Tourism will work with the Minister of Health and Social Services in getting together and seeing if we can do something about this before the purchases are made from Outside. I would ask the minister if he would be willing to undertake such an endeavour with his prospective colleagues who would be identified, to allow this to happen.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The Yukon permanent art collection belongs to the people of Yukon. It serves as a reflection and enhancement of the Yukon's heritage and of its culture. It is funded by the Department of Tourism and Culture. Works purchased for the collection are selected by the volunteer organization Friends of the Gallery. They strive to ensure that the collection contains quality, unique and important Yukon works that are suitable for a public collection. The collection is valued at over \$2.5 million.

Works from the collection are displayed in public areas of Yukon government buildings in Whitehorse, Faro, Dawson City and Mayo for the enjoyment of Yukoners and visitors to this territory. In fact, a large number of works from the collection are also stored in a secure, climate-controlled facility at the Yukon Arts Centre. In shared space with the Yukon Arts Centre's art collection, the specialized storage area ensures that the works do not degrade or become damaged. I think it's appropriate at this time to thank the Yukon Arts Centre for their relationship with the department.

The current storage area is reaching capacity to properly store that collection. In addition to exploring options for additional storage space, the Department of Tourism and Culture is working to identify operational changes that could help address the art storage capacity challenges. It's important to note that \$25,000 in this budget is allocated for permanent collection purchases. It's also important to note that there is \$60,000 in this budget allocated to a space study funded by Property Management division. There is also \$40,000 allocated for design and purchase of shelving for the collection at the Yukon Arts Centre.

The Government of Yukon also recognizes the importance of the programming developed and delivered by the Northern Cultural Expressions Society. Yukon government is pleased to provide funding to enable the society to help emerging artists develop the artistic, social and business skills required for personal success. I know a number of the artists who attend the Northern Cultural Expressions Society and I must add that I was amazed by the work that they put out there. The Department of Tourism and Culture will also provide operating funding of \$345,000 each year for three years to assist the society in reaching its goals and provide certainty for its operations.

It was just last December that we announced the Yukon government's annual call for submissions to the permanent art collection that included an opportunity for artists to have their artwork professionally photographed.

At that time, I announced that the Yukon permanent art collection is an important cultural legacy that reflects the diversity of our visual arts community. I also noted that this year's call for submissions offered a fantastic professional develop-

ment opportunity for artists. I think it's important to note that the Friends of the Gallery chair, Scott Price, had indicated at that time that artists can use the images, statements and resumes — not only to prepare quality submissions for the permanent art collection, but also for future submissions, portfolios and grant applications — great opportunities.

Pertaining to the questions from the member opposite on the hospitals, I actually need to defer those questions on the operation of the new Dawson hospital. They should be directed to the Hospital Corporation. I do thank the member for his question, but we will have to defer that question to the Hospital Corporation.

Mr. Barr: I would like to acknowledge that the securing of a three-year funding agreement with Northern Cultural Expressions Society is welcome news from the minister. I have had many years of involvement since its inception and being involved day to day, not only with the staff there, but the carvers, who worry whether or not they're going to be there at the end of March every year — knowing this will be some comfort. I do know that other funding they do require is for their beginner program and they continue to struggle with some of the activities and programming they provide the community. When we look at the totem pole raising, for example, it's one of many — when we look in this room, the plaques that were done in conjunction with Calvin Morberg and, I believe, “the Kane-meister” — I will just say that — the other carvers of these two plaques.

The canoe is on display. It has just been ongoing. I am sure that not only the ones following in their footsteps but the Yukon as a whole benefit from this program. William Kane is the other; that's it. We can see the work. These are long-established artists in the communities, following in their elders' footsteps to regain their culture. Some of the regalia the minister speaks of have been spawned from this program — from the Dakhká Khwáan Dancers — that will be appearing, I believe, at the Northern Scene along with various other local artists. I would like to say that the tourism and culture opportunities from these folks are welcomed by the artists in the territory and the continued support is something that will only enhance people travelling out there to see what these artists talk about when they're out there communicating with the crowds to come here to the Yukon.

It'll raise our tourism dollars, which brings me to item 102, in supporting our touring artists, which the minister spoke to.

I know that this is part of the Minister of Economic Development's portfolio also, but I was wondering if the Minister of Tourism and Culture has explored with these touring supports an idea that was floated, or is he aware of a tripartite agreement with Air North, the touring support and the artists themselves, where they would put in \$200 to fly out of the territory to an impromptu engagement that would allow tourists to be able to be visible where Air North flies — whether it's Vancouver, Calgary or Edmonton.

The artist comes up with \$200 and that's their return flight. Tourism kicks in the other; Air North kicks in the other. I'm just wondering where those talks are. I've heard that that might

become a reality this year. Could the minister expand on that please?

Chair: Would the members like a break?

All Hon. Members: Agree.

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

Recess

Chair: Order. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. We are resuming debate on Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Madam Chair, I'm actually quite pleased to talk about some of the different funds that we have within Tourism and Culture. One of those funds is the touring artist fund, which supports artists who showcase their work outside of Yukon for their own professional development and also to increase their viability as professional artists and to place Yukon performing, visual and literary arts in the context of the contemporary arts in Canada and around the world.

Eligible tours must include one anchor venue where the applicant is selected to present work as a result of a professional selection process. This is where an artist's work is chosen for its merit by a professional jury, committee, curator or other similar process.

The application must include the written invitation from the anchor venue to the applicant, which describes the nature of the invitation, any contributions by the host venue toward tour expenses and the nature or confirmation of the selection process. The selection process information might also be provided via submission guidelines that the venue publishes elsewhere.

A tour is more than one venue or more than one artistic activity at one venue. The supplied invitation only has to come from one venue on that tour. It is not necessary to include a portfolio or samples of their work. The invitation from the host venue reflects the relative merit of the opportunity.

Another fund that we're also very proud of promoting within the department is the Advanced Artist Award. The objective of the Advanced Artist Award is to assist advanced Yukon visual, literary and performing artists practising at a senior level with innovative projects, travel or educational pursuits that contribute to their personal artistic development and to their community.

The program serves as a foundation for much of the wide array of cultural products and events in the Yukon. The intended results and outcomes of the Advanced Artist Award are to encourage artistic creativity, to enable artists to develop their own skills, and to improve the ability of artists to promote their own work and to promote their own talents.

Madam Chair, awards to the artists represent the research and development portion of the arts funding. This is the risky or experimental portion of an artist's development. For example, the writing and editing of a manuscript that may later be published; songwriting or studio work for an album that may later be manufactured; the creation of a body of work that may result in an exhibition; or a script that may be fully produced in a theatre season.

Eligible applicants for the Advanced Artist Award include Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada who have lived in the Yukon for at least one continuous year prior to the award deadline.

In addition, an applicant must be considered to be an artist working at the advanced level. An advanced artist is an individual who has specialized training in his or her artistic field, not limited to training in academic institutions and is also recognized as an advanced artist by his or her peers. Also, they have a history of public presentation of his or her own work.

Projects that further develop a particular art form or explore a new area within the artist's field would also fall under "eligible for funding". Other items would include short-term educational pursuits, post-secondary or post-graduate study related to a specific project, or travel to attend a specific event related to the artistic development of the applicant.

There are some limitations to the funding. Activities, applicants and projects that may not be eligible for funding are artists who are not operating at an advanced level; commercial projects such as photo reproductions or mass-produced arts products; major purchases such as tools, musical instruments, word processors, printers or equipment; marketing material, packaging or graphic design for arts products, as well as projects that start before the deadline. Requests for retroactive funding would not be eligible and post-secondary study not related to that specific project would not be eligible.

An individual artist may receive funding only once every 18 months, or every third season. Eligible costs would include subsidization if the applicant is not employed during the project, childcare, supplies and materials specific to the project, small purchases specific to the project, service fees, rental of facilities, venues or studio space, travel, including accommodation, tuition or workshop fees and books or required sources.

There is an assessment of applications and the approval process deadlines for the Advanced Artist Award are on April 1 and October 1. Like conventional arts grants, the program depends on two principles: peer review, and arm's-length funding. It's important to note that the department staff do not make funding decisions, but they do facilitate the application and the assessment process.

Applications are assessed by a peer jury made up of other Yukon artists. The jury is selected by the department on behalf of the Yukon Arts Advisory Council. Juries change each session and are made up of artists representing diverse art forms to achieve funding allocations that are balanced in gender, expertise and cultural representation. Care is taken to ensure that the jury members do not stand to benefit from an applicant receiving funds. For example, a recording studio producer would not be asked to sit on a jury where an applicant has applied to conduct a sound recording project at that studio.

Completed applications are assessed by the designated jury based on the following criteria: the degree to which the proposed activity or project meets the objectives of the Advanced Artist Award; an assessment of the education, experience and skill level of that applicant; the performance history or public exposure of the applicant; the degree to which the project will meet the artistic development objectives of that applicant; the

existence of a realistic and feasible budget and itinerary; and finally, the available funds.

The jury recommendations are approved by the chair of the Yukon Arts Advisory Council before being forwarded to me, as Minister of Tourism and Culture, for final approval and announcement. Applicants will be notified in writing of the results within eight weeks of the application deadline. Decisions and jury names are kept confidential until formal approval and announcements to the applicants are made. Finally, the media is then later notified of the award results.

Another fund that we are very proud to promote is the arts fund, to offer funding assistance to group projects that are arts-focused, to foster the creative development of the arts in Yukon and to support the principles of the Yukon arts policy. The intended results and outcomes of the arts fund are to encourage activities of communities, art collectives, non-profit groups and First Nations in the performing, literary and visual arts. Arts fund projects encourage participation in and appreciation of the arts, engage wide public participation, develop young, emerging and advanced artists and animate Yukon communities and events.

Eligibility of the arts fund: applicants include artist collectives, non-profit organizations, community associations, industry associations, First Nation governments, school councils, local advisory councils and municipal governments. Projects vary but may include festival development, special initiatives training, performance and event productions.

There are some limitations to funding for the arts fund. Projects, expenses and applications not eligible for funding are applications from individuals, applications for capital projects, projects that start prior to the application deadline, projects that will begin before assessment results are expected, projects that directly compete with local private sector initiatives, administration expenses for applicants who already receive funding under the arts operating fund program, administration or artistic fees for arts collective applicants, ongoing multi-year costs that will result from the project and expenses not directly related to that project.

Generally, only one project will be funded per applicant in any given fiscal year. There may be exceptions to the one-application-per-year rule that are appropriate due to timing of projects for applicants who break down projects into logical components and apply for them separately or for applicants that may be members of different collectives.

Costs that would fall under the "eligible" label would include artistic fees and expenses — except, as noted, in limitations — administration fees and expenses — except, as noted, in limitations — promotion, production expenses, other costs that are directly and reasonably related to the said project. Consideration will only be given to expenses directly related to that project.

There are, obviously, funding thresholds, and there are assessments of the application and approval process. More information on that can be found on-line.

As Yukoners know, the Yukon Arts Centre has established itself as a model for the development of arts in the north. To truly appreciate this exceptional cultural facility, it's useful to

know the motivation behind its beginnings. Before the Arts Centre was built, performances and concerts were presented in school gyms and other less-than-ideal spaces. The seats were uncomfortable and the acoustics left something to be desired.

A downtown visual arts gallery was appreciated, but it lacked the space and environmental controls required for mounting large-scale exhibitions. Eventually a group of like-minded Yukoners, composed of arts and community leaders, came together to imagine a new space for Yukon's already vibrant arts scene and, in 1992, the Yukon Arts Centre was built next to the college. The centre is an incredible facility and it houses a 400-seat theatre, the only A-class public art gallery in the north, and provides incredibly diverse cultural programming.

Mr. Silver: I'd just like to start by thanking the officials from the department for showing up here today and I'd like to also extend my gratitude for their excellent briefing presented earlier this week. You never know what you're going to get at a briefing and it's nice to have all components there — a great cross-section of the department, an excellent briefing note and an excellent explanation, so thank you very much for that.

I'd like to start with questions from the briefing — page 17-5 and 17-17, I guess, but 17-5, recoveries from Canada. We have \$590,000 from CanNor. This was a very smart move by the Department of Tourism and Culture. Other jurisdictions are getting federal dollars for tourism marketing, so kudos for this. Judging from the significant increases to monies for staffing and projects, the department now has, I guess, more flexibility with these recovery monies from Canada. So now a big percentage of the actual in-market spending comes from Canada, as I'm looking at these numbers. However, 2014 is fast approaching and that is the final year of this agreement as far as I understand.

What is the plan moving forward? How does this affect getting money to markets overseas? Will they have to drop the European and other overseas markets or will the effect be felt in the "Destination: Yukon" domestic market?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Before answering the question from the member opposite, I think it's timely that I set the record straight on some other work that I've been involved in over the last year. I started to do that last week but kept getting called to order, so I'll continue on, just pointing out for the record some of the work that I've been involved in.

I reflect on the hard work that I, many other Yukoners and Yukon organizations have put into mitigating the issue pertaining to the guided tours on the *SS Klondike* and Dredge No. 4. I know I spoke endlessly and wrote correspondence to a number of individuals in Ottawa, including Ryan Leef, the federal Minister of Environment, the Hon. Peter Kent —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

Chair: Order please. Mr. Silver, on a point of order.

Mr. Silver: I have to call the minister once again on 19(b); he is speaking to a matter other than the question under discussion.

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

Hon. Mr. Cathers: On the point of order, though I know that the member is sensitive on this topic, the minister is speaking to matters relevant to his portfolio and so it is very much in keeping with 19(b). The minister, as every member of the House in speaking about a department, tends to cover a wide range of topics related to that department.

Chair's ruling

Chair: There is no point of order. We are in general debate.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Madam Chair, and I won't take a whole lot of time on this, but I think it's important to note the conversations I did have with our MP, the federal Minister of Environment, the Hon. Peter Kent, as well as the federal Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Maxime Bernier, as well as phone calls and meeting in person with the Heritage minister, the Hon. James Moore.

Madam Chair, I also spent a lot of time talking with department officials and tasked them to engage with Parks Canada to really ascertain the facts and look at how we can move forward on this. I also introduced a government motion on May 8, 2012, specifically addressing the dredge, and it was in fact 170 days later when the Member for Klondike asked his first question on Parks Canada. Forty-one days following that, he asked a second question on Parks Canada. In October 2012, the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin and I worked together to bring forward a motion, which all members of this Assembly supported unanimously. I would like to thank the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin for his work on that issue.

I met with a number of Yukon stakeholders, and I continued dialogue with our party caucus — all to gain the input of people involved, in the hope of mitigating the issue at hand, with the expectation that we would come to a solution that would work for the two venues in question.

It's important to note that the Yukon solution to this issue was to extend the operations of the tours to the private sector. As I noted in my reply to the budget speech, Yukoners are smart people. The Member for Klondike has taken the opportunity to make comments directed at me, personalizing debate and not representing the facts when it comes to the amount of work I have put into this file.

As it was the Member for Klondike who supported extending the tours on the *SS Klondike* and Dredge No. 4 to the private sector back in December and January, along with our mutual friends at TIA, I'd actually like to take this opportunity to thank the Member for Klondike for showing up to support a Yukon solution that will keep the two venues open to tours this summer.

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

Chair: Mr. Silver, on a point of order.

Mr. Silver: I believe this is 19(g). He's imputing false or unavowed motives to another member.

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

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I believe this is merely a dispute between members. The minister is reflecting his views on mat-

ters relevant to his department, just as the Member for Klondike has on a number of occasions in this House.

Chair's ruling

Chair: There is no point of order. This is merely a dispute between members. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I was just trying to take that opportunity to thank the Member for Klondike for supporting a Yukon solution that was clear in his remarks back in December and January. So if he's not in support of the Yukon solution in keeping the Dredge No. 4 and the *SS Klondike* open this summer, I would surely like him to put that on the record. On behalf of the Department of Tourism and Culture, I really do have full confidence in our Yukon stakeholders to provide guided tours this summer on the *SS Klondike* and Dredge No. 4. In fact, I'd like to also take this opportunity to congratulate the successful bid winners that obtained businesses licences to indeed provide those tours.

Following that clarification, I'd also like to thank the Member for Klondike for following me on Twitter, #number-onefan. Our tourism sector continues to be a solid and steady contributor to Yukon's economy, generating revenues for Yukon businesses of approximately \$200 million annually. I was proud to see the news release coming out just two short days ago that on behalf of the Hon. Peter Kent, Canada's Environment minister and minister responsible for Parks Canada, Mr. Ryan Leef, Member of Parliament for Yukon, announced the successful licensees that will offer guided tours on the *SS Klondike* and Dredge No. 4 national historic sites. Now that I've cleared that up, we can move on.

The primary target markets for this initiative that the member opposite speaks about are Germany and Switzerland. Secondary markets are the U.K., Australia and Japan, while emerging markets are identified as France, Netherlands and South Korea. The additional \$500,000 average per year has enabled Yukon to increase its market share compared to the rest of Canada in key European markets.

Visitation from Australia has increased to overtake the U.K. as Yukon's second largest overseas market behind Germany. Visitation from Japan for both fall and winter — that would be the aurora viewing season — has grown more than tenfold in the past two years, and Japan is now a secondary market for Yukon.

The future of the overseas marketing budget decisions on the 2014-15 budget will be made over the next year and decisions will be informed by the soon-to-be available visitor tracking program, the forthcoming marketing program assessment and the government's overall fiscal framework.

I'd like to thank the member opposite for his question.

Mr. Silver: I don't know what to say about that, other than I really didn't get an answer.

Moving on — another amount is the portion of money in visitor tracking funding. Tourism and Culture budgeted to get \$250,000 from Canada for this and only received \$43,000. Can the minister please explain these numbers?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: To give a bit of background on the visitor tracking program, the survey is part of the Department

of Tourism and Culture's efforts to ensure that the Yukon government remains industry-led, market-driven and research-based in its approach to tourism. The Yukon visitor tracking survey was developed in consultation with industry representing the Tourism Industry Association of Yukon and the Senior Marketing Committee.

The selection of the contractor to conduct the Yukon visitor tracking program was done through a public tender administered by a joint industry department committee. The survey uses traditional exit survey methodology while adding innovative components such as self-administered tablets and the use of indicator sites.

In the long term, these new survey techniques will help us refine our approach to ensure we can receive timely, effective and reliable visitor information. Key findings from the summer survey will be made public in the spring at the TIA conference during the first week in May and then, following that, a combined report of all findings from the summer and winter surveys will be produced, along with the methodology recommendations for future data collection by the end of the year.

It is important to note in the 2012-13 budget that there was \$500,000 allocated: \$250,000 from CanNor; \$220,000 from Tourism and Culture; and \$30,000 from Economic Development. Following that in the 2013-14 budget, we are looking at \$85,000: \$42,500 from CanNor; and \$42,500 from Tourism and Culture.

Mr. Silver: I guess I am not going to get any answers today about specific questions, which is unfortunate, so I think I will just use my 20 minutes and ask all of my questions — just get them on the record, regardless of whether or not I get an answer. I apologize to the department officials who have to write them down really quickly here, but here we go.

I will start with page 17-6, Corporate Services. We see an increased cost to the DM's office from \$376,000 in 2011-12 to \$455,000 and we are just wondering what that is.

Was this a full-time staffer in IT? Was this the digital strategist for marketing?

Then after that, overall for 17-9, personnel is up from \$3.799 million in 2011-12 to \$4.224 million, yet the transfer to the actual organizations that deliver the outcomes is down. We're wondering what the rationale is there. We see more managers and fewer project dollars; fewer marketing dollars being spent in markets and funds for NGOs and culture that are decreasing as the percentage of the total Tourism envelope. I was wondering if the minister could give his rationale there.

Page 17-7: there was a big jump in heritage resource spending and we're wondering if that was based upon staffing.

The numbers on page 17-15 are very curious. Does the minister believe that border crossings are a real reflection on visitation? I would assume that we shouldn't count in the numbers of the people who drive from inside of Canada, which is presumably a lot of the rubber-tire traffic here, yet we count this in the Yukon-Alaska border to Skagway. Every Yukoner over the border to Skagway counts as a tourist coming back and I'm just wondering what the rationale is here and if the minister thinks that that actually makes any sense.

Can I make the request, as well, if there's a split between the air versus rubber tire, private versus bus tour, numbers — if that could be made available by the minister's office, that would be appreciated. As far as I know, the department has never counted air travel in their budget documents and I'm just wondering why — air travel has significantly increased since Air North started their southern schedule. I'd just like to say thank you very much Air North for your southern schedule. So a new matrix of visitation numbers should be presented. If the minister could communicate the rationale for not having this, it would be appreciated.

I realize that as far as those numbers back to Skagway — I realize that there is great tourism traffic here. On 17-15, we see \$93,000 at the Carcross VIC. I am assuming that a big portion of this is day trips from cruises. This information is so useful, and potentially lucrative, once Carcross develops economically. I just question the methodology from the tourist numbers, but that kind of leads into the next question, which is the visitor study results.

I know we talked about this a bit already today. The contract was public and the results are late. They were late coming in. Parliamentary numbers were due in October. All the data, I assume, has now been submitted to the department and I heard today that the results will be rolled out at the TIA AGM in Haines, Alaska.

In the 2004 visitor survey, the industry asked for a more efficient survey using modern technologies that could be carried forward. What is the department's plan for this year to build on the investment of over \$500,000 in research?

Moving on to page 17-19, the tourism marketing side transfers — \$7.8 million to NGOs and lobby groups, but zero marketing for the products that are core funded by the other side of the department, which is Cultural Services.

Page 17-18 is a list of facilities and programs core funded for operations from the tourism budget, yet the marketing branch does not give these organizations any marketing dollars. I am just wondering why and if this actually makes sense to the minister. They give \$657,000 to museums and \$514,000 to cultural centres to operate and zero for marketing. On page 17-8, the list of these cultural services has a quite diverse range — Stay Another Day, arts-themed events, Yukon Science Institute, the Yukon Arts Centre Corporation, arts operating funds, and the list goes on and on. I see that the Dawson City Arts Society is in there as well. I would like to know the rationale.

Further to that, as well, the department will give the Wilderness Tourism Association, which is a consortium of for-profit, private businesses, \$264,000 for marketing. So if I could just get a breakdown of the rationale as to this particular marketing and money.

I think that is pretty much it, except one further question on overseas cooperative market agreements. If this is outsourcing the management of tourism overseas marketing, could the minister explain why we would need so much in expenditures for staff in the department to travel to these jurisdictions? Could I also get a breakdown of the specific numbers spent?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: In the spirit of cooperation, I will share with this House the number of exceptional things that the

department is undertaking. In 2012, Yukon hosted over 320,000 visitors from around the world, including nearly 34,000 overseas visitors. As I mentioned earlier, there was a 4-percent increase in the number of visitors to Yukon in 2012 compared to 2011, with a 2-percent increase in foreign visitors. Each year, tourism generates \$200 million in revenue for Yukon businesses. Over one-quarter of all Yukon businesses generate some of their revenue from tourism, with more than 4 percent of Yukon's GDP directly attributed to tourism. A record 294,000 passengers travelled through Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport last year — the fourth straight year of growth in travelling to Yukon by air. More than 3,500 Japanese visitors will visit Yukon this year to experience Yukon's winter and northern lights.

Germany continues to be the Yukon's largest overseas market, representing approximately 26 percent of overseas visitors. Whitehorse is the smallest city in North America with direct flights to Germany. Condor brought over 4,000 visitors to Yukon this year, contributing an \$8-million to \$10-million benefit to Yukon's economy. Visitor information centres in six Yukon communities provided travel information and visitor services to over 231,000 visitors. Yukon government has installed interpretive sign panels at over 180 sites on scenic routes and points of interest throughout the territory. Yukon government provides \$1.2 million to the 13 museums and seven First Nation cultural centres. They present our culture and our history to 100,000 visitors each year. Yukon government's Beringia Centre and the MacBride Museum are Yukon's most visited museums, with over 20,000 visitors each year.

The department has identified and recorded over 3,900 archaeological sites and maintains a collection of over 47,500 artifacts. In collaboration with the Klondike placer miners, over 3,000 new fossils were collected for the paleontology program last year.

The department co-owns and co-manages three historic sites with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Selkirk First Nation. Yukon's historic sites inventory lists over 3,500 records of historic resources, such as gravesites, engineering features, buildings and structures. There are over 5,000 records in the official Yukon geographical names database that list names of Yukon lakes, rivers and mountains. Seven locations across Yukon have been designated and protected as territorial historic sites under the *Historic Resources Act*.

Last year the Yukon government added 10 works to the Yukon permanent art collection, valued at \$2.5 million. The 370 – piece collection is featured in 24 public government buildings. Last year the department provided \$80,000 to support 22 advanced artist projects that contributed to artistic and community development.

Last year over \$100,000 of funding was provided to support 20 Yukon artists and ensembles to tour creative works nationally and internationally. Last year the department provided \$2.4 million of funding to 62 non-profit organizations and collectives. This funding enabled over 100,000 audience members to enjoy over 1,000 arts events.

Yukon Archives provided service to 1,500 researchers and retrieved over 7,500 archival records last year. It's also important to note, as I did earlier, that Yukon was designated by *Lonely Planet* as a top-10 must-visit travel destination for 2013. Subsequent global media coverage generated tremendous exposure for Yukon and expanded awareness of Yukon as a premier outdoor travel destination. Following media familiarization trips led by the department, both *Reader's Digest* and *Outside* magazine have highlighted Yukon as a must-visit Canadian destination, highlighting some of the existing new visitor experiences Yukon has to offer.

The Department of Tourism and Culture branch signed a letter of agreement with the Klondike Visitors Association — the member opposite will be keenly interested in this, I'm sure — committing to work together on a number of marketing-related projects and initiatives in the 2012-13 and the 2013-14 fiscal years. The department's marketing project with CanNor resulted in an increase in higher yield overseas visitors, which has offset an anticipated decline in visitors from the U.S. and other countries suffering from depressed economies. In October 2012, the department entered into a three-year marketing project with Holland America Line — \$50,000 per year to support joint efforts to promote cruise tour product that provides significant revenues and benefits to Yukon's tourism industry.

The department organized the Canadian Tourism Commission's GoMedia Marketplace in May 2012, hosting 125 international and domestic media as well as 170 tourism industry members. In 2012, the Yukon government signed a two-year \$150,000 cooperative marketing agreement with Fulda to promote the event and Yukon. Each year the Fulda challenge generates European media coverage valued at over \$5 million.

In 2012, the department helped celebrate the Hannover Zoo's Yukon Bay's event, which included gold panning, music and entertainment and other activities designed to educate zoo attendees on the Yukon product.

The department opened the new Haines Junction Visitor Information Centre located within the Dä Ku Cultural Centre. The centre showcases the work of 41 Yukon artists while providing travel information to Yukon visitors. The department signed a memorandum of understanding with the l'Association franco-yukonnaise in 2012 outlining a number of strategic initiatives specific to the development of French-speaking visitor markets. In 2012, Yukon Archives celebrated its 40th anniversary and hosted more than 175 participants at the Association of Canadian Archivists conference. The national conference supports the archivists who ensure our history is preserved for future generations. In October 2012, the department hosted the Canadian Conservation Institute workshop materials for exhibit storage and transport, providing training to 18 heritage workers from seven communities.

Yukon government announced \$389,000 in funding for Yukon Archives to support preserving Yukon's past. Projects include planning for expanded storage and improvements to esthetics and energy efficiency of the Archives building.

The department improved visitor access and interpretation at three of its major sites through trail and bridge improvements

at Fortymile, enhanced interpretive facilities on Herschel Island, and a third interpretive building at Fort Selkirk.

The department is leading a \$479,000 archaeological site inventory and predictive modelling project, supported by CanNor. In partnership with local First Nations, this project will assist the placer mining industry in meeting regulatory and YESAA requirements.

In June 2012, the department co-hosted Frozen Pasts — that was the Third International Glacial Archeology Symposium — with Kwanlin Dun First Nation. The symposium explored Yukon's ancient culture and our changing environment.

There was exciting news last year for Yukon with the announcement of Air North, Yukon's airline, and Air Canada reaching an interline agreement. This is great news for travellers, who will no longer have to re-check their baggage when making connecting flights.

Last summer, we had members of the 2012 MVPA Alaska Highway convoy travel through the territory in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the building of the Alaska Highway. Many convoy members and their families were from the U.S. Their journey covered more than 4,000 miles and gave more than 200 participants the opportunity to experience Yukon firsthand, driving the Alaska Highway and other routes that connect our communities. It's important to note that everywhere they went, they were met with warm Yukon hospitality and made many friendships.

Another success for the territory and for Whitehorse, in particular, was the 2012 Women's World Fastpitch Championship held just last July. Everyone in attendance for that venue, from the players to the coaches to the families and friends, truly enjoyed superior softball and great athletic competition.

As you know, Madam Chair, for the first time ever, Go Media was held in Whitehorse in May 2012. We hosted more than 140 travel media and 150 delegates who took part in the Canadian Tourism Commission's premier three-day marketing event. It was a true success story for Whitehorse and a true success story for Yukon as a whole. We received tremendous coverage from travel writers around the world, which truly helps raise the profile of Yukon and promotes that solid Yukon brand. Their stories give us exceptional, unpaid media coverage — an important marketing tool for our brand.

Events such as these and the partnerships we have with organizations like the Canadian Tourism Commission truly bring people to Yukon for a specific purpose. When they arrive, we offer them opportunities to see and do more, expanding their knowledge and interest about the territory and encouraging them to return and experience more, which many do.

In August I had the opportunity to travel to German-speaking Europe. I met with tourism operators in Germany and Switzerland, who said they were very pleased with their business this past summer. The operators are very optimistic and are eagerly looking forward to the upcoming summer season. While I was in Germany I also met with Condor officials who are very happy with the high load factors to Yukon, which speaks to the health of the market this season. Madam Chair, did you know that the Whitehorse route is Condor's most profitable route in North America?

The Condor 2013 schedule shows an increase of two flights, or an additional 540 seats, to Yukon compared to last year, the 2012 season. We're very fortunate to have this unique direct Frankfurt-to-Whitehorse relationship with Condor. It's truly the envy of many small jurisdictions across Canada. I'm sure that you're aware that Whitehorse is indeed — and as I mentioned earlier — the smallest community in North America to receive direct air access from Germany.

Fulda is also very excited to continue their strong relationship with Yukon. Fulda has covered a lot of ground and has done a lot of unique challenges in Yukon. They're now looking for innovative new ways to enhance the winter challenge.

Last, but certainly not least, when I was in Germany, I visited Yukon Bay in Hannover's zoo — the newest attraction in Germany — and I had a great time. While the attraction is relatively small compared to the real Yukon, visitors are really given an impression and an impressive piece of what Yukon has to offer right in the heart of Germany. I had the honour to be there during "Gold Rush Days" a new event that had more than 27,000 people visiting Yukon Bay over a two-day period. Hannover Zoo officials plan on making "Gold Rush Days" an annual event and are planning more activities for this year.

The presentation of Keith Smarch's sculpture, "Spring Bears", to the zoo was truly a special moment for those of us in attendance, supporting not only Keith, who is an exceptional Yukon artist, but also highlighting First Nation culture and its significance to Yukon's unique heritage and contemporary cultural fabric.

The Canadian Deputy Ambassador to Germany, Eric Walsh, attended the Keith Smarch sculpture unveiling and was very positive about the experience. He is a new friend in Germany, and his trip to Hannover Zoo certainly brought up his interest in exploring Yukon in the near future.

Mr. Barr: I would like to start by thanking the Clerk for assisting me with the real name — it's not "Kanemeister" or William Kane; it's actually William Kane's nephew, Jared Kane, who is the artist of the Crow moiety plaque here in the Legislature. This is just for *Hansard* to put on the record and give credit where credit is due. Thank you very much.

I would also like to thank the Member for Klondike for his important questions. He saved a lot of questions for me and I won't repeat them.

I will put out this question. There was a non-answer earlier today for the Member for Takhini-Kopper King that was asked in Question Period. We heard the Minister of Tourism and Culture talking about the disappearing funding for the promised Archives vault and how this demonstrated great fiscal responsibility. But really, despite words about maximized investment and symbiotic relationships, we are left with the growing collection being put at risk — the opposite purpose for what the *Archives Act* states are its objectives. I would refer to clause 5(b): "the discovery, collection and preservation of material having any bearing on the history of the Yukon."

What options can the minister describe here that will ensure the protection of our shared history if appropriate resources like an archival vault are not being funded?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: As the Premier and I alluded to in Question Period today when the Member for Takhini-Kopper King asked the question, I think we did a great job at answering the question specifically and indicating, one, that on this side of the House we're very fiscally responsible, and two, we want to make sure that we provide the Yukon with something significant and look for ideas and partnerships along the way.

Yukon Archives preserves outstanding and irreplaceable documentary records of our territory's history and development for the benefit of truly all Yukoners. Record storage at the Yukon Archives facility is nearing capacity and a variety of options are being explored to help address the needs and space challenges in the interim. The Yukon government is conducting a functional space planning and options analysis to potentially include a Yukon Archives expansion with perhaps archaeology, paleontology and maybe even art storage.

Tourism and Culture is working with Property Management on a functional space plan for Archives and, as I mentioned, may include arts, archeology and paleontology storage. The study should be complete late summer 2013. This study will really ensure that Yukon's heritage resources and permanent art collection are managed in a manner that protects these resources while ensuring fiscal responsibility. Yukon Archives continues to provide safe, secure and environmentally sound storage for Yukon's irreplaceable documentary heritage. Indeed, the functional space plan will help to ensure that Yukon Archives manages this heritage appropriately into the future. I appreciate the question coming forward from the member opposite.

Mr. Barr: I would appreciate an answer that would seek clarity. Maybe we could get something that could explain — I understand the study and I understand that we've already had a study, so now here we are having another study. It doesn't seem good for Archives and what we want to do to preserve our culture, with what I hear from across the floor at this time.

When the minister opposite was speaking about Carcross and some of the initiatives that are going on there, I would like to state that for those of you who are visiting Carcross this summer, you'll be able to explore, I think, approximately five new venues — you may be able to get pizza in Carcross now, there's another new bistro, canoe rentals, and we have the existing bakery at the old barracks and the Skookum Jim House, which was a very successful coffeehouse, and it's been able to obtain local art from across the community of Mount Lorne and Southern Lakes — that whole area.

Regarding the visitor reception centre that the minister spoke to — I'd like to maybe get some clarity. He said it was tendered out, and it's my understanding — and I see clarity here — that the people requesting or responding to a tender need to own the property. It's my understanding that there may be some issues around the award of the tender. Some local people have brought to my attention — the fact that it has to be owned — and the land owned by the people it was awarded to. I understand the CTFN — the development corporation — has an interest in Northern Vision; however, it's not a majority.

So, in the interest of transparency, I would like to just get some clarity on that at this time.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Thank you for the question from the member opposite on the Carcross visitor information centre. This is a project I've been excited about, and I think it will be a welcome addition to the community.

The Government of Yukon has concluded its lease of the Carcross train depot as the visitor information centre with the White Pass & Yukon Railway. The Department of Highways and Public Works, Property Management division, issued a public request for proposals for lease space for the Carcross Visitor Information Centre.

The Department of Tourism and Culture truly looks forward to providing high-quality visitor information services to the travelling public in Carcross this summer and in summers to come.

I will defer the question on procurement to the Department of Highways and Public Works. They are the lead on that process, but I was happy to announce earlier today that the new Carcross Visitor Information Centre will be ready for the summer tourist season. I had indicated in my press release that the team at the Carcross Visitor Information Centre will be providing exceptional service from the new location, and we are expecting another very busy tourism season. The building, I believe, will be ideal for meeting travellers' needs.

We have entered into a two-year lease of \$101,032 with the Carcross-Tagish Management Corporation, on behalf of the Carcross-Tagish limited partnership, as well as the Northern Vision Development Limited Partnership. The lease was awarded through a request for proposals. The new visitor information centre is close to many of the community's main attractions and is part of a tourism-focused development led by the Carcross-Tagish Management Corporation, and it's good to see their work moving forward as well.

Yukon seasonal visitor centres in Beaver Creek, Carcross, Dawson, Haines Junction and also Watson Lake will open on May 2. We all know that the Whitehorse Visitor Information Centre is open year-round, but the new addition to the Whitehorse Visitor Information Centre this year is a test of Wi-fi access that will assist travellers with planning their Yukon experience while staying connected with friends and relatives during their journey.

Mr. Barr: I do recall earlier in today's conversation that there is an allotment of \$70,000 in this fiscal year to be spent on signage and, I guess, renewing old signs. I know that there has been an expressed interest from businesses in the Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes area for new signage for the new businesses and existing businesses. Could the minister let me know what has transpired from the communications with local businesses with regard to this being a reality for this tourist season?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: It was just a couple of short weeks ago that I received an e-mail from a business owner in the area. That e-mail was forwarded on to the Minister of Highways and Public Works, who is responsible for that signage. I'm going to defer your question — perhaps you can ask the Minister of Highways and Public Works during his budget debate.

As the on-line world continues to rapidly evolve, so does Tourism Yukon's digital marketing effort. It's important to plug the www.travel yukon.com website, which will re-launch in the next two years with an enhanced focus on core experiences, engaging photography, video, relevant user-generated content and compelling product offers.

It's also important to note that Tourism Yukon will implement the enhanced website and social media marketing in the upcoming year. There will be a conscious shift to focus more on leading the Yukon tourism industry to become more digital-marketing savvy and build relationships with new audiences through social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr. As signs in the area that the member talks about are relevant, so are the marketing strategies that we use to enhance people to use those areas.

Mr. Elias: It's a pleasure again to engage in debate for the Department of Tourism and Culture. It's not riding-specific but it's an area in the Yukon that's very near and dear to my heart. It also includes some questions that I might have for the Environment minister or the Highways and Public Works minister, and that is with regard to the Dempster Highway.

I know the minister is well aware that seasonally we get thousands of tourists who travel that highway just to say that they've travelled the Dempster from start to finish.

I travel the Dempster several times a year. I think that talking to tourists year after year and looking at the potential that the Dempster Highway has in terms of telling a story to those tourists from around the world — I think there is a lot of improvements, and there's a very good opportunity that the minister could think about as a project for the Dempster Highway.

We have an opportunity to work with the Northwest Territories, the Na Cho Nyäk Dun, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the Tetlit and the Vuntut Gwitchin governments in terms of an opportunity to interpret the Dempster Highway and tell a story, because I think it's a pretty important story to tell. It's one of the longest stretches of road that we have in the territory, and it's pretty unique. I think that if we have the opportunity to look at the interpretive signs from the beginning of the highway to the end, some of them are outdated, some of them are weathered. You can't really read them any more. Some of them are in the wrong place. They interpret the wrong area of the highway.

Some of them have bullet holes through them, to tell you the truth, and some of the rest-stop areas are in unsafe places along the highway — i.e. right beside an operational oil and gas well, encouraging tourists to stop right next to an oil and gas operation. There are other things I've had personal experience with. If we have a group of tourists who are travelling together — let's say they were from Germany — and there's harvesting going on on the north end of the highway, and they witness this without any warning, especially when the Porcupine caribou herd is in the vicinity. One of the ideas presented by one of my constituents was that the highway crews could have movable signs saying, "Be prepared to see harvesting happening" in different languages. Sometimes it's a shock to people who aren't used to that kind of thing. They've travelled halfway around the world and then they come and see — I'll

use the words “majestic wildlife” being harvested and that’s their memory of the Dempster Highway. If we interpret that a little better, I think there is a great opportunity here. I can see this as a multi-year project.

When I used to work for the Vuntut Gwitchin heritage department we cooperated with the various departments on interpretive signage and welcoming people, not only to the traditional territories, but saying what the Gwitchin names were, what the land was used for at certain times of the year, the names of the creeks, saying that this is the headwaters of the Peel River watershed, that they begin here and they actually cross the Peel River when they head to McPherson. Those kinds of things I think would bode well for tourism along the highway. I think this could be a multi-year project and I think it could be a multi-jurisdictional project, as well, to interpret the highway well so that it can be not only visually good to look at it, but interesting for people to understand in various languages what has happened right from John Diefenbaker to Johnny Charlie.

So I think there’s an opportunity here, because if the minister has the opportunity to drive the highway, he’ll see what I’m talking about. There is a lot of work to be done there, so I think it would be good for those thousands of tourists who do travel the highway. I think there’s an opportunity here. That’s all. I just wanted to mention that to the minister.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I thank the member opposite for his question. I think it’s important for me to note that at one point this past winter I found myself at the RV show in Quartzsite, Arizona. Yukon shared a booth with Alaska, Alberta and British Columbia, promoting the travel of the Alaska Highway. However, it was much more than that, obviously, to the people we were talking to at the show. It was typically the 55-plus crowd we were speaking to. I think they estimate about 750,000 to a million people through Quartzsite, Arizona, during the — I think it’s about seven to 10 days that that RV show occurs. A lot of the people we spoke to who stopped at the booth I think stopped because they recognized the Yukon brand. They recognized the familiarity and many of them had done the trip before.

One couple I talked to had done the trip seven times. Many of those people talked about travel up the Dempster Highway to Inuvik and the trials and tribulations, I guess we could say, of doing that journey. I remember one couple having a very expensive breakdown and having to be towed from Eagle Plains — this is an RV we are talking about — back to Whitehorse. Instead of speaking about the negative component of their trip, they talked about the hospitality they received in Eagle Plains and the hospitality they received in the week it took for the part to come in for their RV here in Whitehorse.

Many of those stories really resonated with me. One fellow I talked to was bringing up two lady friends this summer, but he suffered from Agent Orange and emphysema and all these other things. He figured that if he made it partway through the trip, he would be happy to come back.

I think it’s also important to note — and when the Minister of Environment is on his feet, he can speak a little bit more to Environment’s investment in the Tombstone Interpretive Cen-

tre. I know there is some great work being done at that location and they’re a valuable component for anyone travelling that highway.

Another thing that is important to mention is the relationship that we have, not only with Alaska, Alberta and British Columbia on the Alaska Highway component of it, but the pan-northern approach that we take with Northwest Territories and Nunavut to promote the north as a unique travel destination. From that, we can carry on our Yukon brand that really stands out on the global market.

Speaking of which, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut have partnered on the pan-territorial Canada’s North marketing campaign designed to increase awareness of Canada’s north as a travel destination to southern Canadians. This campaign specifically is funded by CanNor. It consists of TV commercials highlighting Canada’s north and on-line initiatives to drive traffic to our respective websites — again, plugging the <http://travelyukon.com> website on which I know the department has done some exceptional work. That website contains specific information on the Dempster Highway and other scenic drives around the territory.

The member opposite was speaking about historic sites and he’ll likely know that, through the Department of Tourism and Culture, we have the historic sites program that provides for the research, preservation management, development and interpretation of Yukon’s historic sites and routes. It takes part in the implementation of the *Historic Resources Act* and meeting of Yukon government heritage obligations under the Council of Yukon First Nations *Umbrella Final Agreement* and individual First Nation final agreements.

Repair historic site maintenance — repair and maintenance of individual historic properties owned or co-owned by government — so, for example, the Yukon Sawmill office in Dawson — and advice and cost-sharing assistance to private property owners who wish to restore historic assets.

Madam Chair, the Yukon Historic Sites Inventory has two components. The first component is an ongoing program that began around 1986 and is a fundamental tool for the documentation and evaluation of monitoring of historic sites in the Yukon. The YHSI database has over 3,000 records and provides data for responses to YESAB submissions, land use planning and development, and provides a context for the evaluation of nominations for Yukon historic sites designation. Secondly, the designation of significant Yukon historic sites is outlined in the *Historic Resources Act*.

It is also important to note that the program provides core funding for Fort Selkirk site management and development pursuant to the Selkirk First Nation final agreement for the Fort Selkirk management plan, preservation plan and interpretation plan.

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

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Nixon that the Chair report progress.

Motion agreed to

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

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

Chair's report

Ms. McLeod: Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 10, entitled, *First Appropriation Act, 2013-14*, and directed me to report progress.

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. on Monday.

The House adjourned at 5:26 p.m.