



# Yukon Legislative Assembly

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33rd Legislature

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## HANSARD

Thursday, October 23, 2014 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable David Laxton

# YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**SPEAKER — Hon. David Laxton, MLA, Porter Creek Centre**

**DEPUTY SPEAKER — Patti McLeod, MLA, Watson Lake**

## CABINET MINISTERS

### NAME CONSTITUENCY PORTFOLIO

<b>Hon. Darrell Pasloski</b>	<b>Mountainview</b>	<b>Premier</b> Minister responsible for Finance; Executive Council Office
<b>Hon. Elaine Taylor</b>	Whitehorse West	Deputy Premier Minister responsible for Education; Women's Directorate; French Language Services Directorate
<b>Hon. Brad Cathers</b>	Lake Laberge	Minister responsible for Community Services; Yukon Housing Corporation; Yukon Liquor Corporation; Yukon Lottery Commission Government House Leader
<b>Hon. Doug Graham</b>	Porter Creek North	Minister responsible for Health and Social Services; Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board
<b>Hon. Scott Kent</b>	Riverdale North	Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources; Yukon Energy Corporation; Yukon Development Corporation
<b>Hon. Currie Dixon</b>	Copperbelt North	Minister responsible for Economic Development; Environment; Public Service Commission
<b>Hon. Wade Istchenko</b>	Kluane	Minister responsible for Highways and Public Works
<b>Hon. Mike Nixon</b>	Porter Creek South	Minister responsible for Justice; Tourism and Culture

## GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS

### Yukon Party

<b>Darius Elias</b>	Vuntut Gwitchin
<b>Stacey Hassard</b>	Pelly-Nisutlin
<b>Hon. David Laxton</b>	Porter Creek Centre
<b>Patti McLeod</b>	Watson Lake

## OPPOSITION MEMBERS

### New Democratic Party

<b>Elizabeth Hanson</b>	Leader of the Official Opposition Whitehorse Centre
<b>Jan Stick</b>	Official Opposition House Leader Riverdale South
<b>Kevin Barr</b>	Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes
<b>Lois Moorcroft</b>	Copperbelt South
<b>Jim Tredger</b>	Mayo-Tatchun
<b>Kate White</b>	Takhini-Kopper King

### Liberal Party

<b>Sandy Silver</b>	Leader of the Third Party Klondike
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## LEGISLATIVE STAFF

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Clerk of Committees	Allison Lloyd
Sergeant-at-Arms	Rudy Couture
Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms	Doris McLean
Hansard Administrator	Deana Lemke

**Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Thursday, October 23, 2014 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

**Speaker:** Please remain standing for a moment of silence in memory of and respect for Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent and Corporal Nathan Cirillo who were pointlessly murdered in two separate acts of cowardice this week.

*Moment of silence observed*

**INTRODUCTION OF PAGES**

**Speaker:** Please be seated. Welcome back, everyone.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the following students will be serving the House as legislative pages for the 2014 Fall Sitting. I will apologize now if I mispronounce any of their names. They are Vaskor Chowdhury, Eric Muir-Cressman, Arman Sharma, Ashley Harris and Koda Eckert-Maret from F.H. Collins Secondary School, and Toshibaa Govindaraj, Courtney Brown and Alison Travill from Vanier Catholic Secondary School. Today we have with us Koda and Alison. I would like to ask all members to make them feel welcome today.

*Applause*

**Withdrawal of motions**

**Speaker:** The Chair wishes to inform the House of changes that have been made to the Order Paper, and bear with me, there are quite a few.

The following motions have been removed from the Order Paper as they are outdated: Motions No. 245, 354 and 512, standing in the name of the Leader of the Official Opposition; Motions No. 517, 521, 622 and 651, standing in the name of the Leader of the Third Party; Motion No. 589 standing in the name of the Member for Copperbelt South, and Motion No. 701, standing in the name of the Member for Takhini-Kopper King.

The following motions have been removed from the Order Paper as the action requested in the motion has been fulfilled in whole or in part: Motions No. 35, 92, 151, 302, 489, 592, 599 and 666, standing in the name of the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin; Motions No. 41, 181, 491 and 674, standing in the name of the Member for Takhini-Kopper King; Motion No. 43, standing in the name of the Member for Mayo-Tatchun; Motions No. 47, 193, 221, 290, 308, 416, 577, 578, 609 and 664, standing in the name of the Member for Watson Lake; Motion No. 61, standing in the name of the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes; Motion No. 119, standing in the name of the Minister of Environment; Motion No. 440, standing in the name of the Leader of the Official Opposition; Motions No. 595 and 678, standing in the name of the Leader of the Third Party; Motion No. 614, standing in the

name of the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin; and Motion No. 621, standing in the name of the Member for Riverdale South.

Motion No. 137, standing in the name of the Leader of the Official Opposition and Motion No. 292, standing in the name of the Member for Takhini-Kopper King have been removed from the Order Paper at the request of those members.

Motion No. 375, standing in the name of the Leader of the Official Opposition has been removed from the Order Paper as it refers to a bill that is no longer before the Parliament of Canada.

Motion No. 501, standing in the name of the Member for Watson Lake has been removed from the Order Paper as it is the same as Motion No. 216 standing in the name of the Premier.

Finally, Written Question No. 6, standing in the name of the Member for Riverdale South has been removed from the Order Paper as it is now outdated.

**Speaker's statement re: Refurbishment of the Mace**

**Speaker:** Prior to proceeding to Daily Routine, I would like to draw everyone's attention to our Mace. Yukon's Mace, which was acquired in 1972, was a gift from the Parliament of Canada. The Mace is made of sterling silver and is gold-plated. However, in recent years the Mace has been showing its age and this past summer we had it re-plated. Murdoch's Gem Shop provides ongoing maintenance of the Mace; however, re-plating the Mace was a much bigger job.

The Ontario Legislative Assembly assisted us in finding a jeweller who could do this work. Corona Jewellery Company in Toronto, under the direction of Michael Minister, refurbished the Mace. Corona has experience with this specialized kind of work, having refurbished the Ontario Legislature's Mace in 2009.

In re-plating and cleaning the Mace, Mr. Minister and his crew approached the task as one would approach an article of great historical significance. They started with almost forensic-like detailing. The Mace was photographed from multiple angles to ensure that, when reassembled, everything would fit properly together. Each piece was recorded and mapped and a guide of reassembly was produced.

Ultimately, there were over 50 pieces, each unique and crucial to the Mace. Special jigs were made to handle some of the larger pieces, one of which was over 12 inches long. When the Mace was made, many of the pieces were assembled using bolts that have been, over the years, frozen in place by heavy oxidation. To solve this problem, Corona manufactured a custom-made wrench that fit perfectly and allowed for the careful and proper torque to remove the bolts.

Because of the unique nature and the size of the pieces for the Mace and the fact that some areas were suffering from oxidation, it was decided that each piece would have to be hand-polished prior to reassembly to remove any tarnish. This would allow for a uniform and perfect finish.

Polishing took over 24 hours of work by hand. Prior to assembly, each piece was plated with nickel to slow the

natural oxidation process that occurred on the original silver Mace. Each piece was then plated again, this time with yellow gold. The coats of arms of Canada and Yukon were plated in white gold to better show off the beautiful hand engravings that were done previously on the original Mace.

The Mace was ultimately reassembled into its former style and grace, and Mr. Minister assures me that no pieces were left over.

On behalf of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, I would like to thank the Legislative Assembly of Ontario for finding a jeweller to do the work, for safeguarding the Mace while it was in Ontario and for having Inspector Rick Boon, their operations manager, escort the Mace back to Whitehorse.

I'd also like to thank Corona Jewellery for the exemplary work they did. Thanks to them, the symbol of our democratic process has been restored to its original beauty.

## DAILY ROUTINE

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

## TRIBUTES

### In remembrance of Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent and Corporal Nathan Cirillo

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** As Canadians, we have seen in this past week an unprecedented attack on our democracy.

On Monday, a cowardly and senseless attack took the life of Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. Warrant Officer Vincent was a 28-year veteran of our Armed Forces.

Yesterday, the entire country was shaken as violence struck at the heart of our nation. Corporal Nathan Cirillo, a young reservist with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, was deliberately targeted and taken from us as he stood guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the War Memorial in Ottawa.

The Parliament of Canada itself then came under attack.

Let us not harbour any illusions about the nature of these despicable events. Canada is a free and democratic country that cherishes human rights and the rule of law. Canada is a free and democratic country where we agree to disagree civilly. I want us all to remember that the women and the men of our Armed Forces volunteer to serve this country. They need no coercion or arm-twisting to serve. Such is their devotion and sense of duty to our democracy.

Sometimes people are tempted to speak in abstract terms about the military, but we all need to remember that the military is Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent. The military is Corporal Nathan Cirillo. The military is the Unknown Soldier, guarded honourably by Corporal Cirillo until the last moments of his life. The military is our most elderly veteran and our newest volunteer.

Likewise, democracy is not an abstract concept. Democracy is what allows each of us to stand here before you today as elected representatives of our communities. Democracy is what allows us to express our differences peacefully without threats of violence or intimidation. What

we cherish, we must protect. We have a duty to protect our democracy.

As we have seen, there are those whose hatred and fear of freedom and democracy compels them to seek to destroy us. This is not an abstraction either. The threats are real and we must be vigilant. We will not be intimidated or silenced. We will not flinch in the face of evil.

As many of us have watched, read or listened to the coverage of yesterday's events in Ottawa, we saw Canadians coming to the aid of other Canadians. We saw citizens, first responders — our security, our police forces and others — put their lives at risk. Each of us has a role in showing our resolve and our gratitude to our Armed Forces for protecting our democracy.

In this House, we can do this by diligently carrying on with the daily work of democracy. In our communities, we can do this by feeling a sense of pride in our schools and our workplaces in this free, open, democratic society. As Yukoners go about their work today, they do so knowing that they live in a country where the rule of law is paramount, where their rights and freedoms are protected, where they are free to contribute to building this great country of ours.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let this day and the days ahead be about protecting Canada and building Canada together. While there are those determined to destroy our democracy, we are even more determined to strengthen and grow it. We will move forward with the work of this House and with the many tasks that we carry out in the interest of Yukoners and other Canadians. We will carry in our hearts and minds the knowledge of the sacrifices made and the lives put at risk over this past week and through the decades. We will be thankful for what our fellow Canadians have given, and we will endeavour to live our lives with the same commitment and dedication. Our love of Canada and all it represents and our determination and vigilance in protecting our home will sustain us.

**Ms. Hanson:** Mr. Speaker, yesterday Canadians witnessed a second unspeakable act of cruelty in less than a week. A Canadian soldier guarding the tomb of one of his comrades from a war that began a century ago was murdered in cold blood by an assailant about whom we know still little. We cannot give enough thanks to the first responders from the police services, the military and the parliamentary security that bravely rose to the occasion and put their lives at risk to secure Parliament and downtown Ottawa.

We share in the grief that comes with the violation of the sacred spaces of our democracy. We know that Canadians will stand together and, once the dust has settled on this terrible incident, rise to the occasion and reclaim them. We pay tribute to Corporal Nathan Cirillo, a Hamilton-based reservist from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Corporal Cirillo, like many Canadians, gave his time above and beyond a regular career to serve in the Canadian Armed Forces on evenings and some weekends.

This is time that Corporal Cirillo chose to spend training and drilling with the Highlanders instead of with his family.

As Canadians, we hold this kind of dedication to public service and to protecting our country in the highest regard. My hope is that Yukoners and Canadians will not only remember Corporal Cirillo as a victim of this heinous crime, but as a role model who believed in a greater good and who gave his time and his life on behalf of those beliefs. Our democracy, and the values that underpin it, are paramount. It's thanks to those like Corporal Cirillo who answer the call to public service that we continue to enjoy the collective benefits of our society.

This type of tragedy affects so many, from the courageous passerby who selflessly tried to save Corporal Cirillo's life, to the millions of us in Canada and abroad who watched and worried in this age of instant media, but not instant resolution. We should all take a moment to reflect on the values and the foundation of our identity and our democracy as Canadians: compassion, community, solidarity.

May Nathan Cirillo rest in peace. May we as Canadians stand together and reaffirm our resolve to build a better world where love, hope and optimism prevail over hate, fear and despair.

**Mr. Silver:** I rise on behalf of the Yukon Liberal Party to pay tribute to democracy and to those who defend it. We may be far geographically from the events of last week, but that doesn't diminish their impact here. These events are a shared and a national tragedy.

We have been very fortunate as a country that so few men and women have had to sacrifice their lives on Canadian soil to defend our democracy. The targets of yesterday's attack were symbols of our nationalism and they were meant to rock us to the core. What we must not forget is that at that core, we are a very proud democracy, a welcoming and peaceful nation, a country that has open arms, open minds and open hearts. We cannot allow that to change, as these are the values and the ideals upon which we must rely in those days ahead.

When looking at the pictures of the reservist killed in Ottawa, I can't help but think about our lifestyles and how we are the exception to the rule, Mr. Speaker. We are so privileged as Canadians. We are privileged to be able to work and to play. Sometimes we forget that most people on this planet don't have the same rights and freedoms that we enjoy. We have earned these freedoms, absolutely, but we should never forget the men and women who have given us these privileges.

As we prepare for another military action, I wonder and I hope: Are we prepared to support our veterans as they return from active duty? Our thoughts and our prayers are with the families and the friends of the victims of yesterday's tragic events, including those of Corporal Nathan Cirillo and as well, those of Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent who died on Monday. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude on behalf of my constituents, on behalf of the Yukon Liberal Party and all Yukoners to the brave men and women who selflessly and courageously serve and protect our great nation. Thank you.

## In remembrance of Dr. Anne Williams

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to take advantage of the opening day of this session to pay formal tribute to a woman who left us much too soon. Dr. Anne Williams passed away suddenly on May 20, 2014.

Dr. Williams was originally from the Yukon, but she didn't return home until after her medical training was completed in about 1986 when she re-established her roots here in the territory.

She spent the first five years of her medical career here in the territory doing locums in many communities throughout the Yukon. Her Whitehorse-based practice, which she managed from 1992 to 2007, involved what is commonly known as a cradle-to-grave care. She provided emergency room coverage, inpatient care, operating room assists, maternity care and she served on numerous committees over the years. Starting in 2008, Anne began providing regular clinical coverage in numerous communities such as Old Crow, Destruction Bay, Beaver Creek and Haines Junction.

In fact, I'm sure that Anne and her husband Bruce spent many of the best times of their lives on the North Alaska Highway at a cabin they had there. In the last few years though, Dr. Williams stepped away from clinical practice into administrative roles that challenged her in different ways. In fact, I remember when I was appointed the Minister Health and Social Services for the Government of Yukon, the very first member of the medical community in the territory who I consulted was Anne Williams. After Anne expressed deep sympathy for my appointment, she then continued over the next two and half years to provide invaluable advice to me and to the medical community.

In April 2013, she became medical advisor to the Yukon. She worked closely with staff at the Insured Health Services branch in Whitehorse. It is wonderful to see how easily she transitioned to her new position, which included an active role at the medical director's table and at the annual national workshop on medical audit.

It is wonderful to see how easily she transitioned to her new position, which included an active role at the medical director's table and at the Annual National Workshop on Medical Audit.

Additionally, Dr. Williams was an active participant on the collaborative care initiative working group and the family physician working group. Dr. Williams also provided forensic examinations to victims of sexual assault. She worked at improving supports for child victims and witnesses of crime, among the other work that she did.

We don't have time — or I don't have time here — to really detail everything that she did and meant to all of our communities. She was truly a pillar in the medical community and was fully committed to Yukon and its people.

Besides being a good physician and an able advisor, Anne Williams was a warm and caring woman who gave generously of herself. She will be missed.

I would like to take the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to recognize Bruce Williams and Jessica — Bruce, her husband, and Jessica, her wonderful daughter — who came here to

share in this tribute today. I hope all members will welcome them to the House.

*Applause*

### **In recognition of Poverty and Homelessness Action Week**

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Poverty and Homelessness Action Week.

This year the theme for this past week was food security. Food security is defined by the World Health Organization as “when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.”

The Department of Health and Social Services is keenly aware of the link between food security and health and a person’s well-being.

Having access to nutritious food is a cornerstone of a healthy, productive life. To help raise awareness of this issue, we have partnered with the Anti-Poverty Coalition to bring up Jonathan Bird, food security advocate, who gave a brief public presentation this week on how to cultivate a resilient community through better options to end hunger.

I also had the opportunity to meet with members of the Anti-Poverty Coalition and Jonathan yesterday, and we had an interesting and productive meeting. I wish to commend the Anti-Poverty Coalition for heightening Yukoners’ awareness of this important topic.

This year the Department of Health and Social Services is contributing \$95,000 to the Yukon Food for Learning Association to help support school-based nutrition programs. As well, From the Ground Up Yukon Healthy Choice Fundraiser is supported by our health promotion unit. This fall, almost 3,500 boxes of fresh vegetables were sold, totalling almost 50,000 pounds. Of these, 437 boxes were donated to various organizations to help feed those who have difficulty accessing nutritious food.

Local organizations, such as the Salvation Army and the Whitehorse Food Bank, provide an invaluable service to help feed and support Yukoners who cannot access enough healthy food to feed themselves or their family. This year, our department is providing \$569,000 to the Salvation Army to help support them in their program in the territory. Just this spring, you will remember that the Premier and I were fortunate enough to be able to provide the Food Bank with a \$750,000 grant to assist with the purchase of its property on Alexander Street, here in Whitehorse.

In closing, I want to give thanks and extend my appreciation to the many non-profit organizations and the individuals behind these organizations who work tirelessly to address issues of poverty and homelessness. While government most definitely has a role in supporting Yukoners in need, poverty and homelessness is a matter that can only be addressed by all of us working collaboratively. Too often, governments provide a great deal of assistance and there are still cracks that many individuals fall through. We want to thank the NGOs for, in many cases, filling those cracks.

I think that by involving the broader community, we will eventually defeat homelessness and poverty. Thank you very much.

**Ms. Stick:** I rise on behalf of the NDP Official Opposition to also pay tribute to Poverty and Homelessness Action Week, which just ended yesterday.

The theme this year had to do with food security, an issue that affects every Yukoner. We know this is true when we witness what happens in our grocery stores when a highway is closed or a truck overturns — bare shelves, no fresh fruit or vegetables. We are all impacted. But, more importantly, food security affects individuals and families living in poverty or those on the edge of poverty. The statistics and information gathered point to continuing food insecurity faced by many in the Yukon. These include: the continuing rise of numbers at the food bank — a 9.5-percent increase over the last year — and the increasing numbers at the Salvation Army — in one week alone in September 1,248 plates of food were served. Yukon Food for Learning — 16,385 meals served in one week in 27 schools across the Yukon.

These are but a few of the food programs that are offered throughout the Yukon to provide food or nutritious meals to Yukoners. Behind these numbers are individuals, families and children who are paying more and more of their income toward rent, individuals struggling to make ends meet on EI or social assistance, the homeless and the working poor.

Lack of nutritious food impacts the long-term health outcomes for infants and children and can lead to lifelong learning and health problems. Upstream strategies impact our costs for health care and education downstream.

We are fortunate to see the numbers growing for local food producers and we are fortunate to see initiatives such as the Potluck Food Co-Op, and we have many thanks to give to the Whitehorse Food Bank, the Salvation Army, weekend soup kitchens, Food for Learning — the list goes on.

The Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition is calling for a food security strategy for Yukon, which could use the 2010 Yukon Nutrition Framework as a starting point. As well, they are calling on the federal government for a federal anti-poverty plan to address these concerns. Food security impacts us all and it should be of concern to us.

Thank you.

**Mr. Silver:** I rise on behalf of the Yukon Liberal Party to pay tribute to Poverty and Homelessness Action Week, which ran from October 16 to 22. Since 2005, this week has raised awareness for the plight of hunger and homelessness throughout community engagement activities.

As mentioned, this year’s theme was food security as a pertinent issue for us in the north. We all know our lifeline to the south may be very fragile. Food insecurity in the Yukon is a concern that affects us all. The need for programs to help fight food insecurity has steadily been rising in Whitehorse. According to the Whitehorse Food Bank’s monthly statistics, 585 households in our communities needed to use the food bank in September, and this is an increase of 11 percent from

September of last year. Much of this need is attributed to the rising cost of living here in the Yukon.

The Anti-Poverty Coalition has spent the last week hosting a number of events to help raise awareness of hunger issues here in the community, including a food bank receipt challenge and a bring-a-blanket, leave-a-blanket movie night. This year's campaign was also used to call upon the federal government to create a national strategy to address poverty across Canada.

I had an opportunity to speak with the keynote speaker Jonathan Bird this week and to discuss his ongoing efforts to build sustainable food networking in Vancouver and his experiences managing affordable housing projects — a fascinating conversation. His approach to creating a food network where everyone is engaged in all of the steps of the process and creating a hands-up approach is something that we can absolutely support. This is taking the concept beyond just a soup kitchen and into a community working together for food security for us all.

I would like to thank many of the organizations for their hard work in helping our community and the needs of our community. The Whitehorse Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity Yukon, Salvation Army, the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, Maryhouse, Blood Ties Four Directions, the Boys and Girls Club, the Watson Lake Soup Kitchen and the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition for their ongoing efforts.

### In recognition of Waste Reduction Week

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I stand before you today in this Assembly to recognize this week, October 20 to 26, 2014, as Waste Reduction Week in Canada. During this week, Canadians are challenged with the important task of being aware of and trying to take steps to reduce their ecological footprint through actions and activities.

The Yukon government is committed to responsible waste management across the territory. This includes recycling and other waste diversion initiatives. We are currently working with partners, including and especially the City of Whitehorse, considering options for taking the next steps to modernize our recycling and waste diversion systems and our solid-waste management.

The Yukon government's focus is on working with partners, including Whitehorse and other municipalities, to identify sustainable, long-term and cost-effective solutions for processing recyclables in the Yukon and for handling other portions of our waste diversion system and ultimately waste management.

Proposed steps that we are also currently consulting on include the beverage container regulation and designated materials regulation, led by the Department of Environment, which will further increase diversion of recyclable materials from our landfills and better handle the costs of handling, processing and transporting these materials.

In support of a sustainable recycling system in the Yukon, one that is comparable to those found in other jurisdictions in Canada, government proposes to: expand the types and sizes of materials to be collected and processed for recycling;

simplify the beverage container deposit refund system and establish and revise surcharges and fees to cover actual costs of processing and recycling materials; as well as expanding categories to include all tires and many electrical and electronic products not currently covered.

I also encourage Yukoners to take advantage of the remaining two weeks and a bit in the public consultation on these proposed changes on the government website.

Along with the other 12 jurisdictions in Canada, Yukon formally participates in this national week that promotes and advocates for responsible waste management and environmental stewardship. Yukon residents in Whitehorse and rural communities are becoming more aware of the waste they create and, together, we are taking huge steps toward more responsible solid waste management and environmental stewardship.

Over the past five years, the Yukon government's solid waste operation and maintenance budget has doubled because we have stopped and ended the open burning of garbage in favour of environmental stewardship and waste diversion initiatives, and we are also continuing to work with our municipal partners, the First Nations, unincorporated communities and local organizations to take additional steps toward more regional models of solid-waste management.

A number of the landfills operated by the Yukon government have been transformed into solid-waste transfer stations, where residents are encouraged to divert as much as possible and where waste is transported to regional landfills. In the past five years, we have also introduced groundwater monitoring at Yukon solid-waste facilities to ensure that local watersheds and groundwater are not being negatively impacted by solid waste.

Responsible waste management and environmental stewardship carry cost challenges in the north, but we remain committed to finding effective solutions and continuing to take additional steps with all our partners to find cost-effective solutions and improve our handling of waste materials.

As I mentioned, we have already made significant progress and we are confident that, together with these partners and with all Yukoners, we will find solutions that are best for Yukon.

So, Mr. Speaker, during this Waste Reduction Week in Canada, I encourage all Yukoners to continue to do their part: be conscientious consumers; be aware of what you buy and the power your purchases have to effect change; continue to divert waste in your home and community; and utilize options available to recycle and keep our landfills empty of waste that can be composted, recycled or processed in other ways.

In closing, the Yukon government will continue to do our part, working with all Yukoners and our partners to find more sustainable solutions for the Yukon.

**Mr. Barr:** I rise on behalf of the Yukon New Democratic Party, the Official Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, Waste Reduction Week is a Canada-wide, awareness-raising celebration of reducing our waste. It's a week where we can take a look at our actions and

relationships around waste and recycling. Governments of all levels across the country are in a unique position to lead their communities by example. First Nation, municipal, provincial and territorial governments dedicated to waste reduction and environmental sustainability through their own operations are in a much better position to educate and encourage their residents and businesses to practise the three Rs everyday: reduce your consumption; reuse products for a longer period of time; and once an object has reached the end of its useful life, recycle it so it can be made into something else.

We are lucky to have Zero Waste Yukon, an organization with 23 partners and stakeholders. They focus on education and action campaigns. There is no better time than the present to get serious about the ultimate goal of zero waste. Zero waste means working together to dramatically reduce the amount of material that goes into the landfill.

As consumers, we have a responsibility to choose our products wisely. Are they biodegradable? Are they long-lasting? If we all looked at packaging with a critical eye, we would be better able to decide if the product with minimal packaging or the product with more packaging is best for us.

Waste reduction is more than just recycling. It is a combination of composting and actively managing our waste management facilities with integrated systems. The economic and environmental benefits of achieving zero waste are huge, including more local jobs, more resources conserved, better air and water quality, and lower energy and waste management costs.

We in the Yukon have been leaders in the north, with our forward-thinking approach to climate change and the part we play in the bigger picture. Organizations like Raven Recycling and Zero Waste and passionate individuals help show us the way.

Mr. Speaker, a shining example of intergovernmental cooperation is the work being done by the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Village of Haines Junction. If we followed their example, we would be much closer to our goal of 50-percent diversion by 2015. Nurturing these partnerships between different levels of government, NGOs and businesses will lead us toward a cleaner, greener future.

**Mr. Silver:** I rise on behalf of the Yukon Liberal Party to pay tribute to Waste Reduction Week. Nationally, Waste Reduction Week is held in the third week of October each year. On Monday night, City Council declared that October 20 to 26 would be observed as Waste Reduction Week in Whitehorse.

Waste Reduction Week calls for all citizens, all Canadians, to adapt more environmentally conscientious choices in our everyday lives. The national Waste Reduction Week website provides resources to give people ideas to reduce waste in all facets of daily life. Reducing waste is one small solution every citizen can do to help with the many environmental challenges we face.

Recycling and waste reduction weeks date back to the mid-1980s when several recycling councils and environmental organizations began holding provincial events. Since 2001, a

national effort was enacted under the banner of Waste Reduction Week in Canada, organized by a coalition of governments and NGOs, recycling and environmental groups from all 13 provinces' and territories' jurisdictions across Canada.

The Yukon Liberal Party supports the City of Whitehorse's efforts in reducing waste in the city through the solid waste action plan, which has a strong goal of reducing waste by 50 percent by 2015. The solid waste action plan focuses in on getting the big stuff out of the landfill first — particularly organics through its expanded composting program, wood waste, cardboard and all recyclables. It also focuses on developing new partnerships to grow services that will reduce waste, showing that governments can show leadership in environmental change.

It is unfortunate that this week comes on the heel of the closure of Raven Recycling and we encourage Yukoners to use Whitehorse's other recycling options — the bins at the Whitehorse management facility, P&M Recycling depot or the Blue Bin Recycling Society collection.

I want to thank all businesses, governments and individuals who have taken the time to recycle and to work to support landfill diversion goals.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** Are there any visitors to be introduced?

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** It's my pleasure to recognize a couple of people. First, I'd like to recognize a constituent. Murray Martin is with us today. He also has his pen in his hand as a journalist.

I'd also like to recognize Peter Johnston, former Chief of the Teslin Tlingit Council and not a bad hockey player. I get to share the ice with him once in awhile.

I'd also like to recognize a couple members of our staff: Ric Stryde, who is chief of staff, and also joining our staff is Debby Simms.

I invite all members of the House to join me in welcoming them today.

*Applause*

**Ms. Hanson:** I'd also like to enjoin the House to welcome today Vikki Quocksister, president of the Yukon Federation of Labour; Bud McCue, who is the business manager for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 574, I think; and Earl Graham, who is the service representative for the United Steelworkers. There are other people too — Jeff Sloychuk from the carpenters union. I'd like to introduce as well Mike Fancie, who has joined the NDP Official Opposition caucus as a member of our team. He was director of communications at the Broadbent Institute, so we're very pleased to have him. It's a good example of what happens when somebody comes to the Yukon, visits the Yukon and falls in love with the place. The Yukon is an attractant.

*Applause*



**Mr. Silver:** I have no staff here in the audience tonight, otherwise the doors would have to be closed. I would like to welcome Matthew Magoffin, the business manager for the United Association of Plumbers, Pipefitters, Sheet Metal Workers and Hospitality Workers Local 310. I understand that Matthew has also become a recent father, so I'd like to congratulate him on that as well.

I would also like to welcome to the gallery a man who did an excellent campaign running for the nomination for our federal Liberal candidacy, and that is Mr. Gurdeep Pandher — I think he has left but he was here earlier —and also a long-time friend and the son of one of my mentors, Rosemary, Mr. Damien Burns.

*Applause*

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I would also like to ask all members to extend a warm welcome to one of my constituents from Whitehorse West, Mr. Wilf Carter. Welcome.

*Applause*

### TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Speaker:** The Chair has for tabling the Conflict of Interest Commissioner's annual report for the period ending March 31, 2014. This report was distributed to members and made public in June 2014.

The Chair also has for tabling the Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office 2013-14 annual report.

The Chair also has for tabling a report from the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly on the absence of members from the sittings of the Legislative Assembly and its committees, dated October 23, 2014.

Are there any other returns or documents for tabling?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I'd like to table today the Yukon Public Accounts for the fiscal year 2013-14, the unqualified opinion of Canada's Auditor General.

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

Are there any reports of committees?

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

**Mr. Hassard:** I have for a presentation the 12<sup>th</sup> report of the Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees.

**Speaker:** Are there any further reports of committees?

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### **Bill No. 15: *Second Appropriation Act, 2014-15* — Introduction and First Reading**

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 15, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2014-15*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 15, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2014-15*, be now introduced and read a first time. Are you agreed?

*Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 15 agreed to*

#### **Bill No. 78: *Act to Amend the Marriage Act* — Introduction and First Reading**

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I move that Bill No. 78, entitled *Act to Amend the Marriage Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Minister of Health and Social Services that Bill No. 78, entitled *Act to Amend the Marriage Act*, be now introduced and read a first time. Are you agreed?

*Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 78 agreed to*

#### **Bill No. 79: *Pioneer Utility Grant Act* — Introduction and First Reading**

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I move that Bill No. 79, entitled *Pioneer Utility Grant Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Minister of Health and Social Services that Bill No. 79, entitled *Pioneer Utility Grant Act*, be now introduced and read a first time. Are you agreed?

*Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 79 agreed to*

**Speaker:** Are there any further bills to be introduced? Are there any notices of motions?

### NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House:

(1) urges the Government of Yukon to show national unity and Yukon's support for the Government of Canada's decision to participate in the broad international coalition of nations working together to combat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and to provide humanitarian aid to innocent people suffering from ISIL's atrocities;

(2) recognizes the personal contribution of Canadians serving in the Armed Forces and that the experience of war has profound and ongoing consequences for veterans by supporting our troops during combat missions and after they return home; and

THAT the Speaker of the Yukon Legislative Assembly transmit the decision of this House to the Parliament of

Canada and to the provincial and territorial assemblies of Canada.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to contribute \$25,000 to the Canadian Red Cross in support of its efforts to address the Ebola epidemic in Africa.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to ensure that changes to recycling surcharges on beverage containers provide additional support to recycling processors and community depots.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to ensure that recycling fees better cover the costs of diverting and processing recyclable materials by:

- (1) making all beverage containers subject to a recycling surcharge;
- (2) requiring a recycling fee for all sizes of tires sold in the Yukon; and
- (3) requiring a recycling fee for many electronic and electrical products sold in the Yukon.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to continue to ensure that there is no undue impact on resident, non-resident or First Nation hunters as a result of the filing of claim by the Ross River Dena Council seeking a declaration that Yukon government has a duty to consult, and where indicated, accommodate Ross River Dena Council prior to issuing hunting licences and seals under the *Wildlife Act* for big game animals.

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

THAT this House opposes Bill S-6, which amends the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA) by providing authority to a federal minister to issue binding policy direction to the independent Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board with respect to any of the board's powers, duties and functions; and

THAT this House further opposes unilateral changes to YESAA that have not been agreed upon by all parties to the *Umbrella Final Agreement*.

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

THAT it is the opinion of this House that:

- (1) our veterans deserve our utmost respect and support owing to their service to Canada during both war and peacetime; and

(2) the Yukon government should call on the federal government to:

- (a) address the mental health crisis facing veterans through the hiring of properly trained mental health professionals;
- (b) re-open recently closed veterans' offices; and
- (c) review its New Veterans Charter to address the concerns of Canadian veterans thereof, notably the issue of lump sum payments.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to acknowledge the affordable housing motion unanimously approved by the Association of Yukon Communities on September 21, 2014 and recognize that:

- (a) a stable and secure housing system that creates and maintains jobs and allows for a range of living options is essential to attracting and retaining new workers, meeting the needs of young families, supporting seniors and our most vulnerable citizens, and growing a vibrant Yukon;
- (b) cost and availability of affordable housing are threatening the Yukon's long-term viability, putting our economy at risk;
- (c) while each community's affordable housing problem looks different, every community must be treated fairly and equitably in addressing their housing needs;
- (d) solutions to our housing needs can only be realized with the long-term planning and investment by the territorial government that includes measures to ensure a healthy stock of rental housing for Yukoners; and
- (e) the lack of housing is a critical issue affecting all our communities and urges the federal governments to commit the necessary resources for addressing the territory's housing issues as a matter of urgent priority and work with Yukon communities to develop solutions.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Canada to implement a federal anti-poverty plan to eradicate poverty and hunger for the 833,000 people in Canada who use food banks each month and for the millions of others struggling to get by.

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

THAT this House urges the government to reaffirm its pledge to diverting 50 percent of solid waste by 2015 by increasing solid waste diversion credits to ensure a sustainable level of funding for organizations handling the Yukon's non-refundable recyclables.

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

THAT this House congratulates the City of Whitehorse for showing leadership in addressing the issue of affordable housing.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to call a meeting of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges to review the power of the Speaker of the Legislature, in particular the Speaker's ability to police non-responsive answer in Question Period.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to support Canadian military personnel by petitioning the Government of Canada to reverse its cuts to Veterans Affairs offices.

**Speaker:** Is there a statement by a minister?

At long last, this brings us to Question Period.

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: YESAA process

**Ms. Hanson:** In June, the federal government used the unelected Senate to introduce Bill S-6, legislation that was supposed to reflect the five-year review of the *Yukon Environment and Socio-economic Assessment Act*. First Nation governments and Yukon citizens were shocked to learn that the controversial amendments were added unilaterally by the federal government with the Yukon Party's support. This was done after the collaborative consultation with First Nations had ended. One of the amendments would give the federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development the power to give binding policy direction to the independent Yukon Environment and Socio-economic Assessment Board.

My question is, under what circumstances does the Premier think that Ottawa should be giving binding policy direction to an independent Yukon board — a board created under Yukon land claim agreements?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** As members opposite are fully aware, there has been an ongoing consultation process for YESAA amendments for almost seven years. There was a mandatory five-year review that began in 2008 that produced 76 recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, 73 of the 76 recommendations were agreed upon by everybody, which certainly is a very outstanding achievement. There has since been an additional almost two more years of consultation to ensure that Yukon's environmental assessment legislation is consistent with legislation in other parts of this country, to ensure that this territory can remain competitive with other jurisdictions across this country.

**Ms. Hanson:** Eleven years ago, devolution gave the Yukon government province-like powers for land and resource management. This was an important step in Yukon's history and crucial in Yukon's ability to determine our own future, a future grounded in respectful relationships among Yukon First Nation governments and the Yukon government.

With these proposed amendments to what is a made-in-Yukon environmental assessment process, YESAA, it's no longer ours. The Yukon Party has said it is satisfied to go

backward, back to a time before the new relationship between First Nations and the Yukon government was forged in land claim agreements.

Can the Premier explain why 21 years after the *Umbrella Final Agreement* was signed, he now thinks we should return to the past and why he supports legislation that would again allow a federal minister in Ottawa to dictate how environmental assessments will or will not be carried out in Yukon?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** To be clear, the policy direction ensures that there is a common understanding that occurs between the government and the board, and the intent of that is to ensure that we help to reduce the uncertainty and the delays.

Mr. Speaker, policy direction provided has to be consistent with YESAA. It has to be consistent with the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and, in fact, all of the individual land claims and other pieces of Yukon legislation. Policy direction is very common and occurs in other jurisdictions as well. In fact, the ability for the government to provide policy direction occurs right here in Yukon as the Yukon government has the ability to provide policy direction to the Water Board.

**Ms. Hanson:** You know, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting. Not once in the actual five-year review of the YESAA review did anyone suggest giving the federal minister the power to give binding policy direction to YESAB. So, who asked for this? Why are the voices of those who lobby behind closed doors heard more clearly than those who, in good faith, negotiated the terms of land claim agreements that set out the principles for an independent, arm's-length, made-in-the-Yukon environmental assessment process? Unfortunately for Yukon citizens, this Yukon Premier has once again followed the federal Conservatives' marching orders. He has deliberately eroded the relationship of trust with Yukon First Nation governments, a trust relationship that underpins the economic well-being of Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, my question is clear. Yukoners deserve a straight answer. Under what circumstances does the Premier think that —

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

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** Under the *Yukon Environmental Socio-economic Assessment Act*, Yukon First Nations are guaranteed participation. There are seven board members. Three of them are executive committee members. Each of the three — Yukon government, Yukon First Nations and Canada — has representation on the executive committee. There are four additional board members, two of which are representatives of the Yukon First Nations.

That means that, out of the seven board members, three of the seven are representatives of Yukon First Nations, two are representatives of Yukon government and two are representatives of Canada. That ensures that Yukon First Nations have guaranteed participation in the assessment processes. If there is ever a concern where there is a conflict between YESAA and the final agreements, it's very clearly

marked in the act that the final agreements will always prevail, which is very important.

This legislation is good for Yukon. These amendments are good for Yukon. This creates certainty for industry. It creates opportunities for jobs and that's good for Yukon families.

**Question re: Affordable housing**

**Ms. White:** After years of inaction on affordable rental housing, Yukoners thought the Yukon Party's mishandling of the housing file couldn't get any worse. Sadly, they were proven wrong this summer when the minister announced the cancellation of 75 affordable rental units in Whitehorse. For months the minister had bragged about this project as proof of his commitment, just like he had done in previous years about Lot 262. Yet again, all Yukoners are left with more broken promises.

How can the minister justify sitting on millions of dollars of federal housing money while Yukoners are struggling to make ends meet because of his continued inaction?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** It's really disturbing to see that the Member for Takhini-Kopper King again continues to fail to recognize the significant investments made by government in social housing including over \$100 million in investments since 2008. That includes \$53 million directly from Canada's economic action plan.

The remaining amount in the northern housing trust account of \$11.5 million, which has not been announced for allocation, will include a contribution to the Salvation Army project. The remaining amount we will look to target those areas most in need and continue to address the needs of Yukon families.

Again, I would draw the member's attention to the facts and to the statistics.

**Ms. White:** I think our interpretation of the facts will always be different. The minister's continued lack of understanding of the housing file is shameful. He doesn't understand that social housing is not the same as affordable rental housing. We're talking about rental housing for Yukoners who make \$15 an hour and have to spend 50 or 60 percent of their paycheques on rent.

This Yukon Party government has been sitting on the northern housing trust money since 2006. That's eight long years. Does the minister understand the difference between affordable rental housing and social housing?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Does the Member for Takhini-Kopper King — I know she's genuinely passionate about it, but does the member understand that, in fact, the majority of Whitehorse area landlords are little landlords who own one or two rental units? These are people who, in many cases, depend upon the income from a rental unit to help pay the mortgage on their home.

The RFQ/RFP process developed by Yukon Housing Corporation was in response to a prolonged period of low-vacancy rates in rental accommodation. When the process began in early 2013, the latest statistics report showed a rental vacancy rate of 1.5 percent. Through investments by the

private sector and government, we have seen that rental vacancy rate rise to 7.1 percent, as of the April statistics report released in July. The vacancy rate for duplexes contained in that report is almost twice as high as the overall vacancy rate — 13.9 percent.

Mr. Speaker, these are people who depend on that income from their rental unit to pay their mortgage. The Member for Takhini-Kopper King would have government undercut these people and put their largest investment at risk and put their families and their well-being at risk through the NDP's approach.

**Ms. White:** I'm fairly confident that it was at that minister's direction that brought us to those 75 rental units.

Mr. Speaker, the minister's lack of action speaks much louder than his words and the minister's inaction leaves him no credibility whatsoever when it comes to housing. The minister did, however, accomplish something extraordinary this summer. He was able to rally the Chamber of Commerce, the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, private sector contractors and the City of Whitehorse to unanimously denounce his action. That is quite a feat, Mr. Speaker.

Yukoners first saw the Lot 262 project cancelled, and this summer the 75 units promised for Whitehorse were cancelled at the very last minute. That money has been sitting there since 2006.

Why would anyone believe that this government cares about those who struggle to make ends meet and pay their rent?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I know the member is passionate about this, but there has to be reason underneath this passion. I would remind the member that the process developed by the Yukon Housing Corporation was in response to a prolonged period of low vacancy rates. When that process went out the door, the vacancy rate was 1.5 percent, well below the three-percent rate that had been identified as a healthy market rental level.

Again, what we heard from stakeholders this spring was that statistics had not caught up with the change in the market, that the market had shifted significantly.

The statistics report that came out this summer proved they were in fact right. That rental vacancy rate has risen to 7.1 percent, which is above the rate in a balanced rental market. We have already seen a reduction in home prices from their peak in 2011, and we will continue to see a reduction and adjustment in the rental rate because of that high vacancy rate. Again, I remind the member the majority of Whitehorse landlords are in fact little landlords. They depend upon the income from rental units to pay the mortgages on their homes, and this government listened to the facts, recognized the change in the market, and we stood to protect those families and their investment.

**Question re: Housing programs**

**Mr. Silver:** I have a question for the Premier. It has now been three years since this government has taken office. The entire time, the government has been sitting on these millions of dollars in affordable housing from Ottawa. Plenty

of time has passed for the minister responsible to find a way to spend this money and to address the obvious need in our territory and he has failed to do so. This summer a plan the government has been touting for some time was scrapped at the last minute.

My question is to the Premier: How long does he intend to allow the minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation to fumble around on this file before replacing him?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I want to reiterate the comments that the minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation has just made. Certainly there have been a number of changes in that market. We can talk all day long of the accomplishments that we have achieved through housing, through investment in social housing, through the availability of lots, through the support of down payment assistance programs, through the creation of seniors housing — the list goes on and on and on.

We are focused on ensuring that we get great value for every dollar that we do invest, not only in housing, but throughout whatever we do. The reality is, with the member opposite, is that he will find any excuse to essentially vote against all these projects. Certainly some of the projects that he has opposed are in fact in his own community that we've had great support, such as the new hospital and new nursing home that we are currently building in the community of Dawson City.

**Mr. Silver:** The Premier might think that they're doing a good job, but many Yukoners do not on this file. One of the central questions involved in this failed process was: Who decided when and where the money was spent? The minister assured Yukoners that it would be the board of the Housing Corporation, free from political interference, making the call. Unfortunately that is not what happened. In the end, a political decision was made by the government and the input of the arm's-length board was overruled.

In one media interview, the minister said that it was a Management Board decision. However, he told a different story in *Faro* at the AGM of the Federation of Yukon Municipalities when he told the audience that it was a caucus decision. As noted by many of the attendees, if the government was to blame, the minister sure was interested in spreading that blame around to his colleagues, instead of taking the responsibility for himself.

For the record, can the Premier tell us whose decision was it to cancel this RFP? Was it the Cabinet? Was it the Management Board? Or caucus? Or the minister himself?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** In fact it was a Management Board decision that included, of course, as we do in all major decisions, caucus input prior to Management Board or Cabinet making those decisions. I know the member wasn't there in *Faro*, but I think he would find, if he went back to people who were, that most would recognize that what I said at that time is decisions of that magnitude are Cabinet or caucus decisions and never made unilaterally by a minister. Again, it was a Management Board decision, as has been noted and explained by an official from Finance earlier this summer.

Earlier in the spring, at one point, we were of the understanding that it would not require Management Board approval at that final stage. That was based on an incorrect briefing note that was corrected and fully explained by both that official and myself earlier this summer. We appreciate the work done by the Yukon Housing Corporation board. Government reacted and responded to the information we received from stakeholders. We recognized that the housing market was shifting and we acted appropriately.

**Mr. Silver:** Mr. Speaker, a briefing note? Seriously?

The last question that I asked in the House last spring was on this affordable housing file. I predicted at that time that the government wasn't satisfied with the results of this RFP and a political decision would be made to pull the plug and to overrule the housing board. The minister vehemently denied it but, at the end, that's exactly what happened.

Since that time, the minister has come out with a number of different versions of what happened and, in *Faro*, he threw his colleagues under the bus while trying to duck the responsibility for his decision. Affordable housing remains a problem in this territory and the minister has demonstrated that he cannot get the job done.

When is the Premier going to ask for the resignation of this minister?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** Mr. Speaker, \$100 million in investments since 2008. We have looked across the full spectrum of housing, from emergency shelters right through to home ownership. We continue to work with stakeholders to meet those needs of Yukoners. We have worked with Kaushee's Place to create Betty's Haven for women and children fleeing violence — second-stage housing for them. We worked with OFI to create a nation-leading program on support for adults living with FASD.

As I said earlier, our focus is on Yukon families. Yukon is really the best place to live, to work, to play — the best place to raise a family. We are committed to ensuring that we are working for all Yukoners and will continue to do so.

#### **Question re: Coroner's report re death at Watson Lake hospital**

**Ms. Stick:** On June 21, 2012, Teresa Scheunert died of mixed drug toxicity at Watson Lake hospital. In the judgment of inquiry, the coroner says the system let her down. Mary Johnny, a 60-year old aboriginal woman, died on August 9, 2012 after being medevaced from Watson Lake hospital to Whitehorse General Hospital. The judgment of inquiry reports Ms. Johnny received an incorrect diagnosis. Last Friday, October 17, the coroner's inquest ruled Ms. Johnny's death a homicide.

What specific actions will this minister take to ensure the Yukon Hospital Corporation is accountable to the Yukon public and makes the changes necessary to increase patient safety?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** The Yukon Hospital Corporation immediately begins an inquiry any time an adverse medical reaction occurs in any of Yukon's medical facilities. In doing so, they involve all members of the medical staff at the

hospital to determine what occurred, what could have been done better and what should be done in the future.

The Hospital Corporation attempts to learn from every adverse reaction in the Hospital Corporation. With respect to a couple of the issues mentioned by the member opposite, the Hospital Corporation did hire an external resource to conduct an independent patient safety review, focusing on health care.

This, along with the recommendations from the coroner's inquest in June of this year, has guided actions for future system improvement in the Hospital Corporation itself.

**Ms. Stick:** Ensuring public patient safety is one of the most essential responsibilities of the Yukon Hospital Corporation, yet public trust has been shaken. If it weren't for the tireless advocacy of the Scheunert family and the work done by this coroner's office, we would still not know the gaps in patient safety and oversight identified throughout the coroner's inquests — yet questions remain and Yukoners deserve answers.

Will this minister commit to having the Hospital Corporation report to the Yukon public about how each recommendation is being followed and acted upon?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I have already committed to having the Hospital Corporation appear in the Legislature. I realize that the member opposite perhaps didn't remember when I mentioned it to her. I agree that, because of my very gentle, sweet nature, sometimes I don't get to put across my points as well as I should. Perhaps I can apologize for not making sure that she understood when I talked with her recently.

However, I don't see how anybody can misunderstand the fact that on April 16, 2014, in response to a question from the member from Dawson City, I made a commitment. The Yukon Hospital Corporation will come forward to the Legislature as a witness. I've made a commitment that we will do it again in the fall session. The Hospital Corporation will be attending. I don't understand how I can be any more clear than that — April 16, 2014, page 4262 in Hansard.

The Yukon Hospital Corporation will attend during this session and they will be able to answer some of the questions proposed by members opposite, and I know they will be able to answer those questions well because I have seen some of the actions they have taken and the importance with which medical staff treat these issues.

**Ms. Stick:** Having the corporation come before the Assembly is an important step to answer outstanding questions on the system failures that surrounded these two deaths, and we thank the minister that the Hospital Corporation will be here and we look forward to that, but it is just a first step and it does not commit the corporation to publicly reporting — an actual report — on how the recommendations are being followed.

There are many, many recommendations coming out of those two inquests. For us to ask a question on each one, I'm not sure we're going to have time. I believe the number is 24, possibly 28 recommendations.

Two people from Watson Lake have died. The public has a right to know what action is being taken to prevent similar

deaths. Will the minister commit to a public report on the implementation of the coroner's recommendations?

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** I can't commit to that because I don't know which parts of the assessment that will be conducted by the Yukon Hospital Corporation will be confidential to the Hospital Corporation itself. I will commit to saying that any parts of the recommendations that are not confidential — I would be only too happy to request that they be made available to me for tabling in the Legislature, and I will do that.

But once again, they will be attending this House. They will be here. I've made the commitment. I think it's up to members opposite to ask intelligent, reasonable questions at that time and I'm sure the Hospital Corporation will be able to answer them.

### **Question re: Human rights investigations at Whitehorse Correctional Centre**

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Mr. Speaker, this summer the Department of Justice tried to prevent the Yukon Human Rights Commission from investigating allegations of human rights abuses at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

The minister has argued that the commission does not have jurisdiction to investigate at the jail because WCC has an internal investigative body that can deal with human rights complaints. The commission argues that the minister has no grounds to prevent human rights investigations from taking place, raising the question: Why is the minister trying to prevent the Yukon Human Rights Commission from conducting investigations at Whitehorse Correctional Centre?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** In addressing the member opposite, the commission's authority to investigate human rights complaints is governed by the *Human Rights Act*, and the member opposite should know that.

The *Human Rights Act* requires that all complaints first exhaust all other review procedures available to them under other acts. The member opposite should be well aware of that.

This government believes in holding offenders accountable. This government also believes in providing services to victims of crime. We have worked very hard on that and we'll continue to move forward in that direction.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The Minister of Justice has not provided any reasonable justification for his decision to block the Yukon Human Rights Commission from doing its work. We've seen Yukon Party Justice ministers handle issues poorly before, but this minister is actively opposing adequate human rights investigations from taking place.

He doesn't seem to understand the basic democratic principle that every citizen should have the same access to human rights.

We heard the Premier speak this morning about the duty to protect our democracy, but Yukoners deserve better than what we're hearing from this Minister of Justice. He has been making inconsistent statements, so I'll ask him to go on the record and provide some clarity in this House.

Will the minister publicly commit to respecting the law and providing the Yukon Human Rights Commission with full

cooperation and access to conduct investigations at Whitehorse Correctional Centre?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The member opposite clearly has not understood and read the *Human Rights Act*. That *Human Rights Act* requires that all complaints first exhaust other review procedures available to them under other acts.

The member opposite — I hear them heckling already — clearly needs to go back and read the act and understand the procedures at the correctional facility. This government believes in holding offenders accountable; there's no question about that. As I mentioned in my first response, the government also believes in providing services to victims of the offenders who are in the correctional facility.

Over the 2013-14 year, Victim Services provided service to over 1,000 clients in our territory, and I commend them for their important work in this community.

### **Question re: Raven Recycling Centre funding**

**Mr. Barr:** Just last week, Raven Recycling shut down its collection service of non-refundables, leaving thousands of Yukoners without the accessible recycling that we relied upon for decades. With Raven Recycling handling around 85 percent of all Yukon recyclables, the government's plan to divert 50 percent of waste by next year is in jeopardy.

This non-profit institution has been calling on the government for years to step up and develop an adequate funding model to support the recycling of materials like paper products, plastics and Styrofoam.

Today, less waste is diverted from the landfill and we can all hopefully agree that this is bad news. Why is the government dragging its feet to the point where many recyclables are now heading straight to the landfill?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** In fact, I think the member does not understand some of the context of what has gone on here recently. Not only has government provided support in the past to Raven Recycling directly for a number of capital upgrades — last year, the Yukon government, for the very first time, began providing diversion credits to pay for waste diverted to the landfill. That was in response to a request that we received jointly from Raven Recycling and the other recycling processor. At that time, they asked us to implement a diversion credit matching the \$75 per tonne that the city pays for a combined diversion credit of \$150 per tonne for waste diverted from landfills. We did what they asked for last summer.

Last month, Raven Recycling requested that the combined diversion credit be more than doubled to \$330 per tonne. We are concerned about the significant growth of the amount requested and I have personally asked Raven Recycling to provide us with more information to clarify what makes up their cost for this material and why the cost has increased so much beyond what they asked for last year. They have committed to providing that and I'm looking forward to receiving it.

We are currently focused on working with partners, especially the City of Whitehorse, to identify sustainable, long-term, cost-effective solutions in this area.

**Mr. Barr:** Short-term, top-up diversion credits aren't enough. Diversion credits offered to Yukon recyclers cover less than 50 percent of the cost of recycling. The equation is simple: without a more stable funding source, Yukoners have lost access to our primary recycling drop-off point. It has been 22 years since beverage container regulation rates were set, and it has been 22 years without adjustment. The coming changes are a good thing, but they only affect 10 percent of our recyclables. That leaves 90 percent of recyclables that need a closer look by government as part of a wider waste-diversion system.

What is the government's plan to address the 90 percent of recyclables that are not covered under the beverage container regulation consultation?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** First of all, I should bring the member's attention to the fact that in addition to the beverage container regulations, the designated material regulation is the most significant change proposed in the two regulations out of the consultation. That proposes expanding what is currently an upfront fee that applies to small passenger tires only — first of all to all tires and, secondly, to a range of electrical products and electronics. This will add upfront costs, but will result in the end in Yukoners not having to pay a tipping fee for delivering that material to the proper location at solid-waste facilities. This is in fact the next significant step in evolving our waste system.

As I noted earlier, the step that was taken in 2011 or 2012 of ending open burning at our solid-waste facilities was a very significant change in Yukon's management — and municipalities' management — of our waste system. The investments that we have made jointly with the City of Whitehorse in the composting facilities at the Whitehorse solid-waste facility, the investments that have been made through CDF this year in 80 bins to handle cardboard, which are being used jointly by Raven Recycling and three companies — all of these are part of the steps that we are taking to modernize our waste system. Our focus is working with partners, especially the City of Whitehorse —

**Speaker:** The member's time has elapsed.

**Mr. Barr:** Mr. Speaker, what about paper, plastic and other similar products? Recycling isn't free. For years, this government has benefited from the hard work of Yukon's many non-profit organizations, while only providing the barest of funding. Raven's current situation is no different. For decades, Raven Recycling has helped build Yukon's recycling infrastructure. They have also been in our schools and workplaces, providing Yukoners with the know-how they need to have sustainable workplaces.

It's only thanks to groups like Raven Recycling and Yukon municipalities that the Yukon government's goal of 50-percent waste diversion by 2015 is even possible. The government can't keep downloading its responsibilities to NGOs and the City of Whitehorse.

Will the minister commit to increasing Yukon's waste-diversion credits in the short term to a sustainable level or will he throw his 2015 waste-diversion goals to the curb?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Again, I would remind the member that the diversion credit was implemented last year for the first time in response to a joint request that we received from Raven Recycling and the other processor. They asked us to implement a combined diversion credit of \$150 per tonne. That is what we did. A year later, Raven Recycling has asked for more than double that amount. They have committed to providing a breakdown of why there has been such a significant increase in cost. We have yet to receive that information.

Our focus is in working with the City of Whitehorse in considering options, as most of the volume of recycling and other waste in the territory falls under the jurisdiction of the City of Whitehorse. They are, in fact, a bigger player in this than the Yukon government, but we are committed to working jointly with them. Officials have been in regular contact and we will also, at the elected level, be engaging in further discussions in this area.

Again, our focus is working with the City of Whitehorse in particular to identify sustainable, long-term, cost-effective solutions for processing recyclables in the Yukon. I would encourage the member to actually look to the fact and recognize that the Yukon government has contributed significantly to Raven Recycling and other recycling agencies, including the recycling depots in communities, in promotion of recycling throughout the years and we will continue to do so.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

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

*The House adjourned at 2:31 p.m.*

## The following Sessional Papers were tabled October 23, 2014:

33-1-124

*Yukon Conflict of Interest Commission Annual Report to the Legislative Assembly for the Period from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014* (June 27, 2014) (Speaker Laxton)

33-1-125

*Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office 2014 Annual Report* (Speaker Laxton)

33-1-126

*Report from the Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly on the Absence of Members from Sittings of the Legislative Assembly and its Committees* (October 23, 2014) (Speaker Laxton)

33-1-127

Public Accounts 2013-2014 of the Government of Yukon for the year ended March 31, 2014 (Pasloski)

33-1-128

Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees Twelfth Report (August 19, 2014) (Hassard)