



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 167

1st Session

33rd Legislature

HANSARD

Wednesday, November 5, 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

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Hon. Elaine Taylor	Whitehorse West	Deputy Premier Minister responsible for Education; Women's Directorate; French Language Services Directorate
Hon. Brad Cathers	Lake Laberge	Minister responsible for Community Services; Yukon Housing Corporation; Yukon Liquor Corporation; Yukon Lottery Commission Government House Leader
Hon. Doug Graham	Porter Creek North	Minister responsible for Health and Social Services; Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board
Hon. Scott Kent	Riverdale North	Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources; Yukon Energy Corporation; Yukon Development Corporation
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**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Wednesday, November 5, 2014 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

Prayers

DAILY ROUTINE

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

TRIBUTES

In recognition of Veterans' Week

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I rise today to pay tribute to all Canadian veterans. During Veterans' Week of November 5 to 11, we recognize the selfless dedication of the women and men in uniform who have helped to define and defend Canada's values of freedom and democracy. Through their sacrifices, Canada's veterans have ensured not only the protection of our country, but also the promotion of peace around the world. Members of the Canadian forces have helped to build a safe and secure society for all citizens.

The recent incidents in Ottawa and St-Jean-sur-Richelieu remind us that we must continue to stand on guard for the freedom that we do hold so dear. These tragic events emphasize the need to support our military and police forces, as they are the ones who put themselves at risk and step forward to protect Canadians in times of crisis.

This year, Mr. Speaker, we also mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War. During the Great War, Yukon punched far above its weight with 561 Yukoners enlisting, which was a per capita rate far higher than the rest of Canada. Each Yukon resident also donated more money to the war effort than those of any other part of this country.

Commissioner George Black, his wife Martha Black, Joe Boyle and Sam Steele are just some of the prominent Yukoners who made a significant contribution to Canada's war effort during World War I. Throughout the Great War, particularly at the battles of Passchendaele, the Somme and Vimy Ridge, regiments from across this country fought valiantly and helped to create a new sense of what it means to be Canadian.

Veterans deserve to be recognized and appreciated this week, not only because they have served our country, but because of the work they do and continue to do in our communities. We pay tribute to our veterans by proudly wearing poppies on our left lapels. The poppy is recognized around the world as a symbol of our shared history of sacrifice and commitment. We can also take time to remember by attending a Remembrance Day ceremony, or visiting a local cenotaph or monument, or by sharing our thoughts of remembrance on-line.

We can also take time to personally thank one of the more than 250 Yukon veterans who have served our country

through times of war and peace from the Second World War to the most recent conflicts in which Canadian forces are proudly and bravely playing a role.

Veterans, including you, Mr. Speaker, and the Minister of Highways and Public Works — together in this Legislature, it is important to acknowledge and show respect to our Canadian veterans but, above all, we must never forget.

While I'm standing I would like to recognize and have the honour to recognize some members who are in uniform today — veterans and members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I would like to recognize Joe Mewett, Red Grossinger, Constable Brian Harding and Master Corporal Terence Grabowski who have all joined us today.

I would please ask you to join me in welcoming them here today.

Applause

Ms. White: It is an honour to rise on behalf of the Official Opposition to pay tribute to Veterans' Week. The days and week leading up to Remembrance Day give us the time to reflect on the meaning of November 11. We do this in different ways and in different places across the country.

I want to express my gratitude, my sadness, my pride and my admiration to the men and women of the past, the present and the future who have chosen and continue to choose to put their lives on the line for the cause of peace and freedom around the world.

In Canada, we have a special place that documents these sacrifices, a place where Canadians can go to see the names of the fallen. The Memorial Chamber is a beautifully crafted room with a vaulted ceiling. It has stained glass windows and intricate carvings depicting Canada's record of war. It's a restful place for peaceful remembrance. The centrepiece is the *First World War Book of Remembrance*. It sits on an altar in the centre of the room in a glass case of finely tooled brass. Small statuettes of angels kneel at each of its corners.

The steps leading up to the altar are made from stones from Flanders Fields. The remaining six books are displayed resting on their respective altars around the room. These books of remembrance commemorate Canada's young soldiers, nurses, sailors, merchant marines and airforce men and women who lost their lives during times of peace and conflict. These books are testaments to the valour, the sacrifice and the selflessness of those Canadians who have died in military service. The first book commemorates the First World War. It is the largest of the books and it contains more than 66,000 names on its pages. The second volume commemorates the Second World War, and it contains more than 44,000 names. The third volume commemorates the men and women of Newfoundland who gave their lives in defence of freedom during both the First and Second World Wars, even before Newfoundland was a province of Canada. It contains more than 2,300 names.

The fourth volume commemorates those Canadians who gave their lives during the Korean War and it contains 516 names. The fifth book commemorates Canadians who died during the South African War and the Nile Expedition. It

contains almost 300 names on its pages. The sixth book commemorates the men and women of the Merchant Marine who gave their lives while serving Canada at sea during both the First World War and the Second World War. It contains 570 names. The seventh book lists the names of more than 1,800 members of the Canadian Forces who have died while on duty in Canada or serving abroad since October 1, 1947. Tragically, new names continue to be added to its pages.

Together, these volumes commemorate the lives of more than 118,000 men and women who, since Confederation, have made the ultimate sacrifice in giving their lives for the cause of peace and freedom. These volumes contain more than three times the population of the Yukon. Through their courage, determination and sacrifice, generations of Canadian veterans have helped to ensure that we live in a free and peaceful country. We owe it to them to learn, to understand and to be thankful for the tasks that they have undertaken and to not forget the lessons we have learned at their expense. Lest we forget.

Mr. Silver: I rise on behalf of the Liberal caucus to also pay tribute to Veterans' Week.

Each year in the week leading up to Remembrance Day, we are asked to take time to remember those who sacrificed their lives for the freedoms and liberties that are a fundamental part of life in Canada. Unfortunately, those sacrifices seem closer to home this year than in past years with the recent deaths of Corporal Nathan Cirillo as well as Warrant Officer, Patrice Vincent.

We as Canadians have a duty. We have a duty to ensure that our veterans are taken care of. In the last few weeks, our military men and women have departed for overseas duties in the Middle East. We need to take action today, Mr. Speaker, so that when they return, we are ready to support them.

As we approach Remembrance Day, we must not remember only the sacrifices of the first and second World Wars, but also those who have served in NATO and in UN missions, and also those who have most recently served in Afghanistan, Libya and, once again, Iraq.

Our veterans are our community leaders and it is important to pay tribute to them not just during November, but every day. They return home with the scars of conflict, lest we forget that democracy is not an easy undertaking. It is a privilege awarded to our citizens by our current serving forces and by our veterans.

Speaker's statement

Speaker: Before going to the next tribute, I just want to add that, during the week of remembrance and this whole time, people wear poppies. There is a bit of a misnomer in that people say, "I bought a poppy." The poppies, in fact, are free. If you choose to make a donation, it's gratefully accepted. The donations do not go to the legion organization. They go to the poppy trust fund that branches administer on your behalf, because it is your money. All that money in the poppy trust fund must be used to support veterans and their families.

Thank you all for your generous donations to the poppy trust fund and all the work that it does as well.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Kent: I know that introduction of visitors is a little later on, but I just want to thank the Minister of Education for allowing me to interrupt tributes to introduce some special people who are in the gallery today. Of course, my wife, Ms. Amanda Leslie, is joining us — and her parents, Tom and Louise Van Soldt of Union Bay, British Columbia, and our new addition, Eli Timothy Aviugana Kent. I would just ask members to join me in welcoming my wife, her parents and our son.

Applause

In recognition of Take Our Kids to Work Day

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to this year's participants in the annual Take Our Kids to Work Day. This program has been giving secondary students opportunities to explore future career paths and to connect with the world of work since 1994. On this day, the 20th anniversary of the Take Our Kids to Work program, students will be visiting and learning at workplaces across the territory and across the country. Since its launch in the Greater Toronto area back in 1994, the Take Our Kids to Work program has grown to involve some 250,000 students and 75,000 organizations across this country.

This opportunity to see a day in the life of a parent, friend or volunteer in their workplace is a hands-on way for students to explore the workplace and future career options. Students can make a direct connection to what their future may bring at a time when they are making the decisions that will directly affect their future.

So Mr. Speaker, today I would like to welcome a couple of very special guests to the Legislature: Madison Gauvin and Elisha Klassen are two grade 10 students who have joined us here from Vanier Catholic Secondary School here today.

They have offered themselves to be part of Take our Kids to Work Day today. I have had the opportunity to spend the entire morning with them, or at least the lion's share in between our meetings, and these two young women are indeed emerging leaders in our territory, and it has been a real pleasure to be able to work alongside them this morning. So I would like members to extend a warm welcome to Madison and to Elisha for joining us here today.

Applause

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Maddy and Elisha have expressed obviously an interest in a future working with Yukon government and possibly as elected members of the Legislative Assembly here in the Yukon. As one of Canada's top 100 employers for 2014, we are really pleased to be able to show them some of the opportunities that exist here within our workplace.

This morning, as I mentioned, we spent some time together and they have learned first-hand the schedule of what an elected official looks like — in particular the Minister of

Education, and minister responsible for the Women's Directorate and also French Language Services Directorate. Hopefully that is not a deterrent for their continued work and interest in the area of politics. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon they will have the opportunity to meet with some of the other hard-working staff of the Yukon government.

I think that by bringing students like Maddy and Elisha into the Assembly and into our workplaces, we are giving these students an opportunity to see for themselves what a day in our lives looks like. The Department of Education, of course, is dedicated to developing an inclusive, adaptable and productive workforce that meets the needs of each of our Yukon employers.

Take Our Kids to Work Day gives employers an opportunity to engage with the employees of tomorrow. Take Our Kids to Work Day is an exciting opportunity for young people to find career inspiration and for employers to connect with the future workforce.

I would really like to express my personal thanks to Madison and Elisha and the many students across the territory who chose to spend time with the workforce today. I would also like to thank the workers and the employers who made time to show these students around and to answer each of their questions today. The Department of Education's mission is to support success for each and every learner. This has just been one more practical example of making education experiential and engaging for Yukon students. This day gives our students an opportunity to see what success might indeed look for them.

Thank you to Elisha and to Madison for joining us here today.

Applause

In recognition of Yukon francophone women

Hon. Ms. Taylor: [*Member spoke in French. Text unavailable.*]

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier in French, it very much gives me honour to rise today in tribute to recognize three very special Yukon francophone women. These women were selected for their contributions to the Canadian francophonie last month — or in September of this year, I should say, by the Alliance des femmes de la francophonie canadienne. Angélique Bernard, Jeanne Beaudoin and of course the late Émilie Tremblay were among the 100 francophone women who have influenced Canadian history over the past 100 years. They were honoured for their outstanding dedication to Yukon's francophone community and to our territory in general.

In 1995, Angélique Bernard visited Whitehorse for the first time as a translation intern and it wasn't long before she decided to settle permanently in our territory. She found employment in the childcare field, as well as with the advocacy group, the women's organization Les EssentiElles. She was also heavily involved in theatre and sports. She chaired the board of directors of Whitehorse's women soccer team and I think that everyone is very much familiar with Ms. Bernard's commitments to the equality of women —

advancing the equality of women and their participation in activities such as sports.

In 1996, she also received the remarkable woman award at the Gala de la francophonie. Of course, she is also the chair of l'Association franco-yukonnaise's board of directors and it has been a real honour to work alongside Angélique these past number of years.

Likewise, Jeanne Beaudoin arrived in our territory in 1982 and discovered a passion for her new home. She was elected vice-chair of the l'Association franco-yukonnaise in 1984. She worked on the relaunching of the newspaper *L'Aurore Boréale* and on the development of French-first language instruction in Yukon.

Ms. Beaudoin played a major role in establishing the Garderie du petit cheval blanc daycare, l'École Émilie Tremblay school, the Yukon francophone school board and, of course, the Centre de la Francophonie du Yukon. She has passionately and tirelessly dedicated her time to developing services, organizations and infrastructure for the benefit of our territory and is a very valued member of our own French Language Services Directorate here in Yukon government.

Likewise, Émilie Tremblay arrived in Yukon on June 16, 1894 after crossing the Chilkoot Trail with her husband. She was a very brave woman with an unwavering social commitment, and she founded the Society of the Ladies of the Golden North, was chair of the Yukon Women Pioneers and a lifetime member of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire. The Tremblay home was always open to travellers, missionaries and widows. Whitehorse's French language school bears the name of this incredible pioneer.

On behalf of the Legislative Assembly and all members of this House, we offer our sincere congratulations to you, Angélique, and to you, Jeanne, and recognize you and say bravo for your continued contributions on behalf of our territory. Thank you.

Before I wind up, I also — as you can see, there are a number of individuals in the gallery who have joined us here today in support of these two dynamic women, and I would like to just point out a few — and there are a few.

In the gallery is Emilie Beaudoin-Herdes, daughter of Jeanne Beaudoin; David Comchy, husband of Angélique Bernard; Samuel Comchy-Bernard, son of Angélique. There you are — thank you, David, husband of Angélique Bernard — hanging in there; André Bourcier, vice-president of l'AFY; Josée Belisle, a representative from l'AFY — welcome; Christian Klein, also from l'AFY; Isabelle Salesse, from l'AFY, directrice générale; Rock Nadon; Nancy Power; Frédéric Nole; et aussi Edithé Bélanger, also from l'AFY. Welcome, all of you.

From our own French Language Services Directorate we have: Sarah Cloutier-Hébert; Michel Lemaire; Catherine Huot; Anne Savoie; Myriam Lachance-Bernard; Sylvie Painchaud; Marie-Alexis Dangréau; Joe MacGillivray, who has also joined us here as the deputy minister for the Executive Council Office; Patrice Tremblay, our director for French Language Services Directorate; Yann Herry; I'm not sure if Hélène Saint-Onge has joined us. No? Okay. Luc

Laferté, if Luc is here — all right. Mr. Rénaud Rémillard has also joined us here as the director general for the Federation of French-Speaking jurists from Manitoba.

Also, in the gallery is Danielle Bónneau, Pierre Luc-Lafrance, directeur de l'Aurore boréale, et aussi Emily Thibault. Merci everyone for joining us.

In recognition of Medical Radiation Technologists Week

Hon. Mr. Graham: I rise today on behalf of all members of the Legislature to ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing the national celebration of Canada's medical radiation technologists from November 2 to 8.

Sponsored by the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists, this annual event raises awareness about this area of health care. It has touched the lives of more than 30 percent of Canadians in at least the last six months and celebrates the crucial role that medical radiation technologists play in the health care system. There likely isn't anyone in the House who hasn't been involved with a medical radiation technologist or had a family member who has seen one in the last six months.

The medical radiation therapy profession today includes a wide array of professionals who represent various technologically related disciplines in the health care field. MRTs specialize in one or more of the four disciplines of medical imaging and radiation science. These include general radiography, magnetic resonance imaging, nuclear medicine and radiation therapy. These individuals provide a delicate balance, Mr. Speaker, between technical knowledge and the adaptive patient skills, generally in a hospital or in a clinic.

Many MRTs, including those in the Yukon, specialize in radiological technology using X-rays to produce images of body parts and systems, including CT scans, breast imaging and, in the very near future, MRI scans, as well as operating room procedures.

These individuals are experts in the use of complex medical equipment, which is used to better differentiate between normal and diseased tissue. At the same time, these medical radiation technologists provide comprehensive, compassionate patient care. Yukon is fortunate to have 17 MRTs currently on staff at Whitehorse General Hospital. We appreciate and recognize their contribution to the health care of all our citizens.

In recognition of Financial Literacy Month

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I rise today to note that November is Financial Literacy Month in Canada. Very few endeavours are as important to one's quality of life as attaining financial literacy. Financial literacy is generally defined as having the knowledge, skills and the confidence to make responsible financial decisions. Understanding the basic concepts of budgeting and saving is absolutely essential for the success of every Yukon family. Mastering the fundamentals of money management is as important to determining one's success in life as reading and writing, and results in financial security.

It's never too early to introduce children to basic financial management. By instilling good financial habits in childhood, we can increase the likelihood of sound financial practices throughout life, yet very few parents talk to their children about money. In fact, studies tell us that money is one of the least discussed issues between children and their parents. This is not ideal because it is clear that financial literacy is an essential life skill.

It is not only children who are lacking in financial literacy. A great many Canadian adults lack the skills and knowledge they need to manage money well. Some 60 percent say they worry about their financial future, and 23 percent worry so much that they regularly lose sleep just thinking about it.

What can be done to help people attain the knowledge and the skills to direct their own financial affairs with confidence? Work is underway.

Parents can help by having regular conversations with children about, for example, the difference between needs and wants. Everyone wishes that they could just have everything they wanted without cost or consequences, but we live in a real world where we must all make decisions about how we invest time, energy and our money. By becoming more money savvy, we become more empowered as individuals, as citizens, as consumers and as providers for our families. Understanding the costs of using credit cards, how to take advantage of the power of compound interest, being strategic about incurring debt, and saving for the future are keys to achieving financial security and peace of mind. Not everyone wants to or needs to become an expert economist or a financial planner, but we can all become more mindful of how we manage what we do have.

It is a cliché to say that we need to teach our children the value of a dollar. Such a notion seems outdated and quaint in an age of plenty. As I child I was taught that a penny saved is a penny earned, or, if you look after your pennies, the dollars look after themselves.

However children who are not furnished with an understanding of personal finance are vulnerable to the lure of marketing and peer pressure. As adults we know that even we are not immune to the immense power of advertising and social pressures to buy things we do not need and cannot afford. A young person with an inadequate financial grounding can easily fall into some very bad financial habits and can make poor financial choices that could ultimately lead to disempowerment and despair. When we feel powerless we are vulnerable to even more dangerous influences that can only keep us further mired in personal difficulty. This is why good financial habits are so important.

Although it may not be a glamorous topic, sound financial practices are as essential to our health as good oral hygiene and proper nutrition. Understanding household or kitchen table economics will stand them in good stead as they provide for their family, start a business or finance further education. The federal government is currently consulting Canadians in shaping the development of a national strategy

for financial literacy and we support this endeavour wholeheartedly.

Additionally, I encourage Yukon public schools and school councils to adopt financial literacy into their curriculum.

I wish all my colleagues a happy Financial Literacy Month.

Speaker: Introduction of visitors.

Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I have for tabling yet another beautiful document published by the wildlife viewing program, entitled *A Common Guide to Yukon Mushrooms*. This was done in conjunction with the Forest Management branch of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Kent: I have two documents for tabling. The first is the annual report for 2013 of the Yukon Energy Corporation and the second is the 2013 annual report of the Yukon Development Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I have for tabling the new Yukon coroner's service pamphlet, entitled *Yukon coroner service speaks for the dead to protect the living*.

Speaker: Are there any reports of committees? Petitions.

PETITIONS

Petition No. 7 — additional signatures received

Clerk: Mr. Speaker and honourable members of the Assembly, I have had the honour to review two petitions presented by the Leader of the Official Opposition on November 4, 2014. The first petition constituted a number of different petitions, one of which was originally presented to this Assembly on November 21, 2012. That petition, being Petition No. 7 of the First Session of the 33rd Legislative Assembly, was deemed read and received on November 22, 2012. Additional signatures were presented on December 3, 2012 and the government responded to Petition No. 7 on December 5, 2012.

The additional signatures presented yesterday by the Leader of the Official Opposition will be added to those already received for Petition No. 7. No further action is required with regard to this petition. The other petitions will be returned to the Leader of the Official Opposition.

Petition No. 18 — received

Clerk: The second petition, being Petition No. 18 of the First Session of the 33rd Legislative Assembly meets the requirements as to form of the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

Speaker: Petition No. 18, accordingly, is deemed to be read and received. Pursuant to Standing Order 67, the Executive Council shall provide a response to a petition which

has been read and received within eight sitting days of its presentation.

Therefore, the Executive Council response to the Petition No. 18 shall be provided on or before Wednesday, November 19, 2014. This response date may change, subject to the decision of the House with regard to Motion No. 751, notice of which was given yesterday by the Government House Leader.

Speaker's statement

Speaker: As a matter of procedure, I would like to remind members that when they are presenting additional signatures to a petition already presented to the House, they are not to read the text of the petition, as that information is already in the possession of the House.

Are there any further petitions for presentation?

Are there any 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 urges the Government of Yukon to encourage parents, teachers, as well as Yukon's community as a whole, to promote financial literacy and responsibility in Yukon's youth from an early age.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to ensure that Yukon's regulatory regimes are clear, consistent and competitive with other jurisdictions, while also providing for sustainable and environmentally friendly, responsible development of Yukon's resources.

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

THAT pursuant to Standing Order 60(1), Bill No. 78, *Act to Amend the Marriage Act*, be reprinted and tabled in the Legislative Assembly in its reprinted form before the House proceeds with third reading and passage of the said bill.

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

THAT it is the opinion of this House that the Government of Canada's income-splitting proposal will disproportionately benefit high-income Yukoners, deter lower income spouses entering or re-entering the workforce and fail to provide any benefit to lone-parent households.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to consider an all-Canadian route through Inuvik to address the ongoing issue of Internet reliability.

Speaker: Is there a statement by a minister?

This then brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Oil and gas development

Ms. Hanson: Yukoners know that this government does not listen. Yesterday we had another example when the Premier misunderstood a very simple question I asked about his government's communication with EFLO Energy. On January 31, EFLO Energy told the select committee on fracking that the majority of the gas in the Kotaneelee is shale and that hydraulic fracturing will be necessary to extract the gas. They also said that they — and I quote: “would like to develop the significant shale gas resources that we feel exist in southeast Yukon.” EFLO is clear that they need to frack to continue operations, and this government has a track record of sidestepping consultation and assessment processes.

The question the Premier refused to answer yesterday was — and I'll ask it again: Has this government given EFLO Energy any assurances that, regardless of the outcome of the select committee on fracking, EFLO can proceed with their business plan to frack in southeast Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Kent: What we witnessed in this House yesterday was the Leader of the Official Opposition trying to scare Yukoners, thinking that everything that we authorize on this side of the House will lead to some sort of hydraulic fracturing in the Yukon.

There are certainly two different issues at play here. The application that is before the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board right now clearly states — I would invite her to go to the online registry, look at the project description — that that project does not involve hydraulic fracturing.

We are awaiting the report from the select committee on hydraulic fracturing that was due in the spring session and then we granted an extension to that committee, a committee that includes three government members and three members from the opposition. Thankfully it doesn't include those members from the opposition who have held placards or played lead guitar or vocals at many of the anti-fracking rallies.

We need that committee to produce a report that we, as legislators, can consider. Again, an all-party committee — something that is a track record of the Yukon Party government, this one as well as previous Yukon Party governments — allowing important issues to be considered by all members of the Legislature.

Ms. Hanson: Mr. Speaker, at no point did we indicate that EFLO's current YESAB application involves fracking. The Premier's and the minister's statements are simply not in line with the fact. What we are raising are matters of public record. EFLO has stated that their future viability in Yukon requires fracking, and this government has a track record of ignoring public consultation processes and the outcomes of the select committees of this Legislature.

There is no need for the government to get so defensive. They simply need to give Yukoners a straight answer and tell

them whether or not this government has given any assurances to EFLO that they will be able to frack in southeast Yukon.

Hon. Mr. Kent: I will remind the member opposite that the establishment of the select committee also included a halt — I guess I would call it — that there would be no permitting of hydraulic fracturing until the report of the select committee is presented. Of course there are considerable shale resources in the EFLO play and the Kotaneelee field, but the matter before YESA Board right now does not include accessing those shale resources. It's simply an application to go in and do work on existing wells and some other work.

All Yukoners can see that application. It is on the YESAB on-line registry. I invite the member opposite to go and review that.

These processes are in place so that the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board can produce a recommendation that the appropriate decision bodies can consider. That process is still underway with respect to this EFLO application. I should also mention that there is a Northern Cross application that is also currently before YESAB to do work in the Eagle Plains Basin.

Unlike the members opposite, we recognize that the oil and gas industry has a long history here in the Yukon. The first well was drilled in the late 1950s — 1957. We have received \$45 million in royalties — the Yukon government shared with First Nations over the years from those producing wells in the Kotaneelee fields. The oil and gas industry has a long and storied history here in the Yukon, and we hope it has a future as well.

Ms. Hanson: I guess another fact is useful then. The peak period for resources coming to this territory — oil and gas — were 1995 to 2002, and in most recent years it has been zero. One thing the Premier has been clear on — this government is clear — is that they are all in when it comes to oil and gas. They have made it clear that they will do almost anything to make Yukon competitive for these companies.

In a recent report, the B.C. Auditor General stated the province has already subsidized the oil and gas industry to the tune of \$1.25 billion. These extensive subsidies have already been given out, even though many of the projects are not fully operational, and now, despite the PC government bending over backward trying to satisfy the oil and gas industry, companies are postponing or pulling their projects entirely due to fluctuating prices.

We know that this government is modelling B.C.'s oil and gas regulatory regime. Does the Premier believe that Yukon should follow B.C.'s example and subsidize the oil and gas industry in order to be competitive?

Hon. Mr. Kent: When it comes to developing industries here in the territory, there are a number of industries that are very important and there are a number of industries that do get government assistance — the tourism industry, the mining industry, to name but a couple — and they are cornerstone industries here for the territory.

It's interesting to hear the Leader of the Official Opposition talk about the royalties. Of course, successive governments used those royalties. Successive Yukon Party,

NDP, Liberal — and the last 12 years of Yukon Party — governments used those royalties to spend on such lavish things as hiring teachers or hiring doctors or paying for nurses. Those are important contributions to our economy. We're able to deliver on the social programs and education and health care — things that are important to Yukoners — by utilizing those royalties.

The member opposite is correct; it has been a couple of years since the Kotaneelee wells have produced. Again, there are conventional targets there that EFLO is looking at, and we hope they are successful and that those wells can once again contribute to the royalties here in the territory that help us deliver on those strong commitments of education, health care and infrastructure for Yukoners.

Question re: *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*

Ms. White: I would like to take this House back to the winter of 2012, during that December day almost two years when this House passed a new *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* that, coupled with regulations, would address some concerns of both landlords and tenants on a number of issues. Fast-forward to this March, when the government completed a round of consultations on the regulations needed to be enacted so that the act that was passed in 2012 could come into force.

This is where the trail runs cold, Mr. Speaker, because we have not heard a word from government since that day. Landlords and tenants want to know: When will the necessary regulations be implemented so that the new *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* passed two years ago can finally come into force?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: What the Member for Takhini-Kopper King may not be aware of is the good work that has been done in the Department of Community Services in establishing the Residential Tenancies Office and, in collaboration with other departments, conducting consultation this spring and giving thorough policy consideration to the important issues that were raised during that discussion and to the feedback from Yukoners. That work is progressing and I look forward to, in the not-too-distant future, being able to announce regulations, once they have been reviewed and approved by Cabinet.

Ms. White: The reality is that nothing has changed for landlords and tenants since that new act was passed in 2012. Staff have been hired and an office does exist, yet they can't provide the promised services because there are no regulations in place. Public consultation was critical for the process, but that process ended eight months ago. It has been nearly two years since the act was passed, as the government continues to drag its feet on implementing regulations that need to exist before the new act can come into effect. Nothing has changed for landlords and tenants.

When will government start making landlord-tenant relations a priority and finish what they started in 2012?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: What I would remind the member is that this legislation, in fact, has had a very thorough and involved process. It included the work of an all-party committee; it included the work that was then done by staff of

Community Services, in consultation on the act and, subsequently, on the regulations. There has also been work with other key departments, including Health and Social Services, to understand and very carefully consider the effects of any and all of the proposed elements of the regulations. We appreciate very much the public feedback that was received earlier this year. That feedback and policy options relating to it have been given thorough consideration and, as I indicated in my previous response, I look forward in the not-too-distant future to being able to announce the regulations, once Cabinet has considered and approved them.

Again I remind the member that this is replacing legislation that was 50 years old, and remind the member that there were three terms of NDP government that did absolutely nothing to modernize this legislation. We recognized the need to do it, unlike the NDP and the Liberals.

Ms. White: When we talk about housing in the Yukon, we're talking about a file that has been faced with chronic mismanagement by this government and, most recently, this minister. We continue to be faced with an affordable housing crisis in the territory —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: Member for Vuntut Gwitchin, on a point of order.

Mr. Elias: The member from the New Democratic Party identified the minister as responsible for mismanagement of finances in this Assembly and I require an unqualified retraction of that statement and an apology to this House.

Speaker: The Opposition House Leader, on the point of order.

Ms. Stick: I heard from the member opposite; I haven't heard him refer to any standing order that this might have something to do with and I would suggest this is a dispute between members.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: It is a dispute between members.

Ms. White: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we talk about housing in the Yukon, we're talking about a file that has been faced with chronic mismanagement by this government and this minister. We continue to be faced with an affordable housing crisis in the territory as millions of dollars earmarked by the federal government for affordable housing in 2006 still sits idle. Of course, we have the mutual frustrations of both landlords and tenants as they continue to wait for regulations. We know that this isn't about the shortcomings of the public service; they're doing their job. This is about the political will to develop the regulations needed to bring the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* into force.

Can the government give us a timeline for when the necessary regulations will be in place so that this multi-year process will finally see an end and give Yukon landlords and tenants the protection they both deserve?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: It's really unfortunate the approach that the member takes, which is passion uninformed and untempered by reason. In fact, I would point out —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Point of order

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

Ms. White: Standing Order 19(i): “uses abusive or insulting language...in a context likely to create disorder.” That, to me, was offensive.

Speaker: Government House Leader, on the point of order.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: On the point of order, I was criticizing the member's policy positions and statements. I don't believe it was contrary to Standing Order 19(i).

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: There is no point of order, to start with, but I can see that the tensions are getting a little high and people are getting frustrated on both sides. I will caution you and remind you to be careful of what you say because it will come back to you.

I believe the Minister of Community Services was next.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In conclusion, I would note, first of all, the member again was mistaken. The federal money to which she refers was not specifically earmarked for affordable housing. It was housing money made available to the Yukon, of which we actually provided the lion's share to Yukon First Nations to address their needs.

We've seen a significant increase in the Yukon population over the last number of years due to economic growth. That increase of thousands of people — I would remind members that, in 2003, the population of the Yukon stood at a mere 28,500, and we've seen a significant growth of the population to over 36,000 now. All those people need somewhere to live. Shortage of lots caused by decisions of a former municipal council in Whitehorse did create an issue and, as a result of that, the lots that have been made available in Whistle Bend have taken some time.

I know the members clearly have no interest in this subject, as evidenced by their heckling, but I would remind the members that, in fact, this government has taken action and made investments in lots — significant investments — over \$100 million of investments within Yukon Housing Corporation's portfolio since 2008.

Question re: F.H. Collins Secondary School reconstruction

Mr. Silver: I have a question about the new F.H. Collins Secondary School. When the government of Yukon decided to award the contract for construction of this school to an Alberta company, the minister said at that time — and I quote: “The final objective here was to tender a project that would create local jobs and promote economic activity.” Local companies told me at the time that they were quite worried with the

decision to go with an outside contractor and that would probably result with very few local people getting hired. I did write the minister this fall to see if those concerns from those local companies had materialized.

Can the minister confirm that to date there have been only 29 Yukoners working on-site at the F.H. Collins replacement project?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I thank the member opposite for this question. I was waiting for this question. Of course the Yukon government is pleased with the construction progress on the new F.H. Collins School. I was through there a couple of days ago. Things are coming along greatly. It is an affordable design for a modern facility that meets LEED silver standards and our efficiency standards. Construction started earlier this year and is well underway — you can see that. The project is on budget and on track for completion in the fall of 2015. We're confident that we're going to build a world-class facility that meets the current and long-term needs of our school community in a fiscally responsible manner.

The member opposite asked me about the jobs — this project provides the community with an efficient and technologically ready facility to accommodate current and future teaching trends. Several local contractors are working there as we speak and so far the project has created up to 33 new jobs, of which 29 are Yukoners.

Mr. Silver: When I shared that number with one of the local unions they described it as absurdly low for a project of this size. We know that the total budget for this project is \$51 million. That includes millions of dollars for a design that was never used and then years of delay on top of that. We do know as well that promises to create local jobs have not necessarily been fulfilled.

The minister himself has admitted that only 29 local workers are at the F.H. Collins replacement project since the work began — as of the letter he sent me. We know, for example, that there will be no apprentice Yukon carpenters. We also know that a majority of the individuals who attended a job fair for this project in the spring have never been hired.

Does the Minister of Highways and Public Works think that creating only 29 jobs for Yukoners on a project of this magnitude is good fiscal management?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: It is a little disappointing to hear the numbers from the member opposite. There are Yukoners working there. Our focus is to manage our capital projects responsibly, plan government space efficiently and maintain our buildings adequately. Managing and maintaining our buildings and budgets are priorities for this government. It's a balancing act and we are responsible for making sure that we use available funds in our most effective way and responsible way as possible. Sometimes this means making some difficult decisions. I know the member opposite would have loved to have seen the old school and wasn't happy with the decision we made, but that's the decision we made on this side.

We have over 12 capital projects underway in various stages of completion. We have successfully promoted economic activity here, kept our local suppliers and

contractors busy and created local jobs. We have much to be proud of with our capital project tendering.

This government continues to make the Yukon — through creating jobs — the best place in Canada to live, work, play and raise a family, and I'm pretty proud of that.

Mr. Silver: I totally agree. These numbers are disappointing. They're not my numbers; they're his numbers. The government didn't think that there was a Yukon company that was qualified as the general contractor for the F.H. Collins school project. That's why the tender was written to basically exclude local companies — or at least to target specific Outside companies.

The consequences of that decision are now finally being realized. There are very few jobs for Yukoners on this project. Instead, the Government of Yukon has spent \$50 million toward this project and they are putting Albertans and British Columbians and others to work. The profits from the job are heading outside the territory to general contractors and their headquarters in Alberta.

Can the minister tell the House how much of that \$50 million price tag has gone outside of the territory?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: You know, the Government of Yukon takes procurement very seriously. We are modernizing how we pick our goods and services to make this government's contracting procedures fair, consistent and accessible for all Yukon businesses. We are responding to the input we hear from our contractors and suppliers and we are simplifying our procurement processes so that it is easier to do business with this government. We are working on providing supplier development services to local businesses. There was some stuff going on in the fall when it comes to this.

We have 12 capital projects underway at various stages — Yukoners are working. I stated 29 of the 33 jobs — that is, 88 percent of the jobs — have Yukoners working there. This government continues to make the Yukon the best place to live, work, play and raise a family in Canada.

On this Veterans' Week, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank a veteran for the freedoms I have to stand in this Assembly and answer this question.

Question re: *Motor Vehicles Act* amendments

Ms. Moorcroft: On October 30, the Minister of Highways and Public Works said, "Helmets save lives and it only makes sense that helmet use is now legislated for ORV users and their passengers." Yet the amendments to the *Motor Vehicles Act* failed to ensure the safety of off-road vehicle drivers ages 16 and over, who will not be required to wear a helmet when they ride off a roadway. The Canadian Institute for Health Information and the University of Calgary studies reveal that young people, ages 15 to 19, are most at risk of ATV-related hospitalization and death. Wearing a helmet lowers the risk of head, neck and spine injuries.

Is the minister satisfied with his amendments, which do not require helmet use for 16-, 17-, 18- and 19-year olds, those at highest risk of injury and death from ATV accidents when they ride off-road?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: We have had much debate on this in the House within the last little while. The Yukon government is committed to taking care of the Yukon and the safety of all Yukoners. We know that Yukoners love to spend time outside enjoying what we have to offer in the Yukon. One of the most popular ways to do this, of course, is off-road vehicles — for recreation, for work, for hunting.

We want to make sure that Yukoners travelling around the territory on off-road vehicles are safe, and we are introducing these amendments to the *Motor Vehicles Act* in a balanced approach, ensuring safety, protecting our children and putting the responsibility for the personal safety in the hands of the adult riders.

Ms. Moorcroft: Last week, the Minister of Highways and Public Works said safety is the utmost concern for this minister, and he told the House — and I quote: "I fully agree with safe, safe, safe, safe, safe, but it's up to the individual, I believe" — in reference to off-road helmet use for all people ages 16 and over.

A University of Calgary study, entitled *Ten Years of All-Terrain Vehicle Injury, Mortality, and Healthcare Costs*, states that not wearing a helmet is significantly linked to an increased risk of death. All but one other jurisdiction in Canada, including Northwest Territories and Nunavut, have mandatory helmet laws.

Why is the minister ignoring evidence based on comprehensive research and 10 years of medical data that proves that helmet use saves lives?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: The amendments to the *Motor Vehicles Act* that we are speaking to require all youth under the age of 16 to wear helmets whenever and wherever they are travelling; anyone else who is travelling on our roads to wear a helmet and all drivers to hold a valid operator licence, vehicle registration and insurance wherever they are on the roadway or part of our maintained highways. These amendments deliver on this government's commitment to Yukoners to take action on the select committee's recommendations. I've said this before in the House and I'll say it again: There is a huge, large traditional lifestyle out there that we also want to respect.

Question re: Oil tank replacement

Ms. White: The integrity and safety of oil tanks has long been a concern of Yukoners, so it was timely to see the oil tank handbook released earlier this week by the Yukon Housing Corporation. In the announcement, the minister responsible correctly advised that leaking fuel oil tanks can be a significant and costly problem for property owners and the environment.

The news release also reminded property owners that underground fuel oil tanks can pose a fire and explosion hazard under certain conditions and may be prone to leaks.

The Yukon government owns and manages many properties with above- and below-ground oil tanks. Can the minister responsible for those tanks tell us how the government is identifying and prioritizing the upgrades and replacements of oil tanks it owns and operates?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: This Yukon government works hard to make sure that our buildings are clean, safe and warm for all Yukoners and for all Yukon students. We know how important it is for Yukoners and their students to be comfortable and secure when they are earning a living and while they're learning to pursue their goals.

Highways and Public Works identified 21 underground tanks as a priority to be replaced by 2015-16, with above-ground tanks that will be easier and less costly to monitor and repair, which in turn will enhance the safety of Yukoners and our environment. Staff is working on this.

Ms. White: When an above-ground oil tank is leaking, it's apparent, but when an underground tank that contains oil leaks, it can flow out into storm sumps and waterways, causing contamination of soil and water or even leach on to a neighbouring property.

We know some of the government's oil tanks have already caused environmental damage. The underground tank at Macaulay Lodge did not have an overflow protection or a vent whistle. The tank was accidentally overfilled and there was environmental damage from spill. The cleanup of the site included exposing the underground tank. Can the minister confirm that the old non-compliant tank has been replaced with a new above-ground tank with functional safety features at Macaulay Lodge?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: My staff are working hard so Yukoners can be assured that all our oil tanks and equipment and all YG facilities are being affected and managed in good working order and meet appropriate building codes.

In response to the member opposite's question, I don't have that answer for her right now, so I'll have to look into it.

Ms. White: Can the minister tell us how many oil tanks on Yukon government property do not meet safety compliances today?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: Working within our finite budget to administer across a variety of competing interests, we are prioritizing the tanks that need to be looked at — decisions possible in the interest of all Yukoners to benefit all Yukoners. Like I've said, we've identified 21 underground tanks as a priority to be replaced by 2015-16. A lot of this other stuff is more operational, but my staff are working hard so that we can have safe, accessible buildings.

Question re: Off-road vehicle use

Mr. Tredger: Recently, a letter was published in local newspapers describing the events that led to the death of a horse due to the impact of off-road vehicles on trails. The outfitter's horse suffered a laceration on its abdomen after it traversed a section of the trail that had been turned into a swamp by extensive ORV use. This horse's death was a direct result of unrestricted ORV use on the land.

This may be an isolated incident, but government inaction and the actions of a few irresponsible ORV users causes more damage to Yukon's environment every day. Last spring, this government passed legislation that allows them to create regulations to protect sensitive areas from ORV use. Yet another season has passed and nothing has changed. When

will this government respond to identified concerns and protect sensitive areas of Yukon from unrestricted ORV use?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Just to correct the member opposite, the amendments to the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* were actually debated and passed last fall in this Legislative Assembly. Of course, we do need to develop the regulations. I believe the Minister of Environment spoke at third reading yesterday on the *Motor Vehicles Act* amendments that we are anticipating within the next few months — for those regulations to go out for public consultation. That will enable us to accomplish exactly what the member opposite was talking about, which is the protection of sensitive habitat areas from ORV use.

Mr. Tredger: This is not a new issue and it will continue to get worse as this government keeps dragging its feet. Yukoners have made it clear to this government that inaction is damaging the Yukon environment, yet there have been no steps taken to protect Yukon wilderness. The 2011 select committee recommended that the government have the ability to legislate and regulate the use of ORVs to protect the environment, fish and wildlife habitat. This House gave the government that authority last spring, yet no action has been taken. The minister has the ability to step in temporarily when it is in the public's interest to do so.

Will the minister use the authority afforded to him under the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* to restrict ORV use in highly sensitive and vulnerable areas?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: With regard to the changes we made to the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* within the last year, it is worth noting that the direction we indicated we wanted to go — and what we have said repeatedly in this House — is that we want the ability to target specific areas in the Yukon that are threatened or have the potential to be threatened by irresponsible ATV use or ORV use.

The process by which we choose to establish to target those areas will be very important and is something we need to consult fairly widely on to ensure that we get it right. I know that is frustrating for members opposite because they like to see things move more quickly, but when we don't consult, they criticize us for not consulting enough. This is one of those issues that we need to get right. We need to ensure that important bodies like the Fish and Wildlife Management Board, renewable resource councils and First Nation governments are aware of and are comfortable with it before we move ahead.

When we undertake closures like the member is talking about, there are implications for First Nation users as well, and that is something we would need to consult First Nations on. Before we do anything, we want to make sure we have a clear process, a process that is understood by Yukoners and supported by the numerous UFA-mandated boards as well as Yukon First Nations.

Mr. Tredger: I was taken aback when this government passed the amendment and changes to the *Motor Vehicles Act* without undertaking consultation with First Nation governments. Last year the Minister of Environment said that the reason he would not use his authority under the

Environment Act to protect vulnerable areas was because he had not yet consulted with First Nations. Another season has passed with ever-increasing damage to the environment and nothing has changed.

Has this government consulted with First Nation governments about protecting sensitive and vulnerable areas from unregulated ORV use — and if not, why not?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: What I just said is that in order to target those specific areas to protect from either existing or future use, we will need to set up a process by which we identify those places. The member can try to talk over me and heckle me when I'm speaking, but he won't get a very good answer if he does that.

What's important is that we set up a process to identify those areas and to implement restrictions on ORV use in those specific areas. In order to identify those areas, we need to consult with First Nations and we need to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Management Board and the renewable resources councils where appropriate.

Any time we undertake a restriction on First Nations' use of ATVs, they need to be consulted. Obviously, before we do anything like that, we would have to consult the respective First Nation. That's why we want a process set up to do that. We will go out later in the coming months with regard to the regulations pursuant to the new *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* to bring into force a process by which we can target specific areas in this territory for protection. That process, we hope, will be supported by First Nations, by the renewable resources councils, by the Fish and Wildlife Management Board and by other groups throughout the Yukon that want to see parts of this territory protected from irresponsible ORV use.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

OPPOSITION PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Motion No. 740

Clerk: Motion No. 740, standing in the name of Mr. Silver.

Speaker: It is moved by the Leader of the Third Party:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to support efforts to have the Klondike designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Mr. Silver: This motion represents an historic opportunity for the territory in many ways. It is my goal to capture them here this afternoon. Before I begin, however, I did want to talk a bit about the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, which has taken a leadership role in this community-building initiative, and recount a little bit of history.

Klondike — Tr'ondëk, as the First Nations refer to it — is one of the Earth's legendary places and, because of that, it

deserves UNESCO status. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people occupied and lived off the bounty of this region for thousands of years. They were not isolated from exposure to Europeans or other cultures in those times; however, in less than one generation, the eon-old way of life did change.

As I have said, it was difficult for us to comprehend this transition. Today, virtually every square inch of the world has been mapped or monitored by satellites or aircraft, unmanned drones. Our parks, and now even our shopping malls, are being mapped, photographed and turned into huge virtual tours.

Soon there will be no place on earth that cannot be experienced through a smartphone screen. Contrast this to the 1870s — a time of canvas, horses and steam. Travel was hard and slow, making the Yukon a crazily remote and harsh place for southerners to explore. However, prospectors started moving inland here and, in the mid-1880s, small mining camps were starting to crop up on the Yukon valley. You can imagine Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in likely encountering a few prospecting strangers along the creek beds, around the woods, and then more. A fledgling trading culture started to develop, and the two cultures would in tandem shape the next 150 years of their region.

After Skookum Jim and George Carmacks discovered gold on August 16, 1896, the region would see a veritable flood of humanity. Between the summers of 1897 and 1898, the Klondike, Tr'ondëk, would see more than 30,000 people arrive. Within the space of a few summers, there were saloons, opera houses, hotels, newspapers, schools, libraries, gambling houses — all the trappings of a southern society sprung up in the region. Just like before, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in had carried out subsistence lifestyles.

While these stampedeers adapted to this harsh, northern environment, the aboriginal people were adapting to this strange, jarring and often harsh new climate and culture. The miners and the aboriginal people of the Klondike valley, Tr'ondëk Klondike, started grappling with this new relationship and working out its terms.

Today, roughly 120 years later, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the rest of the community are still working out that relationship. It is a unique partnership, an accommodation of widely disparate cultures, and it deserves to be recognized and celebrated.

Karl Knutson is a great example. He is a young man who is now an international television star on the History Channel's *Yukon Gold*. His father is of European descent. His mother is First Nation. His family runs one of the largest placer miner operations in the Klondike. His mother and his sister are amazing artists; his father, a mining icon. I am sure that the importance of this designation is not lost on them, and it is not lost on the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in general. It recognizes this potential. They have taken a leadership role supporting UNESCO World Heritage designation, but it is not alone. This initiative is broadly supported throughout the Klondike. The First Nation's efforts are being supported by the Klondike Placer Miners' Association and the Klondike Visitors Association.

I am not saying that there aren't any unresolved issues here but, as they did with the gold rush, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the mining and the business communities are working together to celebrate and to shape the future of the region by collaborating on the UNESCO file.

To expand on that, there was a partnership formed many years ago that still exists today. It is based on the Athabaskan principle of having a formal obligation to all in the community, regardless of the background — a formal obligation, Mr. Speaker. Everybody I talked to who is living in that community now — whether they are from away or whether they are born and raised — believes in that principle.

I was born in a culture of giving the shirt off of your back for those members of your community. Up in the Klondike and in the Yukon in general, we all share this common goal and this understanding of the Athapaskan culture is what keeps a lot of us in the community. It is not lost on the placer miners either. There is never an event where somebody lost a house during a fire or some other atrocity in the community that the placer miners aren't the first ones to step up and give well past their means.

What is UNESCO? What we're talking about today is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Its stated goal is both lofty and laudable: to build peace in the minds of men and women. Part of its mandate is to recognize world heritage sites — places of physical or cultural significance in the world. The pyramids of Egypt are part of the UNESCO stable of sites. So are the Taj Mahal and the Persepolis in Iran. The Grand Canyon and Mount Canyon National Park are also on the list.

Canada has 17 world heritage sites, such as historic Old Quebec City, Kluane, Wrangle-St. Elias, Glacier Bay and Tatshenshini-Alsek parks, Nahanni National Park and Old Town Lunenburg.

Currently 177 nations of the 191 that belong to the UN have submitted potential additions to the world heritage site list. Nations must inventory their extraordinary cultural and natural properties to compile a tentative list. From this list, the country can nominate a place to add to the accepted list of heritage sites.

The International Council on Monuments and Sites and the World Conservation Union have forwarded applicable applications to the World Heritage Committee which evaluates that file. It meets once a year to review submissions and decide which will receive world heritage status.

Possible additions include the United States Petrified Forest National Park and Thomas Jefferson Building. The U.K. is promoting Darwin's Landscape Laboratory and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Russia wants the Kremlin recognized. There is a long list of places.

Canada started with a short list of 150 and carved it down to 11 of the most significant ones of the nation. Four of the sites have already received world heritage status and seven more remain. The Klondike is on this distinguished list. It has been on this list since 2004. Moreover, it deserves to be on this list.

The Yukon and Klondike rivers cut the Klondike. It features places like the Tro'chëk fishing camp, Moosehide, the early settlement of Forty Mile and unique Dawson City, and its surrounding tailing piles, ancient trails and the goldfields. These places and historic artifacts illustrate life before, during and after the Klondike Gold Rush of 1896 to 1898 — the last and most renowned of the world's greatest 19th century gold rushes. The region has inspired world-renowned literature and culture and was integral to the establishment of a unique Canada-First Nation self-governing model.

But the UNESCO designation is more than a brass plaque on a street corner. Throughout the world, world heritage status provides a focal point for travellers. It's a bucket list. The status brings international stature to the region. The world also benefits, learning about unusual places like the Klondike where aboriginal people and mining interests have worked together to build a diverse and unique community. This draws people to the place, boasting business opportunities through a whole range of sectors. This is particularly true of the Klondike, which would see a boost of traditional tourism businesses and non-traditional ones, such as the placer mining industry. It is not hard to imagine new cultural tourism opportunities mixing with historical tours of the dredge, followed by visits to mining operations — modern mining operations.

The package is already compelling, but the weight of the UNESCO designation would carry it to levels we currently can only dream of. The regional tourism industry identifies UNESCO designation as the prime opportunity for the sector going forward. UNESCO status relies on a keen understanding of a region's history and a willingness to protect it. Seemingly insignificant changes to a region can jeopardize the future status. Ongoing uncertainty about the Klondike's status could throttle economic development.

That is, it is better knowing that the Klondike status is a world heritage site, than not knowing, for everyone. If we obtain the status, it will then inform any regional plan. Further development will happen in harmony with the community's unique global reputation. However, in the absence of that status, uncertainty clouds the rules, inhibits decision-making and opens the community to unwanted conflict.

It is in the community's best interest — and the territory's best interest — to settle this issue. We have achieved world heritage site status; we can begin to develop a comprehensive regional plan that recognizes and takes advantage of its unique place in the world. In fact, developing a comprehensive plan in the long shadow of such significant international status, it could be argued, is a waste of time, effort and money because, if we toss away our claim to such status, development can proceed in a far different way than if we choose to accept it. Better to resolve the issue than to consider the indecision.

For my part, I have no doubt where my community stands on this issue. The Yukon is proud of its Klondike and First Nation heritage. It knows the value of the gold in the creeks and the culture that has flowed from and to the Klondike Valley for far too many reasons to state here.

It is unlikely that UNESCO status will bolster the pride and sense of place, but it will announce it to the rest of the world. That sense of community, which has been built on stoicism, independence, courage, toughness, generosity, acceptance and cooperation is as vibrant today as it was 100 years ago.

That spirit has captured the imagination of the world. The story of the Klondike and its gold rush has circled the globe inspiring art and commerce for generations. It is a story of mixed cultures, of widely different societies and how they learned to work together for the benefit of all. That story continues to unfold in this world heritage site designation. It is one that honours the territory and benefits the world. For those reasons alone, I hope this House stands united in supporting this motion.

World heritage sites are a tangible record of what's important to commit for all time to human memory. They are the world's legacy of important events, places and cultures. Anyone who spends a day or an entire lifetime in Dawson knows that there is something special about the Yukon and something special about the Klondike. The place feels authentic and still rings with the culture that arrived with the gold rush. The Yukon Order of Pioneers' one law — do as you would be done by — is still the number one rule in the town.

There is also an appreciation that the ethos brought to the area by the gold rush miners still exists today and is alive and well in the many family-run operations throughout the goldfields. As well, the First Nation people, while certainly impacted by the gold rush, are still flourishing — harvesting the same animals, living very much the same lives in the same place that they have lived for thousands and thousands and thousands of years. There are few cultures on this planet that can claim such an intense attachment to the land.

The impact of the Klondike Gold Rush still reverberates around the world and influences our music and popular culture. The nomination process will define why and what it is about this land and what happens — and continues to happen here — to be special. That is really the reward of this process — a better and well-defined understanding of what is important about the Klondike.

It is vital to recognize that world heritage status isn't about making a museum piece of your region. It is about recognizing that this is still a place that is very much alive with the First Nation heritage that spanned the millennia and the gold rush operations that are still taking place, which employ much of the same methods as employed during the gold rush.

Practically speaking, this opportunity comes at minimal cost, but guarantees years of free branding for the Klondike and for the Yukon. It will put us on the well-travelled trail of tourists seeking out places important to the world's history. The increased traffic will benefit not only the Klondike, but operators and businesses around the territory — including airlines, hotels, stores, transportation companies, car rental agencies — will all benefit from increased activity.

We know that there is still some convincing to do, Mr. Speaker. We also know that some miners are concerned about the impact that this might have on their operations. We know that we can work with them by including them in the process, which is absolutely happening. They are already playing an extremely important and large role in defining the buffer zone for this site. In fact, the only threat to our designation is if the miners actually stopped what they are doing.

What we also know is that, unless we're all on board, this designation will not happen. No group should be worried that this will be imposed upon them. If there are still grave concerns held by a group at the end of the process — and we don't think there will be, but if there is — then the designation will clearly not go ahead. UNESCO doesn't inflict world heritage status. It is either welcomed by all or it is not conferred.

Support from the Yukon government is extremely important and it's extremely timely. It is needed to further the process for defining what is special about the place, answering the questions that people have and building the necessary supports in Dawson.

Mr. Speaker, that being said, I look forward to hearing other members' thoughts on this issue and I look forward to the debate today.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I thank the member opposite for bringing this motion forward today. I look forward to listening to many discussions this afternoon.

In 2004, the Klondike, including the route from Skagway, was placed on Canada's tentative list of 11 potential world heritage sites. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in support the nomination and received CanNor funding for this initiative. An economic impact study and a cultural study have been completed. The cultural study identified themes, places and arguments that qualify under UNESCO criteria. Boundaries and management regimes are also being drafted.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has submitted applications to CanNor for continued funding from 2014-15 through to 2016-17. An advisory committee has been formed with representatives from the Klondike Visitors Association, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Parks Canada, Yukon government and community members as well. The committee will oversee the process of pursuing the world heritage nomination for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

The advisory committee wishes to ensure that stakeholders' concerns are known and are addressed. The advisory committee intends that the current land use regime within the site would be maintained, particularly the continued use of the area by the mining industry and by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in for traditional pursuits. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in website can be found at <http://tkwhstatus.ca> and that provides details about all aspects of the world heritage site nomination.

In preparing for today's debate, I reviewed a number of our platform commitments. We committed to marketing Destination: Yukon and I believe we have delivered. Part of that commitment is to work with industry, communities and

First Nations to promote the Yukon tourism brand that markets Yukon as an attractive year-round destination. We committed to enhanced marketing of Yukon as a quality travel destination through general awareness campaigns, especially in relation to Yukon's traditional markets in the U.S., Canada and Europe.

We also committed to continue to expand the Yukon economy by: promoting our economic mainstays such as mining — both hard rock and placer — tourism, oil and gas; promoting the diversification of Yukon's economy in other sectors, such as the arts and culture, film and sound, forestry, agriculture, wilderness tourism, outfitting, trapping, research and development, knowledge-based industries and value-added manufacturing; as well as maintaining Yukon's extremely favourable general tax environment that promotes investment in our territory.

That is what we committed to Yukoners to do, and we are working hard to fulfill those commitments. The UNESCO World Heritage Site designation is being advanced because the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the City of Dawson see this as an opportunity to make the Klondike a more attractive tourism destination.

In speaking to the UNESCO World Heritage Site designation, around the world there are 1,007 properties: 779 properties are on the list because of their cultural significance; 197 properties are on the list because of their natural significance; 31 properties have been designated because they are significant from both a cultural and a natural perspective.

In Canada, 17 properties have a UNESCO World Heritage Site designation. I won't list them all, but to give you a feel for the kind of places that are included, I would like to at least list a few of those properties. These include places of natural beauty like Nahanni National Park, Dinosaur Provincial Park, Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, Wood Buffalo National Park, Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks, Gros Morne National Park, Joggins Fossil Cliffs, and Kluane, with associated sites in B.C. and in Alaska.

Others are places that reflect Canada's cultural development. Some examples of those would include L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site, Historic District of Old Québec, Old Town Lunenburg, Rideau Canal, and Red Bay Basque Whaling Station.

As noted, the one Yukon location that has UNESCO World Heritage Site designation is Kluane, with associated regions comprised of Wrangell-St. Elias, Glacier Bay and Tatshenshini-Alsek. These parks comprise an impressive complex of glaciers and high peaks on both sides of the border, between Yukon and British Columbia, on the Canadian side and the Alaska side of the United States. The spectacular natural landscapes are home to many grizzly bears, caribou and Dall sheep. The site contains the largest non-polar ice field in the world. I'm going to come back to the impact of that designation in a few minutes, Mr. Speaker.

Since then, Parks Canada has proposed a number of additional sites for inclusion on the tentative list. These proposed sites include locations in Alberta, Manitoba,

Ontario, the Manitoba-Ontario border, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nunavut.

Yukon has two sites on the proposed list. One is in the very north, the Ivvavik/Vuntut/Herschel Island (Qikiqtaruk) location. Together Ivvavik National Park of Canada, Vuntut National Park of Canada and Herschel Island Territorial Park — Qikiqtaruk — comprise 15,500 square kilometres of wilderness on the Yukon coastal plain, Richardson Mountains, a portion of the Old Crow Flats wetlands, and an Arctic island in the Beaufort Sea.

Together these parks comprise a land rich in wildlife, in a variety of landscapes and in vegetation.

The remaining property is in the Klondike. In 2004 the Klondike, including the route from Skagway, was placed on Canada's tentative list of 11 potential world heritage sites. The property in question includes First Nation traditional territories, such as the Tro'chëk fishing camp, the Chilkoot Trail, the Klondike goldfields and the historic district of Dawson. It illustrates life before, during and after the Klondike Gold Rush of 1896 to 1898, the last and most renowned of the world's great nineteenth-century gold rushes. The impetus for this designation is to enhance the marketing potential for the Klondike.

I think it would be helpful for our deliberations to provide a bit of context around what we are doing to indeed market the Yukon.

In our platform, we committed to work with the Yukon Convention Bureau, industry and Yukon communities to further promote the Yukon as a choice destination for hosting meetings, conventions and sports event and we have delivered on that. We have also committed to utilize the tourism cooperative marketing fund to build partnerships with industry that improves marketing efforts for both government and industry, and we have delivered. Tourism Yukon has embarked on the largest tourism marketing initiative in Yukon's history. The Yukon government and CanNor will each invest \$1.8 million over two years for a total of \$3.6 million in an enhanced marketing program focusing primarily on the Canadian market. Clearly this initiative will benefit the Klondike.

The Yukon government supported *The Amazing Race Canada* with its 2014 episode in Yukon. The impact of this show was significant in raising the profile of Destination: Yukon. In fact our Twitter handle, @TravelYukon, received the most mention of any tourism organization and the Yukon episode was the second most tweeted in season 2.

2013 was a record-breaking year for border crossing statistics with an eight-percent increase in the number of private vehicles and motor coaches crossing the border into Yukon. The statistics show a seven-percent increase in the number of visitors from the U.S., a 17-percent increase in visitors from Canada and an eight-percent increase in visitors coming from overseas.

Year-to-date in 2014, this is January to August, Yukon's tourism industry continues to benefit from a five-percent increase in total arrivals and a 27-percent increase in international arrivals in the Erik Nielson Whitehorse

International Airport. We know many of these visitors made their way to the Klondike.

Dawson City has also benefited from a 21-percent increase in the number of combined travellers entering through the Little Gold border crossing and via international arrivals at the Dawson City airport, thanks to our partners Holland America and their 2014 tour programs in partnership with Air North, Yukon's airline.

Another successful tourism trade mission to Europe resulted in three new cooperative marketing agreements with German tourism operators and new ties with the Netherlands market that took place in September of this year.

Dawson City and the Klondike region, including the Dempster Highway, is really a key component in travel media and trade tours hosted by the Department of Tourism and Culture. Senior officials of the Department of Tourism and Culture regularly attend the Klondike Visitors Association board meetings. The marketing staff attend the KVA's marketing and events committee meetings whenever they possibly can. The department has a letter of agreement with KVA, committing to a number of joint marketing initiatives. The Dawson City visitor information centre is now open from May 1 until September 30, which supports six seasonal positions in that community. The department also hosted its first-ever tourism open house in Dawson City on May 9 and participated in the KVA's tourism roundup on October 23.

The Department of Tourism and Culture continues to promote Dawson and the Klondike as an iconic Yukon experience in its marketing materials, campaigns and in its media relations. Dawson City and the Klondike region is an important component to Yukon's marketing strategy. Over the past seven years, the Klondike region has received more than \$526,000 in support of marketing, trade and consumer show activities from the tourism cooperative marketing fund.

Yukon government uses two key surveys to assess the economic impact of tourism in Yukon that the Member for Klondike spoke about. We used the Yukon visitor tracking program that was conducted by the Department of Tourism and Culture and the Yukon business survey that was conducted by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics.

The Yukon visitor tracking program provides detailed information on visitors to Yukon including volume, trip characteristics, travel behaviours and expenditure information. The 2012 Yukon visitor tracking program estimates that annual expenditures by visitors to Yukon are \$180.5 million, and we know a fair amount of those dollars do get spent in the Klondike region.

The Yukon business survey provides information on Yukon businesses including revenue levels, employees, hiring, expected growth and so on. The 2013 Yukon business survey indicated that Yukon businesses attributed approximately \$250 million of their gross revenue in 2012 to tourism, and that tourism — gross domestic product accounted for 4.3 percent — Statistics Canada's estimated Yukon total GDP in 2012.

The Yukon visitor tracking program is one of five major visitor studies that the department has conducted over the past

27 years. Similar to past visitor-exit surveys, the department first began implementing major visitor studies in 1984 and then again in 1987, 1999, 2004 and 2012. These major visitor studies provide the base for demand-side estimates of visitor volume and spending in Yukon because they survey visitors directly.

Surveys, like the Yukon Bureau of Statistics' Yukon business survey, provide the base for supply-side estimates of revenue attributable to tourism, because they survey Yukon businesses that sell products and services to visitors. Combined, major visitor studies and Yukon business surveys provide a general understanding of the impact tourism has on Yukon's economy at a specific point in time.

In February, a Tourism Yukon delegation attended Canada Corroborée, Canada's premier travel trade event held in Australia each year. The delegation signed cooperative marketing agreements, discussed marketing opportunities with the Australia travel trade and met with Canada's Consul General. Australia is Yukon's second-largest overseas market. I know, in speaking with a number of the travel trade in Australia, they were very excited about the Yukon brand and they were very excited about opportunities up in the Klondike, in Dawson City.

During Winterlude in Ottawa in February, the department hosted and supported several events to promote Yukon as a travel destination and to introduce Air North, Yukon's Airline's new Ottawa service. The department also led a delegation of 15 tourism-related businesses to Vancouver to attend the first-ever Yukon-Japan tourism marketplace on January 28. Japan is Yukon's fastest-growing international market. I know a number of the people we met with in Vancouver came up to Yukon on a fam trip and travelled up to the member opposite's riding of Klondike.

We have been and we continue to move forward together to market Yukon and the Klondike.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall that we hosted the Yukon tourism ministers meeting in September of 2013. That meeting was focused on Canada tourism competitiveness, competitiveness that the member opposite spoke about in his opening remarks. The ministers discussed improving visitor access, marketing and tourism attraction development. You will also recall in August 2013 that the Premier and I, and 16 Yukon tourism-industry representatives, travelled to Germany and England in the first-ever Premier-led tourism trade delegation from a Canadian province or territory.

There is an interesting contrast when you walk into the Hanover Zoo because you truly feel like you're in the Klondike region. You have probably seen pictures, but it is quite remarkable how they travelled from Germany to Yukon and then took a fam trip up to Dawson City to photograph and document some of the buildings in Dawson City so they could recreate them in the Hanover Zoo.

During that European trade mission, it resulted in an accord between Yukon government, Air North and Condor to bring more European travellers to Yukon. That accord supports an air-travel agreement that will allow seamless travel from Europe to Air North's entire flight network,

including Dawson City, providing increased travel options for European tourists and Yukoners.

The Premier and European partners signed several marketing agreements with German tour operators. The resulting marketing efforts targeted over three million people in German-speaking Europe.

The Government of Yukon and the State of Alaska renewed an agreement to market both regions as a tourism destination. The joint Yukon-Alaska cooperative marketing partnership began in 1989, delivering Canadian and American advertising campaigns to increase highway travel, including the Top of the World Highway from Alaska to Dawson City, and to promote summer adventure experiences in Alaska and Yukon.

The Member for Klondike will remember the designation by *Lonely Planet* as a top-10 must-visit travel destination for 2013. Subsequent global media coverage generated a tremendous amount of exposure for Yukon and the Klondike, and expanded awareness of our territory as a premier outdoor travel destination.

For reasons I have yet to understand, the Liberal leader thought it would be a good idea to fire off a letter to *Lonely Planet* to undermine that designation. We on this side of the House focused on moving forward. Together with our Member of Parliament, the Government of Canada, Parks Canada and industry, we found a solution that addressed everyone's needs.

Speaking of addressing needs, to further develop Yukon's shoulder tourism season and in response to requests from European tour operators, the season for visitor information centres and key campgrounds has been extended for the tourism shoulder seasons, including the visitor information centre in Dawson City.

Participating in tourism open houses in the Whitehorse, Kluane, Dawson and Watson Lake regions has helped to identify new opportunities for tourism growth and work together with communities to adapt to changes to our patterns across this territory.

Tourism Yukon's annual open house brings together businesses, tourism operators, cultural organizations and front-line staff every fall. The event includes information sessions on funding opportunities, new trends in marketing and one-on-one meetings with our Tourism branch staff, including the product development professionals.

Later this week, I'll be joining the MLA from Kluane to attend a tourism summit in Haines Junction.

Yukon government continued its support of museums and cultural and heritage centres in the summer of 2014 with \$1.5 million to the museum contribution program, as well as the special projects capital assistance program. The museum in Dawson City benefits from this great program.

I want to mention a related area that the member opposite spoke about. The palaeontology program continues to provide an enhanced presence in the Klondike goldfield. In cooperation with placer miners, seasonal staff, they acquired over 3,000 new fossils during the summer of 2014 for the Yukon palaeontology collection. Based on the abundance and

quality of fossils recovered, 2014 has been the most successful field season to date for the palaeontology program.

I mentioned the palaeontology program because I want to show that placer mining contributes not only to Yukon's economy but also to our scientific endeavours. Without a robust placer mining industry, many of these fossils would remain buried and undiscovered.

Because of the working partnership we have with the placer industry, Yukon is at the forefront of this area of palaeontology. It is truly a testament to the leadership of both the KPMA and our department officials.

Given the importance of the placer mining industry, not only to Yukon's economy but also to our scientific pursuits, I want to make sure that their concerns are acknowledged and that their concerns are addressed. Just a couple of months ago, I received a letter from the Klondike Placer Miners' Association. It reads: "The Klondike Placer Miners' Association is pleased to inform you that at the KPMA Annual General Meeting held in Dawson City, on Friday September 5, 2014 the following resolution was passed unanimously by the general membership.

"Be it resolved that:

"The KPMA supports the creation of a voluntary disclosure and reporting of mammoth ivory and the development of a certification program to assist miners and buyers in the legitimization of mammoth ivory ownership and the right to sell and export ivory. The KPMA would like to support and assist government in the development of this program and would like this program to be as efficient and easy to use as possible. The KPMA also thinks it is important that the government build and staff a paleontology museum and research centre in Dawson City to showcase ice age fossils and as an example of the cooperation between miners, researchers and the local community."

They conclude by saying that they look forward to working with the minister and staff to further this initiative.

That is a very interesting resolution, Mr. Speaker, and we look forward to continuing the relationship with the Klondike Placer Miners' Association.

The MLA for Kluane has shared with me some of his thoughts, and I think we would be well-served by perhaps his advice as we move forward. Talking to people who live in the Kluane area, I know many have expressed concern about how to realize the economic opportunities that one would expect from having a national park in the area. I think we would be well-served to learn from the Kluane experience.

At the end of the day we want a product — we want a product that works for everyone affected by the Klondike designation.

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I believe the Leader of the Official Opposition will have her turn on her feet.

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in support the nomination and received CanNor funding for this initiative. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has submitted applications to CanNor for continued funding from 2014-15 through to 2016-17. We know that there has been an economic impact study and a cultural study

that has been completed. The cultural study identified themes, places and arguments that qualify under the UNESCO criteria.

An advisory committee has been formed with representatives from the KVA, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Parks Canada, the Yukon government and community members. The committee will oversee this process of pursuing the world heritage nomination for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

The advisory committee wishes to ensure that stakeholders' concerns are known and are addressed. The advisory committee intends that the current land use regime within the site would be maintained, particularly the continued use of the area by the mining industry and by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in for their traditional pursuits.

The Department of Tourism and Culture will continue to assist the community of Dawson and Parks Canada as they move toward the nomination of the Tr'ondëk Klondike for world heritage site designation. Officials from the department are currently working with their partners to determine the feasibility and the benefits of this particular nomination. As I said earlier, at the end of the day, we want a product that works for everyone affected by the Klondike designation. I thank the member opposite for bringing this motion forward today.

Ms. Hanson: I thank the Member for Klondike for bringing this motion forward. I know from the perspective of the Official Opposition, we appreciate the importance, not only of the motion urging the Government of Yukon to support the efforts to have the Klondike as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, but I think the words that the member spoke very ably captured a lot of the sentiment of the communities that make up the Klondike and the excitement and passion with which he expressed his views on the importance of this designation.

I think that we would echo that this is an historic opportunity for the Yukon. The whole discussion about how we would as a territory and as a country recognize this region of Canada in the context of world heritage sites has been going on for a very, very long time. I am mindful of some of that history, and I think that it is important, as the minister spoke earlier — that the list and the process of moving toward recognition by UNESCO and being able to be listed on a world heritage site list is an incredibly important one. I think that there are — although there was some reference made to the potential economic benefits, I think that they are — I'll come back to that in a bit because I think there is more than we have actually fathomed and have explored. I think there are some opportunities to look at the experiences elsewhere.

I wanted to point out that in preparing for this discussion this afternoon, I went and looked at conversations that have been going on for a very long time. Dawson City's very own Dan Davidson has been writing about this for a very long time.

I think it was the predecessor to what the current newspaper is there in Dawson — but in 1997 — the *Klondike Sun*? In that paper in July of 1997, he did a great article which proclaimed that, "Berton proposes Dawson for world heritage

site status." I think it is important, because you know Pierre Berton is often considered as a son of the Yukon, and is recognized around the world. People know his writing because it is accessible — it was basically a journalist writing novels and the fact that he wrote 60 books somewhat helps.

Davidson pointed out that although Berton's suggestion that the Klondike be recognized under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, it wasn't the first time that this has been discussed, but it was certainly the loudest and it came at a pretty significant time. It came, Mr. Speaker, the same time as the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in was concluding its final agreements. It came at a time when his body of work — over half of which was focused on the north — had received the Governor General's award for *Klondike: The Last Great Gold Rush, 1896-1899*.

The notion that there has been a high level of interest in the Klondike as a designated historic site is really important because it speaks to the living nature of the history of the Klondike. I think that is really important because when we look at the description of why the Klondike would be considered important for designation as a world heritage site — I believe previous speakers alluded to the fact that Parks Canada is the Canadian designated entity, or agency, to handle all the processes under the convention.

In that description, it says that the Klondike represents the most comprehensive and intact of all the cultural landscapes that illustrate life before, during and after the world's great 19th century gold rush.

That's really important because, if you think about it, many of the men and women — and particularly the men — who came up here during the Klondike Gold Rush had actually been in the Australian goldfields. If you were to go to Australia, go to Ballarat, you're not going to see the Ballarat designated — it's not designated as a world heritage site, for cultural reasons. There are reasons why, in terms of how it has changed and it's not a living, thriving activity with respect to the gold rush. It's a recreation; it's almost like Disneyland, in some ways. Maybe that's a bit too extreme, but it is not the original activity.

So when the description of the Klondike representing the most comprehensive and intact of all the cultural landscapes that illustrate life before, during and after the world's great 19th century gold rushes, and the history of the Klondike is written on the land, it said. First Nations' story cycles speak to thousands of years of surviving and thriving in a challenging environment and to a remarkable record of adaptation and innovation.

These stories also speak to a way of life that was radically and indelibly altered by a brief moment on the timeline of the region's human occupation — the Klondike Gold Rush and its aftermath. Early narratives are found throughout the traditional territories, including the Tro'chëk fishing camp and ancient trading routes such as the Chilkoot Trail. It's really interesting because we are talking about that connection. Later voices overlay the Chilkoot and the still-mined goldfields and the historic districts of Dawson and Skagway. Collectively, the places and the cultural accommodation that define the

Klondike cultural landscapes represent a story of extraordinary proportions and that is what you see echoed over and over again as you read through the work and the material that the community of Dawson has been developing over these last number of years — in particular, over the last half-dozen years, I would say — as more focused work has been done, acknowledging, of course, that some of the formative stuff goes back to 2004.

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have been working on this designation and as the Member for Klondike said, this is truly a community-based initiative. There is no way of overstating the importance and the significance of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in taking a lead role in managing this project on behalf of a community-based committee. It's a reflection of the evolution and the maturity of the relationships among all citizens and governments in that community over the last 20 years in particular.

The community and the World Heritage Committee have set goals to research the cultural, social and economic impacts of the designation, and they want to bring the community together to share and to celebrate this shared story.

In a presentation that the Tr'ondëk Klondike committee gave to government members in the spring, they indicated the importance of recognizing that the UNESCO status brings international respect to places. They are considered so special that they transcend national boundaries to be appreciated by all humanity. There are so many of those that we can think of, and I know that people in this room have been to many of those around the world, whether it's the left bank of the Seine or the pyramids or Angkor Wat or Uluru. Those are all seen as significant beyond just that they happen to be nice places in those nice countries — or not necessarily nice countries, but they are significant historically and culturally. They transcend the national boundaries. There is something about each of these world sites that appeals and resonates within the human condition.

The fact of the matter is that to get on this list is no easy feat. There were more than 150 sites reviewed by experts, and 11 sites were shortlisted.

As that was happening, I used to chair the federal council of senior public servants. I can tell you we had regular updates from the Parks Canada people about the process — going to Paris and going to Geneva — to get the support for this designation. Now that it has been shortlisted, it is a really significant step. The importance now is what we do collectively to support it to get over the edge into that designation.

We are — and Klondike is — already poised for success. We are in an advantageous position to actually move forward. I think that that's incredibly important. The Tr'ondëk-Klondike future world heritage status has a really helpful and informative FAQ that I think all members of the House should refer to, because it does reiterate the importance of what a special place the Tr'ondëk-Klondike region is. It links it back to what I was saying earlier with respect to this new and changed relationship in the Klondike. It talks about how the notion of designation gained new momentum when it was

identified as a key priority in regional economic planning defined by the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement*.

According to the working committee, it is now the flagship of nine projects that are underway with the potential to benefit all of the community.

There are a number of questions that people ask, and we heard the minister opposite raise some questions. People worry about whether there are going to be new regulations and whether they are going to be restricted about doing this or that. The FAQ from the committee has responses to that and says: "World Heritage Site status is purely a commemorative recognition and does not bring any new legislation or regulations into effect. The community remains in control of any existing legislation such as the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act (YESAA) or future legislation relating to heritage management, land use or development."

It does mean some accountability to the World Heritage Committee to maintain the "outstanding universal value" and there have been some world heritage designated sites delisted. I noticed on the website this morning that Dresden, for example, was no longer on the list. I don't know what they did to get booted, but they obviously didn't maintain the key elements in terms of authenticity and integrity of the site.

The committee points out that proper protection and management actions, which are already specified in Dawson City's existing town bylaws and territorial legislation, are, they believe, adequate to address these.

In many ways, it's hard to limit the potential benefits that would come from designation as a world heritage site. It has been really interesting reading through the material that the committee has put forward and the community puts forward, because it is not — and I believe the Member for Klondike was pretty clear about this too — promising the world to anybody. It is being pretty realistic, and they are very clear that the benefits would depend on a variety of factors, namely one such as the efforts made by the community to take advantage of the status.

They do point out that one of the key benefits would be international recognition and, through that, an understanding of our shared history, our shared heritage, the story of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of life, the gold rush, Dawson, mining and how these living traditions contribute to world cultural heritage. It would also help fulfill the goals of the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement* and strengthen the entire community.

One of the benefits that is spoken to is the notion of a new kind of visitor who seeks out world heritage sites, with interest in indigenous, cultural and historic, as well as natural sites. I want to point out that these — on a world level, world heritage sites are niche. They attract a niche traveller. They are the real deal. They are not recreations; they're not the Hanover Zoo. This is Dawson, this is the real Klondike, and people will pay real money to come to them. People do pay real money to go to — whether it's Lamu on the east coast of Kenya, a Swahili town that's 12th century — or you can go to Machu Picchu. There are so many examples, and where we

seize the opportunity, we can seize more economic opportunities.

I wanted to just briefly point out that if you look at, over time, the differences and the economic benefits that have accrued to different parts of this country — and there have been economic analyses done on the world heritage designation. I will tell you that I first went to Gros Morne National Park and L'Anse aux Meadows in the 1970s, and when I compare that to going there in about 2010, significant economic opportunities have accrued to that region. When you look at Grande-Pré and look at the region around there — there is another economic study that has been done in terms of the economic benefits that have flowed to the Wolfville area, to Old Town Lunenburg, the south shore of Nova Scotia, the Historic District of Old Quebec and all of these.

Mr. Speaker, the first time I saw Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, I was doing my social work practicum on the Blood Reserve and one of the fellows I worked with said, "You know, there is an amazing buffalo jump here." I went, "Right." The first time I saw it, it was just a buffalo jump. It is an amazing international site where people come to spend money.

With opportunities come challenges, and the challenge that we have now is making sure that the Yukon government steps up to the plate and provides the necessary support. As the minister said, the federal government has indicated it will support this project over the next few years. What we need now and we need soon, in order to meet the timelines, is Yukon government to say that we too support this and we too want it to go ahead.

I'm looking very much forward to hearing from the government side that that's in fact what they're going to announce very shortly so that the work of this advisory committee can proceed and we can all enjoy and celebrate when it's actually designated, possibly as early as 2017 or 2018.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: It's a pleasure to rise and speak to this motion today and I would like to thank the Member for Klondike for bringing it forward and thank the members who spoke before me. I appreciate the words from the Minister of Tourism and I appreciate the words from the Leader of the NDP about this and some of the overview she provided with regard to the information she put forward from the FAQs available from the UNESCO site and other information that she brought forward. The comments she made about other UNESCO World Heritage Sites were relevant and appreciated. I would like to thank her for that.

This particular project is certainly an important one, but it certainly isn't the only project we have underway in Dawson and in the Klondike region. Of course it is one piece of a myriad of activities and initiatives that are underway in the Klondike that is aimed at not only commemorating the heritage of the Klondike but improving the tourism outlook for the region and for the community. Also, there is a range of other initiatives in place to support community organizations that do the work that are necessary to promote the Dawson

City and Klondike region as a tourism location and to grow the economy in general in Dawson and the Klondike area.

The Department of Economic Development is certainly engaged in a number of ways and through a number of organizations to promote that kind of growth and those kinds of opportunities in Dawson and the Klondike. I wanted to mention a few of them just to provide some background to other initiatives that I think are able to synchronize with this particular one.

Through a range of funding opportunities in the Department of Economic Development, including the community development fund, the regional economic development fund, the strategic industries development fund and a number of other direct sponsorships or support mechanisms, the Department of Economic Development provides significant support to the community of Dawson.

One project that I did want to note is relevant to today's discussion because of the fact that it is a project that was done in collaboration with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, whose development corporation I believe is spearheading the work being done on the UNESCO site. Earlier this year I had a chance — on August 20 — to announce that the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation would receive \$57,173 to develop a network of single-track mountain bike trails on the Midnight Dome above Dawson City for use by local bike enthusiasts and to expand on adventure recreation and adventure tourism potential in the region. That funding was building on a previous funding opportunity provided in the 2013-14 year of \$74,310, which was provided for the first phase of that dome-divide trails project and the development of mountain bike trails in the Dawson area.

So that two-phase project is just one of a number of other initiatives that we have in place in Dawson with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in Dawson to support the development of the tourism potential and tourism projects available to the Dawson region. The reason I mention that is because I don't believe any of these projects that we do in any region in the Yukon should be viewed alone. I think we need to view them together and ensure that we have a coordinated approach to economic development in general but, more specifically, tourism promotion and encouragement in any given area.

To that extent, we've done a lot of work with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to ensure that we are coordinated in our approach to economic development in the region. Over the course of the last nine years, negotiations have been underway for the chapter 22 regional economic development plan for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Those negotiations have come to a close and we are seeking an opportunity with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the federal minister of CanNor to identify the possibility of signing off on that plan in the near future.

Our partners in the plan, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, have indicated their satisfaction with the plan and are in the process of reviewing that plan through their formal processes.

The plan contains a number of initiatives — 30 initiatives — some of which are already underway and being funded by

the parties to the plan. There is a number of projects that have yet to begin, but will begin in the implementation of this plan.

I can't speak too much about the plan itself because it has not been signed off yet — I have to note that. It still has yet to be approved by the respective governments through their formal processes, but I would note that the Klondike UNESCO World Heritage Site is indeed one of the initiatives identified in that plan. The plan notes that the Klondike is on a shortlist of just nine Canadian sites being considered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, recognizing its outstanding universal value including an outstanding example of a landscape, which illustrates exceptional adaptation and innovation by First Nation people for thousands of years up to the present day in responding to a challenging environment.

The regional tourism industry identifies UNESCO designation as the primary opportunity for the sector going forward, but while the economic benefits may be significant, uncertainties remain a concern. The nomination has been discussed and studied locally for many years, but the Klondike has yet to be designated or considered for further planning. While resources from senior governments for the designation process are essential to pursue the strategy, it should be clearly led from the community level.

The community-based steering group, including Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the City of Dawson, that was established in 2009 should continue to carefully evaluate and consider the cultural, social and financial impacts that will be associated with pursuing and achieving UNESCO World Heritage Site status. This is a part of a larger economic vision for the region that is being worked on by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the Yukon government and the federal government through CanNor.

The Department of Economic Development has already provided support for this project in the first phase. The first phase was funded, I believe, last year with close to \$40,000 — I may be off on the exact number and I apologize if I am — but it was in the neighbourhood of \$35,000 or \$40,000 that was provided to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to advance phase 1 of this project. That first phase is now complete and the next phase is yet to come. The next phase is the development of an application dossier that would be submitted to UNESCO over the course of the next three or four years.

As I have indicated in the House previously in response to questions from the Member for Klondike, Economic Development has received an application for funding from the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Development Corporation for this second phase. I have to admit that until I had spoken with the Mayor of Dawson, I did not have a fulsome understanding of what that UNESCO development application dossier looked like. I really appreciated his informal yet comprehensive briefing on exactly what it entailed. That conversation and conversations that I have had since with a number of people, including the MLA for Klondike, have led me to believe that this is a very good project.

I think it is a very good concept for the area. There are some significant opportunities that could come from this, and I think that the concept is a good one. A lot of the information that the Leader of the Official Opposition brought forward

with regard to the potential economic benefits and the comparative analysis that she has done looking at a number of other sites throughout the world and throughout the country have brought her to believe that economic benefits are certainly there. From the work that the departments have done — both Tourism and Culture and Economic Development — it seems to be that there are certainly economic benefits that could be realized by that designation.

However, I did want to note — and the Member for Klondike did note this in his opening remarks to this motion — there is a lot more work to do. There are individuals and stakeholder groups that still need to be brought forward and provide their complete support. I think that's something that needs to be done and it needs to be done collaboratively, because if we want to be successful with this, we need to get all those stakeholder groups on board. The Member for Klondike was quite correct when he said that UNESCO certainly doesn't want to inflict heritage status on any region. They want to be welcomed and they want support from the region, not just one group, but all groups if possible. I think that there needs to be — obviously there needs to be some more work done to ensure that all those key stakeholder groups are brought on board.

I know that a lot of work has been done to date, through the working group or the steering committee — I may have the term wrong — to advance those discussions. That work has been, from what I can tell, quite excellent. It has involved the Klondike Visitors Association; it has involved the chambers of commerce, the Klondike Placer Miners' Association and many others. That, perhaps, is an excellent venue to articulate support.

In noting that, I did want to say that, for me personally, and as minister, I certainly support the concept of the designation and support moving forward with this project, but did want to note the caveat of my desire to see more explicit support from certain stakeholder groups throughout Dawson and from the Dawson people in general. I know that, from speaking to folks like the Member for Kluane and others in that area, there's always some reflection about heritage status in that area and whether or not it has been a net benefit or whether or not — if they could have gone back to the days when it was designated, if they would have done something different.

I took that sentiment very seriously. So I want to propose an amendment. It's one that I had discussed with the Member for Klondike. I know that he may not fully support the amendment in its entirety, but I think we've tried to come to some compromise on some of the language and I look forward to his comments on the actual amendment that's to come.

So I'll save my comments about the amendment itself, and I'll go ahead and make that amendment then, Mr. Speaker.

Amendment proposed

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I move:

THAT Motion No. 740 be amended by adding the following after the word "Site":

“once support from the City of Dawson and key stakeholders including the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, the Klondike Visitors Association and the Klondike Placer Miners’ Association has been clearly demonstrated.”

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Economic Development:

THAT Motion No. 740 be amended by adding the following after the word “Site”:

“once support from the City of Dawson and key stakeholders including the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, the Klondike Visitors Association and the Klondike Placer Miners’ Association has been clearly demonstrated.”

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I only have a few minutes left to speak to the amendment so I will be brief. I simply wanted to note that we do want to see these stakeholders listed here. I know there are more. This list is certainly not intended to be an exhaustive list, which is why the wording is such that “key stakeholders, including...” so it is not meant to exclude any one group or not recognize the exhaustive list of groups that should participate, but it is simply meant to recognize that in order for this project to be successful, it does need to have the support of at least these key stakeholder groups. We know that more work is needed to be done to achieve that.

From the sounds of what I have heard from the member, I think that the steering committee that is in place now could perhaps be the vehicle by which these stakeholder groups articulate their continued support. If that is indeed the case, I am sure that articulation of support would satisfy our concerns and satisfy the intent of this particular amendment.

It is fairly simple. We want to see support from stakeholder groups that will be affected by this designation. We don’t think that these groups have overarching concerns, but probably have specific concerns or questions that need to be answered still, and we want to make sure that all these groups and other groups that aren’t included are considered, and that the folks who have to deal with this designation on the ground in Dawson are supportive of it, and we look forward to seeing that articulation of support and moving forward.

I’ve indicated previously that I’m optimistic that the Department of Economic Development will be able to find a way to support this project financially. We’ve had some informal conversations with CanNor already, and I’m optimistic about this project going forward and I look forward to hearing the support from these stakeholder groups and moving forward with this project.

Mr. Silver: Just to rise for a bit here, to mention just a couple of things on the amendment — I wasn’t sure if the minister had mentioned this or not, but the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in is not listed on the amendment. We had a conversation earlier and I don’t think that the omission is on purpose with the minister. I think, with the stakeholder group being chaired and led by the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in, I believe he

is sincere in believing that, of course, they would be involved as the key stakeholders and they’re omission from this amendment is purely an oversight or based upon the fact that they are obviously in and they are obviously supportive. I’m sure that that’s exactly what he means.

We did have the conversation this morning and I do appreciate him coming over and talking, and I don’t see the need to have any of these listed. I don’t see the need for the amendment. I think that the original act itself stands for itself.

As I mentioned in my opening notes, if any one of these key stakeholders did not want this designation, I wouldn’t be standing here right now. I wouldn’t be on this floor. I know for a fact that if, in the future, anyone — if Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in, if the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, if the Klondike Visitors Association or the Klondike Placer Miners’ Association — doesn’t want this to go forward, it’s not going to go forward.

Whereas I believe that the amendment should say whether or not they’re committing to the money and maybe a timeline on that money — that would be great to see. Right now, that last round of funding that the minister mentioned — it’s done, and right now the particular hire that Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in has done has finished. The money has finished up, so they are now taking money from other pockets to actually pay for this person’s salary moving forward.

With that being said, on the amendment — none of this stuff needs to be said other than whether or not the government is going to put the money forward or not. That is the most important thing for us, and I will be supporting the amendment because — I’m not going to mince words over this — the economy is suffering in the Yukon right now. Take a look at the new GDP numbers. This is good for the economy. The Minister of Economic Development should recognize that, and hopefully, once we get past this day, we’ll see money being injected to a guaranteed success story for not just the Klondike, but for the whole Yukon.

So with that being said, I will support this motion, and I hope to see the money coming soon, and that would be great. Then we could all stand up here in the Legislative Assembly and, in a united pursuit, say what a wonderful job this current government has done to make sure that the economy of the Yukon and the economy of the Klondike doesn’t suffer through these trying times.

I am in agreement with the amendment, because hopefully that means we will see some money flowing from the territorial government to the key stakeholders that are clearly wanting this to move forward and wanting to have that conversation move forward because, as I mentioned before, this is the time. There has never been a time like right now. Since 2004 we have been on this list, and it’s getting to a point where, if we don’t act, it’s just not going to happen. Wouldn’t it be horrible if the reason why we don’t act on this is a funding reason — because one of the groups that should be partnering with this doesn’t put forward money at a certain critical time, as opposed to — and the conversation moving into other issues that are unresolved, and letting the community of Dawson decide yes or no. That’s where the

decision should be made, not necessarily on amendments or not necessarily in this Chamber.

We would love to see the money flowing forth. I think I've said my piece. I'm supporting this amendment because I'm supporting the community of Klondike.

Ms. Hanson: I guess I'm very curious as to why this amendment is necessary at all. The amendment says that once support from the City of Dawson Chamber of Commerce, Klondike Visitors Association and Klondike Placer Miners' Association has been clearly demonstrated — what does the minister need in terms of clear support? If the minister would listen, I would read to him a letter dated September 15, 2014, from the Klondike Placer Miners' Association: "Re World Heritage Initiative. KPMA will participate with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in the process to develop the nomination package. We recognize that this could be a multi-year project and that the product must be endorsed by all stakeholders in the community at various stages as the work progresses.

"We appreciate the World Heritage Advisory Committee identifying 'placer mining' (historic and present) as a value which is an important part of the site designation and will work with the committee to try to realize the ideal of no new regulations resulting from the WHS designation for the placer industry.

"As KPMA would like to see this designation completed with the greatest efficiency of process, our preference..." — and they talk about having the KPMA and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in agree on a consultant with placer expertise to deal with the buffer zone working group that has already been identified and was established, I believe, in May — "...to participate and represent placer interests on the World Heritage Advisory Committee. The consultant would be responsible for representing Klondike Placer Miners' Association/industry concerns and reporting to board after meetings. This would ensure that the committee has someone dedicated to find viable solutions to issues that arise in the process of identifying sites and defining buffer zones and to set up the ultimate product as something that Klondike Placer Miners' Association would be willing to endorse.

"We look forward to working with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in on this initiative." It is signed by Stuart Schmidt, the president of the Klondike Placer Miners' Association.

What more does the minister want? What is necessary? What is necessary and what is missing is a commitment from the government.

What was the other group that we needed to have? We have Parks Canada. We have TIAY.

Klondike Visitors Association — "Re: UNESCO World Heritage Nomination. Please accept this letter as confirmation of Klondike Visitors Association's (KVA) continuing involvement in and enthusiastic support for the UNESCO World Heritage nomination project.

"World heritage designation of the Tr'ondëk-Klondike Region — based on recognition of our unique heritage, including the shared story of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Dawson and the Klondike Gold Rush, will have many benefits for

Dawson City and Yukon. Designation will strengthen and focus community pride and it will sustain and validate stakeholder investment to safeguard this special place in the world.

"The globally recognized UNESCO 'brand' will also expand national and international visitor awareness and interest and add to the local and regional tourism economy, providing jobs and business opportunities. This will contribute to the well-being of Dawson and have positive social, cultural and economic impacts for the whole of Yukon."

The Dawson City Chamber of Commerce — the Minister of Economic Development is clearly interested in this one, I know, because it is on his list.

To the person in charge of the work for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in — I don't want to name their names because I don't think it's appropriate in the Legislative Assembly: "Re: World heritage Nomination. On behalf of the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, please accept this letter as an indication of our support for the world heritage nomination project. A world heritage designation for the Tr'ondëk Klondike region would have many benefits for community. One of those benefits is the international recognition and understanding of our heritage — the shared story of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Dawson, gold rush and mining.

"A UNESCO designation would unify community pride in hosting and safeguarding one of the world's special places. It would also attract a new kind of visitor, help sustain the local tourism economy and provide jobs and business opportunities. This would contribute to the well-being of Dawson and have positive social, cultural and economic impacts for the whole Yukon. Kind regards," from the manager of the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce."

City of Dawson — I think that was the other one that the minister was looking for letters of support from. "Re: World heritage nomination project Strategic Industries development fund application" — this is their support letter. "Please accept this letter as confirmation of the City of Dawson's continued support for the UNESCO World Heritage nomination project. As part of Dawson's official community plan, council established long-term goals that we feel will ensure the future well-being of our community. Designation will contribute greatly to our community achieving these goals, as listed below: enhance the financial sustainability of the municipality over the long term; celebrate, support and promote Dawson as the cultural capital of the Yukon; protect and celebrate Dawson's heritage as a 'living historical community' while at the same time allowing the community to evolve and prosper into the future.

"In addition to contributing to the well-being of our community, designation will also have many positive social, cultural and economic impacts for the whole Yukon. We are extremely delighted to support this project and invite your organization to do the same. Please feel free to contact me if you need any more information."

Mr. Speaker, I think the minister would be well-advised to either withdraw that amendment or to apologize to the

committee that has been working so diligently for the last 10 years.

The minister responsible for heritage and Tourism and Culture is well aware of this work that has been done. On April 24, the minister responsible had a presentation given to him indicating that a request for funding would be coming for support. On May 9, the minister and the Premier met with the mayor and the Chief of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, so now they're asking the mayor to say that he supports it? The mayor wrote that he supports it. The Klondike Placer Miners' Association wrote that they support it.

I don't understand why this government doesn't trust the community that has been working together — the First Nation community and all of the community stakeholders. They have said so; they have demonstrated such. Canada has been prepared to work with them and has indicated they are waiting for the Yukon government to get on board. I think it's quite shameful and more shameful that when they talk about the support, they don't recognize that this whole proposal is coming and repeatedly being stated that this is a shared initiative with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the people of the Klondike — all people of the Klondike.

The city has been an integral partner — all of these community organizations. If the minister actually read any of those advisory committee minutes, he would see how integrated this initiative is. I find it really hard to fathom what the intent of this amendment is and what effect it has, other than to insult the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in because of their refusal to put them as parties to this — because they would be talking about support from the City of Dawson or where is the support from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in? You have evidence of this in written correspondence — the most recent is September — going back to May. If the government was serious about this, they would have been aware of that support.

What I'm hearing from them is that they don't trust the community actually knows how to work together. This is not something that is being driven from the outside, Mr. Speaker. This is something that comes from this community. That's the whole notion of the unique culture. This is the living culture of this community. They are demonstrating how they are working together and we should be celebrating that and supporting it, not second-guessing them. This is a second-guessing gesture of the worst kind.

Mr. Elias: I stand in support of the motion as amended.

Speaker: Would you like to speak to the amendment?

Mr. Elias: Yes. This UNESCO World Heritage Site recognition is also near and dear to my constituents. We have worked in Old Crow to get the Vuntut Gwitchin national park, and we have worked with the Inuvialuit to get Ivvavik National Park. We have worked with the territorial government to get on the shortlist to become a UNESCO site. In those discussions — of which I was a part of before my time as an MLA, so it has been some time — it wasn't from an economic standpoint. It was from an environmental standpoint in terms of how can we convince the most

powerful government in the world — the United States — to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain from industrial intrusion, which is the calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd. That is where we are coming from.

Another level of designation that supports Yukon — I'm all in. I want to thank the Member for Klondike for representing his community and doing his due diligence.

This is the kind of thing that affects the day-to-day lives of the restaurant owners, the airlines, the bed and breakfasts and the people of —

Speaker's statement

Speaker: Order please. I would ask the member to tie his comments to the amendment. Members will have an opportunity to speak to the motion, or the motion as amended, after we vote on the amendment. It's the inclusion of the amendment, of these extra words.

Mr. Elias: I'm getting to that, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Okay. I ask you to tie it together for me please.

Mr. Elias: As far as the amendment from the Minister of Environment and Economic Development, what's wrong with ensuring on the Assembly floor that all of the organizations mentioned are in consensus here? That's what the amendment is talking about. So, going back to schedule A under chapter 10 of the *Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement* — and I don't know about the member's Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation final agreements; if they have a special schedule, I'm not aware of it. But under schedule A, our UNESCO site has been talked about and has been agreed upon by all our citizens, and that's what we're trying to accomplish here with the amendment with the Member for Copperbelt North.

I think we are getting to some common ground here, and I think that it would send a really good message because we have, I think, two UNESCO sites in the Yukon that are designated to become world-recognized heritage sites. I think that our words here today would support that recognition.

The economic development in Dawson is absolutely on the first order of business for the Member for Klondike and the government as well. I think that if we collectively come to an agreement on this issue, it would be great for not just Dawson, but Yukoners alike. I want to quote from Schedule A from the Vuntut National Park objectives, because I think it bodes well for the battle of the Member for Klondike, the citizens of Dawson, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation and all the organizations in his riding. Under chapter 10, Schedule A, 1.3, it says: "To protect for all time a representative natural area of national significance in the Northern Yukon Natural Region, including representative portions of the Old Crow Flats wetlands and the surrounding foothills which contain important waterfowl habitat, critical parts of the Porcupine Caribou range, and archaeological and palaeontological resources of international significance". That's protected under the Constitution of Canada.

So, as a member from Vuntut Gwitchin, when we talk about a UNESCO site — I know full well what's being debated here today and I support the Member for Copperbelt North that we need assurances on the floor of the House that we have confidence moving forward. I stand here today in support of the amendment.

Ms. McLeod: I want to thank the Member for Klondike for bringing the motion forward for discussion today. It's —

Speaker: We're talking about the amendment.

Ms. McLeod: I know.

Speaker: Okay.

Ms. McLeod: I heard the Leader of the Official Opposition talk about lack of Yukon government support for this initiative. I've heard all manner of indicators that the Yukon government is supporting this process, so it's a bit of a — I don't quite understand where that is all coming from because clearly there's a lot of money changing hands.

I can certainly see why the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are pushing forward this motion, but it's not clear to me that all stakeholders are on board. I know that the Leader of the Official Opposition would like to assure us that indeed they are, but I personally don't know that.

I must support this amendment so that we can ensure all residents and business owners can make an informed decision that will affect the region for the future. When we look at the list of sites, many of these are, straight up, called parks. I don't know if this will be called a park, but I think that, at the end of the day, that's what it represents. I don't know personally what the area involved is. I have seen a reference to this meeting up with an area in Alaska. However, the Alaskans have not moved their application forward at this time.

That's it, Mr. Speaker. I support this amendment.

Ms. Stick: It is on the amendment. I have for tabling a letter of support from the Klondike Placer Miners' Association, dated September 15, 2014, to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. I also have for tabling a letter from the Klondike Visitors Association of support on the UNESCO World Heritage nomination that is dated May 2, 2014. I also have a letter from the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, dated May 3, 2014, in support of the world heritage nomination. It seems the letter I don't have is the one from the City of Dawson — someone will table that.

These are three letters that support — and are key stakeholders who are mentioned in this.

I also have a letter dated May 5, 2014, from the Dawson City Museum and Historical Society supporting this UNESCO World Heritage nomination, and one from the City of Dawson, dated May 15, 2014, supporting the UNESCO nomination. Every entity that has been named in this amendment to the motion has already indicated their full support in writing on the world heritage nomination project. It makes this amendment kind of null and void because it has already happened. The support has been offered; it's there in

writing; it's there for everyone to see. I don't believe this amendment to the motion is actually necessary when the evidence already exists.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: In rising in support of the amendment to the motion tabled by my colleague, the Minister of Environment and Economic Development, I'm somewhat puzzled at why the Leader of the NDP was professing either outrage or feigned outrage at this amendment being brought forward. Let me read the motion as it will read if the amendment passes. The motion after amendment: "...this House urges the Government of Yukon to support efforts to have the Klondike designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site once support from the City of Dawson and key stakeholders, including the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, the Klondike Visitors Association and the Klondike Placer Miners' Association has been clearly demonstrated."

Mr. Speaker, what is their problem with that? If they are arguing that support has already been clearly demonstrated in their view, then what is the problem with this specific mention?

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Again, we hear the perpetual heckling from the Leader of the Official Opposition, NDP. I would point out here that the amendment brought forward by my colleague is simply about specifically reiterating the importance of ensuring that support is there from the City of Dawson and key stakeholders.

As has been mentioned earlier, the reason that I did not mention Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation is that our understanding is they were taking the lead on this project, but if a member wishes to make an amendment to include a specific reference to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, we would certainly have no trouble supporting that. We believe that for UNESCO World Heritage Site status to be sought, it is important to have that clear support. We want to ensure that —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, again we hear the lack of respect that the Leader of the NDP has for the importance of these stakeholders by her off-mic comments. I would remind the member that the Klondike Placer Miners' Association — the Yukon placer mining sector — has been an important part of the Yukon economy since before the Yukon was a territory. Were it not for the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898, we would probably never have become our own distinct territory and certainly not become a territory when we did.

Again, the motion — if the amendment passes, would reiterate the importance of all the stakeholders that have been specifically mentioned, and it does mention "including." It is not intended to ignore the importance of public support for this, but on this side of the House, we believe that having the Klondike designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site definitely has potential benefits for the territory and for the Klondike region, and that the only question mark in that is ensuring that everyone understands the details of what that designation would mean, that there is a clear understanding of

whether there would be any unforeseen impacts or restrictions on the ability to make local decisions, both within the City of Dawson and within the territorial government.

At this point in time, to the best of my knowledge, there do not appear to be those restrictions from that designation that would affect local decision-making. But again, I wish more Yukoners were here in the gallery to see the display of lack of respect from the NDP for the stakeholders that we're proposing, adding to this motion. This government is again recognizing and acknowledging the work that has gone on, and the motion, if the amendment passes, would simply read that this House urges the Government of Yukon to support efforts to have the Klondike designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site once support from the City of Dawson and key stakeholders, including the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, the Klondike Visitors Association and the Klondike Placer Miners' Association, has been clearly demonstrated.

So what is the NDP's problem?

I appreciate the amendment that has been brought forward. I think it strengthens the motion and I commend my colleague for bringing this amendment forward to ensure that this motion is strengthened and broadened by specifically mentioning some of the key groups that need to be on board for this project to be successful, for the Klondike to actually get the world heritage site designation from UNESCO approved — because, as the tabler of the motion noted, his understanding — and mine — is that UNESCO is not interested in giving out these world heritage designations if there is not clear local support. If a major group or major segment of the economy was not on board with it then that would likely result in being unsuccessful.

This amendment to the motion is simply about acknowledging that, and specifically recognizing and affirming the importance of the City of Dawson and every one of the stakeholder groups mentioned. I know that I myself have had conversations with the Mayor of Dawson regarding this and I appreciate the explanation that he has provided. We do very much appreciate the work that has been done through all who have been involved in working on this project.

At this point in time, I'm not aware of any issues that would appear to be unresolvable while moving forward to seek the UNESCO World Heritage Site status but we in the Yukon government feel that it is important to specifically reference and affirm the importance of the City of Dawson, the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, the Klondike Visitors Association and the Klondike Placer Miners' Association in this motion.

As I mentioned, because we understood Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to be the lead, they were not specifically mentioned in the amendment, but should any member feel that the motion should be specifically amended or subamended to reference them, I'm sure that we would support any reasonable, subsequent amendment that gave specific reference to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, who is a very key part of this entire process and project.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I commend this amendment and thank the minister for bringing it forward and look forward to seeing this project proceed and seeing continued work by all involved, including Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, City of Dawson and key stakeholders, including the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, the Klondike Visitors Association and the Klondike Placer Miners' Association.

Speaker: Does any other member wish to be heard on the amendment? Are you prepared for the question on the amendment?

Amendment to Motion No. 740 agreed to

Speaker: The Minister of Highways and Public Works, on the main motion as amended.

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I do thank the Member for Klondike for bringing this motion forward. Whenever we talk about UNESCO, Parks Canada or anything to do with tourism or heritage — local cultural heritage — it's near and dear to my heart. I was in the tourism industry for many years.

I just want to read you a short note from the editors of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* — Kluane National Park and Reserve of Canada: Vast mountain wilderness with extensive ice fields in southwestern Yukon, northwestern Canada. The park is located about 100 miles west of Whitehorse. It borders Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve in Alaska, U.S., to the west and southwest and Tatshenshini-Alsek Wilderness Provincial Park in British Columbia to the southeast.

Established as a game reserve in 1942, the area became a national park and reserve in 1972 and was designated part of a regional UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. The park has an area of 8,487 square miles, which is dominated by two northwest-southeast-trending parallel mountain systems. The St. Elias Mountains, in the southwest, reach an elevation of over 19,000 feet at Mount Logan, the highest point in Canada and the second-highest peak in North America, in the southwestern corner of the park. Those mountains accommodate one of the largest nonpolar ice field systems in the world to include the Steele, Kaskawulsh and Lowell glaciers. The St. Elias Mountains are separated from the Kluane range of mountains to the northeast by the valleys and plateaus of the Duke Depression. The Kluane range, with peaks averaging more than 6,600 feet in height, is more densely vegetated and is inhabited by more wildlife than much of the rest of the park and is accessible on its eastern slopes from the Alaska Highway.

So there's a little history of how we got our UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. We started off with a game reserve in 1942 and then we became a national park and reserve in 1972. I just wanted to speak a little bit to how we got started and how UNESCO plays into this.

I do have a caution. I'm glad the member put the motion forward, but I'm sure glad for the amendment too because I think it's key to moving forward. Especially because — I was looking through an article on Wednesday, August 7, 2013 in the *Yukon News* where the Member for Klondike had stated,

“However, the community has been divided on whether or not they welcome world heritage designation ...” the member said. “The plan would help educate ...” — and this is when he’s talking about moving forward — “... the public on the benefits of being a world heritage site...” which is awesome, but including all the key stakeholders and making sure is very key.

I was going to start off talking a little bit about my grandfather, who sat with Parks Canada in 1969, 1970 and 1971, when they were going to bring in a national park. We weren’t a municipality; we were a local improvement district in the day. A little later in the future of MLAs, Mr. Bill Brewster — my grandmother was also an MLA — but Mr. Bill Brewster had some great reservations a few years later about the promises made but the debt unpaid. My grandfather always told me — a few years before he passed away, he said to me, you know, in hindsight, when we looked at it, they promised a Banff and a Jasper and told us about economic diversity and everything else. I should have told them when they asked me where I wanted the border — because they asked him — I should have said, the peaks of all those mountains, so we can still have access to them out front.

Why do I bring this up? I bring it up because our tourism industry in Kluane is — the majority of the tourism people who come there — the greater majority are senior citizens, retired people and those people travelling back and forth — some of them are military folks — but access into the national park has always been an issue. There’s a tourism summit coming up this Friday — I’ll be going to it — and I know there are a couple of businesses — the ones that aren’t in Vegas playing hockey, which disappoints me — there are a few businesses that would like to see a little bit more access into the national park and they’re a little bit disappointed with it.

We throw in UNESCO World Heritage Site, which came in 1979, tack something else on to there — so I decided: Are we to blame UNESCO? Are we to blame the national park? Are we to blame anybody for not having a store right now? No, it is just the way the times are. I am happy to see — after I got elected — I am pushing for tourism summits, I am pushing for economic development, and I am happy to see there is a store about to open. I am talking to all the right people and I am in the government trying to help.

I have picked up something this morning when we were going to talk about it, and there is a news story from July 4, 2008 and this is something that — the title of it says — “Put national world heritage sites off limits for mining and oil exploration.” This is from the International Union for Conservation of Nature. It says in there that more than one-quarter of national world heritage sites are under pressure by existing or future mineral extraction. For this reason, this organization is calling on the private sector, state-run companies and governments themselves to adopt and enforce a “no-go” principle, meaning that no mining and/or mineral, oil exploration and production can be carried out in a world heritage site.

Saying that, Mr. Speaker — I am not saying that there is a big push anywhere for this — I am just cautioning the member opposite who brought the motion forward and all those people up there to think 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 years down the road — or 100 years down the road.

There is another spot not far from here and February 2013 — this is a UNESCO report card for recommendations on the Flathead River Valley that is in British Columbia. This is back in 2013. The UNESCO World Heritage Committee recommended establishing a single conservation wildlife management plan for the Transboundary Flathead. The Flathead has a great concentration of grizzly bears and I can understand why they are pushing for this, but some of the people who are signed on — who did the UNESCO report card — are the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Headwaters Montana, National Parks Conservation Association, Sierra Club BC, Wildsight, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative — and it says taking steps to minimize barriers to wildlife connectivity, including the long-term moratorium on further mining.

I don’t want to sound like a downer on this by any means, but all those stakeholders — and I did write this down — all those stakeholders that are playing key to this — just to make sure when we’re all together on something — and I know the Member for Klondike has worked really hard on this file and I commend him for this — that everybody understands what you sign off on, you get. Make sure you set that up so you have a long-term diverse economy when it comes to culture, when it comes to mining, when it comes to Gerties — which is a great place, and I see we have not much longer and my card expires and I’ll have to get a new one for next year. I’ll be back.

I just caution them on that. It’s a lot easier up front to set yourself up and make sure that things are right for the future generations, not to try and recover from things that were imposed upon you.

In that I do commend this motion. I thank the Member for Klondike for bringing it forward. I support it as amended, of course. Anything to do with tourism I do support. I believe in a diverse economy. I believe that Yukoners need jobs — and not just in the mining industry, but they need jobs in the tourism industry. I commend this motion to the House.

Hon. Mr. Kent: Thank you to the Member for Klondike for the original motion as well as the Minister of Environment and Economic Development for the proposed amendment that was put forward.

I’m not going to speak for too long about this, other than to again try to — I guess the important thing for me is, although this is a file that has the potential to affect placer and quartz mining activities in the Klondike region — perhaps there may be downstream effects, and I think that is something that we certainly have to be mindful of. Not only does — as others have mentioned — the placer industry have a long and storied history in the Klondike region but it is an active and important contributor, today and going forward, for the economy of the Klondike region.

I think, with that, it is important for me to gain a better understanding of what exactly this designation is and what it is looking for. I know that the mayor of Dawson City and the MLA for Klondike have spoken with a number of my colleagues about this, including the Minister of Economic Development, and I certainly want to be active and reach out to the mayor and the MLA and perhaps gain a better understanding myself of exactly what the implications of this may be.

I believe that the amendment that was moved certainly strengthens the motion in that it identifies those key stakeholders as well as the municipal government — as the Minister of Community Services mentioned — the proponent being the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in — they were not omitted, I believe, from the amendment that was put forward by the minister, but I guess it was implied, given the fact that they are the proponent for this project moving forward. Again, these other key stakeholders that are identified: the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, KVA, KPMA, and others — I think it shows them that we certainly want to make sure that we are interested in their input.

I know a number of letters were tabled from the Member for Riverdale South with respect to support for this project, moving forward, from those organizations. Again, as a motion goes forward, especially if this amended motion is agreed to unanimously, which I expect — I'm hopeful — that it is, once it comes to vote later on this afternoon, that we send that strong message to the community of Dawson that their involvement, the involvement of these organizations, is critical to the success of this project.

I know the original work goes back, I believe, to 2004, and then from what I understand, there was a bit of a hiatus in the process going forward. Obviously it has been picked up again by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and is gaining the support of these community organizations.

I think, as Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, ensuring that not only the active placer fields that are in that area can continue to operate under this designation — I think the Leader of the Official Opposition mentioned one designated in her remarks where it was removed. I don't think it's in anybody's interest to get in some sort of a squabble with this. If at some point in the future — and again, this is hypothetical — if at some point in the future, some project or projects were not allowed to proceed, or were threatened with the designation being lifted or removed, such as what — I think it was Dresden; I think that's what the Leader of the Official Opposition referenced as the one that had the designation removed.

I think we certainly want to look beyond the end of our noses on this and ensure that the long-term viability of those resource extraction industries that exist in the Klondike region is maintained and that the important tourism opportunities that come with this type of a designation are also maintained.

I know other members have mentioned some of the projects around the world that currently hold this designation. Of course Kluane/Wrangell-St. Elias parks as well as Nahanni National Park are two that are quite familiar to Yukoners. I

think it's an extremely exciting opportunity and again, as I mentioned, I feel it is incumbent upon me to engage with the MLA, the new Chief of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Mayor of Dawson City to gain a better understanding of exactly what they are looking for. I understand funding proposals are currently being reviewed by the Department of Economic Development and the Yukon government. I wish the community well with this project going forward. It certainly is an exciting opportunity. There has been a lot of focus in recent years on the Klondike, given the mini-series that aired on the Discovery Channel earlier this year and the success of the reality TV shows, both *Yukon Gold* and *Gold Rush*. It is exciting for me to see those two reality TV shows start to highlight some of the beauty and the culture and the other aspects of the Klondike, rather than just the activity on the particular placer mines in question.

I certainly commend those production companies for recognizing the beauty of the Klondike and the surrounding area, and the long-term contributions of the First Nation in that area certainly can't be understated. I have a great deal of respect for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and all the people who have lived in that area for millennia, what they endured and how they survived during the coming of the Klondike Gold Rush, and how they not only survived, but thrived and protected their stories and their dances and their culture during that time.

I know when I was Minister of Education, I had the opportunity to give out the Council of the Federation Literacy Award to a TH elder who was repatriating the songs and the dances that Chief Isaac sent into the interior of Alaska during the gold rush, so they could be maintained. Again, that was an exciting opportunity for me to be in the City of Dawson and present that award on behalf of the Premier to the TH elder. I do apologize — her name escapes me now. Perhaps the Member for Klondike will remember and can mention it in his closing remarks. It was a few years ago.

Again, I do support this project going forward, just as the KPMA supports the project going forward, and the other organizations identified in the motion, as amended.

I look forward to entering into a dialogue with community members, including the MLA, to get a better sense of exactly what they are looking for, what stage they are at and what additional resources will be required as this moves forward and essentially, to talk about some of the other exciting opportunities that would come with this type of designation to the Klondike region as a whole.

With that, I will conclude my remarks and perhaps others would like to speak. I look forward to supporting this motion as amended and hope that all members of the Legislature will do so.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: It's a pleasure today to rise to the motion as amended. As I noted in speaking to the amendment, I think the amendment really does strengthen the motion. I think there has been a substantial amount of work as my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, noted. It is also very important that we ensure that we get this

right and understand all of the implications. Placer mining is an integral part of the fabric of Yukon society. It has been referred to as “the Yukon’s version of the family farm” although as the MLA with most of Yukon’s farms in my riding, I would also note that there are also conventional family farms here in the territory. Placer mining is something that has been a long-standing fundamental contributor to the Yukon’s economy.

Those of us who were in this Legislative Assembly back when the then federal Liberal government cancelled the placer authorization and put the entire placer mining industry in the territory in fear that they would not be able to operate again, we certainly remember the strong show of public support and community outcry, not just within Dawson, but across the entire territory of citizens and businesses who were showing their support for Yukon placer mining. They had bumper stickers, signs, t-shirts and other paraphernalia made up that said slogans like, “This business supports placer mining; placer mining supports this business.” People indicated their support for the Klondike Placer Miners’ Association through other venues, whether through letters to the editor, people showing up in protest in support of the placer mining industry — and also through the tremendous attendance at public meetings talking about this, not just placer miners, but other people who recognized the tremendous importance of placer mining to the Yukon’s economy.

In noting that, I want to emphasize that I’m not saying that the issues affecting the placer mining sector can’t be addressed through this designation, but, based on the information that I have seen and the explanations that have been provided to me by people more familiar with some of the specific details of this process, it appears that in fact those issues can partly be addressed and in fact that in all likelihood the continuation of placer mining within the Klondike would be a part of keeping that UNESCO status.

Again, I think the motion that has been improved by the amendment passed earlier and brought forward by my colleague is one that specifically speaks to, includes, recognizes and affirms the importance of the tourism sector, the placer mining sector and the chamber of commerce for the Dawson area, and the fact that all of them are integral parts of their community. They all are important and valuable stakeholders.

I should also note, in terms of supporting parts of Dawson, that there have been significant investments in tourism made by this government. That includes support for the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture. I was pleased earlier this year to be able to announce an investment in ensuring that Diamond Tooth Gerties continues to be a major contributor to the Klondike Visitors Association and to the economy of Dawson City through the Yukon government’s support for them modernizing their slot machine equipment. In some cases, the earlier machines are outdated to the point where they are not able to even get parts from the original manufacturer. By providing that support to the Klondike Visitors Association, we’ve ensured that they continue to be the heart of Dawson City tourism, a contributor to Dawson

City’s cultural life and character as Canada’s longest legal gambling casino.

If you look at the Klondike Visitors Association’s financial statements, many of their activities, including tourism promotion depend on the revenue they receive from Diamond Tooth Gerties. The Yukon government, through our share of the slot machine revenues, reinvests those funds in the Crime Prevention Victim Services Trust Fund, which pays for many valuable programs and services to groups and individuals funded out of the Crime Prevention Victim Services Trust Fund.

In concluding my remarks, I would look forward to the continued progress of the efforts of all involved to have a collaborative process moving forward to seek UNESCO World Heritage Site designation for the Klondike region. Again, I reiterate what I have said and several of my colleagues have said about the importance of ensuring that the implications of that are fully understood by all involved and that the key stakeholders mentioned in this strengthened motion understand and are comfortable with the implications of moving forward to UNESCO status for two reasons: (1) to ensure that there is not some unanticipated problem that hadn’t been considered, and (2) because, as noted by people, including the mover of the motion, UNESCO is not going to want to provide world heritage site status to a region that has major elements of its society or key stakeholder groups saying something negative about the application.

In fact, comments in the final stages of seeking UNESCO status from any of these key stakeholders that are not supportive of that designation — pardon me, I should phrase that sentence in a little more grammatically correct order. What I meant was that, when UNESCO was giving final review to this application, if there were any negative comments from any of the key stakeholders, that could throw a wrench in the works and that could occur entirely unnecessarily if the implications are fully understood by all involved and if all that are key stakeholders are fully supportive of this application.

I will conclude my remarks. I congratulate all who have contributed their efforts to this project, including the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in First Nation; the City of Dawson and stakeholders, including the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, Klondike Visitors Association, the Klondike Placer Miners’ Association; and the many members of the community of Dawson City who have been involved throughout the years in moving forward with seeking the designation of the Klondike as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Congratulations to all for their good work and I look forward to seeing this proceed forward.

Speaker: If the member now speaks, he will close debate. Does any other member wish to be heard?

Mr. Silver: Thanks to the members of the Legislative Assembly for their comments today. I’m going to be very brief. I do want to get on to the next motion, but I did want to say a few things in summation.

First of all, we've heard from a few members here today — park. This is not a park. This isn't a designation where Dawson becomes snowglobed into a protected area. This is showcasing the wonderful community that we have to the rest of the world. The reasons why this community is wonderful is because of the partnership that was forged many, many years ago — decades and decades ago — and that partnership of working together is still alive and well in Dawson. It absolutely is, Mr. Speaker. It's why we live there. It's why people stay there. It's why people dream of living in Dawson City. It's because of these connections and it's because of the wonderful people, both in the placer mining industry and also in the First Nation.

There are no lines drawn in Dawson, for the most part. It's a community — it really is. There is not one restaurant for a certain group of people and another restaurant for another certain people. It's one of the most beautiful communities of mosaics that you will ever see. It's artistic, it's modern — not to say that the other communities in the Yukon aren't great as well, but today we're talking Klondike.

The bottom line is, the Member for Kluane talked about a certain type of tourists coming to his area — this will ensure a whole broader range of types of tourists who are going to love to come and check out the beautiful, scenic community of Haines Junction, and they also — if you're checking off on your bucket list UNESCO World Heritage Sites, you have two for one here. There are a couple of them there. There is another added reason for coming to the Klondike and to Kluane.

The executive director of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has been very vocal for a while now — over a year now — that the funding from the original was going to run out. We really need to reiterate the importance of why we are bringing this up now. There is a position being held, and it is being funded currently with monies from other departments in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in — not the CanNor money that was originally funded for this project. That has run out. Now is the time — without this lead, without somebody keeping this momentum going forward, then those conversations with the Klondike Placer Miners' Association, with the Klondike Visitors Association and with the town are not going to happen.

Should we as legislators here be the ones who stop this process in its tracks because the territorial government won't put some money forward? No, and I don't think that anyone in this House thinks that we should be the ones to decide whether or not this conversation continues. But the fact remains that, if there is not help from the territorial government right now to fund that position, this project won't move forward into those key conversations that have to be had in the community. Let the community figure out whether or not UNESCO is right for us, not the Legislative Assembly.

We are going to pass this motion — hopefully — unanimously. That would be great, and what a successful day that will be for us. However, if the money doesn't flow, and if this becomes for some reason caught up in the bureaucratic trap, well then that will truly be a missed opportunity for a district that truly needs help with its GDP.

Thank you to my colleagues for all of their comments today. I really appreciate it; I honestly do, and I look forward to getting on with the vote here.

Speaker: Are you prepared for the question on the motion, as amended?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Graham: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Kent: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Agree.

Ms. McLeod: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Agree.

Mr. Elias: Agree.

Ms. Hanson: Agree.

Ms. Stick: Agree.

Ms. Moorcroft: Agree.

Ms. White: Agree.

Mr. Tredger: Agree.

Mr. Silver: Agree.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 16 yea, nil nay.

Speaker: The yeas have it. I declare the motion, as amended, carried.

Motion No. 740, as amended, agreed to

Motion No. 741

Clerk: Motion No. 741, standing in the name of Mr. Silver.

Speaker: It is moved by the Leader of the Third Party:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to explain how it intends to meet its goal of zero waste with a target of 50-percent waste diversion by 2015 with Raven Recycling shut down due to a lack of funding.

Mr. Silver: Solid waste management and recycling have been a major focus of conversation in and out of this House this fall. We have seen a major recycling facility close and we have heard from a variety of municipal-level governments discussing new solutions to meet their diversion goals. One of the platform commitments in the Yukon Party's platform was to enhance — and I quote: “our efforts for recycling, waste reduction, and diversion”. The second commitment was — and I quote: “develop a goal of zero waste with a target of 50% waste diversion by 2015.” This can be found on page 15 of the Yukon Party's platform.

As I had mentioned in Question Period last week, it is clear that the minister responsible does not truly support that goal as he told Yukoners on October 1 that recycling was a personal responsibility and really had nothing to do with his government. I will leave the explanation of that quote up to him.

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: The Government House Leader, on a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: The member is contravening Standing Order 19(g), imputing false or unavowed motives to another member, in claiming that I said that government has no responsibility for this — that it is entirely personal. That is absolutely incorrect and I think the member should be asked to retract that and apologize.

Speaker: The leader of the Third Party, on the point of order.

Mr. Silver: The minister can have his chance to explain what he meant by the quote, but that is his quote: “recycling is a personal responsibility”.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: There is no point of order. It's a dispute between members.

Leader of the Third Party, you have the floor.

Mr. Silver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Leadership on these issues needs to come from a senior level of government, and it is very clear that this government is not going to meet the commitment of 50 percent waste diversion by 2015 with community partners such as Raven Recycling. It seems that, with the government's slow approach to Raven, there has been a complete 180-degree turn in policy here that begs the question: Does the Yukon Party no longer support the platform promise of 2011?

If the government no longer supports a 50-percent target, or Raven, then what is the new diversion target that is being sought? You can't take away an integral service or public good without an alternative plan or objective. So what are these? That is the question that we're going to talk about today.

I'm hoping that today we can walk away with either some answer as to how the 50 percent diversion will be met or, if it won't, what target is the government now aiming for?

For over 20 years, Raven Recycling has provided a service important to Yukoners and essential to the environment. On October 15, the drop-off bins at Raven were closed up and they have been reduced to taking only refundable items. This has put a strain on the other operations in town, which are now receiving all the additional non-refundables. The unfortunate reality is that the refundable items only account for 10 percent of the total volume of what comes into the facility.

The current diversion credit does not cover the operation costs of the recycling centre and shipment to processing plants

in the south. Without short-term funding, they can't fund the work we need them to do to keep our recyclables out of the landfill.

Last week I tabled a motion calling on the Yukon government to restore this important community service. The bigger issue at play here is that, ultimately, the Yukon government has been sitting on the sidelines with Raven, letting Raven stay closed to all but refundables, so that it's clear that a cash injection is needed for this reopening immediately while some long-term funding issues get resolved. A major recycling partner being closed is likely deterring many from returning their recycling and likely leading to recyclables being stockpiled or heading to the landfill.

Strong congratulations should go to the City of Whitehorse. On Monday night, the Whitehorse City Council took a proactive approach by approving spending to begin the planning of a curbside recycling program. I was fortunate enough to have been on hand for that deliberation and to talk to some of the councillors afterward about this excellent decision.

The biggest problem that we are seeing from our recycling services is the expense of non-refundable items. A cost recovery needs to be there to make the diversion model successful. The Yukon Blue Bin Recycling Society has done a great job exploring the viability of a curbside recycling program and has shown that Yukoners are willing to pay a little extra to have their recycling picked up. We're looking to see them expand that program to condos very soon.

The proposal as set out by the city would see the per usage cost of programming going down as it is amortized across multiple households. The proposal would also give the private sector a chance to bid on the proposal and allow businesses like Yukon Blue Bin Recycling Society to continue their work on a larger scale.

The government has set a goal in their 2011 platform that diversion would be targeted at 50 percent. With their current hands-off approach to Raven, it's hard to think that they will be meeting this target. I am definitely looking forward to listening to the rebuttal from the minister responsible for Environment here. The question on many Yukoners' minds still is: How does this government intend to meet its own goal of zero waste with a target of 50-percent waste diversion by 2015 with Raven Recycling shut down because of lack of funding?

I will open this up to further comments from my colleagues and look forward to maybe getting to a vote today on this.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: It is a pleasure to rise and speak to this motion and to correct the record on a number of fronts with regard to the issue, the motion itself and some of the comments made by the Member for Klondike.

The first issue I want to address head-on was his claim that there has been — and his words were a “180-degree turn” in policy on this. What has happened in the past few months has been absolutely no change in policy at all. The funding

that we provided to recycling processors in the territory hasn't changed. The support we provide through our regulatory processes hasn't changed. The eligibility for recycling processors to access other funding hasn't changed. What has changed was the decision by Raven Recycling to close their doors to non-refundable recyclables. That doesn't mean that they have shut down. They have not shut down as the motion suggests, but they are no longer collecting non-refundable items.

As all members — and I hope all residents of Whitehorse — are aware, they do still have options for the recycling of their products, so we don't expect there to be any sort of stockpiling or mass deposit of recyclables into the landfills because there are a number of other options that still exist. There is another processor, P&M Recycling, which provides those services. There are the bins at the city's landfill, which are available to the public to deposit their recycling.

Of course, there is the Yukon Blue Bin Recycling Society's program, which the Member for Klondike referenced. It is available in a number of neighbourhoods throughout Whitehorse. I know that it's available in my riding in Copper Ridge. I subscribe to it. It's a wonderful service, and I really appreciate the business people who run that program. They do a great job and it makes the collection of recyclables and the responsible disposal of recyclables from a household like mine possible and easy, and I appreciate it.

I need to also refute the claim that we haven't provided adequate funding to Raven Recycling. That is simply not true. In fact, Raven Recycling has been the beneficiary of significant funding over the years. Just the past few years alone have seen Raven receive hundreds of thousands of dollars for capital, for programming, for renovations to their yard — the kinds of investments that they were eligible for through the community development fund in years past. To date, over the past — call it six or seven years — they have received close to \$500,000 in CDF funding alone. That is not including the funding that comes directly from Community Services through diversion credits and through other mechanisms as well.

I also need to note that the funding mechanism — probably the most important one currently for Raven Recycling and for both processors — is the diversion credit. It needs to be recognized that the diversion credit is relatively new. It came in last year. It came in at a level of \$75 from the Yukon government, matched against \$75 from the City of Whitehorse, which was an increase from a previous diversion credit, to a total of \$150 that is available per tonne for recycling processors. That amount was specifically requested by the processors — by P&M and Raven — just last year. They came to government and said, "We need this much money per tonne as a diversion credit." That amount was \$150 per tonne. That is exactly what was provided to them.

So less than a year later, when we received a request for more than double that amount — \$330 per tonne — as well as a cash injection, obviously the Yukon government needs to take that into consideration and needs to consider what we are spending taxpayers' dollars on when we get a request of that

magnitude in such a short period of time — and when we receive a request from only one of the processors in town. It's important to note that we have provided significant funding for waste diversion and recycling in the territory to date. We continue to do that, but I can return to some of those specifics in a few minutes.

Now, I think I want to turn, if I could, to one of the more systemic changes that we are considering presently, and that is the modernization and proposed changes we have for our recycling regime in the territory. In September this year, I announced that we would be seeking public comment on our plans to modernize the recycling regulations in order to meet current and future needs of Yukon communities. At the time, I indicated that updating the recycling regime will allow consumers to recycle more beverage containers, as well as key products, such as electronic waste and tires, out of our landfills.

The proposed changes affect the beverage container regulation and the designated materials regulation. A discussion document is available on-line, at territorial agent offices or Department of Environment district offices. Comments can be provided by mail, on-line, by fax or e-mail from September 18 to November 21. My colleague, the Minister of Community Services, at the time we announced that, indicated that those proposed changes reflect the government's continued commitment to promote recycling and responsible waste management throughout the territory.

The Yukon government began the current recycling system in 1992 in order to reduce the number of beverage containers going to the landfills and later added specific tires. The proposed changes will ensure that recycling fees will better cover the costs of diverting and processing recyclable materials by making all beverage containers subject to a recycling surcharge, requiring a recycling fee for all sizes of tires sold in the Yukon and requiring a recycling fee for many electronic and electrical products sold in the Yukon.

As I indicated, we are currently consulting on these and we hope to receive input from the public about these proposed changes, but I need to note that while these proposed changes are our vision going forward — and we think that it's a good one — we are open to other input from other levels of government or the public about these. For instance, we are interested in whether or not the new categorization of tires is an appropriate one. We have divided the tires into three categories: small, medium and large. I don't have the exact sizes with me currently, but we want to hear from Yukon businesses, Yukon people and other stakeholders about whether or not that categorization is appropriate.

We also want to hear about the plans for e-waste and whether or not the current categories and associated surcharges and fees are appropriate — if they are at the right level; if they are too high, too low; if they will cause some sort of undue impact on businesses that aren't prepared for that.

I met with the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses representative here in Whitehorse not too long ago who wanted to make Yukon government aware of some of the experience of other jurisdictions like British Columbia,

Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta, which have all had various experiences with this type of issue. That organization wanted to share some of the positive aspects and some of the challenges and negative aspects that were experienced in those areas.

The changes we're proposing are significant. They are important and I think they will go a long way in the long term to making the recycling regime in the Yukon more sustainable from a financial perspective, not only for processors, but for community depots and for the recycling fund itself.

As I've indicated before, we haven't publicly, through our consultation documents, said what the breakdown would be of the increased surcharge on beverage containers. Obviously we said there would be a five-cent increase per beverage container and that is what we're consulting on. What is important I think is what we do with that additional five cents. To date, in meetings, I've indicated to stakeholders that at this point our vision is to divide that money based on the current breakdown that we use, which includes of the five cents that is available, 2.5 cents goes to the community depot that receives the beverage container, 2.25 cents goes to the processor, and a quarter of a penny remains in the recycling fund for other initiatives, including educational campaigns and initiatives to encourage young people and Yukoners in general to recycle.

That's not something we are set in stone on. We are willing to look at other breakdowns for that additional money, if it's necessary, but I think that any community depot in any community throughout the Yukon would be encouraged to know that the per container fee they'll take in could be as much as doubled. That's very positive. The processors as well — the two processors are Raven Recycling and P&M Recycling, at this point. They would also be receiving a doubling of the amount of money they receive per beverage container, if that's the model we go with. That's an encouraging step. It's something that I believe processors, depots and those concerned about recycling in the territory should be aware of.

Our goal is to create a simple, consistent recycling regime that meets the current and future needs of Yukon communities. The proposed changes, if approved, will establish a financially sustainable system for recycling materials, encourage consumers to recycle more containers, as well as help keep harmful products, such as e-waste and tires, out of Yukon's landfills.

I also wanted to note why we chose e-waste as one of the new materials to include under a designated material regulation. The reason for that is they are one of the most expensive things to deal with in the waste stream. When you have e-products — whether it's a big-screen television, a computer or other electronic or electrical products — when you get those products into the waste stream through a landfill, other community dump or other facility, they can cause significant deleterious impacts on the site. So we want to try to reduce the amount of e-waste that is going into our landfills.

As I said, some of that e-waste ends up in our landfills and it falls to the Yukon government, to the taxpayer, to pay for the cleanup of those products. The intent of having a surcharge charged at the till for these products is to shift that burden from the taxpayers to the individual who buys and uses the product. I think that's a fair allocation of cost. The individual or person or business that purchases the product and will use and enjoy the product should also pay for the disposal cost of the product. Taxpayers — all Yukoners — shouldn't necessarily be left with that burden.

That's the intent of these changes. That's the mindset we've taken with proposing the changes. Obviously there will be some who aren't as keen about changes. I have heard from some that they think this will drive people to purchase some of their e-goods in other jurisdictions, provinces or territories.

I'm not convinced at this point that that is a significant concern. I think that most other jurisdictions already have these kinds of fees on electrical products elsewhere, so I don't think that it will necessarily cause a competitive disadvantage to Yukon by imposing that disposal fee at the front end. But I am interested to hear what Yukoners and Yukon businesses and the various stakeholders have to say about that. That is an issue that I hope we get good feedback on in the public consultation.

Likewise with tires, a similar argument could be made that if you impose a fee on tires purchased in the territory, it may encourage tire purchasers to go elsewhere to make their purchases. I appreciate the logic of the argument; I'm not convinced that is necessarily going to be the case. I think that people right now who purchase very large tires — for instance, large truck tires, tires that go on equipment — highway equipment, industrial equipment — don't pay any fee right now. They instead pay a tipping fee at the dump when they take those tires in. That is sort of a system change we want to see — is that the people who are using the product, the people who are purchasing the product, pay for that disposal fee upfront and then the tipping fee at the back end — at the disposal point — is removed.

We know that there would be some transition time with this. We know that that won't solve the problem immediately and we know that there will be some difficult transitional times because however many tires there are out there right now that are stockpiled in someone's back yard or someone's industrial lot, or wherever, that haven't had a surcharge applied to them at the point of purchase, should these regulation changes go forward, they wouldn't be subject to a tipping fee at the dump or at the landfill.

We understand that. There will be a transition period of a few years where we are taking in more tires than we have had paid for through the fund. That is something we hope to deal with and it will be a challenge we have to deal with in the transitional period. That is why I say that these changes are intended to be long term in nature; they are intended to be systemic; they are intended to change the general outlook and philosophy when it comes to waste disposal in the territory. That is profound, I think. I think that is important to make that shift.

I should note that these changes are not an extended producer responsibility model. That is something that we have had discussions about in this House previously. Obviously, as Yukon is a member of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, I have signed on to national agreements that we will continue to advance the interests of extended producer responsibility throughout the country. We decided that, at this point, it was more appropriate and that it was a better decision for us to move forward by expanding our stewardship model recycling system that we have in place now. That is what we have done. We have broadened the existing stewardship model, rather than go down the road to an EPR system at this point.

As we in this House all know, the changes that we made to the *Environment Act* not too long ago removed that legislative restriction on an EPR system. Future governments may want to consider an EPR system but the decision we took at this point, in 2014, given the state of our recycling system currently and the state of our economy — the state of our society — we chose to go with the expansion of the stewardship model instead.

That's something I'm obviously prepared to answer for and I know there will be questions about that going forward. I think that to switch wholesale to a new system at this point would be problematic. I think that these changes are going to be challenging enough without switching models completed.

That being said, I wouldn't rule out in future considering an EPR model, but I would note that there have been challenges in other jurisdictions that have gone the EPR route. Those challenges tend to fall on small businesses. They tend to fall on the businesses that aren't represented in bigger organizations. For instance, in British Columbia — Walmart, Coca Cola — big companies that have a lot of capacity to deal with issues of a systemic nature are able to engage and get their way a little bit easier, whereas small businesses — mom-and-pop shops or even companies with a few dozen people — don't necessarily have that in-house capacity to have an employee or a contractor on their behalf engage with the government or with a third party manager of their system the way that those bigger companies do. What we've heard is that the small businesses tend to feel the brunt of those systems a little bit more than bigger companies.

The details of that depend on the system you go with. I'm not saying that everything is terrible in British Columbia when it comes to recycling or that their model is not good. I'm simply acknowledging that there are challenges and those challenges are something we'd have to consider before we go down a path of that nature.

So I would also note that the changes to the *Environment Act* we made earlier removed the legislative restriction to extended producer responsibility but don't necessarily suggest that we are going down that road. That remains for future governments to determine whether or not they go down the EPR road or whether they choose some other option. Those options would, I'm sure, include the possibility of setting up a Yukon-specific system or borrowing a system from a neighbouring jurisdiction and working together to implement

it. For instance, someone suggested we simply just join with B.C. and their system, but whether or not that's a good decision or not, I won't comment on at this point.

Earlier I mentioned the significant funding that Yukon government has provided to Raven Recycling over the years. I wanted to note some of those projects because they are significant. When you look at Raven Recycling's yard and operations right now, there's almost nothing in their yard or in their operations that hasn't been somehow funded by Yukon government. Whether that's right or wrong, that is the case.

Whether it is the baler, for which they received \$75,000 through the community development fund, whether it's any of their two forklifts for which they received money from this community development fund, whether it's any of their feasibility studies or planning documents that they've completed over the last 10 years or so — those typically tend to have been funded by government in some way, shape or form. The community development fund has funded a considerable amount of their recycling education campaigns. They have received tens of thousands of dollars over the past few years for these kinds of campaigns to encourage the zero-waste philosophy and promote to Yukoners recycling and waste diversion in general. All of this has been done with the support of the Yukon government.

I should also note that it is not just Raven Recycling that has received these supports. Depots and recycling groups throughout the territory have received this kind of funding. Whether it's in Watson Lake or in Dawson, a number of the societies and depots throughout the territory have received — whether it's the Mount Lorne facility — all of these centres have at some point received funding from the Yukon government for their operations. That will continue.

I know that the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes likes to hold up Mount Lorne as an example, and he is right. Comparatively, it's an excellent facility. I'm quite sure they couldn't have done it without the support from the Yukon government, and I'm sure that other depots throughout Yukon's communities will look to Mount Lorne and seek government funding to emulate them. I'm sure that, when those applications come in, they will be supported, as they have been throughout the years.

I wanted to provide a little bit more background as well about the recycling system in Yukon; in particular, I wanted to note some of the work that we've done. Obviously, the work done by the City of Whitehorse has been considerable. The Member for Klondike noted that the City of Whitehorse has made some decisions based on some reports that they've done recently. I would note that the Department of Community Services funded their most recent report. I can't remember the exact amount or the percentage of it, but what the important thing is, is that we are partners in that. We will continue to be partners with the City of Whitehorse, moving forward, in addressing their needs as a municipality. They are a significant player in this and we can't possibly proceed unilaterally in this without crossing over into the City of Whitehorse's jurisdiction.

We know that we need to work with them. We know that they have a significant role to play, and we know that we have a significant role to play, and we fully intend to do that. We have already had discussions about moving forward with the possibility of funding some infrastructure with the City of Whitehorse. We don't know exactly what that will look like yet, because the city doesn't know exactly what that will look like yet either. We have indicated to them that there is money available through the Building Canada fund that has been earmarked specifically for recycling initiatives. There is significant funding that the Yukon government has available. Whether and exactly how we deliver that funding remains to be seen, but we are confident we will be able to find a path forward.

Again, I have to note that no one group, no one government, is solely responsible here. We need to work together. We have to be partners and we have to find a path forward that is going to work. Obviously the majority of recycling occurs in Whitehorse. The majority of the material comes from Whitehorse and the source of much of Yukon's waste, whether or not it's recyclable, comes from Whitehorse.

Three-quarters of the population of the Yukon resides in the City of Whitehorse, and as such, three-quarters of the waste and recyclables are also generated in this area. It is generally more economical to collect and process recyclables at the location where most of it is generated because of the inherent lower transfer and transportation costs. That is why a regional approach is important and why the relationship with municipalities is so important — whether it's Dawson City, Haines Junction or Whitehorse.

As I've mentioned, there are the two facilities in Whitehorse where recycling materials can be dropped off. These two facilities operate using different business models and service levels. Raven Recycling, of course, is a not-for-profit organization that operates a source-separated drop-off depot where customers separate their recyclables into their respective bins. P&M Recycling is a business that provides a full-service drop-off system, whereby residents drop off recyclables, which are then sorted by staff into respective bins. Curbside collection recyclables is available through a private sector contractor, and materials are collected throughout the city. The City of Whitehorse provides curbside collection for garbage and organic waste, food and yard waste to approximately 5500 single-family homes.

I think I'll just go ahead and move adjournment at this point, because I could —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Motion to adjourn debate

Mr. Dixon: I move that debate be now adjourned.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Environment that debate be now adjourned.

Motion to adjourn debate on Motion No. 741 agreed to

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Seeing the time, 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. tomorrow.

The House adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

The following Sessional Papers were tabled November 5, 2014

33-1-129

Yukon Energy Corporation Annual Report 2013 (Kent)

33-1-130

Yukon Development Corporation 2013 Annual Report (and Consolidated Financial Statements) (December 31, 2013) (Kent)

The following Written Question was tabled November 5, 2014

33-1-7

Re: Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges (Stick)

Written notice was given of the following motion on November 5, 2014:

Motion No: 760

Re: the role of small business owners in sustaining and developing Yukon's economy (McLeod)