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HANSARD

Monday, October 26, 2015 — 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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NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PORTFOLIO
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Hon. Elaine Taylor	Whitehorse West	Deputy Premier Minister responsible for Tourism and Culture; Women's Directorate; French Language Services Directorate
Hon. Brad Cathers	Lake Laberge	Minister responsible for Justice; Yukon Development Corporation/ Yukon Energy Corporation
Hon. Doug Graham	Porter Creek North	Minister responsible for Education
Hon. Scott Kent	Riverdale North	Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources; Highways and Public Works
Hon. Currie Dixon	Copperbelt North	Minister responsible for Community Services; Public Service Commission
Hon. Wade Istchenko	Kluane	Minister responsible for Environment
Hon. Mike Nixon	Porter Creek South	Minister responsible for Health and Social Services; Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board
Hon. Stacey Hassard	Pelly-Nisutlin	Minister responsible for Economic Development; Yukon Housing Corporation; Yukon Liquor Corporation

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Liberal Party

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**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Monday, October 26, 2015 — 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 Autism Awareness Month

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I rise in the House today on behalf of all members to ask that we recognize October as Autism Awareness Month.

Autism spectrum disorder, also referred to as “ASD” or simply “autism” is a neurological disorder that causes developmental disability. Autism affects the way the brain functions, resulting in difficulties with communication, social interaction, unusual patterns of behaviour, activities and interests.

The term “spectrum” refers to a continuum of severity or developmental impairment. For instance, this can refer to the number or type of symptoms an individual has, the age of onset, level of functioning, and challenges with social interactions. Autism affects individuals from all racial, ethnic and social backgrounds and from all income and education levels.

Individuals on the autism spectrum tend to have varying degrees and combinations of symptoms, and therefore treatment must be specific to the individual and be family-centred. It’s also important to keep in mind that individuals with autism vary widely in their needs and their skills and their abilities. There’s no standard type or typical person with autism spectrum disorder.

Knowing the early signs that lead to early diagnosis can lead to optimal outcomes. To help ensure an early and accurate diagnosis, Health and Social Services provides funding to the Child Development Centre, which coordinates the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder in preschool-aged children. We also offer the family supports for children with disabilities program, which provides services to children with disabilities, such as autism, and their families from birth to age 19.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Autism Yukon in raising awareness of autism here in the territory. Autism Yukon plays an important role in providing information and education to families and service providers. It is no secret that I am a co-founder of Autism Yukon and a proud parent of a 14-year-old son who has autism. To celebrate October as Autism Awareness Month, Autism Yukon will be hosting a movie night on Wednesday, October 28 at the Beringia Interpretive Centre. The movie *Temple Grandin* is a true story that follows a woman with autism who revolutionized practice

for the humane handling of livestock. I should also mention, Mr. Speaker, that Autism Yukon will be in fact hosting Temple Grandin right here in Whitehorse next March.

Lastly, I would like to recognize the professionals, the parents and the caregivers who have worked diligently over the last few years — and as far back as 2002, when my son was diagnosed — to put services in place to ensure the best possible outcome for those living with autism spectrum disorder. I would also like to say thanks to those Yukoners working in the public sector, in restaurants, at Air North, Yukon’s airline, and in grocery stores, and to local bank tellers, landlords and so on, who are extremely accepting and accommodating to those with autism and their families.

Autism is a disorder that needs our attention, awareness, and it needs our understanding, not only during Autism Awareness Month, but throughout the year.

I would ask all members to join me in welcoming Leslie Peters, who is the executive director from Autism Yukon and Shirley Chua-Tan, who is a board member and a parent of a son with autism. Welcome.

Applause

In recognition of 30th anniversary of École Émilie Tremblay

Hon. Mr. Graham: I rise today to acknowledge the 30th anniversary of the naming of the territory’s French first language program in honour of a Yukon pioneer.

But before I begin with the tribute I wish to first of all apologize to the École Émilie Tremblay and to the Member for Takhini-Kopper King, who I am sure will be doing her tribute in French. I’m sure my colleague, the Minister of Tourism and Culture, would have done a much better job in French language than I would have with this tribute, but I am very passionate about French language instruction in the territory. I have been for a number of years. Some time ago I was the minister who started the French immersion program from which wonderful graduates such as the Member for Takhini-Kopper King graduated, and I felt that I would like to make this tribute, even though it’s in the English language, in honour of a Yukon pioneer who made history by, among other accomplishments, being the first non-First Nation woman to make the long and arduous trek over the Chilkoot Trail — I refer of course to Émilie Tremblay and the program that was named after her.

I say “program” because, in October 1985, the standalone French first language school that bears Madame Tremblay’s name was still 11 years away. On October 23, 1985, members of this House debated a motion put forward by the Member for Faro that read, “THAT it is the opinion of this House that the Government of Yukon, in full recognition of Canada’s bilingual and bicultural heritage, should properly designate the ‘French First Language’ program as ‘École Émilie Tremblay.’”

At the time, the program for Yukon children entitled to a French education under section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* was simply referred to as “French first language”. The Member for Faro felt that a better name was

warranted, and members of the 26th Legislative Assembly agreed with him.

Yukon's French first language program had started the year before with 34 children in two multi-grade classes spanning grades 1 to 6. The program was housed in the basement of Whitehorse Elementary School until 1990 when it moved to pre-fab facilities on Nisutlin Drive in Riverdale. In 1996, École Émilie Tremblay began offering classes in a permanent home with the construction of the current school building on Falcon Drive in Granger. Madame Tremblay's name was on a list of possible names for the French first language program given to the government by Canadian Parents for French in 1985 and was later adopted following the passing of the Member for Faro's motion.

I would like to share a few details of Madame Tremblay's life. They provide a sound rationale for that 30-year-old decision. Émilie and her new husband Pierre, a fellow Quebecer, set off on their honeymoon in March 1894 — destination, Yukon. They arrived in Forty Mile three months later, where Madame Tremblay began learning English as a second language. She left some time later to visit her ailing mother. She took a long and circuitous trip to Quebec via the Bering Sea but returned in 1898 — her second trek over the Chilkoot Trail.

In that historic year, she and her husband were accompanied by thousands of gold seekers. In fact, they were on the trail at the time of the Easter slide, and they were among those who attended to the injured and dead before resuming their return trip to the Klondike. In Dawson City, where Émilie and Pierre established their home, Madame Tremblay took part in numerous charitable works. Just to name a few examples, she organized a Christmas tree event for miners in the Dawson City area, she organized and took part in the First World War program to knit socks for soldiers overseas, she founded the Society of the Ladies of the Golden North in 1922 and she was president of the Yukon Women Pioneers, which was kind of a forerunner for women of the Yukon Order of Pioneers. For 27 years — from 1913 to 1940 — Émilie owned and operated a small novelty store called Madame Tremblay's Store. Its popularity grew over the years and it remained highly characteristic of Dawson City.

Émilie had no children of her own, but she adopted one of her nieces and was godmother to 26 First Nation, Métis and white children in the Dawson City area.

She was awarded a life membership in the Daughters of the Empire and received a commemorative coronation medal from King George VI in 1937.

I think that members of this House will agree that our predecessors 30 years ago chose a fitting name for a program that continues to serve our vibrant francophone community today. We are all, French and English speakers alike, greatly enriched by that community and by the educational opportunities afforded by our French first language school.

Congratulations on this 30th anniversary to École Émilie Tremblay and best wishes for a great future.

Ms. White: Monsieur le président, c'est un honneur pour moi de souligner le trentième anniversaire de l'École Émilie Tremblay au nom du NPD du Yukon et du 3^e parti.

Quelle réussite pour une petite juridiction comme la nôtre de célébrer un tel anniversaire pour une école de langue française au nord du 60^e parallèle.

Merci aux pionniers, dont Émilie Tremblay elle-même, qui ont mis de l'avant une vision inclusive de ce que pourrait être le Yukon.

Nous reconnaissons que le travail incessant de la communauté franco-yukonnaise a permis la construction de l'école en partenariat avec le gouvernement fédéral.

L'École Émilie Tremblay est essentielle au développement de la communauté francophone, de la communauté de Whitehorse et de tout le Yukon.

Nous reconnaissons que les citoyens formés à l'École Émilie Tremblay participent activement à faire du Yukon une société plus juste et équitable.

Nous devrions célébrer le fait que les succès de l'éducation francophone exige maintenant la construction d'une nouvelle école secondaire que la communauté francophone souhaite partager avec l'ensemble du Yukon sous la forme d'un centre scolaire-communautaire. Le Yukon peut devenir un modèle canadien de l'intégration des communautés de langue en situation minoritaire.

Merci à tous ceux et celles qui ont participé aux premiers trente ans de l'École Émilie Tremblay. J'envisage avec espoir un autre 30 ans d'innovation et d'inclusion. Merci.

In recognition of the Yukon Youth Conservation Corps and Conservation Action Team

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I rise today on behalf of this House to pay tribute to what has been a very successful environmental education program over the last two and a half decades.

The Yukon Youth Conservation Corps — Y2C2 — and the Conservation Action Team, otherwise known as CAT — both celebrated significant anniversaries after years of successful programming.

We are fortunate enough today to have Mr. Remy Rodden with us today in the balcony. Mr. Rodden is a manager of environmental education and youth programs and has been with the program since their start in 1990 and has been instrumental in designing and supporting these groups. Over the past quarter-century, these programs have inspired an appreciation for the environment and conservation in Yukon youth across the territory.

CAT began operations in 1990 and continues to offer rare opportunities for our young Yukoners to learn about the experiences and natural wonders found in our territory. Each summer, the program offers three camps for youth — two Cheechako camps for sixth- and seventh-graders and a Sourdough camp for eighth- and ninth-graders. These Yukon government-funded camps offer eight to 10 days of travel and exploration by van, canoe and foot. Topics and activities include: ecology and wildlife management, hunting, trapping, fishing, mining and agriculture. With an average of 30

campers each summer, more than 700 youth have participated in the camps since their creation.

The Yukon Youth Conservation Corps program began in 1992. Its purpose is to offer training and opportunity for Yukon youth interested in environmental conservation. Activities include: wildlife research, public education, trail-building, water and garbage cleanups, invasive weed-pulls and infrastructure development.

In August, the two programs held an anniversary retreat at the Kusawa Lake campground. All past participants of the CAT and Y2C2 programs, as well as their families, were invited to join in the celebration, including campfire gatherings, a group dinner, and a retrospective slide presentation. This gathering brought past participants from all over the Yukon and as far away as Alberta.

As the minister, I am very pleased to hear the enthusiasm expressed by all past participants about the impact these camps have had on their lives. One former CAT participant who is now a Fish and Wildlife technician for Environment Yukon said, “I was fortunate to be one of the first conservation action team. I remember it was a great summer adventure of seeing different parts of the Yukon and making friends from other communities.”

If that doesn't say it all, maybe the numbers will. Here are some interesting statistics from Environment Yukon youth programs: since the start of the program, there have been 74 CAT camps providing experience for over 733 students and campers; 491 high school and post-secondary students hired for summer work, completing 652 Y2C2 projects; more than 650 kindergarten to grade 7 students engaged in class visits each year; and an incalculable number of moments experienced.

So I would like to thank the organizers and the instructors who have enabled this program to run so successfully for a quarter of a century. I'm sure some of us were part of that program and some of us know people — talk to them every day — on an average, meet someone who has been part of one these programs. So I would also encourage Yukoners to find out more about Environment Yukon's Yukon youth program, available to you or your children by talking to the department. I'm proud of the work that has been accomplished by these programs, and I look forward to many successful years to come.

Please help me in welcoming Remy Rodden, who is in the gallery today, and give him a warm welcome. Thank you.

Applause

Speaker: Introduction of visitors.

Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 89: Act to Amend the Municipal Act — Introduction and First Reading

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I move that Bill No. 89, entitled *Act to Amend the Municipal Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Community Services that Bill No. 89, entitled *Act to Amend the Municipal Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 89 agreed to

Bill No. 92: Act to Amend the Travel for Medical Treatment Act — Introduction and First Reading

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I move that Bill No. 92, entitled *Act to Amend the Travel for Medical Treatment Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Health and Social Services that Bill No. 92, entitled *Act to Amend the Travel for Medical Treatment Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 92 agreed to

Speaker: Are there any further bills to be introduced?
Notices of motions.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to support:

(1) the creation of a Yukon regional roundtable for missing and murdered indigenous women and girls to be held in February 2016, which will include family members of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, elders and youth, government leaders, Yukon aboriginal women's organizations, Council of Yukon First Nations, Assembly of First Nations, the Association of Yukon Communities and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, to share information on the Yukon context and culturally relevant best practices, and to collaborate on initiatives to improve safety and support for indigenous women and girls in the territory; and

(2) the Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle in hosting a Yukon family gathering, which will include family members of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls to be held in December 2015.

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

THAT, in the spirit of reconciliation, the Government of Yukon withdraw its support for the four unilateral amendments to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* contained in Bill S-6; and

THAT this government convey to the federal government this House's desire to see those amendments removed.

Ms. Moorcroft: I rise to give notice of the following motion for the production of papers:

THAT this House do order the return of the report prepared by the Yukon government deputy ministers that reviewed the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to review changes it made to the *Financial Administration Act* in 2012 in light of the recent ruling by the Supreme Court of British Columbia which found that laws prohibiting people from sleeping in public places violates section 7 of the Charter, which protects individuals' safety and security of person.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to hold a public meeting to discuss the new Whistle Bend continuing care facility and to ensure both the Premier and the current Minister of Health and Social Services attend.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to support Yukon First Nations in their efforts to have the four problematic clauses removed from Bill S-6.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon, in the interest of ensuring informed debate, to release a report prepared by the Yukon government deputy ministers that reviewed the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada that fall within Yukon's jurisdiction, before any debate occurs on Motion No. 1014.

Speaker: Is there a statement by a minister?

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: Before proceeding to today's Question Period, the Chair will further rule on a point of order that was raised during Question Period last Thursday by the Official Opposition House Leader. At end of his ruling, the Chair committed to review the Blues and give a further ruling, if required. This is a procedure that is done every morning during our Sittings.

After reviewing the events of last Thursday, I believe a further ruling is required in order to make clear what might have not been clear as events unfolded. During last Thursday's Question Period, the Minister of Education said that the Member for Riverdale South had misquoted him. He went on to say — and I quote: "She did not tell the truth in the letter that she sent out to all MLAs". As the Chair said in his ruling on Thursday, members are free to present the facts as they see fit inside this House and outside of it. However, there

are limits on the language that members may use in the House when contesting the facts presented by other members. It is a long-standing tradition of parliaments that members are to treat each other honourably, even when they disagree. For one member to say, as the Minister of Education did on Thursday, that another member "did not tell the truth" falls short of that standard, and the Chair should have ruled that language out of order.

As I did on Thursday, I would again remind members that when it comes to unparliamentary language, they should be careful with their comments whether they have the floor, or not. Although off-mic comments are not recorded in Hansard, they are heard by other members and can also contribute to disorder in the House.

As a matter of procedure, I would like to remind members that, pursuant to Standing Order 6(1), no debate is permitted on rulings from the Chair. In other words, a Speaker's ruling on a point of order is final. I hope this statement clarifies the situation for members.

We will now proceed to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Economic outlook

Ms. Hanson: It is an unfortunate fact that the Conference Board of Canada hit the nail on the head when it said that it has been a difficult three years for the Yukon economy. That is not to say that the Yukon has not set some records. Just last year, Yukon stood head and shoulders below the crowd as the only jurisdiction in Canada to see our economy shrink two years in a row. Our economy is expected to continue the race to the bottom with a projected 3.4-percent decline in real GDP this year. While this government fiddles to the tune of its made-in-the-Yukon recession, more and more Yukoners are struggling. The number of Yukoners accessing employment insurance doubled over the last 12 months. This government's track record is that Yukoners are worse off today than they were in the depths of the 2008 recession.

When will this government finally tap into the wealth of opportunities we have north of 60 and turn the page on this made-in-Yukon recession?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: This government continues to focus and use the levers that it has to ensure that, as we come out of this period of time when we see a decrease in the mining cycle — that as we come out of it — we are much better prepared than we were.

We can invest in infrastructure. We can invest in telecommunications infrastructure and we can invest in transportation infrastructure. We invest in energy infrastructure as well. We continue to invest in training through the creation of the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining, the purchase of a mobile trades training trailer. We continue to work on improving our regulatory and permitting regimes to ensure that we eliminate the duplication and essentially straighten that pathway through those processes, making those processes more efficient than they were before.

We continue to manage Yukon's resources in good times and bad. We are the envy of this entire nation when it comes to financial management.

Ms. Hanson: Yukoners expect that the doubling of EI recipients in one year's time would be a wake-up call for this government. Yukoners expect that a projected third consecutive year of economic decline would make this government question the direction it has taken so far. Yet all we hear is more of the same.

This government continues to put all its eggs in the oil and gas basket instead of planning to create good jobs by strategically diversifying our economy. This irresponsible approach to the economy has caused Yukon's economic growth to decline every single year since this Premier took office.

Does the Premier believe that by-invitation-only private meetings will make Yukoners forget this government's economic track record?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: We continue to invest in Yukon — the latest example being the Yukon Now marketing campaign, the largest marketing investment in Yukon's territory. I know that the members opposite had the opportunity to view these commercials. Certainly what we have heard from industry are fantastic comments about how great those commercials are and how we continue to invest in that industry. We continue to invest in the knowledge economy, an economy that rivals tourism in terms of their contribution to the GDP. We continue to invest in areas such as the Yukon Research Centre, creating the opportunity to leverage innovations and entrepreneurs in bringing new products to market that over the long term could have some very positive benefits even from a manufacturing perspective.

This government knows that we are in an economic downturn because we cannot control the price of commodities. We do know that we are a mining industry. This is a cornerstone of our economy. In the past 12 years, we have seen our population rise by more than 6,000 people through primarily growth in the mining industry. We have leveraged that. We continue to diversify our economy and we'll continue to do so.

Ms. Hanson: Yukoners do know that the Yukon Party regularly reduces the incredible wealth of Yukon's human and natural resources to a simplistic catchphrase: so goes mining, so goes the Yukon.

The trouble is that it is difficult to find any evidence showing this government is good news even for the mining sector. For example, while the Premier has been busy battling Yukon First Nations in court and telling mining executives from Colorado and elsewhere that our territory is a good place to invest, the Fraser Institute reports that 30 percent of surveyed mining executives list court challenges and uncertainty as factors preventing them from investing in Yukon, a number that has more than doubled since 2010.

Is the Premier ready to acknowledge that respecting modern treaties is essential to the future of Yukon's mining sector?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: We continue to invest in this territory — the largest capital budget in Yukon's history, which comes on the heels of the largest capital budget in Yukon's history in the previous year.

We'll continue to work with First Nations, ensuring that they are equal partners in the economy going forward. There are numerous examples. I know that we'll be coming to debates as well to talk about and to highlight some of the great work that we've done — recently, partnering with Kluane First Nation in terms of the creation of wind turbines to support renewable energy in their community. We have a myriad of great examples of working together and we will continue to foster capacity development for First Nations, creating opportunities for them to invest, as in the recent investment by Kwanlin Dün First Nation with Yukon Development Corporation, investing in the LNG plant.

We will continue to work with First Nations. We'll continue to ensure that their voices are heard through projects like the mine licensing improvement initiative, because in the end, mining is the primary example of an economy — what we have to offer in this territory — and it is through that industry that we will see that growth and diversification across our entire economy.

Question re: F.H. Collins Secondary School reconstruction

Ms. Moorcroft: The F.H. Collins replacement debacle is now in its seventh year, and from the looks of the supplementary budget, this Yukon Party government has no intention of letting their streak end. The supplementary budget allocates nearly \$5 million more for the replacement of F.H. Collins and its tech wing, bringing the projected cost of the replacement to over \$50 million.

The initial replacement school, which students, teachers and parents all had input on, was actually big enough, had plans for geothermal heating, and would have been built by a local company, but it was cancelled by the Yukon Party because of its \$47-million price tag. Now we have a school that is too small and that will cost millions more than the made-in-Yukon design that was rejected for being too costly.

Can the Premier explain why the tab keeps climbing for an option that was chosen for its supposed cost-savings?

Hon. Mr. Kent: The Yukon government is very pleased with the construction progress on the new F.H. Collins school. It's an affordable design for a modern facility that is designed to meet LEED silver energy-efficiency standards. Construction started last year and it's now complete. The project is on budget and on schedule to open for students sometime after Christmas.

A number of us on this side of the House have been fortunate enough to tour the facility, not only through the construction — the Minister of Education and I, but more recently, now that the facility is complete and is being fitted out with furniture and other opportunities.

I think one of the important things that the member opposite neglects to mention in her preamble and question is that the \$48-million price tag that came in initially for the

school was for construction only. It was \$10 million overbudget. We made a decision at that time to go with a different design, a design for a number of students that exists already in Alberta and has been constructed successfully and economically in that jurisdiction. Prices for that came in at around \$17 million less than that \$48 million.

The entire funding envelope will include things like the demolition of the school, site infrastructure, and other things like the upgrades to the tech wing, which wouldn't have been done to the extent that they are, had we gone with the original design. Still, this project will come in under the original budget expectations, especially given that \$10-million overrun we experienced.

Ms. Moorcroft: These figures are public. If you add up all the expenditures from 2008-09 to the projected budget for 2016 for F.H. Collins replacement, you get more than a \$50-million tab and a textbook case of how not to manage a capital project.

When you leave out the cost for the tech wing, the furniture, the operational equipment and the track and field, you still get a cost of over \$49 million, which is more than the \$47.7-million bid from Ketz that was rejected as too costly.

Mr. Speaker, when will this government take responsibility for the ongoing F.H. Collins replacement cost overruns?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Had we gone with the original design for F.H. Collins, before there were even boots on the ground there, we were \$10 million over the construction budget of \$38 million. Of course there are a number of other aspects when it comes to delivering a capital project of this size, such as demolition of the old school, site infrastructure, and other preparations that would have needed to be done.

Members will remember that, as part of that original design, we would have had to place a temporary gymnasium on what is now the soccer field. That's another cost that has to be factored in.

When it comes to this school, I know it's going to be something that the entire F.H. Collins school community will be proud of. It's a fantastic facility with great sightlines and we look forward to holding an open house in December to introduce the entire school community to that fantastic facility and what it's going to offer. As I mentioned, it's modelled after a design in Alberta that was built successfully and economically.

When it comes to our delivery of capital works, I think something that's important to note is that when it comes to vertical infrastructure or buildings, 14 of the last 15 major capital works projects from 2010 to 2015 have been awarded to local general contractors, and the F.H. Collins project itself — close to 74 percent is local labour, and a significant number of local subcontractors were involved in building that facility — again, one that we will be very proud of.

Ms. Moorcroft: The original plan for F.H. Collins' replacement was cancelled for being costly. Now it's apparent the promised cost savings will not pan out. But it's not just the increasingly climbing costs that are an unfortunate part of this mismanagement. The new school represents missed

opportunities — missed opportunities to have a school designed to meet Yukon students' and teachers' needs, missed opportunities to have a high school built by a Yukon company, and, last but not least, missed opportunities to have the school open remotely on schedule.

How does this government justify all of the missed opportunities that were lost when they cancelled the original plan now that the promised cost savings have all but evaporated?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: The NDP is asking Yukoners to listen to them with some sense of credibility on this issue. Listening back to previous sessions and some of the things that the NDP said about this project — for example, they said we were building a school for only 400 or 450 students. They said that there wasn't enough insulation in this building. They said that we weren't building this to a construction code that met the building codes. They said that it didn't have the learning spaces. These are all accusations that have come from the NDP — all of which were dispelled. We have built a beautiful school.

Many of the people on this side have already had an opportunity — I've spoken to teachers and parents and students who are excited to be able to move in there. Perhaps the opposition should go for a tour of this school as well and see what an incredible facility we've built for Yukon students.

Question re: YESAA process

Mr. Silver: I have a question for the Premier. For the last two years, the Government of Yukon worked hand in hand with the former Conservative government in Ottawa and our former Member of Parliament to pass S-6. A visit to the territory by Prime Minister Harper during the federal election campaign confirmed that the four problematic sections of the bill came from the Premier and the Yukon Party government.

Yukon First Nations are strongly opposed to these four sections and sued the Government of Canada over them. Despite the lawsuit, the Premier continued to back the federal government's approach and even endorsed our former MP and his approach. The new federal government has vowed to repeal the four sections of the bill.

Will the Premier now support the new federal government's decision to repeal these amendments?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: As I have spoken and stated in this House and outside this House many, many times, the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* and Bill S-6 are federal legislation. It is federal legislation. This government will not be a barrier if the new federal government decides to make amendments to their federal legislation.

I have stated that I do believe that there is another path forward. I have spoken to First Nations. I have reached out to them to have a discussion — a conversation — on how we can move forward. I was happy to report last week that First Nations have agreed to sit down. They would like to have a trilateral conversation. I have said that I am more than willing to co-sponsor a letter to the new Prime Minister encouraging that conversation.

In the end, as I have always stated, Yukoners support an opportunity for economic investment and any time that we can have a legislation that allows us to be on a level playing field, consistent with other jurisdictions — that's a good thing.

Mr. Silver: Yukon First Nations have been very clear. They are not interested in implementation of the four contentious amendments in Bill S-6. They are only interested in striking out those problematic four clauses from the bill.

For the record, they are also not impressed with the Premier's offer to help them write letters to a new Prime Minister either.

Many First Nations chiefs, development corporations and individual First Nation people want to see resource development proceed. Now, the Yukon Party government does as well, but it has demonstrated that it is incapable of working with Yukon First Nations to achieve this common goal. The fact that Yukon First Nation governments are in court over S-6 and the fact that the major problem is the last-minute changes championed by this Premier prove that. The Yukon Party's approach has eroded trust between the two levels of government to the point where it is impossible to repair.

Does the Premier now see the negative his approach has had on the economy and will he now support seeing these four amendments scrapped?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: As I have stated, this is federal legislation. This government will not be a barrier to the federal government making amendments if they so choose. There is another path forward and I'm pleased to say that Yukon First Nations have agreed to sit down and have that conversation and I look forward to that conversation.

In the end, it is federal legislation, it always has been and if they choose to make amendments this government will not be a barrier.

Mr. Silver: It's very unfortunate that the Yukon Party continues to take the path of most resistance when it comes to First Nation relations.

There is no support for these four amendments that were added at the last minute by his government. The new Government of Canada has recognized this and has signalled it will remove them. There are still improvements to our environmental assessment process that absolutely need to happen. What this government doesn't seem to grasp after four years in office is that they have to be part of a good-faith negotiation process between different levels of government. Yukon First Nation governments are having a hard time trusting the Yukon Party. Neither the lawsuit nor the defeat of the local Conservative candidate seems to have made that message clear to the Premier. Continuing to support four failed amendments that have had no consultation is not a good start.

When is the Premier going to accept the fact that his four amendments are dead in the water?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: What is obvious is that the Leader of the Liberal Party didn't have anything else to say after I answered the question originally. He continued on with his prepared speech that his staff provided him with. I was very

clear to say that the new federal government — if they choose to make amendments to their legislation, this government will not be a barrier. I have reached out prior to the tabling of that legislation to see whether or not there was an opportunity for conversation with First Nations. They have agreed to that conversation. I am willing to sign a joint letter urging the Prime Minister to have his people go forward on a trilateral discussion about these amendments. In the end, we believe that having an environmental process that is consistent with other jurisdictions allows this jurisdiction to remain more competitive.

Question re: Nurse shortages

Ms. Stick: Chronic understaffing and vacant positions for nurses across Yukon's community health centres are resulting in a crisis level of nursing turnover and putting Yukoners at risk. Last spring there were seven community nursing vacancies. This autumn, the minister said that 11 of 40 community nursing positions are vacant and being filled by auxiliaries, but the Yukon Employees Union has since corrected the minister, stating that there are just 22.5 staff nursing positions serving rural Yukoners. With 11 vacancies, that would represent a 50-percent nursing shortage. It is clear that the situation is going from bad to worse. Ongoing nurse turnover is a symptom of a lack of supports that community nurses require from this government.

Can the minister explain this critical failure to support to support community nurses, which has left the government needing to hire 50 percent more to meet its own staffing —

Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: First of all, I want to recognize and acknowledge the incredibly important role that community nurses play in our health care system. In many communities, nurses are the first point of contact for citizens facing a tremendous variety of issues. Community nurses really are the keystones of health care provision in many parts of the Yukon.

That being said, recruitment and retention of community nurses has been and is today very challenging. This is not unique to Yukon. It is a challenge faced right across the country and especially so in areas with significant rural and remote communities, as Yukon has. We are aware that some concerns about specific communities and specific scenarios have been raised by the union — the YEU — and we are more than willing to come to the table and help find creative or innovative solutions to deal with these.

This is a year when we are in the midst of negotiating a new collective agreement, and the issue of community nurse recruitment and retention is always on the agenda and will certainly be this year as well. We look forward to trying to address these issues during the upcoming round of bargaining. Obviously, we won't be negotiating collective agreements on the floor of the Legislature, but we look forward to meeting with the YEU, with nurses and other stakeholders to explore solutions to this very pressing challenge.

Ms. Stick: Yes, the nurses have a hard job to do and they do exemplary work in our communities. Our community

nurses provide 24-hour primary and emergency care, often without backup, and as vacancies go unfilled, daily workloads compound and nurses burn out. The Yukon Employees Union recently said — and I quote: “Nurses tell us that vacant positions remain unfilled. Medical centres that are intended to be staffed by two nurses at all times frequently rely on a single nurse.”

Departmental nurse-alone hour statistics support these comments. We have heard from nurses, Mr. Speaker. They are regularly working alone in medical centres throughout the Yukon communities. This places working-alone nurses at great risk personally. Will the minister acknowledge that severe understaffing is putting both the nurses and communities at risk?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Community nurses are truly the first line of health services in many Yukon communities and they face challenges on a daily basis that can be very difficult. This is also true with all of our nurses throughout the territory. These jobs are not easy and we certainly appreciate all that they do for a number of our Yukon communities. We are always concerned about the challenges facing our staff, especially our health care staff throughout Yukon, who are so very important to Yukoners. I am always open to meeting with reps from the nurses association and I do hear of issues from time to time from communities and from MLAs. Those issues are forwarded to the department and they make every effort to quickly address any issues and ensure that our nurses are properly supported.

Ms. Stick: But what is this government doing? Yukoners are tired of hearing about poor management of the health file again and again. In April and May 2015, I asked this government why there continued to be vacancies for community nurses and float nurses across the Yukon. We received non-answers those times and again today.

In this government’s own reports in 2010 and in 2014, we heard that our community nurses are not getting the resources and the supports they require to do their jobs, yet the problems persist and grow even worse in the absence of government action. Our community nurses are doing their best in providing exemplary care and showing leadership day in and day out.

What will the minister do to show that same level of leadership today and start to resolve this long-standing problem?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I thank the member opposite for her question. The Department of Health and Social Services is continually being creative with its recruitment and retention strategies for staffing health care centres throughout the territory. Certainly recruitment is done both on a formal and an informal basis. We utilize various job sites and nursing websites to advertise. Certainly word-of-mouth recruitment has always been one of the most successful methods. Health and Social Services also attends job fairs across Canada, and, over the last few years, they have also included one in western Canada — just this September, a couple of months ago. So we do recognize that there are challenges in the recruitment of health care professionals to our territory. To meet these

challenges, we have been executing our plan to deliver health care across Yukon and keep Yukoners in their homes as long as possible.

Health and Social Services works extensively with the nurses association and with Yukon communities to attract and to retain nurses long term. We’ve also invested in significant resources toward that same goal.

Question re: McGowan lands development

Mr. Barr: Mr. Speaker, on October 15, the Yukon Party government announced they were opening up the McGowan lands to a private developer to build a subdivision. The minister calls it a win-win situation for everyone, but in the minister’s world, “everyone” doesn’t include the residents of the rural community of Mount Lorne who happen to live next to the McGowan lands and have long opposed a big subdivision being built there. The Mount Lorne Hamlet Council was not told of this decision. They weren’t even consulted.

Why does the Yukon Party government feel it doesn’t need to consult the local government on an important matter for the residents of Mount Lorne?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Just to clarify for the member opposite, what we announced earlier this month is that First Nation consultation is underway with three affected First Nations on our proposal to put that parcel of land out to the private sector to have them be the developer.

I guess it’s worth taking a step back. The Mount Lorne community and the hamlet council have been aware of Yukon government’s intentions to plan and develop land in the McGowan area since 2005 as an alternative to spot land applications and dispositions. In 2005, area residents expressed a preference for seeing demand for residential land accommodated through planned land development as an alternative to the ad hoc nature of spot land dispositions.

In April 2012, EMR initiated consultation on proposed amendments to the Hamlet of Mount Lorne and Carcross Road area plan in the Mount Lorne development area regulation to allow for subdivision of rural residential properties in the first phase of the agriculture and rural residential development project in the McGowan area. To suggest that residents of the area were unaware of our plans, I think, is certainly an inaccurate statement by the member opposite.

There are a number of additional opportunities for public input into this. Should we come out with a favourable conclusion following the First Nation consultations, there will be YESAA as well as zoning and plan amendment stages that will allow for local area input and the input of all Yukoners who are interested in this type of land.

Mr. Barr: This is a new announcement with a new agenda.

First Nation partnership in land development is a great concept, and the NDP wholeheartedly supports partnership to satisfy land demands and economic development. First Nations should be involved in these types of development decisions, as should all local residents likely to be impacted.

The timing of the Yukon Party's plan for McGowan is curious — right after municipal elections, after veteran members of the hamlet council had retired and before the new council had even met and set their council executive.

Why wouldn't the government consult with the hamlet council, and why would they choose to make this announcement before the new hamlet council has a chance to have their first meeting?

Hon. Mr. Kent: As I mentioned, it was 10 years ago that area residents were made aware of YG's intention to develop agricultural and rural residential properties in the McGowan lands just down the Carcross Road. Again, Mr. Speaker, in November 2014, EMR held a public open house to solicit feedback from the community on two conceptual subdivision designs for planned agriculture and rural residential lots in this area.

The results of that public consultation of course need to be balanced with options for proceeding, including the possibility of selling the raw land to a private developer, which is the model that we've chosen to do.

There is a significant demand for rural residential and agricultural lots within the Whitehorse periphery. We've seen a number of developments take place on the northern part of Whitehorse in the Lake Laberge area, such as the Grizzly Valley subdivision. We feel that this McGowan land provides an opportunity, not only for us to meet the demand of other Yukoners who are seeking this type of lifestyle, but also the opportunity for the private sector to be involved in developing land, something that has been traditionally done by the Yukon government.

Again, we're looking forward to the conclusion of the First Nation consultation and then of course the other public input that will take place following that.

Mr. Barr: The minister's win-win situation does not include the very people who live in the area. I guess they are the losers in this land scheme.

Mount Lorne residents have long been clear they didn't want to see a big subdivision in the McGowan lands, yes. It was written into their 1995 local area plan, which allowed for eight new lots to be added each year. This slower land rollout would have a small impact on residents and wildlife, including the recovering Southern Lakes caribou herd.

But a curious thing happened two years ago. The Yukon Party changed the law giving the minister the power to override Mount Lorne's local area plan.

Why did the Yukon Party not come clean with the public and level with them that the 2013 changes giving the minister a trump card were in order to grab the McGowan lands and nullify the community's local area plan?

Hon. Mr. Kent: We certainly recognize the concerns of area residents when it comes to additional development in their neighbourhood. Again we have to balance that with the needs of other Yukoners — Yukoners who are looking for this type of lifestyle for rural residential. Of course we've talked on a number of occasions in this House about the need for additional agricultural parcels as well.

This isn't the end of public consultation and input. There will be zoning amendments required if we're successful and the First Nation consultations proceed. There will also be YESAA — the need for the successful proponent to go through the YESAA process, which include a number of opportunities for the public to provide input including the hamlet council at Mount Lorne.

What we're trying to accomplish here is to satisfy a need and a demand for rural residential lots, something that I know the City of Whitehorse is not interested in proceeding with within the city boundaries. We want to identify areas close to the municipal boundary where individuals that choose this lifestyle and want to live this lifestyle — like the residents who are in this area already — can do so and also give the opportunity for the private sector to be able to develop land in the Yukon for the use of Yukoners.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BILLS

Bill No. 20: *Second Appropriation Act, 2015-16* — Second Reading

Clerk: Second reading, Bill No. 20, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Pasloski.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I move that Bill No. 20, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2015-16*, be now read a second time.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 20, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2015-16*, be now read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: To commence this session, I tabled two important financial documents: the 2014-15 Public Accounts and the first supplementary estimates for 2015-16. With the tabling of these documents, allow me to take this opportunity to speak about our government's financial record.

First we have the 2014-15 Public Accounts, representing the financial accounting of the 2014-15 fiscal year. Mr. Speaker, I will take this opportunity to briefly identify a number of highlights from the 2014-15 fiscal year-end report. The 2014-15 Public Accounts are presented with a clean opinion from the Office of the Auditor General of Canada. The summary financials on an unconsolidated basis for the year ending March 31, 2015 are an annual surplus of \$68.473 million, net financial assets of \$223.087 million and an accumulated surplus of \$1.352 billion.

The Yukon government's financial position remains very strong. We are truly in an enviable position where we can make significant infrastructure investments, such as those I previously noted, and continue to provide financially sustainable ongoing programs and services on behalf of all Yukoners.

The second document tabled is the 2015-16 *Supplementary Estimates No. 1* and the accompanying appropriations bill. The first supplementary estimates of a

fiscal year provide us with two opportunities. First, incorporating the results from the 2014-15 fiscal year-end, as reported in Public Accounts, provides us the opportunity to present to the Legislature and to the general public an update on the financial position of the government. It is important for us as legislators to understand the issue of timing. I'm confident that members can appreciate that, at the time the 2015-16 budget was prepared and tabled, the audited results for the 2014-15 fiscal year were not finalized, and therefore the summary projections for 2014-15 may have been subject to change.

This is the case every fiscal year. As a result, now that the results for 2014-15 have been finalized, *Supplementary Estimates No. 1* represents the first opportunity to provide the Assembly a financial update for 2015-16, inclusive of the 2014-15 final results. Second, and more to the point of seeking required spending authorities, this first supplementary estimate details the proposed expenditure changes that require legislative appropriation authority in addition to the spending authorities previously granted by this Legislature when the main estimates were approved.

Individual ministers will be pleased to provide members of the Legislature with complete details of their respective portfolios when we reconvene to discuss the *Second Appropriation Act, 2015-16* in general debate.

Although I defer to individual ministers on the details, I will take some time to comment on our summary financials reported here today. After incorporating the 2014-15 final audited results, as well as the expenditure and revenue changes identified through the first supplementary estimates for 2015-16, our government continues to be in a very healthy financial position. *Supplementary Estimates No. 1* presents a forecast annual surplus of \$4.613 million resulting in an estimated accumulated surplus for March 31, 2016 of just over \$1.357 billion.

In continuing to avoid net debt, our year-end net financial asset position is projected at \$146.068 million. I wish to emphasize for all members the significance of having net financial assets as opposed to net debt. This is a very significant indicator of our financial health as it means that the government is not relying on future revenues to provide current services. As I previously noted, this is an enviable position as we continue to provide financially sustainable programs, services and infrastructure on behalf of all Yukoners.

The 2015-16 mains were tabled back on March 26 with budgeted gross expenditures of \$1.367 billion, of which just over \$1.054 billion was allocated to O&M and \$312 million was allocated to capital.

Building on our 2015-16 main estimates, this second appropriation act and accompanying first supplementary estimates for 2015-16 provide for increased spending totalling \$34.877 million. Of this total, \$19.909 million represents an increase to gross O&M expenditures and \$14.968 million represents an increase in gross capital expenditures.

As always, individual ministers will be pleased to provide members of the Legislature with the complete details of their

respective portfolios when we reconvene to discuss the *Second Appropriation Act, 2015-16* in general debate. As I have stated in previous comments before the Legislature and as I have repeated here today, my colleagues and I take very seriously and respect the importance of effective processes and procedures in support of our decision-making responsibilities. We prepare and table budgets based on the best and most current information at the time — notwithstanding, the best-laid plans are subject to change. Changes to the budget plan through supplementary estimates allow us to be responsive to emerging pressures and priorities of importance to Yukoners. This is a statement that I have said every year. Changes to the budget plan through supplementary estimates maintain accountability to the Legislative Assembly, to Yukoners.

I would like to take this opportunity to update members of the Legislative Assembly about some of our plans that are now underway stemming from our 2015-16 budget. This government continues working toward making Yukon the best place to live, to work, to play and to raise a family. With amendments to the Yukon *Income Tax Act* and regulations in the spring, the personal income tax rate has been lowered for Yukoners. We have extended the interim electrical rebate for another year in order to keep electrical costs down for Yukoners.

We have continued toward working on reconciliation agreements with the White River First Nation, the Kaska Dena Council, Liard First Nation and Ross River Dena Council. The new F.H. Collins Secondary School is complete, with students expected to be learning there upon their return from their Christmas break. We have provided \$250,000 to the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Carcross/Tagish First Nation to support a skills, trades and entrepreneurship project for the First Nation youth. Our government has delivered on land development commitments, such as making cottage lots available for Yukoners.

We are in the midst of implementing the *Yukon Water Strategy and Action Plan*.

Our capital infrastructure investments are helping to keep Yukoners working during this slower economic time. There are many highways in Yukon that have been subject to upgrades this past season.

We look forward to working with the newly elected federal government on larger, longer-term infrastructure projects here in Yukon. We are actively working toward our goal of having fibre redundancy in Yukon, as well as investing dollars in IT and telecommunications overall. The joint Yukon-Alaska marketing initiative received international recognition and was presented with an award of excellence in economic development by the International Economic Development Council.

We have continued investing in community safety across the territory with such projects as the new fire hall in Beaver Creek. We continue to consult and work with First Nations on initiatives such as park management plans, work plans for moose and wolf surveys, and moose management plans. Our government has recently released a draft for a new elk

management plan. Work is being done to establish terms of reference for the bear management plan working group.

We have funded the Yukon Now marketing program, and I am sure most members have had the opportunity in the past weeks to see the great success of this campaign and the commercials that will be aired.

We have increased the community recreation assistance grant funding for unincorporated communities across the Yukon. We have invested \$1 million to support the upcoming 2016 Arctic Winter Games in Nuuk, Greenland. In collaboration with the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Carcross/Tagish Development Corporation, we will see a new campground open at Conrad on Windy Arm this very next season.

The MRI machine at Whitehorse General Hospital — the first MRI machine north of 60 — is up and running and easing the financial and wait-time burden on Yukoners in need of that service. We are continually investing in projects to further care for Yukoners with purchases such as the Oblate Centre on Sixth Avenue to fill the gap of continuing care beds. This government is investing in many projects aimed at improving the territory's social programs, such as the new Sarah Steele Building, providing more low-income housing and expanding the Salvation Army.

I look forward to helping lead Yukon's way to being able to provide more economic opportunity for Yukoners and Yukon businesses. Projects on the longer term horizon, such as the new hydro dam, will see us create opportunities for businesses and opportunities for investment into the future.

I look forward to working with the minister and the Department of Education, along with First Nation governments, administrators, teachers, the business community and all parents toward enhancing education in Yukon to make it more inclusive. Our Minister of Education has undertaken a review of our current school system with a view of identifying two things. First, how can we improve the curriculum so that it better reflects the needs and interests of all students? Second, what kind of support do kids need outside of academics to become successful?

Over the past few years, we've done a lot of work on post-secondary education. We've committed to making Yukon College the first university north of 60, and we've established the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining and a mobile trades training trailer to deliver trades training to rural areas and develop the labour force we will need in the future.

As I wrap up, Mr. Speaker, I advise the Legislature once again that individual ministers will be pleased to provide members of the Legislature with the complete details of their respective portfolios when we reconvene to discuss the *Second Appropriation Act, 2015-16* in general debate. Members will have observed that my focus here has been on our commitment to solid planning, decision-making and budgeting, and the strength of our fiscal framework.

Our government is in a very strong financial position. We continue to target balanced budgets, with 2015-16 projecting an annual surplus, and we continue to maintain a very healthy

net financial asset position and avoid net debt. The strength of our fiscal position and our government's ongoing commitment to fiscal discipline allows us to continue to make resource allocation decisions such as those identified in *Supplementary Estimates No. 1* on behalf of all Yukoners. These are significant expenditures made for the benefit of all Yukoners.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to provide significant investments and expenditure initiatives on behalf of Yukoners while maintaining our commitment to fiscal discipline. We do this through a prudent and practical approach to planning, decision-making and budgeting. We have a solid fiscal plan, and that continues to serve Yukoners very well. I am proud of the program services and those infrastructure investments we provide for the benefit of all Yukoners. I'm doubly proud that we maintain a strong fiscal position, allowing our government to be responsive to emerging issues and priorities on behalf of Yukoners. I look forward to discussing this supplementary budget in further detail when we reconvene to discuss it in general debate.

Ms. Hanson: I am pleased to have the opportunity to rise to speak to the bills that have been presented to us today.

Before I get started, I just thought — this is the fourth year that we've had the opportunity to speak to the fiscal matters and the overall management of Yukon's significant budget and the transfers from the federal government and the other revenues that are generated by government — of the opportunity just to say thank you to the people who make it possible for me to have the continued privilege of serving the people of Whitehorse Centre — of serving them and for providing me with the support and the comments and the words of encouragement and advice that allow me to reflect, as I am this afternoon. They remind me that there is a real disconnect between the real world of Yukon citizens and what we've heard projected today by the Premier with respect to the rosy outlook and the sense that all is well, because the reality of many people in my riding is that life is a struggle. Economically, it has become more of a struggle because of some of the decisions taken by this government — decisions that have seen jobs and job opportunities removed from local people and local contractors.

Mr. Speaker, I was reflecting when I heard the Premier speaking last week on the morning program of the CBC — and he was discussing what was going to be happening in the fall Legislative Assembly. He was asked what he had to do before his mandate runs out. This person too was reflecting that it has been four years since this current run of the Yukon Party was elected. He said, "Not a lot".

I guess I would take the contrary view that there is still much to be done. I think that if the Premier actually engaged with and consulted with citizens, as my caucus members and I have done on a continuous basis over the last four years — in communities throughout the territory, groups big and small, open meetings — he would have found that those citizens disagree that there's not a lot to do — whether it's the Yukon community nurses who are understaffed and overworked, they

would probably and most likely disagree with the Premier's assertion there's not a lot to do.

The Yukon senior citizens, who haven't heard a peep from this Minister of Health and Social Services or the Premier when it came to planning when it came to the announcement of a new 300-bed facility, wouldn't say that there's not a lot to do in terms of more appropriate means and methods and economic and effective ways of addressing their needs. The many Yukon businesses that were hung out to dry by this government when they allowed Yukon Zinc's Wolverine mine to operate without paying its bills would certainly disagree with the Premier when he says there's not a lot to do.

Those Yukoners who are paying nearly half their income on renting a small apartment or other accommodation because this government has failed to take meaningful action on Yukon's housing crisis — I'm pretty sure they wouldn't agree that there's not a lot to do. Similarly, the increasing number of Yukoners who are having to resort to going to the Food Bank just to eat probably don't agree that there's not a lot to do.

Yukon First Nation governments that have, on a continuous basis, had their constitutionally protected final agreements infringed upon by this government, I know, would not say there's not a lot to do. How can we say there's not a lot to do when it comes to climate change and building Yukon's renewable energy future?

We've heard consistently over the last number of years from Yukoners that they want to see us as government get off fossil fuel dependency. They would beg to differ with the Premier's assessment that there's not a lot to do — as too would Yukoners who are concerned with this government's continued fixation on fracking as a fuel source for the future — they would beg to differ.

It appears when the Premier said that there was not a lot to do he was experiencing perhaps his George W. Bush "mission accomplished" speech. The Premier, just like the former president, can't miss an opportunity to try to pat himself on the back, but the next time the Premier is asked what is left to do, I encourage him to pause for a moment and consider all the Yukoners he represents — all Yukoners — not just a few, not just the ones who have private access to him and not just the ones with influence, but all Yukoners.

Many Yukon citizens are having a tough time and the Premier's assertion that there is not a lot to do is disrespectful to them and to their concerns. The Premier's assertions that there has been nothing but buoyant growth is disrespectful to them and their concerns.

This is true across Yukon and it is true in my riding. I would like to take a moment to commend the City of Whitehorse and their planners, because it's a representation of the notion of working with citizens and to continue to defend the right and the obligation of the City of Whitehorse to stand by the official community plan and not to be pressured by the Yukon Party government when it wants changes to accommodate its agenda.

This government's perception that merit is not the key factor in how the government's decisions are made is not good

for public confidence — not good for public confidence in the elected officials or in government as a whole. We will continue as the Official Opposition to press for more accountable and evidence-based decision-making.

The Premier talks an awful lot about a lot of money and made the observation before that this government hasn't made the transition, 10 or 12 years post devolution, to being a mature government that actually acts like the provincial-like government that we should be. Spending money is more than just — spending money in a responsible way brings with it a real requirement for accountability. I do invite the Premier to actually debate — to spend an afternoon in discussion on the Public Accounts. It's just not the simplistic approach that seems to be presented each sitting here when we talk about Public Accounts.

There are some very salient points that are raised in the Public Accounts that speak to the opportunities and the challenges of governing in a situation where you have a government that increasingly — and this is pointed out not just in the Public Accounts but in other reports such as Standard & Poor's, which I'm surprised we didn't hear referenced again today — speak to the vice-like circumstances that this government's approach is taking in terms of reducing the flexibility of government and reducing the amount of actual territorial budget that has any flexibility at all. I believe the Standard & Poor's last report indicated it was around 16 to 17 percent. This does not bode well for a government that expounds on the notion that it is going to build major hydro dams. It does not bode well when you have a government that has been pretty profligate with spending and, under this Premier's watch, keeps pushing down the annual surplus. Use this figure: the annual surplus this year has gone from \$19 million — projected — to \$843,000.

Despite the record federal transfers after devolution, our economic performance under this government is stagnant, and that is putting the livelihoods of many ordinary Yukoners at risk. I said earlier today that there are implications and impacts of the Yukon economy being in recession for more than the last two years. That means that the results are negative growth in industrial production for the last five years. We have the lowest growth rates in the last 10 years in goods-producing and services-producing industries. There has been a negative growth in the number and value of real estate transactions.

We speak regularly to people in the business sector and one of the biggest concerns they have is the decline in wholesale sales — a negative rate of 13 percent. The fact of the matter of the recent closures of the other three operating mines — we have only one left — and as we heard at the Parliamentary committee hearings, this government's single-minded pressure in the face of opposition is to press forward on amendments to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* does not bode well for investors' confidence and certainty in this territory. That is reflected in the statistics of even that most conservative of groups, the Fraser Institute, remarking on the decline in investor certainty and willingness to invest in the Yukon. It is reflected in the

increasing unemployment rate. The job losses are especially acute in the private sector. This is a government that says it supports the private sector, but it has done little or nothing to address the real concerns being expressed by businesses throughout the territory about those job losses. It has done nothing to ensure in its representations and its participation in the negotiations on the *Agreement on Internal Trade* that any of the protections that might have been there in the mid-1990s when this was initially negotiated have been grandfathered, unlike our sister territories.

I spoke to representatives of various businesses this last week just to confirm whether or there had been any consultation or any discussion on these negotiations, and I'm told no. When there are issues and opportunities for government to reach out and work with, in collaboration, the private sector the question is: Why aren't we doing that? The implications for not doing so affect the bottom line of businesses, and that in turn affects the abilities of ordinary Yukon citizens to be able to make the decision to stay in the Yukon or to leave.

Mr. Speaker, we know — and why we care about this as the Official Opposition is because we know that Yukoners want good jobs and good opportunities for their families, and we need to tie our economic performance to the social progress. It is important for all Yukoners. This economy needs to be seen — not only be seen to, but it must work for the people. So we need jobs and growth and investment, which will lead to reduced inequality and increased opportunities for ordinary citizens in this territory, but if the government is the one that is making the arbitrary choices of who the winners and losers are, so far they haven't been very good at it. The net result is that most Yukoners are losers under this government's watch — losers economically — and that is not acceptable.

The growth that, for much of this Yukon Party's time in government, has really been as a result of increased federal transfers and the devolution of responsibilities from the federal government in 2003. We will be raising — each of my caucus colleagues will be going into greater depth on each of the areas addressed by the supplementary estimates and we will be reiterating, in the questions that we raise and in the approach that we take, that we support careful and reasoned fiscal policy to support a strong and inclusive Yukon where no one is left behind. We will be asking the government again, because we do believe when you make decisions that affect the bottom line with respect to revenues, that we need to know how those decisions or how those assessments are being made, and it can't just be crass political desire — ideology. There has to be a sound economic analysis behind every decision that is taken by government.

We have asked those questions in the past. We have asked the government to share the fiscal and economic models and analyses that they have used to calculate changes to various acts and regulations. So far, none of those have been provided. We did hear that the government's fiscal policy modelling was done on a five-year time horizon, which means that the government only looked to anticipate decreases in net

financial assets within a certain parameter to avoid net debt in the next five years, and these forecasts were based on projections, including those by the Conference Board of Canada, the Fraser Institute, and the Yukon Economic Development branch — all of which turned out to be rosy.

Mr. Speaker, this government, it appears, was hoping that, at best, these changes would be affordable in the short term and that they would be able to take more disciplined spending decisions in the long term, but so far we haven't seen the discipline. This government's failure to support a strong and diversified economy has left the territory in an increasingly precarious position with little to no safety net in terms of their approach as we ride the bust slope of the boom-and-bust mining cycle.

Contrary to the rosy picture that was presented by the Minister of Finance, we question that assertion and we believe that there is a more responsible approach to fiscal governance. We will be raising a number of questions in that regard over the course of the discussion of Bill No. 20. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Kent: It's my pleasure to rise and speak to the supplementary budget that has been presented. I, like other members I'm sure, will also thank my constituents in Riverdale North for their continued support and guidance over the past four years and, as we enter the final year of this mandate, I look forward to continuing that dialogue with them on a number of issues that are important to them.

I should just take a quick moment to send my personal condolences to the families of two long-time Riverdale North residents who have recently passed away — Mr. Mike Scott and Mrs. Eileen Shilleto — again, my condolences to their friends and family — not only long-time residents of Riverdale North, but long-time Yukoners who many will recognize those names and those individuals for what they've contributed to our territory over their time here.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a very exciting time obviously for Riverdale North with a number of projects that have taken place over there as a result of investments of the Yukon government. We spoke earlier today about the F.H. Collins replacement project and I should just take a quick moment to apologize to the Member for Copperbelt South. I believe during Question Period I mentioned that the construction budget for the project was \$31 million; in fact, based on the new design, that construction budget for F.H. Collins was \$34 million — again, substantially lower than the amount that came forward with the initial design, and so tremendous cost savings to Yukoners from our decision to go with a different design and re-tender that project.

Sticking with F.H. Collins — from July 27 to August 14, 2015, 53 of the 72 tradespeople consistently on-site during that three-week period were Yukoners. That's an average on the project to date of 73 percent local labour. Records for the life of the project indicate an average of 75-percent local labour.

The new school itself is two storeys high and has a central gym surrounded by classrooms and other amenities that benefit from natural light. The area is approximately 7,400

square metres. The facility includes an industrial kitchen — probably one of the nicest kitchens that exist in the territory, as far as a facility to train potential culinary arts students. There's a cafeteria, large science labs, First Nation elder space, as well as language labs. The school is designed for 750 students, which exceeds the current student population at the existing F.H. Collins school.

As we mentioned earlier, I know that it's going to be a facility that all members of the F.H. Collins school community and indeed all Yukoners who are able to use that facility will be very proud of, going forward.

Some other significant investments that we've seen in Riverdale North are occurring at the Whitehorse General Hospital. There is a new MRI machine that is active at the facility. I spoke to some of the staff recently when I saw them in the community, and it's performing well. As we expect, I think they are performing more MRIs than what they had initially thought. Again, that's a good thing, as doctors are able to utilize that tool — an important diagnostic tool — for Yukoners' health and have that service available here in Whitehorse General Hospital. This is the first MRI that exists north of the 60th Parallel in Canada and Yukoners should be — all Yukoners who contributed to it during fundraising through the Hospital Foundation and through investments by the Yukon government — proud to see that facility developed and operational.

There is additional work being done at the Whitehorse General Hospital campus. A new ambulance station is being constructed, as well as an expansion of the ER and other aspects. I'm sure that the Yukon Hospital Corporation and officials who are in charge of that project are pleased to speak of that, as well as the Minister of Health and Social Services when he gets up.

Some smaller investments in Riverdale that I think will make a tremendous difference for area residents are two new playgrounds. The one that exists at Selkirk Elementary School is my little guy's new favourite place to go. A second one exists at Christ the King Elementary School. Then the Riverdale Community Association put forward an application to the community development fund, with the support of some local area residents, to improve the skating rink and that facility at the Liard Road park. I'm pleased the CDF funded that project, so now they'll have a new skating rink at the Liard Road park, with an asphalt surface that I'm sure will be the envy of a number of other areas in town and we will see more and more of that type of facility constructed in the future.

I wanted to talk a little bit about some of the accomplishments and budget information with respect to Highways and Public Works and Energy, Mines and Resources. I would first of all like to take time to thank staff from both of those departments for which I'm responsible for their dedication and hard work throughout the year, whether it's those who are involved in putting together this supplementary budget or those who are involved in delivering the services that those two departments offer. They're two incredibly important departments I think for the government.

Again I would like to thank all the staff in both of them for their continued dedication and commitment to serving the Yukon public.

I'm going to talk a little bit first about Highways and Public Works and then, time permitting, I'll speak to Energy, Mines and Resources. Of course both of those departments will be up later on during this session in debate, so if I miss anything I'll be able to come back to it.

I think the one thing that we've talked about a lot is with respect to the capital project delivery by Highways and Public Works and what is happening for Yukon firms. Over the past five years, investments made by the Yukon government in major capital works projects have consistently put Yukoners to work, benefiting many local contractors, suppliers and service companies. Local construction and service industries are the engines of the Yukon economy and the department is committed to enabling and sustaining a strong resilient local labour force. Local capacity is critical to our ability to deliver both new construction and maintenance projects as well as capital and systems development projects.

In the Property Management division, and aside from the F.H. Collins replacement project, each of PMD's top 15 major capital works projects since 2010 have been awarded to and delivered by local Yukon general contractors — 14 of 15 projects awarded to local Yukon contractors valued at more than \$75 million. Again, as I spoke about earlier, in the case of F.H. Collins for which the design/build contract was awarded to a non-local general, that project averaged 73 percent local labour participation since construction began in 2014.

Since 2010, PMD has delivered more than 850 capital maintenance contracting opportunities to our market, valued at more than \$27 million. Most of those contracts are awarded to local Yukon firms. This year, Property Management division will be working to deliver approximately 20 major works projects valued at more than \$100 million and more than 150 capital maintenance projects valued at approximately \$10 million.

In the Transportation division, since 2011, 70 percent of Transportation Engineering branch's major works projects were awarded to and delivered by local Yukon contractors — so seven of 10 projects were awarded to local Yukon contractors, valued at more than \$41 million.

In 2015-16, Transportation division will bring 62 major works projects to market, valued at a combined \$52 million. A review of the division's top highway and aviation projects indicate that 24 of 29 projects were awarded to and delivered by local Yukon firms, valued at a combined \$28.9 million, so 86 percent of those projects are delivered locally.

The ICT, or Information and Communications Technology Division, works closely with many Yukon-based systems, development and infrastructure firms. Investments in IT pay immediate dividends in the form of enhanced connectivity, mobility and new program development to better serve citizens and support local innovation and economic development.

Since 2011, seven local firms have delivered approximately \$9 million worth of IT infrastructure projects ranging from fibre optic network and mobile radio systems expansion to the development and maintenance of government systems such as corporate financials, which facilitate payment transfers to citizens.

In 2013, the Department of Economic Development published a report that analyzed not just HPW accounts, but government-wide procurement data from 2006 to 2012. The study concluded that of all government spending on goods, services and construction contracts, close to \$1 billion was directed to local firms. That is \$1 billion retained locally by Yukon firms over a six-year period, which represents almost 69 percent of all government spending on goods and services and construction contracts during that term. Procurement data suggests that this proportional split has been maintained since 2012 — so again, a 70-30 split approximately, although further analysis is required of the 2012 to 2015 data to confirm that.

We are making choices in government, and certainly the local contracting community should be commended for that expertise and their ability to step up and deliver on these large capital projects and ensure that the local labour market is supported when we are delivering on large government projects.

When it comes to the HPW's 2015-16 supplementary budget, it shows an overall increase in funds of \$6.776 million. When associated changes and recoveries are factored in, the net increase to the department is \$4.824 million. It comprises \$0.733 million for O&M funding and \$6.043 million for capital funding. For the O&M funds requested, the majority is required to cover the costs associated with multiple washouts that we have experienced on our highways. For the capital funds requested, the majority is due to approved revotes for the Transportation division — \$4.268 million — and Property Management — \$1.947 million — less deferred and lapsed transportation capital projects totalling \$769,000.

At the start of the 2015-16 year, Mr. Speaker, HPW's O&M and capital budgets were \$132.419 million and \$83.628 million respectively. HPW's revised O&M budget shows an increase of, as I mentioned, \$0.733 million to bring the total to \$133.153 million, which represents an increase of .55 percent, and our revised capital budget shows an increase of \$6.043 million to bring the total to \$89.671 million, or 7.23-percent increase. When recoveries are factored in, the net capital budget shows a net increase of 5.96 percent.

Just some details on the request for the O&M fund — an increase of \$651,000 for washout repairs to various sections of highways, and a transfer from the Department of Education in the amount of \$82,000 to continue implementation of the E-services initiative.

When it comes to capital funds, the request in the amount of \$6.043 million is a combination of revoted items, deferred or lapsed items, new items and an interdepartmental transfer.

Some details for the revoted items from 2014-15 totalling \$6.241 million — there is \$2.1 million for the Alaska Highway/Shakwak pavement construction and \$1.418 million

for the main administration building upgrades. It is my pleasure to inform the House that the energy-efficiency upgrades — the envelope upgrades — to the main administration building will be proceeding very quickly. I signed off today on the contract between the Yukon government and a local contractor, Ketza Construction. They will be performing the main administration building upgrades, which include insulation, removal of the siding, reinsulating and also putting in new windows throughout. This is an opportunity for us to accomplish a number of things, including making one of our least energy-efficient buildings much more energy-efficient as we move forward. The other top inefficient building that we have is the existing F.H. Collins, which will be decommissioned next year and demolished as students move into the new building here after Christmas.

There are a number of other items that we can get into when we get into the departmental debate on Highways and Public Works.

I know that there are also a number of highlights in Energy, Mines and Resources that I would like to speak to, but time is running short for me. Some that perhaps I could touch on quickly that we are very proud of are — the Kluane First Nation wind project that we are partnering with Kluane First Nation on. It is a very exciting opportunity, we feel, for that First Nation to decrease the amount of fossil fuels that they use to generate their electricity. We are very proud of the 95-percent electricity that we generate in the Yukon from renewable sources, but there are isolated communities like Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay that are off-grid that will benefit from this project that the Kluane First Nation is spearheading and that we are supporting.

I should also mention, as part of that, that this past summer at the energy ministers meeting in Halifax, the Yukon along with a number of other jurisdictions signed on to an initiative to investigate ways that we can lessen the dependence of diesel in our rural and remote communities — those that aren't connected to the grid. Although we don't have very many communities where that is the case, this is still an opportunity for us to share our expertise and learn from other jurisdictions about what they are doing.

I had quite a few other things that I wanted to touch on, but I will look forward to doing that during departmental debate.

I should just note that there have been conversations here about Yukon government outreach to the business community and others that are interested in talking to us about various initiatives.

Maybe I will just end with thanking members of the Yukon Minerals Advisory Board who I meet with on a regular basis for their input and advice. When I was in Calgary with the Minister of Economic Development, we had the opportunity to meet with our Yukon Oil and Gas Advisory Committee, which is comprised of many individuals who have northern experience looking for oil and gas opportunities, exploring for oil and gas opportunities.

Of course we have the Agricultural Planning Advisory Committee that we meet with regularly and an opportunity for

me to put in a plug for the north of 60 agriculture conference that's coming up — I believe it's next weekend actually — not this weekend coming up but the following — where there will be an opportunity for individuals to learn about the ag industry and all that it contributes.

Mr. Speaker, this morning I had the opportunity to go and meet with one of our newer advisory committees structured around aviation so this has local representatives of the aviation industry who come together and will provide advice, not only to department officials, but to myself as minister that I can relay to caucus and Cabinet colleagues.

So these are but a few of the industry associations that are able to provide direct advice to government officials or decision-makers when it comes how to best — how their industries function and what we can do to improve that functioning.

So, with that, Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my remarks. I look forward to more debate as we move into Energy, Mines and Resources and Highways and Public Works. I thank members of the House for allowing me to provide the updates that I was able to today. Thank you.

Mr. Elias: Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to rise today on behalf of my constituents in the Vuntut Gwitchin riding and speak to the supplementary budget today in Bill No. 20.

There are many excellent investments in this supplementary budget. Like always, I begin by once again expressing my heartfelt appreciation and thanks to my constituents in Old Crow and abroad for their support, guidance and honesty over the years. I also want to take some time to recognize their hard work as well, because in Old Crow, we rarely succeed in isolation. It's almost always a team effort with our partners.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured to represent and serve such a wonderful and engaged riding and I would like to take this time to welcome all the teachers and educators back to the Chief Zzeh Gittlit School and the Alice Frost Campus as well as welcome to our new RCMP officers and to the nurses and to the new staff at the Arctic Co-operative store and also to the new employees at the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation government offices. So, welcome to Old Crow and I look forward to working with you all. To my children, Rachael, Heather, Bodhi and Johnny, I love you so much and I'm so proud of you all; and to my grandchild, Mary Lily, Papa loves you.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents bear the consequences of public government action each and every day. So, when direction is given from my constituents, I'm obligated to work to make their wishes happen, for it is their direction, their guidance and their vision that make our community in north Yukon so wonderful. We must continue to reaffirm our commitment to moving forward together in the greatness of our territory. As a community, we have partnered with the Yukon territorial government to begin and now expand on a land-based experiential education program where the vision is more than just a campout on the land. It was about our Vuntut Gwitchin culture; it was about connecting academics and our

way of life; it was about proving the value that our traditional lifestyle has in today's modern economy; and it was about securing our collective future.

When parents and relatives a couple of years back urged me to get our high school students home to Old Crow for the Thanksgiving and Easter holidays, we succeeded with this government.

When healthy living and youth recreation were made priorities in Old Crow, we worked hard to secure a \$2.7-million investment into a new community and multi-use centre in the community.

The Premier mentioned this earlier — in the community of Old Crow, our recreation funding has more than doubled to \$118,000 this year.

When the youth of Old Crow asked to be better connected as global citizens, we ensured that Old Crow received 3G cellphone service and high-speed Internet services to the tune of over \$1 million.

When there was a demonstrated need to stabilize our river banks and protect our community from erosion in the mighty Porcupine River, governments responded. When ensuring that long-term, safe and clean drinking water was identified as a priority, a new water treatment plant was built in Old Crow. When a winter road from the Dempster Highway to Old Crow was required to address a number of demands to transport freight to the community that would otherwise be shipped by air freight or not shipped at all due to the high cost and feasibility, we responded with a partnership agreement with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. This investment and partnership provided a new high-tech fuel tank farm and distribution centre for Old Crow. This is scheduled to begin service next month and it was a \$1 million underbudget.

The investment in a winter road helped move waste metal, hazardous wastes and dangerous goods that could not be shipped out of the community by aircraft. Approximately 10 containers of waste metal, waste oils, coolant, solvents and batteries that pose environmental risks to the community were taken out to be processed. This investment wasn't just about building a winter road per se; it was and still is about direct socio-economic benefits enjoyed by all citizens of Old Crow and the many other Yukoners and Yukon companies.

The investment helped to reduce the housing crisis in our community by reducing costs of flying in building supplies, thus freeing up capital for five more houses that could be brought in on the winter road. More houses helped to eliminate and address the social challenges and frustrations experienced by members of the community who are left with inadequate or no housing at all. Last month, it was a pleasure to see the smiles on the faces of many of my constituents who are single moms and young families moving into those additional homes. They were very excited and very proud to move into their new homes.

Fuel costs are now reduced, allowing more resources for single families to buy much-needed sustainable foods and other needed goods and supplies in Old Crow.

Critical capital projects such as the new Old Crow Arctic co-operative store, the multiplex and community centre benefited greatly from the winter road.

You see, a partnership such as this affects the day-to-day lives of my constituents in a very personal way.

There is also a very impressive list of research projects that have, or are happening, in the Vuntut Gwitchin riding and there are a lot of them. I will take some time to actually go through them, Madam Chair: McGill University is conducting a muskrat ecology survey in the Old Crow area; the University of Manitoba is working with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation in terms of access to federal health programs; Parks Canada is conducting a hydrology survey in the Old Crow Flats area; the University of Mississauga is providing a record of hydroclimatic change in the Old Crow area; the Old Crow H. pylori project is ongoing; the US Fish and Wildlife Service is conducting a lesser scaupe and white wing scoter expansion survey; the University of California in San Francisco is studying the impacts of sugar-sweetened beverages on the citizens in Old Crow; the University of Alberta is studying the mercury-flux policy in permafrost and implications of current climate change in the Old Crow area; the University of Alberta is measuring FASD in the Yukon and also in the Whitehorse Correctional Centre; Brock University is evaluating the influence of climate and land-cover changes on water and carbon balance in the Old Crow Flats; the University of Edinburgh is doing work with the Rampart House architecture and the other historic sites in the traditional territory of the Vuntut Gwitchin; the University of Northern British Columbia is studying Gwitchin paradigms of community-based archeology; the University of Ottawa is studying indigenous people and researchers' contributions to the regulation of the circulation of traditional medicinal knowledge in Old Crow and surrounding area; the University of Ottawa is looking at the seasonal variation in groundwater discharge and permafrost in the upper Ogilvie area; the University of Western Ontario is studying wolf spiders and their cold tolerance in the Dempster Highway area; the University of Western Washington is looking at the diversity of insects in the Richardson Mountain area; the University of Michigan is conducting an assessment of the butterflies in the Dempster Highway area; McGill University is studying macro-invertebrates and vegetation, also in the Dempster Highway area; the University of Helsinki, Finland, is studying fire impacts on carbon and nitrogen pools and its relation to permafrost in the Dempster Highway area; Washington State University is studying arthropods in the Dempster Highway area; McGill University is studying the biodiversity of spiders and insects in the Dempster Highway area; there is also a university from the Slovak Republic that is collecting pika samples in the Richardson Mountain areas and the Dempster Highway area; Harvard University and Stanford University are studying words that I can't pronounce in the Assembly today — but if anybody wants to see them, they are studying a long list of things that I can't pronounce; the Stockholm University is measuring permafrost along the Dempster Highway corridor and areas north and south of the Dempster

Highway, and I believe it is past kilometre 220 and the Laurentian University is studying permafrost conditions in the Blackstone Uplands and Eagle Plains and sedimentary basin.

As you see, Madam Chair, there is a tremendous amount of scientific work going on in my riding and all of this is also being supported by local traditional knowledge and from the heritage department of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation.

Honest, open and transparent communication is absolutely necessary when we are talking about issues, like hydraulic fracturing, that have been very prevalent in my community when they come up as a concern. It's with the clear direction of my constituents that we work toward a policy that no applications for hydraulic fracture stimulation will be entertained in north Yukon.

It's also important for my constituents to understand — and they are well aware of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources' zero tolerance policy for misinformation — and many of my constituents have recognized and told me to address this in the Assembly. They are aware of the documents that have been sent and mailed out to my community that they consider to be misinformation because my constituents, directed by chief and council, created their own committee with regard to hydraulic fracture stimulation and oil and gas in general; and to the good work of the citizens and the community of Old Crow and my constituents, they're able to have a very high-level dialogue with regard to this type of information. So congratulations to the community on spending their time and their resources in their capacity to address this issue.

Mr. Speaker, most recently, when our community demanded access to nutritious, healthy, affordable foods, we succeeded again by taking control of the situation and by partnering with Arctic Co-operatives Ltd. and the federal and territorial governments to build a new food cooperative store in Old Crow. The new co-op is run by the community for the community and is progressing quite nicely. I am happy to report that on opening day, the co-op signed up 145 shareholders and exceeded \$10,000 in sales. Since opening on May 19, 2015, sales have been, on average, \$30,000 per week so congratulations to Old Crow, to the managers and the board of directors on a job well-done.

Mr. Speaker, we don't rest on our success in Old Crow and we do recognize that we have more work to do, whether it's a solar farm to help the electricity in Old Crow, or permanently protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain and the calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd for all time, or easier access to optometrists' and dentists' services in Old Crow, or the upgrading of the Chief Zzeh Gittlit School playground, or more access to mental health programs for the community and students through programs like CAIRS, or addressing the community prohibition issue, or a Vuntut Gwitchin traditional territory water monitoring program; or Old Crow residential housing, or addressing the need for a winter road to Old Crow every three years as required, or working toward a church being built by volunteer hands in our community, or building a home for the wise ones. So, you see, Old Crow doesn't shy away from any

difficult tasks or situations so, yes, we do have more work to do. We do recognize it and we're going to do this together.

I stand here today to represent a fairly new issue — well, not new; it has been on the minds of many of my constituents for a long time. It's near and dear to me and my constituents have directed me to seek partners in accomplishing this goal and that investment is a new community health centre. Mr. Speaker, I have begun that process to ensure this important lifeline becomes a reality in our community.

Good, honest feedback is necessary to maintain a fruitful, productive relationship and believe me, my constituents don't hesitate to provide me with just that at any given time, at any hour of the day. On behalf of my constituents, I want to thank and congratulate all of the governments, businesses, corporations, boards and committees and individuals for keeping our community working and on track toward long-term prosperity.

It's important to recognize that in this past summer working season, if any one of my constituents wanted work or wanted a job, they had one. That's how busy our community was. It wasn't just employing our citizens or my constituents. There were so many Yukoners and businesses operating out of our little community of Old Crow. It was just thriving and it was wonderful to see.

I also want to thank my honourable colleagues on this side of the House for listening to my constituents' needs, wants and aspirations. It's incredibly important and, on behalf of my constituents, I want to thank each and every one of my colleagues on this side of the House, because it is also part of our traditional and cultural ways in Old Crow to say thank you every time that it's necessary — and this is necessary.

Today I also want to speak about the greatness of our territory, represented in the financial investments from this government in this supplementary budget and the mains. In Old Crow, there has been \$118,000 to provide for citizens of Old Crow with 3G cellular service and to upgrade the community's global connectivity. Herschel Island will see upgrading to its visitation infrastructure in the amount of \$500,000.

In Dawson we have developed a regionaleconomic development plan between the governments of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional territory regional economic development plan represents a long-term sustainable community-based approach to economic development that will lead to increased local spending, increased employment opportunities, growth in existing businesses and in existing businesses in key sectors. We invested \$1.42 million in the School of Visual Arts in Dawson City.

In Mayo, a new seniors residence was officially opened on August 27 this past summer by the Premier and the Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation. The \$3.34-million residence provides low-income seniors with a new rental housing option in the community.

In Pelly Crossing, we expanded the healthy families Yukon program to Pelly Crossing and Carmacks, and in Carmacks, \$1.16 million was provided to the Carmacks

Development Corporation for a community housing project, an investment to develop six-unit affordable rental homes in the heart of the village.

In Whitehorse, this government contributed \$10.2 million this year for a lot purchase, design development and construction of the new Salvation Army Centre of Hope.

In Carcross, \$235,000 was provided to the Carcross/Tagish Management Corporation for the construction of two new affordable housing projects in Carcross. We invested more than \$500,000 in the development of a 35-site Conrad campground near Carcross.

In Watson Lake, an agreement to regionalize the town's solid waste services, furthering the territory's commitment to environmentally and fiscally responsible waste management was also achieved.

In Faro, we committed more than \$3.5 million in 2015 to construct the new Faro RCMP detachment. In Ross River, a new \$7-million Ross River recreational centre opened on January 14 to replace the centre that was destroyed by fire in March, 2011.

In Burwash, \$583,000 was agreed to with the Kluane First Nation to collect geophysical data. An airborne survey of a portion of the Kluane Ranges and a new memorandum of understanding committing \$1 million over the next three years for the Kluane First Nation to develop wind turbines for renewable energy.

So you see, Mr. Speaker, this government does what it says it is going to do. We are listening to Yukoners and I think that now is the time to secure our energy future.

Now is the time to keep a promise of a new vision for education. It is a bold agenda, but we are ready and willing to move forward listening to Yukoners. We are a responsive government and we listen to Yukoners.

Mr. Silver: I am very pleased to address this government on their updated spending that is included here in Bill No. 20. Before I get into my reply, I would like to take the opportunity to thank my constituency of the Klondike for the absolute privilege of representing them here in the Assembly. Since we last met, I have spent a great deal of time in the Klondike — more so than any other summer in the last four years — being able to be there talking to people about their issues and enjoying all that Dawson has to offer in the summer months, which we all know is a lot.

Since the last time that we met, there have been two major elections in the territory, and I would like congratulate Larry Bagnell on his re-election as our Member of Parliament. You would have to go back to the 1980s to find a candidate elected with over 50 percent of the popular vote. All four federal candidates deserve our thanks for putting their names forward.

There were also municipal elections held across the territory only a few days before the federal election. I would like to congratulate the Minister of Community Services for the open letter that he wrote welcoming both new and returning mayors and councillors.

I would like to apologize in advance to the good people of Dawson City for spending so much time in Whitehorse over the next two months, but I do want to assure them that I am working very hard for them here in the capital and that I do plan on being up in Dawson for the annual Remembrance Day ceremonies on November 11. I would also like to thank all of my friends and colleagues for their continuing support and understanding.

As we pick up debate this fall on spending priorities of the government, it is interesting to note that we were already into the 2015-16 fiscal year as we began debate on the budget in the spring. The normal course of action and events would be to begin the sitting in late March to allow time to pass an interim supply bill for the fiscal year before it actually begins. Now that didn't happen this year for several reasons. Back in January the Premier was forced to shuffle his Cabinet. The reason the session was late in the spring of course was that the government was simply unprepared. Between Cabinet shuffles and deputy minister changes, the government simply wasn't ready to table the budget in time. I do believe we heard something about a spring break, but I beg to differ. Since then we have seen more turnover, mostly at the senior deputy level. This fall, the government has returned to a normal start time for the Fall Sitting, and I am pleased to see that.

The budget before us sees the remainder of the northern housing trust finally being spent — some of it even on affordable housing. I want to congratulate the new minister on accomplishing something in his first year on the job that the previous Yukon Party housing ministers have not been able to get off the ground since 2006.

Anyone who watched the Premier's speech to the conservative think-tank in the 2015 Manning Network Conference got a preview of what he would be delivering his Budget Address in the Legislative Assembly. The speech to that conference hasn't actually gone viral on YouTube. I believe it has 270 views right now, but, nonetheless, those who watched it got a preview of the Premier's goals to make Yukon a net contributor to Canada.

If Yukoners were to judge this government on what process or progress has been made toward achieving that goal — and they should the next time that they go to the polls, next fall — the government would certainly receive a failing grade. We still receive the vast majority of our funding from Ottawa and we are certainly no closer to becoming a net contributor to Canada than we were a decade ago. That has not changed at all in the time that the Yukon Party has been in office.

According to the government's own budget documents, the Yukon continues to generate only 13 percent of its own revenue. The rest still comes from the Government of Canada and other sources, so there is a lot of talk about growing the private sector but it's not matched by the numbers.

When the government came to power, approximately 80 percent of the expenses were paid by federal transfers. Now almost 87 percent of our expenses are paid with other people's money. On behalf of Yukoners, I am calling on this government to plan to achieve a more dependable and less dependent source of revenue.

There are two things of note in the Premier's Manning speech. The first was his praise for our — and I quote: "proven regulatory and permitting process" when it comes to mining, so we have the Premier telling a national audience of Conservatives that everything is great with our permitting system. Here at home it's a different message entirely. Our regulatory system is broken and we are in another court battle with First Nations to fix part of it. The question begs — why didn't the Premier just admit that we have problems in our regulatory system while in Ottawa? Why the one message to Ottawa and another message here at home?

Let's move on to the budget. It's clear from the blueprint announced in the spring that an election is coming. The Yukon Party government plan is to try to buy Yukoners' hearts and minds with their own money. This is the main theme of the document. As our economy falters, the government is throwing every dollar it can into the public circulation. Looking at the long-term plan shows a huge spike in capital spending that drops off dramatically after the next election. What the territory needs is a consistent project building schedule that ensures local contractors would receive the lion's share of this work and keep these dollars in the Yukon. Mining is boom and bust but government shouldn't have to be.

We saw the impact of this type of spending when Yukon contractors criticized the government in June of this year. I will just read some of what they had to say: "The Yukon Government's reliance on outside contractors for its large projects has forced Yukon companies to lay off workers this season because it's so slow", according to the president of the Yukon Contractors Association. He points to the extended care facility being planned for Whistle Bend and says that Yukon companies are left out in the cold on that — and I quote: "We are not in boom times right now... There's a lot of [Yukon] contractors looking for work, and they're not able to participate in these larger contracts."

"The Yukon Contractors Association say that the boom cycle hasn't come to pass, at least not yet — and it wants the government to assure local hire of Yukon subcontractors in large construction projects."

I'm going to quote again here: "These design-build contracts force everybody to form teams ahead of time to bid on the work, and if you're not fortunate enough to hitch your wagon to the winning horse you don't get in on the work, even if you had a good price in it." Again, this is from the president of the YCA.

He said that large companies from the south usually win the contracts, and those larger companies tend to bring their own subcontractors with them.

Another quote is: "There's certainly lots of (Yukon) subcontractors that could do the work on any of these, and they're missing out on the work, just by the way the work is let out to these larger outside companies."

He goes on to say that the mechanical and electrical subcontracts count for up to 40 percent of these values and all of the money is leaving the territory on those.

The only thing holding the government back from spending even more on the capital in the lead-up to the next election is the massive growth in its O&M costs of the government itself. A look at the historical increases shows that, since 2006, O&M is up 76 percent while capital spending is up only 53 percent. Once again, this is from the party that continually trumpets the private sector's beliefs, yet the reality is something very different — larger and larger government, more and more money being spent on itself. This has become a typical cycle with this government and, as an election approaches, they begin building more new projects than local contractors can handle, resulting in employment for larger firms from the south.

This kind of pre-election spending leads to rushed, poorly planned and overbudget projects. Trying to cram a great deal of spending into a short window will also result in more jobs going to Outside contractors. I have talked to several contractors over the summer who have been watching this approach, and they have been watching it tried over and over again. The result is always the same. They say the Outside contractors come up to pick up the extra work and no extra benefit goes to Yukon workers. The short-term political goals of the government are the top priority, not the properly managed and well-timed spending.

I was surprised to see income tax cuts in the budget in the spring. Like many initiatives of this government, it simply was rolled out with no discussion beforehand. The lion's share of the cuts will benefit those in the middle class and we are happy to see that. For low-income earners, the tax cut means about \$90 a year. It is worth noticing as well, Mr. Speaker, that the last significant tax relief for families and individuals was under the Pat Duncan government of the early 2000s. We will let some folks get that into them.

With the Premier's talk about the private sector, I am sure the business community was looking for an update on the red tape review that was announced in last year's Budget Address. Anyone looking will be disappointed because there is no mention of it in this year's main Budget Address. In fact, there hasn't been any word on it since it was first announced in the spring of 2014. I asked about it in the spring and was told, "We're working on it." This is yet another on the long list of promises not kept. We are going to keep their feet to the fire on that one.

I would like to move to the Premier's engine analogy that he used to discuss our economy in the spring budget speech. He said — and I quote: "If the private sector is the engine, we want to be the transmission that will enable the engine to power forward." We would like to see that transmission put into drive. Right now we are in park. The Yukon economy is in park.

The reality is that our economy is lurching toward park, and the government has no one else to blame but itself. The days of coasting on high mineral prices are over. The government always blames low mineral prices for holding back the Yukon economy. It is funny how, when the prices are high, it was all the Yukon Party's doing and now it is solely the commodities market.

Mr. Speaker, since I was elected in 2011, I have been urging the government to stop patting itself on the back for that and to get on with regulatory order in this House, for example. I have also been urging the government to work on diversifying its economy, instead of its plan that has left us with a one-trick pony.

The results of this failure to plan are all around us and we have, as a result, one of the worst records of GDP growth in Canada. The answer from this government is a Hail Mary budget that is focused on the next 18 months. Anything beyond that — well, that is the great unknown, I guess.

In 2013 under this government's watch, we had the second-lowest GDP of anywhere in Canada. A report this spring confirmed our economic growth has stalled under this government. For the second time in a row, our economy actually shrank. In 2014, it shrank by 1.2 percent. The government usually releases an updated economic forecast in the summer. Instead, this year, on October 20, as Yukoners were taking in the results of the federal election, the government's own forecast was finally released. It said that our GDP is expected to contract for three years in a row in 2015, decreasing it by six percent.

We are on our way to a third year in a row of negative economic growth — all under the leadership of the Yukon Party government. That's what happens when you spend several years riding on high mineral prices and failing to plan for the inevitable slowdown when the mineral prices drop.

Yukon's own economic forecast released last week confirms that the Yukon's economy would shrink for the third year in a row, as I said. We are the only place in Canada where this has happened. Our economy will perform worse than both Nunavut and the Northwest Territories in 2015. The Yukon is the only place in Canada to record two consecutive years of negative GDP growth, both in 2013 and 2014. We had the second-worst GDP numbers out of all of Canada in 2014, at minus 1.2 percent.

The newest forecasts say that the decline will continue for a third year in a row, and our economy will shrink by six percent. It is very disappointing to watch the government duck responsibility for having the worst economic performance of any jurisdiction in this country for the last 24 months.

In 2013, the government forecast is a — and I quote: "... direction of growth and what we hope to be further prosperity for this territory". Instead, this government has delivered a stalled economy. The prospects for 2015 look no better, with uncertainty hanging over our economy thanks to this government's ongoing court battles with Yukon First Nation governments.

The Conference Board of Canada says our economy will shrink once again this year. The Yukon's own forecast now says it will shrink by six percent, leaving us at the back of the pack for all of Canada. The government takes no responsibility for the fact that we currently have the worst performing economy in Canada. Instead of lashing out across the aisle, the government should be focusing on how it could do things differently.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier's speech writer had, as I explained earlier, a clunky play on words in the budget speech this spring around the word "park". It reminded me of how much of the Yukon must have been parked already by this government. The entire Peel watershed has been parked for the duration of this government's term because of its inability to cooperate with Yukon First Nations. The class 1 mining debacle is another result of the government's inability to work with Yukon First Nation governments, which has resulted in even more land being parked in Kaska territory and the White River district area. When the government is pointing fingers about who is parking the Yukon, it has only itself to blame and it should look at its own record.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I see that my time is coming to an end here and I have much more to debate and to talk about, but I guess we'll leave that for Committee of the Whole debate for the most part. But I did want to take a quick look here also at Education and the education reform that we're starting to talk about here in the Legislative Assembly. The final sections of the budget speech in the spring had outlined yet another attempt by this government to redesign our education system. Now, this is the third try in a decade by my count and follows the New Horizons project that was just implemented in 2014. Now, Yukoners, I'm sure, will follow with interest and with plenty of skepticism as yet another new master plan for education is rolled out. As an educator myself, what we need to do is stick to a plan, implement it and get to something we haven't got to in about 10 years and that is to assess the plan, find out where we made our mistakes and move on from there. It needs to implement the good work that has already been done.

In conclusion, over the past 13 years in office, the political policies of successive Yukon Party governments have disrespected Yukon First Nation governments. They have put all of their economic eggs into one basket and now, as mineral prices drop, our economy is slowing. With our resources and our natural beauty and our bright, hard-working citizens, we have the potential to be a model of success for the entire country. I believe that potential is not being harnessed and I believe that we are in need of a new form of leadership. We need leadership that empowers First Nation governments and consults openly and fairly. We need leadership that listens to our public servants instead of muting them and interfering with their decisions. We need a leadership that enables our private sector instead of entangling them in red tape and we need leadership that brings about a better type of politics in the Yukon instead of the us-versus-them approach. The polarization divides us and it ignores our common bonds.

In closing, I would like to thank this government for all of the work that they do — all the bureaucrats and everybody for preparing this budget that we have on behalf of all Yukoners. I would also like to challenge this government to do better. Yukoners deserve better planning. They work way too hard for their money for that money to be wasted and Yukoners deserve better listening. They are too important to have to fight to be heard.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I will not be supporting this budget before us and it is because I have no confidence in the government that has crafted it. Thank you.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank our Minister of Finance for tabling this particular bill and for the opportunity to present second reading remarks to the supplementary estimates.

I would, first off, just like to thank my constituency of Whitehorse West. You know, I spend, like I do every summer, a lot of time at the doorstep in my riding and I spent a good couple of months-plus at the doorsteps throughout the entire area of Ingram into Arkell, Copper Ridge and throughout the area.

I can say that it never ceases to amaze me just how much growth has occurred in the territory. If there is one thing that I have seen over the length of my tenure and the length of this government — over three consecutive terms of Yukon Party government — is the significant growth in population. The population of the territory throughout has grown in leaps and bounds and a lot of that has to do with, obviously, economic opportunities, the quality of life that we have come to know as Yukoners over our lifetime and obviously there has been a tremendous amount of growth — a tremendous amount of growth in the number of businesses that we have seen in the territory and a lot of growth in our own City of Whitehorse.

One only has to take a look at the Ingram subdivision, which lies in the heart of my riding, and there has been a tremendous amount of movement in the area — individuals from Ottawa, individuals from Iqaluit, individuals from Yellowknife, individuals from Edmonton and individuals from all over the country continue to move to Yukon. I always ask the question at the doorstep: What compels you to come to the Yukon? What do you find most endearing about our territory? It is the quality of life and the economic opportunities that exist here that don't perhaps exist in other jurisdictions in this country.

So I want to thank my constituency and my constituents, who have afforded me the opportunity over the years to provide their feedback and their suggestions for improvement. I constantly ask them for recommendations and suggestions as to how we can improve our territory, how we can improve the way we govern, and how we can improve the delivery of programs and services on their behalf. I want to thank them for their instrumental feedback and ongoing input as to how we can collectively work to build our territory for the benefit of everyone.

It's this growth that also reminds me that investments pertinent to the extension of the Hamilton Boulevard, for example, and also the recent construction of the new emergency response centre are two examples of critical pieces of infrastructure that are really benefitting my area and many areas throughout the city of Whitehorse. I'm really proud to have been part of those two pieces of key infrastructure. With all the growth in the area — like I said, a new subdivision, Ingram — and of course the further growth of the Copper Ridge area, as well as the Arkell region and so forth — there

is a tremendous amount of people who have moved into the area.

I want to say thank you to all of our protective services people working in that field in the emergency response centre. It is interesting to note that since it opened just at the foot of the Canada Games Centre, that the centre has actually responded to over 3,500 calls from the new station. Of course that call volume is expected to only grow as the city continues to expand as well.

I want to thank all the staff at the Emergency Medical Services and all the volunteers who are working very hard to be able to enhance those response times to the city and to the surrounding areas outside the city's parameters. Because of that critical infrastructure — that and the Hamilton Boulevard extension — we're very grateful to be able to be part of the government, working collectively with the City of Whitehorse, working collectively with the Government of Canada to realize those pieces of infrastructure to meet the growing needs.

Just in terms of my riding, earlier this summer — I want to thank also the community development fund housed within the Department of Economic Development and thank the Copper Ridge Neighbourhood Association in particular for their ongoing work to improve access to neighbourhood parks and other matters that are so important to the citizens of the Copper Ridge area.

Just recently we were able to provide some funding in support of further improvements for the Lazulite park situated across from Copper Ridge Place. Improvements have included — again, this is really in collaboration with the City of Whitehorse, the neighbourhood association and the Yukon government — installing new pieces of play equipment and landscaping the area even further, really beautifying the park and making it even more accessible — making it kind of an all-generational park for citizens from Copper Ridge Place to also come on over as well. I want to just congratulate them, because we were able to just recently have a tree-planting event in collaboration with the neighbourhood association in celebration of this area.

I just want to take a few moments just to talk to my three areas of responsibility: Tourism and Culture, Women's Directorate and the French Language Services Directorate. Before I do that, I want to thank our officials for their hard work over the years, in particular putting this supplementary budget together, and to thank all of my officials, in particular, in my three areas. What an honour and a privilege it is to work on citizens' behalf in terms of the delivery of programs and services in these three areas.

Tourism and Culture, starting with tourism, has been and remains a key economic generator for the territory. We continue to work very closely with the tourism industry and partners to ensure that it remains sustainable, is viable, and that it continues to generate opportunities for our territory. It's a tremendous privilege to be back in this portfolio and to work on a number of key initiatives, starting with — particularly, I might want to add — the recent launch of our recent Yukon tourism television commercials.

Actually, just a few days ago, I was really honoured to join the cast and crew and the many Yukon stakeholders in the unveiling of five new television commercials. These commercials are being broadcast and will be broadcast across the country in some various national and specialty networks.

Commercials, as we're all aware, are a key part of Yukon Now, which is a \$3.6-million joint investment with the Government of Canada, and it's really the single-largest investment ever made in tourism marketing. Of course, investing in this area is absolutely critical in helping build further awareness of the Yukon as a travel destination. The commercials, I might add, are obviously a direct response to the vision shared by Yukon's tourism industry less than two years ago that, of course, they shared with us. They wanted to see a greater investment in television marketing in a growing domestic market of Canada. We were really pleased to listen to industry. We went to work with the Government of Canada. We were able to secure \$3.6 million over two years, and now, less than two years later, here we are. We are very pleased to be able to launch the remainder of the commercials. We had some previews and we'll continue to have previews of those commercials in the months to come as well as with Yukoners and abroad.

I want to just congratulate all the individuals — specifically, 165 talented Yukoners made up the vast majority of the production crew and the cast. Over 45 local vendors contributed to the development of this particular marketing initiative, and over 75 percent of the total budget for making those commercials was spent here in the Yukon. I'm very proud of these commercials.

The six commercials, of course, speak to our key pillars of the tourism industry according to our tourism plan, and they really are as much about tourism marketing as they are as an investment in Yukoners. When I say that, it's really about helping to grow the film and the sound industry and growing all those individuals who contributed to the commercials over the past year. They feature Yukon's history, our culture and authentic Yukon stories. Of course, a couple are set in the winter season and four in the summer. I just want to congratulate the many individuals who really proudly showcased all that Yukon has to offer visitors from Canada and beyond. Certainly in all of the different venues that I have been with Yukoners over the past week in showcasing and being able to unveil these commercials, we've received nothing but positive reviews from Yukoners. We're very excited, more importantly, to see the further launch of these commercials. The next four will be hitting the national networks in the new year and, of course, the second winter commercial and the first one that was launched last February are in the marketplace right now. We really look forward to seeing the results of those and continuing to see the growth of our sector.

I also want to just thank key stakeholders: Tourism Industry Association of Yukon; Yukon Chamber of Commerce, obviously, for championing this very important initiative and shared with us their vision less than two years ago. I also want to thank our stakeholders for their vital input

and their feedback. There are many, including the Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association, the Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon, Klondike Visitors Association, and it goes on and on.

I also just wanted to thank my own department because I know that there were some thirty-plus individuals — officials in our own Department of Tourism and Culture — in addition to the 165 Yukoners who were involved and who really contributed in many different ways from the tourism side to the cultural side to the corporate services side — the budgeting to the policy, the communications and so forth. It really has been a team effort, and I think that Yukoners can be really proud to be able to see the first purpose-built commercials here in the Yukon made by Yukoners to showcase Yukon.

Earlier this year — it was actually only about a month ago — in addition to the investment in the commercials, we have a couple of other components — the digital storytelling and the user-generated content and, of course, Tourism Yukon and our marketing agency, Outside the Cube, they recently won a national award of excellence for the most innovative public relations campaign for both. It's another example of creativity at its works and really showcases the talent and the skilled abilities of our Yukon industry.

I can say that the tourism industry as a whole — and on the culture side as well — is filled with tremendous passionate, dedicated people who are really excited about what they do with meaning and with purpose, and it's by working together collectively that we are seeing some positive results as a result and we're contributing to Yukon's success as a continued great place to live and to work and invest.

I just wanted to make reference to earlier this year as well, I was able to sign off a renewed memorandum of understanding with the City of Whitehorse and, building on that, we were able to embark upon our first trade mission to Yellowknife, comprised of tourism and various businesses, to be able to strengthen those particular ties with Northwest Territories. It was the first time that the four governments had come together.

We were also pleased to see a number of our cultural festivals continue to flourish — the Adäka Cultural Festival to celebrate five years in the territory — and we're seeing new festivals also embark. One held within the Champagne and Aishihik Cultural Centre, and of course, ongoing ones as well — as we see the one in Teslin also recently held in July.

In terms of heritage, I was very pleased to be able to attend the recent heritage symposium and museums roundtable. I want to thank all of our stakeholders for their ongoing input, and I want to congratulate Yukon Transportation Museum on celebrating 25 years. I also congratulate the George Johnston Museum on their new facade, hand painted by Keith Wolfe Smarch and his family — a beautiful work of art, if anyone has had the opportunity to see that — and also to recognize the Old Log Church and Rectory for being designated a territorial historic site in the Yukon as well.

There are so many things, unfortunately, I wanted to talk about. I guess we'll have time as the budget unfolds here this Sitting, but I do want to just reference the ongoing work in the Women's Directorate in particular — of course, the announcement to proceed with the creation of a regional roundtable on murdered and missing indigenous women and girls in collaboration with Yukon First Nations, as well as Yukon aboriginal women's organizations. This roundtable was really one of two key recommendations made by the Yukon delegation following the national roundtable this February in Ottawa. It is going to be absolutely key in terms of reflecting upon culturally relevant practices among the respective organizations and individuals and families that have been impacted, to be able to come together to share those practices and identify key solutions in moving forward to address this ongoing important issue.

I also just said that it is a very timely initiative. The family gathering, which is also planned for December this year, will be hosted by the Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle on behalf of aboriginal women's organizations, and it too will provide an opportunity for families to share their stories, honour the impact that their losses had on their community and, of course, our number one hope and intent is that Yukon families are acknowledged, that their voices are heard and that they are meaningfully reflected at the roundtable and are integrated within current and future actions going forward.

I want to thank my co-chairs, Chief Doris Bill of Kwanlin Dün First Nation and president Doris Anderson from the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council, alongside all of the members of the advisory committee — comprised of Chief Sidney from Teslin Tlingit Council, Lorraine Netro from the AFN, Mayor Potoroka from the Association of Yukon Communities, to the RCMP and the list goes on. We certainly look forward to the roundtable and hearing the outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, I see my time is done.

Ms. White: I thank my colleagues for allowing me to try to go before I forget all the things that I have written on papers today.

Today when we reflect on the 2015 supplementary budget, there is a lot to think about. We have done this a couple of times, including the first time in the fall of 2011, and here we are again, in the fall of 2015. It is interesting because there was a media interview on CBC where the Premier was asked what he had to do before his mandate runs out, and he said, "Not a lot". I guess from some standpoints, you could be like, "Okay, I accomplished everything I set out to do and that's good enough. I'm pretty much done."

There are some interesting things in this Assembly that really struck a chord with me and they've resonated for a really long time. You might be interested to know that they're not completed yet.

We all know that oil-fired appliance safety became a very real issue for Yukoners when a family of four and their friend died of carbon monoxide asleep in their beds in January of 2012. It brought this issue right to the front in a fast action. A

new Oil-Fired Appliance Working Group was announced in the press release on March 21, 2012.

The other fascinating thing, Mr. Speaker, when I go through all these things is that I can just follow the story in press releases, which I'm going to do to a certain extent, and then I'll add some bits on to it. The Oil-Fired Appliance Working Group was first announced on March 21, 2012, and a press release on August 29, 2012, said: "Yukon government releases report on oil-fired appliances." October 25, 2012: "Yukon government takes steps to enhance safety of oil-fired appliances." February 14, 2013: "Yukon to be the first Canadian jurisdiction to mandate carbon monoxide detector use." March 27, 2013: "Yukon to lead in carbon monoxide detector legislation."

So in the spring of 2013, Bill No. 57, entitled *Oil-Fired Appliance Safety Statutory Amendment Act*, was tabled and received royal assent on May 2, 2013. It's interesting because, when all that stuff was released and we go through the press releases, it has been worked on, but we still don't have our legislation in place to make carbon monoxide detectors mandatory.

On March 20, 2015, the press release said: "Input wanted on proposed regulations for oil-fired appliances and carbon monoxide safety." This was a big issue and everyone agreed that we can't have that kind of tragedy happen again. I know I've mentioned it before — I sat through the inquest and it was awful. It was awful to know that in multiple spots, the system didn't work to catch that mistake. You know, we came here together and government tabled a bill to say that this is how we're going to deal with this; we're going to make sure it's legislated and we're going to make sure it's mandatory. You know, there have been really good steps. They have to be in rental properties. We know that the Dawson City fire department went door to door and they gave people carbon monoxide testers. They did that.

We know about the non-profit group that made 200 available through the Food Bank, and those are all fantastic steps, but we're still waiting for that last piece. So I would say that maybe that part isn't done yet. Maybe we have a bit further to go until that happens.

A landlord tenant act — this one is a big one for me. The *Landlord and Tenant Act* was a big deal when we started discussing it in here. It was a big deal because it should be a big deal. We passed that in the fall of 2012. They came forward — it was Bill No. 51 and it was called the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* and it received royal assent here on December 13, 2012.

There were lots of times in Question Period when I was told the regulations would be out at the end of 2013. Then, it was: "We're working on the regulations." So we go through all of 2013, which was a 12-month span. Everyone who rents and is a landlord has been told that the Residential Tenancies Office will answer all of your questions and they'll help you resolve your issues.

The sad part was that even though we have a Residential Tenancies Office, until January 1, 2016, they can't actually do the work they have been tasked with because we haven't fully

enacted that legislation yet. In 2013, we were waiting for regulations. In 2014, we were waiting for regulations. You know it's something that I asked about quite regularly and whoever was the minister responsible for Community Services at the time — because they changed — I am sure it was fairly frustrating when I would say: "When are we going to see the regulations for the landlord and tenant office?" Then we get all the way through 2014, we get most of the way through 2015 and all of a sudden in September we have regulations. I am not sure who else in the room — although I am sure there are quite a few of us who have actually gone through those regulations.

The part that I found really frustrating going through those regulations was: What made those regulations so unique that they took up all of 2013, 2014 and a good portion of 2015 to develop? What made those so unique to Yukon that it took two and a half years of people waiting for some kind of answer as to where they could go with their problems when they were either renters or landlords? Those regulations came out and I went through them. There are some gaps, I think. I am sure we are going to talk about that at some point because there are some concerns.

The one big concern I have is that we finally have these regulations that will give power to the Residential Tenancies Office, and we are going to wait until January 1, 2016 before that starts. That process was a bit painful because a lot of my job is helping people navigate the system. I meet a lot of tenants who are having problems, and I meet a handful of landlords who are having problems. I can always send them to the Residential Tenancies Office, but quite often they get handed a package of information and in that package of information is contact information for Mr. Pritchard, who works the Law Line. You can make an appointment to go and talk to him. We have been waiting since December of 2012 for this to be a full-on working office. I know they are doing work, and I can't wait until they can do the work that they have actually been tasked with, and that is going to be exciting. The question from me is: Why did it take so long? Do I feel that has been completed? Well, no, I don't think we are done there yet.

I have been talking a lot about mobile homeowners and their rights. It is my fundamental believe that someone who owns a mobile home is a homeowner and not just a renter. But under this new legislation, they are viewed just the same as someone who rents an apartment or a house. The big difference is you can't easily pack up your home and move it. It was pointed out to me by the then Minister of Community Services that you could move it outside of town. But the afterthought was that it would not meet current building code standards. What does that mean? Well, it means that you own the biggest asset of your life, and you have no recourse. You have no protection. You have no ability to do long-term planning because you are viewed as a renter. Mobile homeowner issues continue to vex me. It continues to be an issue for the people within the seven parks. I have said that I represent three. I used to say six parks, but then I discovered that there was the seventh that I didn't know about, so two

ministers between them represent four of the mobile home parks, and there are still some issues within those facilities. My hope is that, as a government, we can figure out what we can do to support people in mobile home parks because they deserve some kind of security.

You know, when we got elected in 2011, affordable housing was a really big issue and it's interesting because there was a whole bunch of different things that I touted and, like I said, I was going through press releases and it's interesting to note that any press release that referenced lot 262 and the innovative approach for lot 262 — gone. They are no longer on the housing website. They're not on the EMR website. Lot 262 has somehow faded into the distant past. Lot 262 — I mean, there was promise there. It was going to be the innovative way that we were going to tackle housing solutions in the territory. Government was going to pair with private developers and, together, we were going to construct rental housing because, as we know, affordable rental housing is an issue. Not everybody requires a social safety net of social housing. They don't need government help; they just want to be able to afford where they live, right?

So lot 262 — I mean, that was going to be the first kick at the can and we all know that it didn't work and then lot 262 came back, I think, as lot 1547 and then it got sold and gone was that approach. I mean, we've talked about land availability and it was touted for a long time that, you know, look how well we did at Grizzly Valley. So it's interesting to know that there are still 17 lots out of the 30 that were announced in 2011 and they range in price from \$129,000 to \$193,000. There are 17 still remaining at Grizzly Valley, right? Whistle Bend is going to be a great community. It's just going to probably take a whole lot longer than what we were originally told. Right now, Whistle Bend stands healthy, you know, there are 126 lots available right now, including the \$1-million lot for a commercial development. So that might not be the affordable land that we were looking for in Grizzly Valley and it's of interest to know that it hasn't sold and we could reference the "moose-capade" of the tunnel there for the \$23 million, but I'll just move on.

On October 23, 2013, there was a news release that said "Government calls for affordable rental housing solutions". In December of that same year — December 23 — it said, "Request for affordable housing proposals attracts interest", right? So this was how we were going to go forward with our northern housing trust money. We were going to look for new solutions and new partnerships.

February 26, 2014 — the headline said, "Affordable housing RFQ attracts interest from private and non-profit sectors", and you think, "Okay, well, this sounds like we're getting somewhere". You know, there were flaws in my mind. Ninety-five percent of median rent meant instead being \$1,500 a month, it would be \$1,450 a month and is that really affordable? What happened to 10 years? Well, that was only the restriction that it had to be affordable for the 10-year time.

Then on June 25, 2014, we get the press release and it says, "Northern Housing Trust projects announced in two rural communities" and that's great. It's great that two of the

projects were going forward. It got a little complicated in there.

This is just right from the press release. For anyone who wants to know, it is June 25, 2014. It's under the Yukon Housing press section: "These investments in rural housing will help address the need for affordable rental units in the communities of Carmacks and Carcross." That's totally great. "While three Whitehorse projects completed the RFP process, the Yukon government has decided not to approve funding for these projects." I'm quoting here. "We have listened to input from stakeholders who point to recent increases in land availability and housing supply in Whitehorse that have resulted from government and private sector actions. There are concerns that government subsidization of construction of new commercial rental units in Whitehorse could have unintended negative consequences. This includes putting at risk privately-funded housing projects currently underway, including at least one large project with competitive rental rates."

That's it. That was all from that press release. I look forward to seeing the final project from the private-funded housing project that was underway with competitive rates.

I deal a lot with seniors as well and the housing insecurity for seniors. The minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation — and I will, I'm sure, discuss this at length. One reason why affordable rental housing is so important in the territory is that we have a whole spectrum of people who are on wait-lists for Yukon housing for both seniors and non-seniors. If you go to the Yukon Housing office right now and you get told that you are on the wait-list and you say, "Well, what am I supposed to do now?" you get handed a list of possible places for you to look, and they include quite a few hotels. Quite a few hotels — that means you don't have access to cooking facilities. It means that you don't have a bit more space than the one room. It's interesting to know that a lot of them are subsidized in the wintertime by the Health and Social Services, and we have Yukon Housing clients who are on wait-lists.

The reason why private-market affordable housing is so important is because it gives people options while they wait to get caught by that social safety net or it gives them options when they're not requiring that social safety net.

I would say that I don't believe that, at this point in time, we've answered or that government has answered all the questions to how do we make housing affordable for Yukoners. We know that there are people who are paying much more than 30 percent of their earnings on their rent.

There was interesting debate this spring on species at risk legislation — because I fundamentally believe that Yukon needs our own species at risk legislation. There was some debate between the minister and me as to whether the wood bison should be considered to be a species at risk or not. I believe not, at this point, but there are a lot of other species in the Yukon that are special to here, including the Yukon Draba, which resides predominantly in his riding. I learned a lot about that this summer and was educated as well by the minister with his follow-up letter, so that was exciting.

But the point is that, in the territory, things aren't perfect, so if there's not a lot to do still, I question that. I question that every time I talk to someone about medical travel, I question that when I talk to people about the access to housing, I question that when I talk to seniors and they are trying to figure out, if this is where they want to be, how they're going to afford to stay in the territory when they don't have access to the housing that meets their needs.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to discussing the departments that I pay closest attention to — more during Committee of the Whole — but thank you for your time.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: It is a pleasure to rise and speak to this bill today and comment a little bit about some of the contents of the budget bill before us, but also to discuss some of the priorities we have with the Yukon government today and more specifically with regard to my departments — both Community Services and the Public Service Commission.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, since this is my first time rising in the House this session — not including Question Period — I should note a couple of things. First of all, I want to thank the residents of Copperbelt North for their continued support and all of the discussion that I've had with them over the summer. I have been able to get out and speak with a number of constituents throughout my riding over the summer and it is always an edifying exercise to do that kind of work.

October happens to be a fairly important month for us here in the Legislature. Obviously we had a municipal and federal election earlier this month, and earlier — two weeks ago this month — we marked the four-year anniversary of this Yukon Legislative Assembly. Obviously that was something worth considering for, I think, all members of this House — that it has now been just over four years since we first started here in 2011.

In a few weeks to come, we'll mark the anniversary of the first time that many of us were sworn into Cabinet, so it is an interesting time and a cause for some reflection for sure, as we have heard from members previously about our time here in the Legislature.

As I noted, there were a number of important elections this month that bear discussion. The federal election, of course, occurred a few weeks ago. I wanted to offer my congratulations to our new Member of Parliament, Larry Bagnell, on an excellent campaign and congratulations to him on becoming our Member of Parliament yet again for another term. I also wanted to thank our former MP, Ryan Leef, for his service over the past number of years and commend him on a good job. I would like to also recognize the other candidates who ran. As I have said before, it's always, I think, an underappreciated aspect of our system — those individuals who put their names forward for an election. I think they deserve to be recognized and I would like to congratulate, of course, Melissa Atkinson, the NDP candidate, and Frank de Jong, the Green Party candidate as well.

Along with our new MP here in Yukon, we have obviously a new government in Ottawa as well, which brings some uncertainty, but also some tremendous opportunity for

our government in working with our colleagues in Ottawa. Obviously there is some uncertainty associated with certain policies. In particular, I would note infrastructure spending and securities regulations as something that affects my department, but I know that there are a number of questions that arise with regard to how the soon-to-be current government's platform will be implemented.

With that uncertainty there is certainly opportunity as well. I know that my colleagues and I are looking forward to engaging with our new counterparts as they become named in the coming weeks as a part of Prime Minister-designate Trudeau's Cabinet. We look forward to reaching out to those ministers and government officials in the coming weeks and months to tell our Yukon story to those officials and ensure that Yukon's interests are reflected in Ottawa.

Earlier this month there were municipal elections throughout Yukon's municipalities. I wanted to congratulate all of those successful candidates and those unsuccessful candidates. As well, I would like to thank all of the mayors and councillors who chose not to run and who are no longer in those positions. I want to thank them for their service over the past term, whether they are here in Whitehorse or out in the communities — other municipalities as well. I want to thank them for their service.

I am certainly looking forward to working with the new or renewed mayors and councils throughout the territory. That relationship is one that I value significantly and, as Minister of Community Services, I very much look forward to working with those individuals throughout the Yukon.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the local advisory councils as well. The LACs have an important function in our system and provide important advice to government in the decisions that they have to make on a day-to-day basis.

I wanted to touch on a number of issues today, but I know that my time will limit what I am able to cover. The first topic I wanted to cover was with regard to sport and recreation in the territory. I had the opportunity on Friday to attend the Annual Recreation Gathering. That is a gathering of all of the directors and officials from throughout the Yukon who have something to do with recreation, whether they are a rec director or a program director or involved in any of the numerous sport NGOs throughout the territory. That group had their gathering at the Inn on the Lake at Marsh Lake on Friday and into Saturday, and I had a chance to go out and join them for Friday morning. It was an excellent opportunity to discuss a number of things related to sport and recreation in the territory.

That brings me to some of the priorities that we have in the Department of Community Services with regard to sport and recreation. As members know, we are continuing to implement the renewed active living strategy by providing \$250,000 annually to support training, build rural community capacity and develop programs for, during and after school — all designed to keep Yukon children healthy as well as keep children, youth and adults active and healthy. Last year, Community Services negotiated a funding agreement with the Public Health Agency of Canada for \$2 million over the next

five years under the Yukon northern wellness project. Both the active living strategy and northern wellness projects are providing active living opportunities for all Yukoners — children and youth, adults, seniors and elders. We are helping communities build capacity so they can design and lead programs and projects to meet their unique needs.

In partnership with the Canadian Tire Corporation, Community Services is supporting the Canadian Tire active at school program Yukon-wide. Beginning this year, Canadian Tire will contribute \$125,000 over three years in cash, equipment and in-kind support to promote physical activity in children and youth in the school setting.

The Premier and I, as well as the Minister of Education, had a chance to attend the launch of that event earlier this year at F.H. Collins school. I wanted to specifically mention Dan Charlebois, the current Canadian Tire owner, for his support for that program and for the provision of this gear, cash and other in-kind support for that very important program.

We are providing funding for after-school programs to help create opportunities for children and youth that will enhance their sports skills, their well-being and encourage them to take part in healthy activities each day. We also continue to support seniors and elders by encouraging them to take part in active living opportunities, such as local friendly competitions and competitive sport training.

This encourages them to stay involved and continue to hone their skills and help them lead healthier and happier lives, regardless of age. We are providing action grants so that non-government organizations, communities and schools can expand active living programs for Yukon's children and youth. We're enhancing leadership training and programs for community leaders that offer at-school programming, and we're providing equipment to deliver active living programs in schools.

We are continuing in our commitment to programs like moving to inclusion, active start and the Yukon developmental games, which are offered through Special Olympics Yukon, by funding for the rural healthy eating active living leaders program in rural communities across the territory and by supporting the ElderActive Recreation Association Yukon, which keeps seniors and elders active, healthy and connected to their communities through ongoing programming and activities.

We are also continuing annual support for Team Yukon at the Canada 55+ Games, which occur every second year in August. Next year, Team Yukon will represent our territory at the 2016 Canada 55+ Games in Brampton, Ontario. The ElderActive Recreation Association is dedicated to supporting a large variety of programs and activities for the Yukon 55+ population and is building capacity by supporting leadership training in a number of those activities.

With regard to recreational infrastructure, I would be remiss if I didn't point out some of the exciting opportunities with regard to parks that are occurring in my riding. The MLA for Whitehorse West, the Minister of Tourism and Culture, mentioned some of the wonderful work that had been done by the Copper Ridge Neighbourhood Association in developing

and improving the park on Lazulite Drive. Some of the work that has been done there has been led by the Copper Ridge Neighbourhood Association. It has made that park much more aesthetically pleasing, but also much more accessible for residents of the area.

I also wanted to note the exciting development of the park infrastructure on Winze Lane, which is being done by Castle Rock, local contractors. They are in the process of constructing a new ice rink on Winze Lane, which will be of tremendous benefit for all those who live in that area, in particular residents on Drift Drive, Stope Way, Keewenaw, North Star and of course Winze Lane and Winze Place.

That park initiative was led by the Copper Ridge Neighbourhood Association, but received very important financial support from the community development fund. On behalf of my constituents, I wanted to thank the Minister of Economic Development for the financial support received for that project. It is underway as we speak and my understanding from the president of the Copper Ridge Neighbourhood Association is that it is very likely that there will be kids skating on that rink this winter, which is a very exciting development for our community.

In October 2015, Community Services partnered with the Recreation and Parks Association of the Yukon to host the annual rec gathering, which I spoke about a little while ago. At that event at Marsh Lake, at the Inn on the Lake, we had the chance to launch two new tools that community recreation groups will have at their disposal to help them undertake their important work. One of those tools is the *Community Recreation Leader's Guide*. The guide is a comprehensive training tool based on core competencies that will build leadership capacity in rural communities in the delivery of recreation.

The other is a community recreation planning toolkit, which was launched and provides a checklist of processes and procedures for communities that wish to develop a community-driven, community recreation plan. What those documents will do is put together all of the programming and funding and processes that are all out there and that these recreation groups have to deal with, and put them all into one spot, where they can conveniently find them and have access to the information. So if you are a recreation director and you want to either seek funding or seek training or develop a new program or devise a new system of risk management, these tools will help you do all of that.

In February this year, provincial and territorial ministers and the Government of Canada endorsed *A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015*, which is a collaborative effort between provincial and territorial governments and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association. The framework presents a renewed definition and vision of recreation, as well as confirms common values and principles. The framework also provides opportunities to enhance mental and physical well-being, connect people and nature, and address constraints to participation. Implementation of that framework has now begun at the territorial, municipal and community level as

organizers are invited to apply the framework to their own policies, practices and procedures.

Mr. Speaker, the next thing I want to mention with regard to sport and rec was with regard the major events that are upcoming. We of course have a number of major games that have occurred recently and will be occurring soon. Of course we continue to support Team Yukon's participation in all major games, like the Arctic Winter Games, the Canada Games, Western Canada Summer Games, Special Olympics, North American Indigenous Games, and the Canada 55+ Games. I should note that just a few months ago in Wood Buffalo, approximately 140 members of Team Yukon travelled to the Western Canada Summer Games. Team Yukon won a silver medal in athletics, which I should note is the first medal Yukon has ever won in athletics at a major games, and a bronze medal in judo. With our ongoing support for Team Yukon and Yukon sport and recreation programs, we will continue to watch Yukoners excel in their sports.

Our support for major games and Team Yukon's participation in high-level competition contributes to the development of Yukon's athletes, coaches and officials and healthy communities. I know many Yukoners are looking forward to Team Yukon's participation in the 2016 Arctic Winter Games which will be held in Nuuk, Greenland. I know some of the sports will also be hosted in Iqaluit, Nunavut as well. I know that the 304 participants across 16 different sports from Team Yukon are looking forward to attending next year's Arctic Winter Games.

Now, I haven't done a good job of managing my time, unfortunately, so I will have to quickly cover off a few other issues. Moving along to the Protective Services branch of Community Services, this was an interesting and busy year for our wildland fire crews who battled some fairly significant fires early in the year. We had a very early start to our fire season although it did slow down as the summer went on. This budget contains some of the financial information about that season, which I look forward to getting into in Committee of the Whole.

Also under Protective Services, of course, is our Emergency Medical Services and our Fire Marshal's Office. I had a chance this summer to attend the Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs conference that was held here in Whitehorse. It was hosted by the Whitehorse Fire Department at the City of Whitehorse's detachment here. I thought that the theme of this year's conference was interesting and profound. The title of the conference was: "Looking After Our Own — Saving Those Who Save Others". Mr. Speaker, as we go through this session, I'm sure the support and types of programming provided to deal with critical incident stress will come up, so I look forward to getting into that a little bit more as the session goes on. But I just wanted to say that conference that was hosted by the AYFC was a very important one to me and I took a lot away from it. I certainly learned a lot attending that conference.

With regard to a different branch of the Community Services department, there's a lot going on with regard to our Corporate Affairs branch, which isn't one that gets a lot of

attention often, but when we consider the changes that are happening nationally with regard to the way we regulate securities in this country and some of the effects that this could have, I think there will be some interest from members in getting into that in future.

But seeing my time elapse rapidly, I will wrap it up and say that I look forward to getting into this budget in the rest of the session — getting into Committee of the Whole and digging into some of these issues in more detail. As we've heard from members, there's a lot of interest in some of the things that are going on and we look forward to debating those issues as we go forward.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Premier for presenting this budget and I would like to commend that bill to the House.

Ms. Stick: I will keep my comments brief. I do want to start off though by saying thanks for having the privilege to rise and speak in the Assembly as the representative of Riverdale South. This riding across the Yukon River is a diverse one with seniors housing, single-parent housing, condos, apartments, condo complexes and private homeowners.

Riverdale South is home to recreational facilities, restaurants and small businesses. We have two high schools, two elementary schools and a primary school as well. It's a busy community. We have churches, we have daycares and we have group homes. The population is diverse. It is all economic — a range of people with different economic situations and a range of ages. We have young families and more and more I'm noticing young families moving into my riding. It's good to see them out with their strollers and their kids and their bikes, playing in the parks and filling our schools.

We have the Yukon River that runs right through Riverdale South and on the edge of it are hundreds of kilometres of trails and parkland and bush. It is truly a special riding to live in and to represent.

I want to thank my constituents, and not only them, but all Yukoners who take time to come to town halls, who phone me or stop me on the street or in the communities to talk about what their concerns are and what they feel is important in their lives and in their families' lives.

With regard to this bill and the supplementary estimates, looking back to the Spring Sitting, we had part of an afternoon to debate Health and Social Services, which I am the critic for — and that was unfortunate because it is one of the largest departments with the largest budget, and one afternoon — I was barely scratching the surface with the questions and with answers I was looking forward to. I won't go into all those questions today because there were many of them, but it was unfortunate. I had hoped for more time to be able to have a good debate and talk about this big department that will touch every single one of our lives, if not every day, pretty often.

But today when I was looking at the supplementary budget and the new estimates, we do see more increased spending in O&M and capital increases of over \$9 million

additional dollars. So from the budget and the department that already has the largest spending, to see more, it is certainly concerning and we will be asking questions when we get into departmental debate on this.

When we come to that, I will be asking questions about the increased O&M to the Yukon hospital services, increased capital projects, including the new McDonald Lodge, the continuing care facility, and the demolition of the Watson Lake hospital. These are all projects that have impacts on our communities and they are big projects.

What I hear when I am talking to Yukoners, whether from my riding or from other communities, is their concern about what they feel is a lack of meaningful and respectful consultation on issues and projects that impact all of us. This includes citizens, families, First Nation governments and professionals. These are people who are impacted by the decisions this government makes, but often in isolation from Yukoners.

As no one would be surprised to hear, at the top of that list for me is the Whistle Bend continuing care facility. We have a plan here that is going to impact every single community in the Yukon, but before anyone had a chance to comment or talk about this plan, the government was already in the planning stages. We have a business case analysis that laid it all out. It has already gone to Partnerships BC to request proposals for design/build project. All of this was before there was true, meaningful consultation with Yukoners. What upset many of the people I have heard from, whether it is on the streets or the town hall that we had in September, was they did not feel they had an opportunity to talk about this, to talk about different options. I know there were some discussions at Macaulay and at Copper Ridge with some of the residents there, but that didn't take place until this past spring. That is nearly two years after the initial report came out. That is too long for planning to take place without involving its citizens in something that has so much impact on everyone's lives.

At our town hall we listened while many Yukoners spoke of their concerns about the size, the location, the lack of consultation, and the fact that communities would be seeing many of their elders and seniors having to leave communities where they have spent all their lives. We heard from professionals at the town hall who had also not been consulted but whom this will impact in how they do their jobs. I am still hearing from citizens. I am still hearing from professionals who have many questions and many concerns that they do not feel are being responded to.

The other thing I learned from that town hall meeting — or came out of it feeling — was that Yukon, for as big a place as it is, our population is small, but we have innovative, caring, smart people who have good ideas and who want to share those and work with government in communities in answering some of the concerns they might have. We're a smart bunch. We have smart citizens. We have people who have wonderful ideas of different ways of providing services that we do need. I won't argue that. We will need these

services. But we can be innovative. We can once again lead the way when we look at programming.

The other thing I just want to comment on is that this has been one of my busiest years in terms of individual Yukoners coming to speak to me about real concerns they have, whether it's with regard to social assistance regulations, pioneer utility grants, medical travel assistance, access to programming for individuals with disabilities, and, still, access to family physicians. Probably one of the biggest concerns that we've raised numerous times in this House is access to mental health services — whether that be for children, for youth, for adults; whether it's someone going to see a counsellor or someone being housed at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre because the hospital won't take them. We've been asking for a mental health strategy that would pull together programs and look at what our options are.

I look forward to the briefing on this bill and the estimates, and to the Committee of the Whole where hopefully some of these questions can be asked and hopefully answered.

I want to thank Yukoners who have taken time to phone me, to stop me on the street and to e-mail me. As I said, it's been my busiest year. I am amazed at how many people feel the need to come forward and speak up because they do not feel they are being heard and I am happy to listen.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: It's a pleasure to rise here in second reading in support of the *2015-16 Supplementary Estimates No. 1*. Like the Member for Riverdale South, I also had a very busy summer working on many constituent files and I'm very pleased that in my third term as an MLA, my constituents continue to feel free to call me on issues that are important to them and I enjoy responding to those issues and helping them out to the best extent that I can, day in and day out.

I would like to begin with highlighting some of the things that I have been happiest to see this year in my capacity as MLA for Lake Laberge — areas where the Yukon government is responding to the needs and requests of my constituents.

I would like to thank the Minister of Highways and Public Works for the recently installed turning lanes and slip lane at the southernmost entrance to Couch Road. This is one of the two highest priorities that I have heard from constituents in the Hidden Valley area and I appreciate his support in seeing that project completed.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of the previous Minister of Highways and Public Works for the turning lane installed at the northernmost entrance to Couch Road and thank the Premier as well for his support for this project. It was completed in direct response to one of the two highest priorities that I have heard from constituents — when I say highest, I mean the highest commonly shared priorities that I hear most frequently directly from constituents in Hidden Valley.

The second of the two high priorities of my constituents in the Hidden Valley/MacPherson area is also something that this government has acted on, and that is expanding the

successful rural well program into municipalities. I would like to thank the Minister of Community Services and staff of Community Services for their excellent work in expanding this program into all Yukon municipalities, thus allowing my constituents to have access to the very successful program that has been working since 2004 outside municipal boundaries and is now available and has assisted a number of Yukoners within the City of Whitehorse and other municipal areas.

Another thing that I've heard consistently from constituents over my time as their MLA is the importance of the ability to use the research forest at the corner of the Hot Springs Road and the Mayo Road area to which, when I was first elected, public access to that area was not allowed. We announced a change to that — I believe it was in 2008 that I announced that — and since that time, through the good work of the staff of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, with support by the Department of Environment and the Yukon Youth Conservation Corps — the Minister of Environment eloquently acknowledged their 25th anniversary this year — both departments and Y2C2 have all been working on the expansion of the trails that has occurred over the last number of years. There were improvements to the trails, the provision of steps in a number of areas that did not exist and benches in many picturesque locations. This summer, there was the final major component of the research forest work to improve the ability for my constituents and other Yukoners to enjoy this beautiful area, which was the expansion of the trails down to the Little Oxbow Lake area that's intended to be available for use as a swimming area.

I had the opportunity to visit there this summer and would like to thank all involved in this project for the work that has been done on trail improvements, on building benches and on putting in informational signage for those using it. One thing that I really enjoy seeing every time I pass the research forest, especially in the evening, is that typically in the summer and often in the winter, there's often a car or more in the parking lot belonging to my constituents or others who are enjoying this beautiful area. I think that the changes that have been made over the years have helped the public understand the research being done and built community support for the research forest, and it's certainly a highly valued recreational area for a number of my constituents in the area.

As well, the creation of a playground there a few years ago was again in direct response to an issue that I had heard from constituents in 2011 and had committed to working toward. The forestry-themed playground is also very often in use by parents and children who certainly appear to be enjoying it.

Moving to a few of the other highlights from this year, including investments in infrastructure for improving fire response within my riding of Lake Laberge. That includes the changes that were made to the Ibex fire hall that added an addition with two water storage tanks to significantly increase the water storage capacity of that fire hall, which has a well with a poor recovery rate. Improving the access to water for the Ibex fire department was something that I heard about from a number of constituents in the area and from the Ibex

Valley Local Advisory Council. I'm pleased that this work has been done. I would like to thank the Minister of Community Services for his assistance in completing this project for my constituents in the Ibex Valley area.

While I'm on the subject, I would also like to congratulate the continuing and new members of the Ibex Valley Local Advisory Council who were recently acclaimed in some cases and then, as only three names have been filed by the deadline, there was significant interest from others for the extended deadline and two of the seats then had a contested race that led to two people being chosen from five candidates — five citizens of Ibex — and I would like to congratulate both the two members who are returning and the newly elected members. I look forward to continuing to work with them on matters that are of importance to my constituents in the Ibex Valley.

I would also like to thank both the returning and newly elected members of the Whitehorse City Council, as well as Mayor Curtis and congratulate all other mayors and councillors throughout the territory, as well as the many people who ran unsuccessfully and all of the volunteers and voters who played a role in the municipal election. I would also like to congratulate Larry Bagnell on his return as Yukon Member of Parliament and thank everyone who participated in the federal election as well — and particularly, a special thank you to all Yukoners who participated in more than one election over the past month or so for the role that they play in ensuring that our democracy remains alive and healthy here in the Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, moving back to specific investments this year — returning to the topic of improving fire response, I would like to note as well that the Deep Creek/Grizzly Valley community well project was expanded — changed, I should say — and the tank size increased to provide for the Hootalinqua fire department to be able to hook up and rapidly refill the pumper tanker and pumper, and that has already been successfully tested although the well is in the final stages of being open to public use.

Those investments in fire are part of what the Yukon government has done since 2011 to respond to what I have heard from my constituents in Lake Laberge about the importance of fire response to them. Since 2011, there have been new trucks purchased for the two fire departments within my riding. The Ibex Valley Fire Department has a new pumper and a new pumper tanker and the Hootalinqua Fire Department has a new pumper tanker. They, of course, are part of the increased investments that the Yukon government has made in recent years in improving the ability of the Fire Marshal's Office to replace fire trucks more rapidly throughout the territory. Through those increased investments, Ibex and Hootalinqua are two of the four fire departments that have seen the brand new state-of-the-art pumper tankers, which replaced the previous tanker equipment.

When I first got elected, the two fire halls in my riding were using tankers that not only did not have pumping capability, but in one case it was almost as old as I was and I believe the other was slightly older than I was, so thanks to

the increased investments that we have made in response to the request of my constituents and other Yukoners. In responding to a demonstrated need, we have replaced them with state-of-the-art equipment that has a pump-and-roll function and not only does not need to hook up hoses but can pump while moving to extinguish roadside fires. The trucks have certainly been well-received by all of the fire halls that we have delivered them to and are something that I am proud to have been able to play a role in, seeing this new equipment provided to our volunteers who respond at all hours of the day and night in rural Yukon.

As well, on a related topic, I note that we have continued to invest in upgrading ambulances. Ten years ago, the Yukon's ambulance fleet was not in good shape and, through increasing our investments there and in some years purchasing two ambulances per fiscal year, we have seen a significant reduction in the age of the fleet as well as much-improved equipment provided to both the paramedics based out of Whitehorse and to all rural stations.

The work as well that has been done on civic addressing — I am pleased to see that is continuing to progress. Although the entire project has taken longer than would have been perhaps envisioned at the start, it is nice to see the work concluded in a number of rural Yukon areas. The work is done in Ibex Valley now as well, and I am pleased that the Minister of Community Services agreed to have staff work with the Hootalinqua Fire Protection Society in beginning the work on civic addressing on the Mayo Road and the Hot Springs Road areas that will respond to the interests of my constituents and help improve 911 response within rural areas of Yukon.

I would also like to highlight and thank the Minister of Highways and Public Works for the work that has been done to date in responding to my constituents' concerns about the Takhini River bridge on the Mayo Road, which were highlighted and brought to a higher point of concern after a serious accident earlier this year. The work that has been done on the short-term measures included the centreline rumble strips, the reflective markings that were put in within the last couple of weeks — or "cat's eyes", as they are more informally called — the line that was painted on the bridge that, for all of my lifetime, had never had a centreline painted on it, and, as well, the radar sign that was put up — I believe Highways and Public Works is pulling it down to check the results from it. It was in place over the late spring and throughout the summer and fall at the top of the hill to provide visual notification for people of their speed and hopefully to influence traffic behaviour, which I believe they are now going to assess.

Moving specifically to the budget for the Department of Justice, I am pleased to see continued progress on the expansion of basic 911 to all communities. That is a Community Services lead, but supported by the Department of Justice.

I am pleased that the move of the RCMP into the emergency response centre is nearing its final stages and should be completed either late this calendar year or early in 2016. I am pleased that, through the Department of Justice

resources, we have been able to partner with the Women's Directorate on extending the funding for Victoria Faulkner's A Safe Place program, which has had some excellent results so far in providing services to women at risk. I am pleased as well that, in partnership with the Women's Directorate, we have supported and provided three years of funding for a women's legal advocate, which was the last large outstanding recommendation from *Sharing Common Ground*, which had not been completed. I am pleased that we announced this year the \$281,000 in funding over three years for this program, and Women's Directorate awarded the contract to Skookum Jim. Skookum Jim selected the woman who will be the legal advocate and fill this role. I hope that this program is as successful as we hope and expect that it will be in helping women in times of trouble understand their legal options and how to navigate the system.

I understand my time to speak is drawing to a close.

I would also like to highlight and am pleased to see the investments in Whitehorse General Hospital, which have included the new MRI machine, the work being done to expand the emergency room and, of course, the replacement of ambulance station 1, with a new ambulance station on the Whitehorse General Hospital campus.

As well I would like to highlight that, through the work and assistance of the Yukon government through the Department of Economic Development and Highways and Public Works, 4G upgrades to cell service within my riding both for the Ibex Valley area and the Laberge area — and I would like to thank the Minister of Economic Development and the Minister of Highways and Public Works for their work on this file, and also take the opportunity to remind this House that it's through the investment to the Yukon government several years ago that those two towers were put up to expand cell service in the periphery north of Whitehorse and serve hundreds of my constituents who now receive cell service, which, of course, was one part of a territory-wide project. Through the support of the Yukon government in partnership with the private sector, we saw cell service expand beyond the Whitehorse area to most Yukon communities.

With that I will commend the supplementary budget to the House and look forward to hearing from other members in debate and second reading.

Hon. Mr. Hassard: It's a pleasure to rise today. As this is my first time up this session, I would like to take a moment and thank all of my constituents in Pelly-Nisutlin for their continued support. It has been a busy summer in Pelly-Nisutlin. Ross River — we had quite a busy summer up in that part of the world. BMC Minerals was in doing a drilling program on the old Kudz Ze Kayah project — a lot of people were employed there for the summer. The Ketz mine site continued work on the closure there. Selwyn Resources and at Howard's Pass — many people from the Faro and Ross River area working out there this summer.

I had the pleasure of going up in September with the Minister of Education and having a barbecue for the reopening of the school. I would like to thank the Minister of

Highways and Public Works for all of the hard work that they did ensuring that the school was open in time, and the students and teachers were very happy to see that. It was a good turnout at the barbecue so thanks to all of them.

Faro — the town was busy again. The Faro golf tournament was a raving success, and things were busy in Faro with the continued remediation work going on at the Faro mine site.

We have a new RCMP station being built — or soon to be built — in Faro. I believe the tender closes on Wednesday.

Teslin was busy as well. We had a collaborative effort between Community Services and I would like to thank the Minister of Community Services for helping make that go forward.

We worked with the Village of Teslin, the Teslin Tlingit Council and the Teslin Development Corporation — the local development corporation — and they were able to run the job of rebuilding the rest of the streets, as well as installing three new sewer lift stations. The streets are all completed now; the lift stations are well in progress and it has kept a lot of local people employed throughout the summer, so that was a great initiative.

I had the opportunity this fall to travel with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources as well as the Minister of Environment to Vancouver and meet with people in the mining sector and just listen to what they had to say and hear their perspectives on how they see the future and the future of Yukon. There were some really good meetings and it was a good trip.

As well I accompanied the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to Calgary and I met with industry and the oil and gas sector and had a couple of presentations on renewable energy. It was time well spent and it is always interesting to get different perspectives on where they see our country going and how we can play a part in that.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will just turn to my departments for a few minutes, understanding that the budget focuses on completing projects already committed to and to funding additional projects that will contribute to economic activity in the territory and to increasing the quality of life of Yukoners.

This supplementary budget will further our economic development goals and is directly linked to our vision of building a sustainable and diversified economy, focusing on prosperity for all Yukoners. This summer the Premier directed all government departments to focus on growing the economy and supporting infrastructure. That was to be done in four ways: by making strategic investments in Yukon's infrastructure; improving Yukon's regulatory regime; making the Yukon the best place to live, work, play and raise a family; and by building First Nation partnerships.

We remain committed to working with our partners in the private sector, First Nation governments, industry associations, non-governmental organizations and other government departments and other levels of government to create and foster development opportunities. To accomplish this, the Department of Economic Development offers broad support to all sectors of Yukon's economy. This will be

outlined in detail in departmental debate, but some of the operation and maintenance items include revotes and approvals for the Business and Industry Development branch, related projects not completed by the 2014-15 fiscal year-end.

As well the enterprise trade fund, the strategic industries fund, film and sound initiative projects, small business development programs and investment attraction initiatives will all receive additional funding. The details of these requests will be outlined in departmental debate — so just to kind of touch on those without getting into much detail.

Mr. Speaker, the enterprise trade fund supports projects that have provided Yukoners with employment and training opportunities, promoted Yukon musicians nationally and abroad and provided the support needed to create demo and full-length albums. To the best of my knowledge, there have been 59 projects this year and, since 2004-05, the department has supported some 885 projects that were undertaken by Yukon businesses and it was somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$4.4 million.

In terms of the strategic industries development fund, it's a fund that supports the Government of Yukon's commitment to foster the development of industries that have the potential to create jobs, generate wealth and increase Yukon's economic output.

Film and sound initiatives — Mr. Speaker, as you may know, the Yukon is becoming widely known as an ideal filming location and the initiatives through film and sound are being utilized to support a variety of projects and the film and sound sector is evolving and thriving here in the Yukon.

The department supports a variety of small- and medium-sized businesses through its funding programs and provides opportunities for business development and market expansion.

In technology and telecommunications, as the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin mentioned, Old Crow now has 4G service — and not just Old Crow — I hope I don't get this wrong — but, to the best of my knowledge, we have Burwash Landing, Carmacks, Dawson City, Faro, Haines Junction, Ibex Valley, Marsh Lake, Mayo, Old Crow, Pelly Crossing, Ross River, Tagish — I think Tagish was the latest one — Takhini Hot Springs, Teslin, Upper Liard, Watson Lake and Whitehorse.

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Hassard: Beaver Creek made the list? I thought it was next, sorry. Okay, I believe Beaver Creek is scheduled for next year. So hopefully I didn't miss anybody there.

As well Economic Development supports an inclusive and comprehensive approach to developing regional economic interests. In this respect, the department is requesting additional funding for a variety of Regional Economic Development branch-related projects, but as well, the details of these projects will be outlined in departmental debate.

The projects that are eligible under the Regional Economic Development branch include business feasibility analysis, implementation of a municipal economic development strategy, due diligence on potential First Nation business acquisition and help for a community to maximize

the beneficial economic impact of local capital projects, as well as attendance and networking and educational events related to economic development.

From April 1, 2015, to September 28, 2015, 13 projects from Yukon communities were approved for regional economic development funding for a total of \$403,863. Since its inception, the fund has invested over \$4 million in 254 Yukon projects.

The community development fund is a very important fund here in Yukon. The primary goal is to support projects and events that provide long-term sustainable economic or social benefits to Yukon communities. From April 1 of this year until August 14, the government had approved over \$2.7 million in funding toward 47 projects throughout the territory. This supplementary budget will include revotes for this fund as well.

So far in that time frame of April 1 to August 14, we have seen two projects in Carmacks for just over \$104,000, five projects in Dawson City for just about \$550,000, one project in Faro for just under \$55,000, two in Old Crow for \$76,000, one in Teslin for \$23,400, three projects in Watson Lake for just over \$207,000, 29 projects for Whitehorse and the Whitehorse area for almost \$1.6 million, and four other projects in various places of the Yukon for \$184,000.

The total of those 47 projects is almost \$2.8 million. That's a pretty significant number for communities here in the Yukon for some very worthwhile projects — it's great to see.

For those who aren't fully aware of how the CDF works, there are three tiers to the CDF. Tier 1 is for funding under \$20,000; tier 2 is for funding between \$20,000 and \$75,000; and tier 3 is for funding greater than \$75,000. There are four intakes per year for tier one — May 15, July 15, October 15 and January 15. Usually — probably always — decisions are made within four weeks of the intake date.

Tier 2 only has two intakes per year, and those are May 15 and September 15. Those decisions are usually eight weeks after the intake date. Tier three only has one intake per year, and that's on January 15. Decisions are made within 12 weeks of the intake date.

I should take some of my time and focus on housing before you give me the sign that I have to sit down and be quiet.

I would just like to say that this year in housing, the supplementary budget supports the attainment of the government's strategic goals. We have included funding for strategic investments in Yukon's infrastructure. We have included funding to complete upgrades to multiple units throughout the Yukon. There is funding for clients to access loans for home ownership or repair and an affordable housing partnership with the Carmacks Development Corporation. We are not only investing here in Whitehorse, but throughout Yukon communities as well and recognizing that all communities have their own unique needs. It is always challenging but keeps it very interesting at the same time.

Yukon Housing Corporation recently embarked on community tours to enable the Housing Corporation to go all around the Yukon and just listen to what Yukoners have to

say and learn more about the communities and their particular housing needs and how they are different from other communities. This engagement will help future planning and is a very progressive and collaborative approach to service delivery.

The implementation of the housing action plan is proceeding with another intake of home ownership preparedness and education program — or HOPE. I kind of like that acronym. We will get into more detail about these programs when we get into departmental debate.

There are a couple of things I would like to mention before my time runs out. I just want to update you on the 48-unit seniors residence on Front Street. It was an \$11.6-million project to construct a building that is accessible for seniors social housing. The 48-unit building is being purpose-built to meet the needs of eligible social housing tenants aged 65 years and older or 55 and older if you have mobility challenges. The building design incorporates 10 barrier-free and 38 fully accessible units to accommodate a range of needs for independent living, low-income seniors. With the near completion of this much-needed building, we are looking forward to Yukon Housing Corporation clients moving in early December. I believe the date that was given today was January 4. We will cross our fingers and hope that date stays.

One of the other things in housing is the housing action plan, for which we have budgeted \$480,000 over two years for the initial work on that. We recently developed and introduced five new funding programs designed to help Yukoners acquire market rental housing and to encourage construction of more affordable rental units. The needed programs include the municipal matching rental construction program, the rental quality enhancement grants, accessibility enhancement grants, rental housing allowances for families and an expansion of Yukon Housing Corporation's rent supplement program.

These programs are making use of the last of the northern housing trust money. It is interesting because some of the programs are actually over-subscribed to the rental rehabilitation program. It was a two-year program and within weeks we had the \$400,000 already allocated, so it was great to see that was so well subscribed to.

Seeing that I am getting the eye that tells me to sit down, I will just conclude by saying thank you and I look forward to hearing what everyone else has to say about the supplementary budget and I look forward to getting into a more detailed debate as we move on through the session.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Tredger: I am pleased to stand and speak to Bill No. 20, *Supplementary Estimates No. 1* for 2015-16. I am also very pleased and honoured to speak on behalf of the people of Mayo-Tatchun. I would like to thank them for their continued support and for their efforts to keep me informed and involved in their communities and in their lives. The people of Mayo-Tatchun are strong, independent and resourceful people. They inhabit a vast and rich territory and have found ways to work within their environment to create vibrant communities and strong cultures. The people of Mayo-Tatchun, the people of

Carmacks, Pelly Crossing, Mayo, Stewart Crossing and Keno have a deep sense of commitment to their families, their neighbours and their communities. They live on the land and in their communities. They care deeply and are committed to each other. They know and are part of the land, part of the water, and they are committed to being stewards of the land.

They are trappers, hunters, fishers and farmers. They are outfitters and lodge owners. They are hardrock miners, placer miners, educators, nurses, police, store owners and heavy equipment operators. They work for each other, for municipal, Yukon, federal and First Nation governments. They build roads and operate hydro stations. They build houses and maintain infrastructure. They are small business owners, children and retirees.

These resourceful citizens of Mayo-Tatchun, like citizens in other Yukon communities and cities, can teach us a thing or two about resilience and working together, about sustainability and stewardship, about water and forests, about mining and tourism, about roads, rivers and communication — but most of all they can show us the way to work together respectfully to build family and community and to build a rich and diverse economy. They are committed to now and to our children.

The strength of Yukon lies in our people. They must have a voice. They must be involved in a meaningful and respectful manner. Too often we see from this Yukon Party government — much like the former federal Conservative government — top-down decision-making, decisions made behind closed doors, secretive decisions made without the expertise, skills, creativity and knowledge of Yukon people — all our friends and our neighbours, the people most affected by the decisions made, the people most able to get results effectively and efficiently — Yukon citizens who this Yukon Party government again, like their former federal Conservative counterparts, are continually leaving out of the process.

Mr. Speaker, we are entering a critical time for Yukon. We are having to adapt to ever-increasing climate change — a change that is already affecting our land, our water, our seasons, our wildlife populations, and indeed threatening our sustainability. We have to adapt to an ever-changing economic focus and trends. We need all the expertise and involvement of all our Yukon citizens. Now is the time for us to come together for long-term planning. Our waters and land must be protected and maintained for future generations. Now is the time to come together to consult, to listen. Now is the time to engage all Yukon.

The Yukon Party Premier talks about balancing the budget, not running a deficit and diversifying the economy. The Premier speaks as to how we are the envy of other jurisdictions. Let's take a closer look.

According to the most recent Public Accounts issued for the year ending March 31, 2015, the government receives the majority of its revenues from the Government of Canada as a formula financing grant. In 2015 the government received \$851 million as a formula financing grant. This was an increase of \$35 million, or four percent, from the previous year.

In addition to the formula financing grant, the government receives funding from the Government of Canada for purposes such as health, social programs and education, as well as funding for infrastructure development. Contributions and service agreements from Canada increased from the previous year by \$9 million, or seven percent, to \$137 million.

Taxes and general revenues — including taxes on corporate incomes, personal income, tobacco, liquor, fuel, insurance premium and property as well as licences and fees such as motor vehicles and business professional fees — decreased from the previous year by \$28 million, or 15 percent, to \$155 million. This was largely due to a decrease in corporate and personal income taxes of \$24 million.

We receive almost \$1 billion of \$1.24 billion revenue directly from the federal government. To talk of balancing this budget is, at best, disingenuous. We should be talking of careful planning, sound management and preparation for the future, yet every day we see the opposite: poorly done needs assessments; projects started, cancelled and started again; costly reviews and studies that sit unread on shelves; capital project cost overruns; auditor reports that continually speak to a lack of planning, lack of evaluation and lack of direction. I can cite from the auditor's report on Education in 2009 that highlights what has become a common theme echoed by other auditors' reports: the department does not regularly analyze relevant data to identify, report and address critical gaps; it has no long-term master plan to ensure that it is managing school facilities effectively and preparing for significant changes; it does not have a long-term strategic plan. This is important. The auditor goes on to say: "Strategic planning is a management tool that focuses on the future. It helps...set priorities and goals and develop a plan to meet those goals. It also helps a department to assess how resources are to be allocated and gives it the scope to adjust its direction in response to a changing environment".

Mr. Speaker, strategic planning is now more important than ever — strategic planning that involves our citizens, our civil service and the Yukon public. Now is the time to diversify. What we see is that revenue, or gifts from Canada, is up. Our own-source revenue is down. We owe it to Canada and Canadian citizens to use their hard-earned tax dollars — the tax dollars of all Canadians — that support us in the north in an accountable and responsible manner.

Yukon small businesses and industry are struggling while the government engages in costly, time-consuming and losing battles with other levels of government. This government engages in unnecessary and very costly legal battles and disputes with other levels of government, all the while hiring more communications officers and outside ad agencies to cover their inadequacies.

The Yukon Party government talks of its diversity and talks of small business and entrepreneurs, yet, in terms of diversity, this government is projected to spend \$62 million on oil and gas and mineral resources and less than \$30 million for the entire Department of Tourism, \$385,000 on forestry, and \$345,000 on agriculture. We're spending more than double the combined amount of those areas on one department.

It is time to diversify, to build a lasting and sustainable base of economy for Yukon. The mineral industry has a role to play, but it is not the only player. It is to all our advantage to build a robust and diverse economy together, yet this government turns to fossil fuels. Investing in the fossil fuel industry when the rest of the world is divesting of that very same industry, when the rest of the world recognizes that we must work to lessen our dependence on fossil fuels and increase our dependence on renewable resources — to do the opposite is simply wrong-headed. It is time to involve all Yukoners in our conversations, not just a chosen few.

We have a dedicated, informed, knowledgeable civil service. It is time to trust our civil service, to use their expertise, to remove the gag orders and allow them to do what we hired them to do — to work for all Yukoners, to advocate for all of Yukon now and in the future, to use their science, their expertise, their skills, and most of all to use their passion to advocate, advise and help us to build a healthy, sustainable and diverse economy.

The civil service duty is to the public, not to the partisan party in power, not to the minister or a narrow Yukon Party agenda. The public service does not need more communication officers. They need more freedom to do what they do best: to use their knowledge and skills to create a better future.

It is time to build and work with other levels of government; to build trust and cooperation; to share resources and knowledge together in the spirit of land claims and self-government agreements; and to bring municipal governments, First Nation governments, advisory councils, committees and boards to the table together for all Yukon. The promise of the *Umbrella Final Agreement* has been sidetracked. This government has spent more time and money on costly legal wrangling than any other Yukon government before. The last 12 years of Yukon Party government have seen an ever-increasing acrimony and legal wrangling and an ever-increasing expenditure of time, resources and money — money that is better used to build a diverse economy.

If I may quote from Chief Carl Sidney of the Teslin Tlingit Council: “It is our dream and our hope that within another 20 years, we can have what we negotiated 20 years ago. Which is a government recognized by the other governments in Canada, and that our youth will be recognized and given all the opportunities that were envisioned when we started negotiating 30 years ago.

“I could remember when people always talked about how rich we’ll be when our land claims are all settled. And yet our people are still waiting” — still waiting.

Speaker: Order, please. The hour being 5:30 p.m., this House now stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. tomorrow.

Debate on second reading of Bill No. 20 accordingly adjourned

The House adjourned at 5:30 p.m.