



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 269

1st Session

33rd Legislature

HANSARD

Wednesday, May 11, 2016 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Patti McLeod

YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

SPEAKER — Hon. Patti McLeod, MLA, Watson Lake
DEPUTY SPEAKER — Darius Elias, MLA, Vuntut Gwitchin

CABINET MINISTERS

NAME CONSTITUENCY PORTFOLIO

Hon. Darrell Pasloski	Mountainview	Premier Minister responsible for Finance; Executive Council Office
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	Government House Leader 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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Yukon Party

Hon. Patti McLeod	Watson Lake
Darius Elias	Vuntut Gwitchin

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

Liberal Party

Sandy Silver	Leader of the Third Party Klondike
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Independent

David Laxton	Porter Creek Centre
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**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Wednesday, May 11, 2016 — 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 at this time with the Order Paper.

Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of National Physiotherapy Month

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Madam Speaker. May is National Physiotherapy Month. I rise today on behalf of all members in the Legislative Assembly to honour the work physiotherapists do for us.

Physiotherapists have in-depth knowledge of human movement and function. They work with clients of all ages and with a wide range of health conditions. Thanks to their training, physiotherapists help patients regain physical independence and ability, prevent and manage pain or physical impairments and promote fitness and health. They also provide education and advice for health promotion, disease and injury prevention.

There are more than 20,000 registered physiotherapists in Canada. Here in Yukon, approximately 37 registered physiotherapists work in private clinics, hospitals, in child development programs and for Continuing Care in Health and Social Services.

There are highly skilled health professionals who analyze our movements, identify restrictions and diagnose problems. They design treatment plans to help us achieve maximum healing. Physiotherapists provide safe, client-centred care to patients who are often in pain. They do it with courtesy and with professionalism, and leave us feeling better.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I would like to invite everyone who has ever employed the services of a physiotherapist to take a moment to appreciate the valuable service they provide and their commitment to health, lifestyle and quality of life. Thank you.

Speaker: Introduction of visitors.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As the minister responsible for Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, I would like to ask all members to join me to welcome Clarence Timmons and Andrew Robulack to the gallery.

Applause

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Speaker: The Chair has for tabling a report from the Chief Electoral Officer of Yukon, entitled *Annual Contributions to Political Parties in the 2015 Calendar Year*. This report is submitted in accordance with section 398 of the *Elections Act*.

Are there any further returns or documents for tabling?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I have for tabling the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board 2015 annual report, entitled *Zero is Possible*.

Speaker: Are there any reports of committees? Petitions.

PETITIONS

Petition No. 28 — received

Clerk: Madam Speaker and honourable members of the Assembly: I have had the honour to review a petition, being Petition No. 28 of the First Session of the 33rd Legislative Assembly, as presented by the Member for Riverdale South on May 10, 2016. Petition No. 28 meets the requirements as to form of the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

Speaker: Accordingly, I declare Petition No. 28 to be read and received. Pursuant to Standing Order 67, the Executive Council shall provide a response to a petition which has been read and received within eight sitting days of its presentation. Therefore, the Executive Council response to Petition No. 28 shall be provided on or before Wednesday, May 25, 2016.

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Petition No. 29

Ms. Moorcroft: Madam Speaker, I have for presentation the following petition to the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

This petition of the undersigned shows:

THAT the undersigned ask the Yukon Legislative Assembly to urge the Yukon government to improve camping opportunities for persons with disabilities by:

(1) ensuring that accessibility is considered in the design and development of future Yukon campgrounds, campground facilities and campsites; and

(2) building new accessible campsites, cookhouses, outhouses and trails during 2016 upgrades and repairs proposed for Wolf Creek and other Yukon campgrounds.

Speaker: Are there any further petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Notices of motions.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Mr. Elias: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to use the 2016-17 budget to invest \$4.79 million for the electronic health systems development project, a \$10-million project to build the initial three components of an electronic health record system consisting of the client registry system, lab information systems and the drug information system.

Ms. White: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon, as the territory's largest employer, to make the hiring of public sector apprentices a priority in order to:

- (1) facilitate the transfer of knowledge to a new generation of tradespeople; and
- (2) demonstrate a commitment to job creation by sharing the responsibility for apprentice training with Yukon's private sector.

Mr. Silver: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to give notice of the following motion for the production of papers:

THAT this House do order the return of a copy of the recent multi-million-dollar contract for tourism marketing signed with Vancouver-based Cossette communications.

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

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Renewable energy strategy

Ms. Hanson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yukon has the vast potential to become a green energy trailblazer. On April 22, Earth Day, the Yukon Party expressed their support for Canada's signing of the Paris agreement that calls on governments to reduce our communities' dependence on fossil fuels with the goal of no net emissions by 2050. Yes, part of that process is reducing our emissions, but even more important is the transition to a low-carbon community that also considers how to be efficient with our energy.

Other jurisdictions are already taking action to build low-carbon economies. In Germany, there are almost 18 times as many people working in the renewable energy sector as there are in the fossil fuel sectors.

Does the government stand by its support of the Paris agreement, and will it commit to making the Yukon a low-carbon economy?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Of course, this government fully supports actions to address climate change. It is outlined in our Yukon energy strategy and our climate change action plan.

We do have a great story to tell here in the Yukon. Fully 95 percent of our electricity comes from green energy sources. Our work includes the expansion of Yukon's hydro grid and reducing our community's reliance on diesel, adoption of a territorial biomass strategy, conversion of some of the

Yukon's backup power to LNG from diesel, development of new technologies at the Cold Climate Innovation centre, progress on the next generation hydro project — and we can talk a little bit about — all day, if we wanted to — the wind power that we're doing with the Klwane First Nation.

We've made our case that any national policy on carbon must include investments in new and existing energy technologies and it should also take into consideration the unique challenges of us living in the north. We're doing our part here, Madam Speaker.

Ms. Hanson: It's true, Madam Speaker, the territory does get 95 percent of its electricity from renewables, but over 75 percent of Yukon's total energy comes from non-renewable fossil fuels.

Yukoners are already telling us and the Yukon Party government that they want our territory to be one that's more respectful toward our environment. When it comes to renewable energy, the Yukon Party is the fossil, and that's because the government has not made the implementation of targets based on measurable data a priority.

When it released its climate change action plan in December, there was an important caveat: we don't actually know what our emissions are. Without the data, no one can say for sure if we're making any progress.

So, Madam Speaker, when will the government commit to measurable annual emissions reporting that allows us to track our progress toward a low-carbon Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It's always my pleasure to be able to talk about the energy initiatives that our government has undertaken and continues to undertake. Obviously we're as high or higher than almost every other jurisdiction in the country when it comes to electricity generation from renewable sources. We're turning our attention to space heating and transportation as well.

Members are aware of the work being undertaken on the main administration building as far as energy-efficiency upgrades. New builds, such as F.H. Collins, are built to LEED silver standards, so we're very proud of that. We're also very proud recently to have the Fleet Vehicle Agency procure and add a 2016 Chevy Spark electric vehicle to the fleet, the first fully electric light-duty vehicle in the government's fleet. It was debuted on April 12 of this year at the transportation showcase in the Old Fire Hall, with participation from the Energy Solutions Centre and the Climate Change Secretariat.

Madam Speaker, we're working on a number of initiatives that I've spoken at length about and will be able to talk about later on during motion debate here today on the energy side of things, and transportation and space heating are two more important components that we continue to focus on.

Ms. Hanson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Fourteen years, and we're just now turning their heads toward renewable energy? Madam Speaker, citizens are leading the charge in developing a green energy economy.

The Yukon New Democratic Party is proud to support the people who are installing solar panels on their roofs and conserving energy through energy-efficiency programs or

programs like the Whitehorse Rideshare program. While citizens are showing the kind of leadership our territory needs to reduce our emissions, they also need support from the government to support the nascent green energy economy that is making these projects a reality. To give but one example referenced by the minister, the government, in fact, missed a golden opportunity to lead by example and reduce our own reliance on fossil fuels by, for example, the installation of solar panels on our Legislature's south-facing wall during the retrofit this spring. It hasn't happened.

When will this government catch up to citizens who are serious about powering Yukon on green energy?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Again, we see the NDP living with their heads in the sand. Of course, she forgot to mention the Rideshare program that we initiated — that this government is partnering with the City of Whitehorse; of course, the microgeneration policy that we've implemented as well. But let's be clear, Madam Speaker, that in this territory, there are two political parties that would create a new tax for Yukoners — a tax that will make everything more expensive.

Madam Speaker, it is only the Yukon Party that is actually focused on real solutions — solutions that will actually bring greenhouse gas emissions down; solutions that will increase jobs and not make everything more expensive for Yukoners.

Question re: In-house apprenticeship program

Ms. White: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Last week, I asked the Minister of Education for the number of apprentices who are working within the Government of Yukon. He didn't have a number at the time so he told us how many apprentices are registered in Yukon. Yesterday, the Minister of Highways and Public Works told the House that there are four apprentices in his department. To be clear, Madam Speaker, this one department employs most of the government's skilled tradespeople.

Madam Speaker, does the Premier feel that his government is doing its part to train tradespeople when it employs only four apprentices?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. What the member opposite fails to mention was that there are also 480-some-odd other apprentices in the territory being supported by the Department of Education.

Madam Speaker, over the years, former governments have had in place a program whereby departments — individual departments — were subsidized by an apprenticeship branch in order to bring apprentices into government employ. This program was deleted some years ago because it was found that, even with a subsidy, apprentices were not coming to the government in great numbers.

Madam Speaker, as a result of the conversations that I've had recently with the Minister of Highways and Public Works, we have decided to undertake some consultations to see about the possibility of reinstating a program such as this or just

more encouragement for apprentices within the government is possible or feasible at this time.

Ms. White: Thank you, Madam Speaker. There are 483 registered apprentices in the Yukon and only four of them work for the Yukon government. So let that sink in for a second: the single largest employer in the territory employs less than one percent of Yukon's apprentices.

When veteran workers retire, they take important knowledge with them and that just doesn't include the hands-on tools of the trade that make a good tradesperson great; I'm also talking about the institutional knowledge about installations and projects that the next generation of workers need to know. Without apprentices to absorb that information, the government is creating unnecessary challenges for the ongoing maintenance of public infrastructure, while keeping Yukoners from valuable hands-on training.

Madam Speaker, why does the government — Yukon's largest employer — currently only employ four apprentices?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yesterday, during debate on Highways and Public Works, I did provide that number to the members opposite. I also provided a number — there are also three engineers in training with the Transportation Engineering branch as well, so we're excited about the opportunity that provides to aspiring engineers who want opportunities here in the Yukon.

As the Minister of Education mentioned, when these numbers came to us after the question was raised last week, we've had some conversations about working to increase those numbers within government and how we can provide support and programs to do that. Again, there is an awful lot of work that is underway as far as apprentices. One only needs to look at the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining, the new facility that is being constructed at the Whitehorse campus of Yukon College, as well as the mobile trades trailer that has provided trades training to a number of communities.

We're excited about the opportunities in the skilled trades. Again, the Minister of Education and I will work on the Yukon government numbers and see if we can boost them, but we're happy to provide the facilities that are required to train these Yukoners for jobs and opportunities in the trades sector.

Ms. White: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Having the facilities is one thing and having job opportunities is something else. As it stands, private companies employ up to 479 of Yukon's 483 registered apprentices and the Yukon government is telling us that it says that apprenticeships should be a priority. In debate yesterday, the Minister of Highways and Public Works had to dig so deep that he actually referenced the placement for three engineering students within the government.

Madam Speaker, we shouldn't have to tell the government that four apprentices aren't enough. The Yukon Party government needs to prove to Yukon employers that it is setting an example in hiring apprentices into the public service to do its part in training young tradespeople.

Madam Speaker, how can the government seriously ask private sector employers to hire apprentices when they aren't

leading by example and they've had 14 years to show us that they can do better?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Madam Speaker, the member opposite speaks as if hiring apprentices is somehow a penalty for Yukon employers. Yukon employers love to hire apprentices, not like the member opposite seems to believe. What the member opposite also doesn't seem to understand is that we're paying for many of these training opportunities for apprentices. We support them financially while they're in school, while they're taking courses at the college and, in fact, I just recently received an evaluation of the Yukon's apprenticeship and tradespersons qualifications program — a draft — and at the present time I am reading that draft. In fact, Madam Speaker, from this, it appears that our apprentices are doing quite well in the territory.

We're providing new trades training programs. We're providing a new facility at Yukon College. We're doing a great deal for apprentices in this territory. We believe in the apprenticeship program in this territory and we will continue to support it.

Question re: Mineral development strategy

Mr. Silver: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In early March, the Yukon Party had taxpayers foot the bill for a flyer that was mailed across the territory. It was a report to Yukoners that tried to make the case that this government is growing our economy. The Conference Board of Canada recently confirmed that our economy shrank last year and in fact has been shrinking the last three years in a row.

In a few months' time, the territory's last hard rock mine will be shutting its doors. Our hard rock mining industry has flatlined. In mid-November 2014, the government announced a mineral development strategy would be in place by November 2015. Madam Speaker, why is the mineral development strategy not yet completed?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Again, work continues on the mineral development strategy with First Nations. We're excited about what they will provide, which is a 10-year vision for the mineral development industry in the territory, looking at a number of aspects that will positively affect that so that we can emerge from this current downturn in a much better place than when we went in.

I should mention as well that the previous downturn that we saw in the late 1990s and early 2000s saw exploration numbers down into single digits, around \$7 million. Certainly there were geologists leaving the territory and we were losing capacity.

This last current downturn, we still see opportunities. Mines are being permitted. Victoria Gold has their Eagle project permitted and ready to go, waiting for investor dollars. We see success with Kaminak, Wellgreen and BMC. There are many projects that we have to be proud of and there are substantial exploration numbers as well. In fact, the lowest exploration season that we've had in this latest downturn is better than the previous high that we had in the mid-1990s.

So there is still work being done. We're proud of the industry and what they're able to accomplish and we're there to support them and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them.

Mr. Silver: It's worthy also to note that when Yukon Party 2.0 came into office in 2011, there were three operating mines and in a few months there will be none.

In late February 2015, the government promised as it geared up for the annual PDAC mining conference that — quote: "By early 2016 a mineral development strategy will be in place..."

Madam Speaker, in March of this year the minister told *Kitco News* that he was preparing to launch the first draft of the strategy in the spring. We know the strategy was set to go to Cabinet, but was pulled from the agenda at the last minute this spring.

So Madam Speaker, can the minister explain how continually missing deadlines is improving confidence in our mineral development industry?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Again, when it comes to the mineral development strategy — and industry certainly understands this in conversations that I have had with them — they recognize the importance of ensuring that First Nations are comfortable and confident in the mineral development strategy that we bring forward. We continue to work with First Nations.

There have been some delays in bringing forward the document. I recognize that. Industry recognizes that. We've been in conversations with them about it and I think obviously it's important to ensure that our First Nation governments are confident with the document that comes forward. That's why we're taking the extra time required to get this document right. As I mentioned, it is designed to guide the mineral industry for the next 10 years. We're very proud of it and, as I mentioned previously, we are proud of the resiliency of the industry here.

The record exploration numbers that we experienced in 2011 and 2012 have led to some significant discoveries — discoveries that are still being advanced through permitting, such as Kaminak's Coffee project, Victoria's Eagle project, BMC's project, and Selwyn. There are a number that continue to show positive signs of moving forward. We're proud of that and we're excited about the future, not only of the hard rock industry, but of the placer industry as well.

Mr. Silver: Madam Speaker, there's uncertainty because the minister sets deadlines and then doesn't keep those deadlines, and then speaks of these deadlines in the media. This is the party that has said before that the boom-and-bust swings of the past will largely be mitigated by sound economic planning and by investment attraction efforts. It's not necessarily working that way.

Another process to regulatory certainty — or uncertainty — for the mining industry is the mining licence improvement initiative. Like the mineral strategy, it was started late in the mandate and will produce no results by the time this government's mandate has expired.

So, Madam Speaker, why has this government failed to address — over its entire term in office — the issue of regulatory uncertainty for resource developers?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Thank you, Madam Speaker. What we do know is that the Liberal solution to the resource industry is to impose a new tax that would create a tremendous increase in costs, which will again make that industry less competitive than it is now. That is the Liberal plan: “Let’s add another tax on top of the existing expensive cost of living that we have up here.”

We’re very optimistic about the future of this territory with a Yukon Party government, and this party says that now, more than ever, we must stand up for our resource industry.

Question re: Dhaw Ghro habitat protection plan

Mr. Tredger: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Dhaw Ghro habitat protection plan was submitted in 2006 for approval by the Yukon government. The Selkirk First Nation, the Na Cho Nyäk Dun and the Yukon government worked together to develop a recommendation to protect this culturally significant hot springs area. Over 40 meetings were held, and elders and citizens put a great deal of effort into this process. Finalizing the protection plan would recognize the importance of the efforts put forward by the Selkirk First Nation, Na Cho Nyäk Dun and Northern Tutchone elders, yet 10 years have passed and the plan has still to be finalized.

Why has this government stalled ratification and failed to finalize the Dhaw Ghro habitat protection plan?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We are just about in the process of finalizing it.

Mr. Tredger: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Ten years later — previous ministers said that the plan hadn’t been ratified due to technical issues. This lack of action has been brought to this government’s attention regularly by me in the Legislature and by the Selkirk First Nation in meetings and memos. The government’s inability to resolve these issues demonstrates that it is not a priority for them. I am constantly asked by elders in my riding when this plan will be implemented. Some have passed away before seeing it implemented.

Every year that this plan is not ratified is another year that hard work put in by these elders is ignored. Madam Speaker, how does this government justify delaying the ratification of this plan for over 10 years and, if it is being ratified, when will it be ratified?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We know that there have been technical issues in the past, but what we’re doing is what a good government would do. We’re working with our partners on this and we’re moving forward. It looks like we’ve just about found the solution.

Mr. Tredger: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This protection plan took a great amount of time and resources from the First Nation governments, First Nation elders and the community. By ignoring the recommendations, this government is diminishing the efforts put forward by the planning team and all of those involved. This government must show that the voices of First Nation people will not be

ignored. The protection of the Dhaw Ghro habitat is in both First Nation final agreements and yet, for 10 years, this government continued to drag their feet.

Does this minister recognize that his government’s inaction on ratifying the Dhaw Ghro habitat protection plan undermines the First Nation final agreements that were negotiated in good faith? If indeed he is in the process of ratifying that agreement, when can the First Nations and the citizens of Pelly expect the final ratification?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: Thank you, Madam Speaker. What this minister recognizes is that this government has created more special management areas and more habitat protection areas than any other government in the past. Dhaw Ghro is very important to us — the protection for the First Nations — but, like I said earlier, there have been some technical issues. I think we have worked through them all in the past and we look forward to moving forward on this in a timely — soon — manner.

Question re: National Aboriginal Day as a Yukon statutory holiday

Mr. Barr: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Late last year, the Yukon Legislative Assembly passed a motion to make National Aboriginal Day a statutory holiday. One of the requirements of the motion was that the government would consult with Yukon First Nations, Yukon’s business community and Yukon’s unions before going ahead with the process. In early April, I asked the minister if he had initiated the consultation process. He told me that he hadn’t but that he anticipated it would be underway before the end of April.

Has the minister now started a formal consultation process with Yukon First Nations, Yukon’s business community and Yukon’s unions to make National Aboriginal Day a statutory holiday?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The member is quite correct. We did pass a motion last fall, and earlier this session, I indicated that we would be launching that consultation very soon. I had previously indicated it would be in April. Unfortunately, we have had a few setbacks, and here we are on May 11 and I still haven’t launched it. I am hopeful that we will have that launched by next week and, if not, certainly within the next two weeks.

We have begun some informal discussions with some business groups and we have drafted letters to First Nations. We will be engaging the unions as well as engaging the public, as committed to in the motion. We hope to launch that very soon, and we look forward to having the feedback from the business community, the affected unions, the public and First Nation governments as we move forward with this issue.

Mr. Barr: Madam Speaker, informal conversations do not count as consultation. It is clear that making National Aboriginal Day a statutory holiday is not a priority for this government. When this House unanimously voted for this motion, the Minister of Community Services laid out all of the steps that would need to be taken before National Aboriginal Day could become a statutory holiday. He made the process clear then but waited over six months to initiate it.

This is about recognizing the contributions of Yukon's indigenous peoples and supporting efforts at reconciliation. You would think that this issue would be higher on the government's priority list. Madam Speaker, can the minister explain why he waited so long before he initiated the consultation process to make National Aboriginal Day a statutory holiday in the Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. As I noted in our debate on the motion last year, the imposition of a new statutory holiday would require a legislative change. I indicated that it was unlikely we would be able to bring forward the legislative change in this particular Sitting and, as such, we won't be able to make that change immediately. We have taken the necessary time to prepare ourselves to —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Dixon: The member can shout off-mic all he wants, Madam Speaker, and that won't help this issue at all.

What I should note is that this requires a legislative change. We won't be able to bring this forward in this Sitting; therefore, we want to get our consultation done correctly so we will launch that hopefully next week — if not, in the next week or two — and we'll be able to seek input from the business community, from First Nations, from unions and from the public on this important issue.

I should note, Madam Speaker, that this is something that is important. It will, if passed, create an impact on the business community and it's important that we hear their voices and take their views into consideration before moving forward with any such change.

I appreciate the comments and I appreciate the debate we had on this and the wide-ranging discussion on the pros and cons of a potential imposition of a statutory holiday. But make no mistake — we will take into consideration the impacts on those who will have to pay for this proposal, which, of course, would be the business community. We do want to hear from them, we want to hear from First Nations, and we want to hear from unions and the public.

Question re: Dawson City Airport

Ms. Moorcroft: Madam Speaker, Dawson City's airport location in a narrow valley, with mountains on either side, has raised Transport Canada's concerns for a long time. The Dawson airport is allowed to operate because its status has been grandfathered by Canada.

Given the grandfathered status of this airport, can the Minister of Highways and Public Works tell the House if there is any federal funding available for the Yukon Party government's planned upgrades to the Dawson City Airport?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Just to remind members of where we're at right now with respect to improvements to the Dawson City Airport — we're about to embark on functional planning in partnership with the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce. This will look at important initiatives that the community has identified, such as paving the runway.

We'll also look at other initiatives or opportunities, including rebuilding and perhaps relocating the air terminal building itself. There are several improvements that are required at the airport. With the functional plan, we will get a better idea of the costs and we will get a better idea of any scheduling difficulties or other setbacks that may pop up, but we're doing this early planning work to determine the costs so that we can identify potential funding partners, as well as opportunities to move forward with the paving and other improvements at the Dawson airport.

Ms. Moorcroft: Madam Speaker, this past Monday, the Minister of Highways and Public Works stated: "A significant portion of the \$11-million capital estimate that we have at this point is for new equipment and facilities to house that equipment that would be required to keep the runway maintained to a different level if the paving goes ahead next year." This sounds like the government is planning to build the new facilities that will only be required if the runway is paved, without getting confirmation that it will actually go ahead.

Madam Speaker, can the Minister of Highways and Public Works explain the thinking behind purchasing new equipment to maintain a paved runway before confirming whether the paving is going ahead?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I think the member opposite is quite confused in her questioning. As I mentioned on Monday, the \$11-million estimate for paving a portion of that is for the actual resurfacing of the runway. A portion of that is for the equipment and the facilities that would be required to maintain the runway. We're certainly not purchasing equipment and facilities before making the decision to pave the runway. Unfortunately, the member is confused on this issue. If we decide to go ahead with the paving of the runway, the paving and the equipment purchases and the facility expansions would happen at the same time.

Ms. Moorcroft: Madam Speaker, last April the minister said — and I quote: "... if Transport Canada for safety reasons does not allow airlines to use larger jets at the Dawson Airport, there is not much sense in spending the \$11 million or so plus \$500,000 per year to pave the runway at this point."

The Dawson City Airport is a Transport Canada-certified aerodrome. Transport Canada will not certify the airport for nighttime or instrument flight rules operations due to natural terrain obstacles.

Madam Speaker, we know Transport Canada's position. We seem to have a case of fiction-peddling by this government. Perhaps the Yukon Party, like Muhammad —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

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

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The member just used the term "fiction-peddling" and directed it

to another Member of the Legislative Assembly, which I believe is contrary to Standing Order 19(g).

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

Ms. Stick: I would point out that this has been used in this Legislature previously by members on the opposite side and I would suggest that this is a dispute between members.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: The Chair is going to rule that this is a dispute among members. I have heard this term used frequently in the House.

Member for Copperbelt South, please.

Ms. Moorcroft: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Perhaps the Yukon Party, like Muhammad, plans to move a mountain.

Madam Speaker, will the minister acknowledge that Transport Canada has already indicated that they have serious concerns regarding the Dawson City Airport that may prevent the use of larger jets?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Unfortunately the only fiction-peddling that's taking place is from the members opposite. I stand by what I've said last spring and in the fall and even during this session.

Certainly one of the issues that need to be clarified before proceeding with paving of the Dawson runway is whether or not the approach paths are sufficient to handle larger jets. That's something that I've mentioned will emerge during the functional planning phase. Air North is aware of this. Their representative on the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce has said that they are working with Transport Canada on that.

Madam Speaker, this is certainly an issue that is important to the business community and the people of Dawson City. We want to make sure that it's done properly. We have undertaken permafrost research. We have undertaken a number of different aspects as far as researching whether this project can go ahead. We want to make sure that the runway is sufficient to handle the larger planes if the approach path is there. We'll continue to work with Transport Canada, the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders to make sure that this project can come to fruition in a timely manner.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Motion No. 1151

Clerk: Motion No. 1151, standing in the name of Mr. Elias.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to use the 2016-17 budget to support the development of 11 recreational lots at Dutch Harbour on Kluane Lake, in cooperation with Kluane First Nation.

Mr. Elias: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In the Yukon Party's 2011 platform, we committed to — and I quote: "Continue to make land available to Yukoners for community, residential, recreational, agricultural, commercial and industrial purposes while respecting the interests of existing land holders as one of the highest Yukon government priorities by streamlining the land application process and ensuring that appropriate policies and administrative structures are put in place to manage Crown land in the territory."

Madam Speaker, we understand the importance of land to Yukoners. That is why we have committed to making more land available. This project, like several others, is part of the fulfillment of our platform commitments and I will go over these in a couple of minutes.

Dutch Harbour is located on Kluane Lake between Haines Junction and Destruction Bay, about 45 miles northwest of Haines Junction. It is on the west side of the lake. These lots are the result of the excellent working relationship between the Kluane First Nation and the Yukon government, and I am pleased to see this partnership.

Kluane First Nation Chief Mathieya Alatini said — and I quote: "The Kluane First Nation is pleased to confirm our ongoing working relationship with the Government of Yukon and we look forward to exploring more sustainable growth and economic development opportunities in the Kluane First Nation Traditional Territory."

Development of the lots was identified as one of the priorities in the 2015 economic development agreement between the Kluane First Nation and the Yukon government. Clearly, this is an example of how well Yukon First Nations and the Yukon government can work together. It says something that our government has been able to get land out and available by working with our Yukon First Nations. This has been demonstrated through popular recreational land lotteries at Little Teslin Lake, Bennett Lake and Tagish Lake. Let us think about that for a moment. We have recreational lots out on Teslin, Bennett and Tagish lakes. Now we have lots in the works for Kluane Lake. That is pretty impressive, to say the least.

Eleven new recreational lots at Dutch Harbour will be available through a land lottery later this summer. The 11 lots are one-acre, water-access-only lots that have been surveyed by CAP engineering. The lots are scheduled to be ready for viewing in June with a public lottery planned for late summer. Individuals interested in viewing the lots will be required to arrange their own transportation by boat.

Our government continues to deliver on our commitment to make land available to Yukoners for recreational purposes. These partnerships illustrate government's continued

commitment to work collaboratively with Yukon First Nations in pursuit of common development objectives, while responding to the continued demand for recreational lots. We have done a great deal to get land on the market. Our government recognizes the continued demand for land over the last decade which is, in large part, due to Yukon's economic growth and increased population.

Today we are talking about recreational land, but I also want to mention the work that has been done on addressing residential and commercial land. The demand for residential and commercial lots has been constant in most communities and especially high within Whitehorse city limits. Government continues to demonstrate its commitment to make land available to meet demand and has an inventory of several developed lots for sale in the City of Whitehorse and all rural communities. Land availability has increased through efforts of government working with municipalities, communities, First Nation governments and the private sector.

Agriculture branch's planned land program — which provides land through multi-lot subdivisions and infill projects — the ongoing efforts of the Land Management branch to identify additional sites for recreational lots for future lottery, approval of approximately 137 new lots since 2004 through the subdivision of private residential land in the Whitehorse periphery, and the success of the Government of Yukon's approach to providing planned land development over the period of 2002-16 has led to the creation of approximately 1,413 lots.

The Government of Yukon is committed to providing all communities with an ongoing supply of land for residential, commercial and industrial development. The Government of Yukon is working with First Nations, municipal governments and the private sector to create a blend of new land development opportunities across the territory. We have worked on bringing in a land registry model that recognizes Yukon First Nation land authority. The new *Land Titles Act, 2015* provides a statutory option for Yukon First Nations that choose to register their category A or category B settlement lands in the Land Titles Office without triggering any surrender of their aboriginal rights and title.

Work is starting on drafting a regulation to set out the process and procedures for registration of settlement land and a letter has been sent to all self-governing Yukon First Nations asking for their views and inviting them to take part in a conference call to discuss potential elements of such a regulation.

The process requires an application by the Yukon First Nation so the registration of any settlement land is completely at the discretion of the First Nation. I think this is a significant accomplishment and the first of its kind in Canada. Recently concluded land development protocols with municipalities and memoranda of understanding with Yukon First Nations provide the government with a vehicle to work collaboratively toward shared rural land development goals.

To that end, our government is working with First Nations on land development protocols. The government has entered into land development protocol agreements with every

rural municipality. These protocols are assisting Yukon government and communities to identify land for future development and promote flexible development standards that meet the needs of the communities.

Land Management branch is continuing to meet with municipalities and First Nations throughout 2016 to discuss their specific land development needs and interests. Yukon government and the Teslin Tlingit Council have created 41 country residential lots in Teslin and continue to work proactively on new shared land development interests through an established joint steering committee.

Though an MOU, Yukon government and the Carcross/Tagish Development Corporation are working together to extend Tagish Road in Carcross in support of future joint development. Current land development projects include: the release of vacant Commissioner's land in Dawson and Haines Junction; the planning phase of the Dawson north end development project; development of rural residential and agricultural lots in Mayo; planning for additional urban and country residential lots in Carmacks — namely the Freegold Road and the old church site; identification of lands to the private sector for residential and agricultural development; and the redevelopment of the Grizzly Valley subdivision to provide additional opportunities for lot purchases.

Madam Speaker, I put in a motion that we should use the budget to accomplish this important work. I want to show that when the government says that it is a priority by putting it in the budget, we accomplish our commitment.

Let's look at another land development project we have funded. I won't go through the whole list for Whitehorse, mostly because I think some of my other colleagues would like to say a few words about that, but when we chatted about this motion, I know several of them wanted to talk about all the lots in the Whistle Bend that the members opposite don't seem to like very much.

Other land lotteries that have taken place in 2015-16 are: six recreational lots on Bennett Lake and Tagish Lake; two multi-family lots and one townhouse site; four lots in Ingram; one industrial lot at McCrae; one lot in the Marwell industrial area; and eight residential lots and one country residential lot in Dawson.

The following lots were also released during 2012 and 2016: 20 industrial lots in Dawson City; 49 residential and three multi-family lots in Haines Junction; four Ingram subdivision residential lots; tender sale for lot 1547 on Range Road; three residential and two industrial lots in Carmacks; 21 country residential lots in Teslin on Sawmill Road; 20 remote recreational lots and four country residential lots in Whitehorse Copper subdivision. Many of those lots would never have come to fruition if it wasn't for the cooperation between local First Nations and the Yukon government.

The members opposite like to use land issues as a way to drive a wedge between First Nations and the government. I wanted to talk today about how the importance of the land is a way to bring respective governments together. I'm going to talk about that in a moment, but first I want to talk about the fact that Dutch Harbour is in the riding of Kluane. I also know

that the MLA for Kluane wants to see more people visiting his riding, spending time there and enjoying themselves. He has also mentioned that he hopes that people who decide to live and play in the area end up buying gas, goods and groceries from the local merchants. I think he said that Dutch Harbour is about 10 miles, or 16 kilometres, from Destruction Bay.

If there is one thing that the MLA for Kluane and I have in common, it is our love for being out on the land. I have known the Member for Kluane since my national park warden days. I knew then that he enjoys being out on the land just as much as I do, and he often speaks about taking the Junior Rangers and other youth groups out on the land. There is one thing that, over the years through our relationship, I don't understand — between me and the MLA for Kluane: he has never invited me to go camping. There are a lot of other members who he has invited to go camping — even members from the Official Opposition — but he has never invited me. It is beyond me, and I am curious as to why that is.

To me, it is our Yukon's water, land and wildlife that is responsible for bringing us together. Yukoners are united by our love of the land. The peace and the comfort that we find being with nature is something that we all have in common. For me, these lakefront recreational lots are more than just chunks of land. They represent shared values, shared dreams and a shared desire to live and play together. I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in supporting this motion.

Mr. Barr: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am pleased to stand here today and speak to this motion on behalf of the Yukon NDP caucus. I would like to thank the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin for bringing it forward. The development of 11 recreational lots at Dutch Harbour on Kluane Lake was identified as one of the priorities in the 2015 economic development agreement between Kluane First Nation and Yukon government. Kluane First Nation and Yukon government have agreed to work together to make cottage lots available by land lottery later this summer. Financial support for this project has already been included in the 2016-17 budget. We support this cooperative development project.

Kluane First Nation is also currently planning the development and construction of a wind facility to generate renewable energy that will be supplied to the communities of Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay via the existing diesel microgrid. We would like to congratulate the Kluane First Nation for their leadership in promoting sustainable growth and economic development opportunities for the Burwash Landing community and surrounding area.

Many Yukoners have expressed their interest in having recreational lots available in the territory. I am sure that the land lottery for the lots later this summer will be competitive. However, the development of recreational lots in the territory does bring attention to the need for territorial land use planning. Ontario and Alberta have seen their lakefronts largely sold off to private cottage owners and resorts at the expense of residents and tourists in those provinces. Public access to lakes is now extremely limited in those provinces.

Many Yukoners choose to live here and tourists choose to visit here because of access to the territory's magnificent natural landscapes.

While it is important that we make recreational property available, we need to balance the availability of private lots with public access to our lakes. We need a land use strategy to ensure that future generations of Yukoners can continue to enjoy public access to fishing, camping and canoeing in the territory.

With regard to these 11 recreational lots specifically, I think the members opposite will find little debate from this side of the House on this motion. This project is moving ahead as planned and we will continue to support this government in cooperating with First Nation governments on sustainable development projects. For this reason, I would invite the members opposite to spend this afternoon engaging in a debate on land use planning, green energy, or one of the many other challenges or opportunities currently facing Yukon, rather than a project that is already approved and is going ahead.

The Yukon NDP caucus will be supporting this motion.

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: It's a very big privilege today to rise in the House. I'm very proud of the constituents of Kluane, proud of our government and I'm very proud of the Kluane First Nation — the ability for us to work together to see this through to fruition.

As we know, in the Yukon Party's 2011 platform, we committed to making more land available, and we understand the importance of land to Yukoners, especially in rural Yukon. We talk to Yukoners, and everybody would like to have some land by water.

Whether it's in the communities or for residential, recreational, agricultural, commercial or industrial purposes, one of our government's priorities is to streamline the land application process and ensure that the appropriate policies and administrative structures are put in place to manage Crown land in the territory.

My fellow colleague, the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin, spoke a little bit about Dutch Harbour. It's located south of Destruction Bay and it is in the great riding of Kluane. It's very interesting to note that it's just over 100 miles away from Canada's largest mountain and the world's largest non-polar icefield. If you were to go to Dutch Harbour right now, the ice is off and you wouldn't realize that the mountain range behind you has just solid ice for miles.

These lots are the result of an excellent working relationship between the Kluane First Nation and the Yukon government. I'm pleased to see this partnership. The development of the lots was identified as a priority in the 2015 economic development agreement between Kluane First Nation and the Yukon government, but what I want to add is that, with our platform, we're looking for recreational lots. One of the things we talked about was that we have great working relationships with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Kluane First Nation; we're doing some great

work with the White River First Nation on a reconciliation agreement — I want to thank the Premier's office for that.

A few years ago, when we were driving to meet with the Kluane First Nation, the minister and I were having a conversation about where a great spot for cottage lots would be, because we were talking about cottage lots and local area planning. We just passed Bayshore and had a quick look at the sheep on Sheep Mountain and kept on going, and we were going by Dutch Harbour. You leave, following the lakeshore and you head inland a little bit. Somebody popped up and asked how come we were heading inland. I said that Dutch Harbour is in there. That's the most beautiful spot on this lake. If you have been on the lake, there are too many beautiful spots to actually say, "That's the most beautiful." But it is a great location.

I said that it would be an awesome location for cottage lots, but when we work with Kluane First Nation, they'll probably want them to be on the other side of the lake. So here we go. A few hours later, we're sitting there having these conversations — government-to-government relations — and then we brought forward that we would really like to look at maybe doing some local area planning and having some cottage lots maybe on the lake. We were just sort of feeling out what they thought. "What do you think about this?" We said, "We understand you're probably going to want to do it on the other side of the lake." I just remember the look on my face — if I could have seen the look on my face — when they said, "Well, we're actually planning in the Dutch Harbour area." I almost dropped my jaw and I looked at the lands manager for Kluane First Nation and the chief, and I just had a grin on my face and so did they. It was like, "That is a beautiful spot."

Development of those lots was identified as a priority, like I said — clearly. I don't think it gets articulated to Yukoners and to the public enough, but it's just another example of how well the Yukon First Nation governments work with our Yukon government. Some of the stuff we've done together — we could list it and we could go on with the list. It says something — this Yukon Party government being able to get land out and available by working with our First Nations.

We have agreements with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations on local area planning from Takhini River to Haines Junction — looking at where the best spot for industrial lots, farmland, cottage lots or commercial endeavours are. We sit down and work with the First Nations, and the First Nations are happy to work because the pillar of many First Nations is economic development and they look for those opportunities also.

I do want to quote what the Kluane First Nation Chief Mathieya Alatini said. She said, "The Kluane First Nation is pleased to confirm our ongoing working relationship with the Yukon government and... We look forward to exploring these economic development opportunities that will support sustainable growth in the Kluane First Nation Traditional Territory." I think that hit the nail on the head. That's how well we work with First Nations.

So, 11 new recreational lots at Dutch Harbour will be available through the land lottery late this summer. I'm constantly being asked about it. The 11 lots are one acre and are mainly water-access-only lots that have been surveyed by CAP engineering. The lots are scheduled to be ready for viewing in June, with a public lottery planned for late summer. Some of the individuals who are interested in viewing the lots will have to go out and do it by themselves, but lots of people who are interested know the area and they will be going to look at it.

One thing that members opposite might not understand is that this government recognizes there is going to always be demand — and there has been a continued demand for land over the past decade. In 1973, as a young kid, I remember people in my community who weren't living in the community — they were living in the outskirts of my community. I believe it was in the early 1970s — it might have been before. It might have been the federal government — and they went out and surveyed lots and there were people who were living by the lakes who got titled land by the lakes. After that, the land claims started and there was basically no opportunity for locals to go then and apply for a lot by water. Now to see this — it's incredible. I want to give my fellow colleagues credit for supporting this initiative up-front and it being in our platform.

The other thing I want to speak to a little bit is about the new *Land Titles Act, 2015*. This act provides us with a statutory option for Yukon First Nations to choose to register their category A or B settlement land in the Land Titles Office without surrendering aboriginal title — and that's very key. Work is starting on drafting a regulation to set out the process and procedures for registration of settlement land, and a letter has been sent — my fellow colleague mentioned this earlier — to all self-governing First Nations, asking for their views and inviting them to take part in a conference call to discuss potential elements of such a regulation.

The reason I bring this forward is that this process requires an application by Yukon First Nations, so that the registration of any settlement lands is completely at the discretion of the First Nations. The 11 Dutch Harbour lots are on the south side of Dutch Harbour, but there is also an opportunity — and I believe through our conversations with the Kluane First Nation — once this land titles stuff can be figured out, they are willing and open to opening more cottage lots on the other side of Dutch Harbour or the bay. I think that will be wonderful also.

I put in my motion that we would use the budget to accomplish this important work. When the member from Vuntut Gwitchin said that — he's right when he says that we have a platform — we say we're going to do things, and this is a priority and it's in the budget. We get things done on this side.

I want to talk a little bit about why I believe that the cottage lots in Dutch Harbour are key for the riding of Kluane. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and I sat down with Chief Smith from Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and had that conversation about cottage lots on some of the

other lakes in their area. They were focusing more on the local area planning that they would like to see first, which is great, but we can have that conversation again.

There are some great events that happen in the Kluane area and in Destruction Bay itself. My fellow colleague spoke about the economic development. On the Canada Day weekend, there is always a fishing derby and in that small community there will be — many members here have gone to it — many Yukoners across the territory coming to this event, and it creates economic development. People are buying gas; they are staying there. The Kluane Lake Athletic Association, a little community club, has the opportunity to have some people in their building. They usually have a big steak dinner and the prizes and everything are held there, and that's where the weighing station is.

When people go there, a lot of people go out and spend time, pulling up on shore at four in the morning because they need a couple of hours of sleep, because they're trying to catch the big fish to win the derby. It's light all night long and so they're saying, "Man it would be nice to have cabin; a place." We've seen this through to fruition.

Again, in the wintertime, I can speak to many of my friends and my family and constituents — for a lack of a better word; most of them are my friends too — in the wintertime, they are out there on the land, and having a cabin access there by the lake to go do ice fishing — a few of my friends get assistance on traplines and go and help to do the complete management of our resources when it comes to renewable resources.

With our youth in our community — I believe that there's an opportunity for a family to take their kids away, off the grid, and get them out to a cabin somewhere where they have to play in the water and have runny noses and dirty hands and dirty feet and no iPads, no iPhones, no computers and no video games — learn how to maybe stay warm in the wintertime or put sunscreen on in the summer.

I think it's incredible. In light of a comment that I heard earlier in the House today, I am feeling a little bit guilty and a little bit bad. I have a love for the land, like the Member for Old Crow said, and I just want to throw out that I am going to invite him camping sometime this summer. I believe that it's only fair.

I don't have a lot more to say on this, but I think it is a good thing. Madam Speaker, if you walk down the streets of Whitehorse or down the streets of Dawson City or in your riding of Watson Lake and you talk to people about some of the good things that this government has done, and you talk about cottage lots, you are not going to have many people complaining. The reason that we have this is because this government listens to Yukoners. When Yukoners say that they would like to see something, we see it through to fruition and we make it happen. I thank the members.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank and acknowledge our Member for Vuntut Gwitchin for bringing forward this motion — a motion that talks to something that is very important to this party, which is

the opportunity to create some recreational or cottage lots for Yukoners.

Just to start, I went back to our 2011 campaign platform, entitled "Moving Forward Together" — a campaign platform that this House knows — and we have said proudly — that we have either completed or are currently doing everything that we have identified. I was just looking under "Providing Land for All Yukoners". It makes some statements: "Continue to make land available to Yukoners for community, residential, recreational, agricultural, commercial and industrial purposes, while respecting the interests of existing land holders..." — checkmark; second, "Modernize the legislation related to the land titles process to utilize technology and to improve the timeliness of transferring land titles."

We heard the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin talk about some of the improvements that we have currently underway to modernize and to also, through this process, enable Kwanlin Dün First Nation to be able to lease settlement land which will, I understand, be the first time in this country that this opportunity will be created. It will certainly have tremendous benefits to the citizens of Kwanlin Dün First Nation. Most of their settlement land exists within the municipal boundaries of Whitehorse, and their vision was to be able to utilize that land for leasing — both commercial and residential leasing — of property to help generate revenues for their First Nation.

The next point that we had in our platform was: "Work with the City of Whitehorse to ensure the provision of the Land Protocol that requires a constant supply of residential lots is followed." We have done that land protocol with the city. We see the tremendous work that has been going on in the new Whistle Bend community.

It was really interesting to hear from land developers, from contractors and realtors — talk about the importance of the Whistle Bend facility going forward — the long-term care facility in Whistle Bend, or the nursing home. It's since that announcement and commitment to go forward, we've seen a tremendous increase in the number of lots that have been purchased. My understanding is that phase 1 and phase 2 are almost sold out now and we're working hard at creating infrastructure for phase 3, so that this can continue.

What I think it shows is the value that everyone perceives in having this nursing home exist within the community of Whistle Bend and what it has done to increase the value of those properties for the people who have invested there.

The fourth point that we had under "Providing Land for All Yukoners" was to "Work with municipal governments to make land available for residential and recreational lots."

I'm very proud that, as a party, we've included these items in our platform, and I'm very proud to see the significant work that we have done. We've heard about recreational lots or the cottage lots that we put out for lottery not long ago. They were titled fee simple lots on Tagish and Bennett lakes. I had a chance to look at those lots prior to the lottery. Of course, as an elected member, I'm not eligible to put my name in there, but I was breathless — the spectacular view and opportunity that these people had. I think this really speaks to a lot of families that I've spoken to about that sort of

dream, the desire, to have a piece of land and, as a family, build a cabin on a lake. It's something that so many families would hold near and dear to their heart, and to have that opportunity to have that recreational property and work as a family — take it from what it is, which would probably just be a large stand of trees, and from there work together to create a beautiful recreational property where they can spend quality time away from the hectic life that exists while living in town.

I think it goes part and parcel with the commitments we've made on the expansion of campgrounds. This is another thing that, again, we had in our platform. I don't believe it was in the platform for the NDP or the Liberal Party, but what we've seen is opening in just two days — perhaps it is — Conrad?

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Next week, okay. So more than two, but less than seven — the newest campground and the first campground that has been developed in over 30 or 40 years or since we had a campground open — and that is not far from Bove Island on the way to Skagway, right down on the water. I know there are a number of people who are very excited to get their first glimpse of this campground. We're also expanding and improving facilities at campgrounds, improving docks, and we're opening campgrounds earlier and closing them later as well.

The reason, Madam Speaker, is because this is what Yukoners told us — and I think that is part of our success as a party — it is that we're focusing on the priorities that Yukoners have told us and we were honoured to be given the privilege to serve in 2011 and I believe that was because of the record of the previous two Yukon Party governments and our ongoing commitment to deliver on things that make a difference in Yukoners lives.

Certainly the opportunity to acquire a piece of property on the shores of a lake such as Kluane Lake is something that I know there will be a tremendous amount of interest in. I anticipate that the odds will only be slightly better than perhaps winning the 6/49. Maybe a little bit better than that, but I know from the Yukon perspective there will be tremendous interest. It really speaks to that desire that Yukoners have to have that opportunity to be able to own a piece of property that they could create a cottage on, not only for themselves and for their children, but probably for future descendants as well, to be passed on to other generations. One of our goals certainly is to see that we can continue to create opportunities so that our children will stay here and not have to move away to find a job somewhere else.

As we grow our economy and we grow our population, there becomes a greater opportunity for more diverse types of employment opportunities because as there are more people, there is need for more and different types of businesses and different types of professionals to exist in this territory. The more we grow, the greater chance there is that there will be something of interest for our children and our grandchildren that will keep them here, because truly we do believe that we live in the most beautiful part of this country.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to take the opportunity just to recognize the work that was done by our MLA for Kluane in advocating for an opportunity to see these lots become developed and occur within his riding. With that acknowledgement, I need to also acknowledge the Kluane First Nation — in particular, Chief Mathieya Alatini. The work that has been done between Kluane First Nation and Yukon government to see that this project gets to this point where we will soon have the opportunity to see these lots go for lottery — the full support through the process and the environmental assessment process that we saw from Kluane First Nation.

This is just one example of the work that we are doing with Kluane First Nation: whether it's managing wildlife and looking at wildlife in those areas; whether it's looking at alternative forms of energy to reduce their demand or their need for fossil fuels for power generation with the introduction of windfarms; whether it's expanding — I can't remember the name of the hall in Burwash that we expanded and worked on with them. I don't remember. The name escapes me right now. There are many examples of how we have —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: The Jacquot building — thank you.

Again, this is an example of the same sort of cooperative effort that we are seeing with First Nations across the territory.

I would add to that list the signing of an intergovernmental accord with the Kluane First Nation that allows their government and our government to ensure that we are focused on priorities that have been identified as mutual priorities.

Madam Speaker, growing up in Saskatchewan, I certainly have had the opportunity to experience some great memories in having a cottage on a lake in Saskatchewan and the great times that my brother, my sister and I had, along with our parents, and everything that you can do around a cottage. It certainly has been something that I will always look back at very fondly. I think that, as I have stated, this is something that I have heard many times at the doorstep — is how much desire there is to expand opportunities for camping facilities, to expand opportunities, to be able to allow people to purchase land to create a cabin and have a facility like this to spend time at in the winter and spend time at in the summer, doing both summer and winter recreational activities. Some people like to just get away, lay a fire and stare at a fire, and perhaps enjoy a beverage of their choice as well.

Madam Speaker, I again would like to reiterate my support for this motion — how important these types of quality-of-life issues are for Yukoners. This party will continue to look for opportunities to increase recreational facilities and recreational opportunities for Yukoners.

Hon. Mr. Kent: It is my pleasure to speak to this motion brought forward by the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin. As minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources, making land available to Yukoners for a variety of

opportunities is something that fits very closely within my portfolio.

I just wanted to touch on a few things today during my time on the floor. First of all, I will touch on the remote recreational lot developments, which include the development of the lots at Dutch Harbour. I wanted to talk a little bit about rural land development, about work being done at Fifth and Rogers Street here in Whitehorse — to update members on progress on that important project — and then, more broadly, on what our government has been doing to make land available to Yukon citizens.

Again, as I mentioned, the first item that I will touch upon is the remote recreational lot development. The Government of Yukon continues to deliver on our commitment to make land available to Yukoners for recreational purposes. This has been demonstrated through popular rec land lotteries at Little Teslin Lake, Bennett Lake and Tagish Lake — and, of course, soon to be done at Dutch Harbour as well within the traditional territory of the Kluane First Nation.

In fact, we're currently working to implement a recently signed MOU with the Kluane First Nation to create planned recreational and residential lots within their traditional territory. As mentioned, there will be 11 rec lots at Dutch Harbour on Kluane Lake that will be sold by lottery during this upcoming summer. What these partnerships illustrate is our government's continued commitment to work collaboratively with Yukon First Nations in the pursuit of common objectives while responding to the continued demand for recreational lots.

Madam Speaker, there was additional work completed with the Teslin Tlingit Council over the last number of years, and that resulted in the release of recreational lots on both settlement and Crown land at Little Teslin Lake, which is located close to Johnsons Crossing. There were 12 leased YG lots and seven leased lots on TTC settlement land. Country residential lots were also created on Sawmill Road in Teslin — 21 titled Yukon government lots and 25 TTC lots.

Also, the December 2013 MOU between the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Yukon government supports a variety of land development projects, which included the very popular 20 recreational lots on Bennett and Tagish lakes, lot development on settlement land, proposed resort development at Millhaven Bay and a new campground, as mentioned, which is under development at Conrad and is soon to be opened — my understanding from the Minister of Environment is that it will take place next week.

There was an additional lottery held in the summer and fall of 2015, which ensured that six unsold Bennett Lake and Tagish Lake rec lots were made available to Yukoners as well. That's an important distinction with these recreational lotteries. You do have to be a Yukon resident for a certain period of time to be eligible for the lottery, and that is something that was very important to me and to colleagues on this side of the House, as we heard from many Yukoners that they would like the opportunity to own waterfront property — titled in some cases, and in other cases leased with our First Nation partners.

Again, we're looking at 11 lots to be released this summer on Dutch Harbour. It's an exciting proposal indeed. The 11 lots are one-acre, with water access only, and have been surveyed by CAP engineering of Whitehorse. Development of the lots was identified as one of the priorities in the 2015 economic development agreement between Kluane First Nation and our government. The lots will be scheduled for viewing in June, with a public lottery planned for late summer. Again, when we put this news release out in April of this year, perhaps we didn't anticipate such an early spring — and the lakes to be open on average, I think, a couple of weeks ahead of where we were last year and perhaps three weeks ahead of normal — so we may be able to accelerate those viewing opportunities on Kluane Lake of the Dutch Harbour lots as well. These recreational opportunities came up at the doorsteps in 2011. We are happy to be able to deliver on our plans and our commitments for Yukoners and make these types of opportunities available.

Madam Speaker, I wanted to talk a little bit about other opportunities that the Yukon government is exploring when it comes to land management. Of course, it was a significant issue during the 2011 election campaign — housing and land availability.

Early in this mandate, we struck a joint ministerial committee that included Energy, Mines and Resources, Yukon Housing Corporation, Community Services and others to address this situation. I know that colleagues in Yukon Housing Corporation and Community Services have made significant progress when it comes to these files, and work continues on initiatives, capital builds and development that respond to what Yukoners were looking for in 2011 when we talked to them on their doorsteps and in their homes.

One of the projects to emerge from some of this work is the site planning at Fifth Avenue and Rogers Street here in Whitehorse. As part of our commitment to land availability, we've been working closely with the City of Whitehorse to review land development opportunities at the 5th Avenue and Rogers Street site in downtown Whitehorse. The planning process for 5th Avenue and Rogers Street focuses on sustainable development by promoting a blend of affordable housing, market housing and commercial opportunities close to existing public services.

Work is overseen by a multi-party project steering committee, which includes extensive consultation opportunities for stakeholders and is guided by the Whitehorse official community plan and the downtown south master plan. This two-and-a-half-hectare site, largely undeveloped — with the exception of a couple of group homes that are located on 5th Avenue at different blocks — presents an opportunity for us to come up with some exciting development options and design solutions for that area.

Stantec Whitehorse has been contracted to engage stakeholders in a master planning exercise to examine potential opportunities there that I mentioned earlier. An overall master development plan for the site is expected by late summer of this year. Preliminary engineering findings have indicated that the cost of the berm required for

geotechnical stability and the extent of existing soil contamination are both significant and will have a large impact on future development options. That said, we continue to do the work and ensure that decision-makers have the best body of knowledge to move forward with plans on that important site.

As I mentioned, in a news release that we put out with the City of Whitehorse on April 8, we were very excited to announce Stantec's role in completing the master plan. A quote from the mayor in that same news release — Mayor Dan Curtis of Whitehorse — and I'll quote: “We are extremely pleased with the progress and with the work of the steering committee... Affordable housing and potential housing opportunities remain a top priority for the City and we look forward to hearing more on this planning project.”

Again, working with the City of Whitehorse, Yukon Housing Corporation, Vimy Heritage Housing Society and the Yukon Contractors Association, we see this as a true opportunity to develop a very large-scale, vacant piece of property that will contribute to the city's vision for densification as well, as it is located in the downtown core of Whitehorse.

Madam Speaker, I'm just going to touch on a few other things that our government is doing to make land available and provide some stats for members of the House with respect to some of the projects and opportunities and some of the work that we've done, not only in the past five years or four and a half years of this mandate, but really going back to 2002 when the Yukon Party took office.

The Government of Yukon recognizes the continued demand for land over the last decade. It's in large part due to our economic growth and our increased population. The demand for residential and commercial lots has been constant in most communities and especially high within the City of Whitehorse. Government continues to demonstrate its commitment to making land available to meet demand and has an inventory of several developed lots for sale in the City of Whitehorse and all rural communities.

Land availability has increased through a number of initiatives. Of course there have been efforts of government working with municipalities, communities, First Nation governments and the private sector. The Agriculture branch planned land program provides: land through multi-lot subdivisions and infill projects; the ongoing effort of Land Management branch to identify additional sites for rec lots for future lottery; the government spot-land application program, which has approved approximately 144 rural residential applications and 103 agriculture applications from 2002 to 2016; and the approval of approximately 137 new lots since 2004 through subdivision of private residential land located in the Whitehorse periphery.

The success of our approach to providing planned land development over the period 2002 to 2016 has led to the creation of approximately 1,413 lots. Again, the breakdown of those lots — 757 were residential, 50 were rural residential, 234 were country residential, 66 were duplex lots, 119 were townhouse lots, 40 were multi-family lots, 45 were

recreational lots, 73 were industrial lots, 10 were commercial lots and 23 were agricultural lots.

One of the important opportunities that we have been working on and has seen significant interest is the Whistle Bend subdivision in Whitehorse. It is the largest development project in the Yukon. Phase 1 was released in 2013; in spring 2014 the first portion of phase 2; and phase 2(b) was released in June 2015. This included 28 single-family lots, 22 duplex units on 11 sites, six multi-family lots and one commercial lot.

Through 2012 and 2015, the Yukon government released Whistle Bend phases 1, 2(a) and 2(b), as I mentioned. The total quantity of land and lots available from that work were 175 single-family lots, 20 restricted residential lots, 29 duplex sites, 12 townhouse sites and 18 multi-family lots, which were made available through tender to private sector developers.

Madam Speaker, there is significant interest in the land at Whistle Bend. It certainly is an emerging and up-and-coming neighbourhood. I have driven through there often with colleagues and I have a number of friends who now reside in the subdivision and we've visited them in their homes. It's certainly a fantastic addition to the Whitehorse community.

Obviously the work that Ta'an Kwäch'än is doing down there, as well as work on the new Whistle Bend continuing care facility will add significantly to the dynamics of the subdivision. Of course, it is in close proximity as well to recreational opportunities, including the Mountainview Golf Course, which is an important piece of recreational infrastructure for the City of Whitehorse.

Madam Speaker, there have been other land lotteries that have taken place as well. We talked about the rec lots on Bennett and Tagish lakes that were turned back and put back out to lottery. There were two multi-family lots and one townhouse site comprised of four lots in Ingram; one industrial lot at McCrae and one lot in the Marwell area of Whitehorse; and eight residential lots and one country residential lot in Dawson City. The following lots were also released during the 2012-16 time frame: 20 industrial lots in Dawson City; 49 residential and three multi-family lots in Haines Junction; four Ingram subdivision residential lots; three residential and two industrial lots in Carmacks; 21 country residential lots in Teslin that we spoke about on Sawmill Road; and four country residential lots in the Whitehorse Copper subdivision as well.

Much of this work would not be possible were it not for continued collaboration with other levels of government, including of course our First Nation partners. We've talked about the MOU that was signed with Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the variety of development initiatives that came from that particular MOU. Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Yukon government, in their governmental accord, identified projects both inside and outside the city. Initiatives include: KDFN/YG action plan for joint development opportunities; local area planning and development priorities; establishing viable project partnerships and next steps; and C-15, which is Kwanlin Dün property on Range Road here in Whitehorse identified for future planning and development.

EMR and the Teslin Tlingit Council have worked together using common planning and engineering criteria in the joint land development initiatives that I spoke of. The subject of this motion, being the recreational lots at Dutch Harbour, is also very, very exciting.

There are also land development protocol agreements in place with the town of Dawson, the Town of Watson Lake, the villages of Carmacks, Faro, Haines Junction, Mayo and Teslin. These protocols are assisting government and the municipal governments — Yukon government, pardon me — and our municipal partners in identifying lands for development.

Madam Speaker, this is just the tip of the iceberg on the land availability aspect. As I mentioned, there are significant housing initiatives underway through the Yukon Housing Corporation and other partners. I know that some of the early work that was done in Yukon Housing Corporation back in the early part of this mandate when I was the minister included programs like the down payment assistance program, which is helping Yukoners get into their own homes. There were a number of initiatives that the Yukon Housing Corporation started during my watch and continued through successive ministers. Much of the success of Yukon Housing Corporation and what they have been able to accomplish is owed to the board and the leadership of the board and the leadership of the ministers who followed and continued to build upon and improve upon what we were able to accomplish in that corporation in the early part of this mandate.

I am very proud and will be proud to speak to Yukoners on their doorsteps this fall about the progress that we have made in land availability and housing over the last five years and, of course, not only the progress, but our plan going forward and what we intend to accomplish in the upcoming years if we are successful in forming the government again. I am certainly excited about the opportunity to talk to Yukoners and share our vision and our accomplishments with them.

With that, Madam Speaker, I thank the members for their time today and look forward to supporting the motion. I thank the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin for bringing this motion forward that has allowed us to speak about housing and land availability accomplishments and plans for the Yukon.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Madam Speaker, I will be very brief. I just wanted to rise quickly to thank the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin for bringing this forward and thank my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, for his work on this particular file as well. It has been noted previously that the Member for Kluane has also played an important role in seeing this issue move forward.

Making land available is something that is very important to me, and I am very pleased to see the track record we have been able to establish in that respect. This is just the next step forward for that, and I am very pleased to see that this issue is advancing. Making waterfront, titled property available to Yukoners is something that I have been interested in for a number of years now, and I am very pleased with the work

that we have been able to do so far. It was certainly something that came up to me in my work as MLA over the last five years — that Yukoners want to access recreational lots in the territory. They want to get out and enjoy the wonderful lakes, rivers and recreational opportunities that Yukon affords us all. For some of us who have had the opportunity to have recreational lots by virtue of either parents or people who have developed or purchased lots long ago, that's all great, but for many, many new Yukoners or Yukoners who have been in the territory for the last 10 or 15 years, there hasn't been a tremendous number of opportunities to get recreational lots. Making sure that Yukoners have access to these recreational opportunities is very important to me, and I think it is very important to a lot of Yukoners who are new to the territory.

I will conclude simply by thanking my colleagues who have advanced this file, and thanking the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin for bringing the motion forward. I would speak in favour of it today by noting that this is a priority for me, and I am glad to see it advance. Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thanks to my colleagues for advancing this particular issue and for continuing to make land available to Yukoners for a variety of purposes, and, more specifically in this case, recreational waterfront properties to Yukoners.

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

Mr. Elias: I just want to thank everybody who spoke to Motion No. 1151 today, and I just wanted to touch on a couple of points that I thought were important. First, I just want to read the motion again:

“THAT this House urges the Yukon government to use the 2016-17 budget to support the development of 11 recreational lots at Dutch Harbour on Kluane Lake, in cooperation with Kluane First Nation.”

There are a number of things that are important here: (1) in 2011, the Yukon Party's platform made a promise to Yukoners to make land available to Yukoners for recreational purposes; (2) there is a partnership with the Kluane First Nation in making this happen; (3) this summer, there are going to be 11 new recreational lots at Dutch Harbour made available through a lottery; and (4) there are going to be residency requirements — that you have to live in the Yukon for a certain period of time.

Basically, Madam Speaker, when this government says that they are going to do something, they do it. This is just one of many, many promises that have been kept.

I also wanted to mention that, where I come from, I'm not aware of these types of partnerships. As a member of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, I believe we have 7,711 square kilometres of category A settlement land. A lot of that is in the Old Crow Flats, which has 2,000-plus lakes. There are two R blocks along the Dempster Highway — one is R-8A, which is beside the Eagle River, and the other one is R-6A, which is beside the Ogilvie River. Maybe one day this type of opportunity between the Vuntut Gwitchin government and the public government can exist to have our Yukoners share that part of north Yukon.

I was raised out on the land out on the Old Crow Flats from when I was born until I was about 13. We used to sit around the campfire and listen to the short-wave radio — sometimes in Alaska and sometimes in the NWT — and my grandmother would always enjoy listening to country music. This just came to me today as we were debating this. There is a fellow who sang a great song, and his name is George Strait. The song goes “oceanfront property in Arizona”. I was just thinking that these 11 lots on Kluane Lake — I can see a family sitting there and listening to the radio. Maybe it might be my buddy, Tom Buzzell, who might be sitting on one of these lots. He will grab his guitar and he will change the words from “Oceanfront Property in Arizona” to “Lakefront Property at Dutch Harbour”. Those kinds of fun things happen with families at these recreational lots, and I want to thank the Member for Kluane, everybody who spoke, and all the government ministers who ensured that this great effort made it into the 2016-17 budget.

I commend this motion to the House, and I thank all members who spoke. Let’s make this project happen this summer.

Speaker: Are you prepared for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Graham: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Kent: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Hassard: Agree.

Mr. Elias: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Agree.

Ms. Hanson: Agree.

Ms. Stick: Agree.

Ms. Moorcroft: Agree.

Ms. White: Agree.

Mr. Tredger: Agree.

Mr. Barr: Agree.

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

Speaker: The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried.
Motion No. 1151 agreed to

Motion No. 1031

Clerk: Motion No. 1031, standing in the name of Mr. Elias.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to use its independent power production policy to promote the development of community-based energy projects in order to allow private producers to generate electricity, connect to the grid and sell power to local utilities.

Mr. Elias: The independent power production policy is a policy that allows private producers to generate electricity, connect to the grid and sell power to local utilities. The independent power production policy, or IPP policy, was adopted on October 27, 2015. Through this policy, communities, First Nations and entrepreneurs can develop environmentally sound and affordable electrical supply options. This policy provides opportunities for non-utility entities to generate new electricity that can assist in meeting the demand for energy. There are two targets of the IPP policy — that 10 percent of new electrical demands be met by it, and that 50 percent of IPP projects require a Yukon First Nation ownership component.

The policy includes the following approaches to IPP. The standing offer program encourages the development of small, renewable projects. Sources must be renewable and between 30 and 1,000 kilowatts in size. The call for power applies to larger projects on the Yukon integrated system or any projects in the isolated communities of Old Crow, Beaver Creek and Destruction Bay. The policy also allows for unsolicited proposals at any time for projects larger than the standing offer program limits or projects too big for the isolated communities. The IPP policy, paired with the Government of Yukon’s microgeneration policy, helps promote energy self-sufficiency and a sustainable and secure energy future. The microgeneration policy provides opportunities to individuals and small businesses to generate their own renewable electricity and provides a mechanism to connect to the grid and sell excess power back in.

Over the next year, the Yukon government will be working with ATCO Electric Yukon, the Yukon Energy Corporation and the Yukon Development Corporation to develop regulations, standards and purchase rates associated with the independent power production policy. Both the IPP policy and the microgeneration policy were developed through public consultation following the release of the 2009 *Energy Strategy for Yukon*. The independent power production policy is part of the Government of Yukon’s larger efforts to support strategic investments in infrastructure to increase and diversify the supply of electricity from renewable sources. For more information, everyone is welcome to visit www.energy.gov.yk.ca.

Madam Speaker, I commend this motion to the House and I look forward to hearing all members’ support of the motion I put forward today — Motion No. 1031. I look forward to hearing what members have to say.

Mr. Tredger: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I thank the member from Vuntut Gwitchin for bringing forth this motion.

I rise to speak in response to Motion No. 1031. Independent power producers — IPPs — can make an important contribution toward moving the Yukon to a low-carbon economy. The keys to creating a successful IPP is to make sure: that the projects take into consideration the use of renewable sources of energy; that the energies are close to the source; that innovation, research and application is carried out in a proper manner; and that there is leadership and opportunity to commercially apply technologies in the Yukon.

I have some good news that I would like to share with Yukoners and with this Legislature. Renewable energies are here, they are viable and they are affordable. Last year, German renewables supplied 194 terawatts of energy. This total represented 32 percent of the gross national electricity consumption, showing an increase of over 27 percent of the 2014 total. Germany is an unlikely leader in solar. Germany ranks second in installed photovoltaic solar capacity, according to the International Energy Agency. Until recently, it was the world leader; now, that honour goes to China.

It's notable that on solar, Germany is outpacing the United States — a country four times its populace. What's more remarkable and notable to Yukoners is that Germany sees about as much sunshine as Alaska. Madam Speaker, Whitehorse receives more sunlight than Berlin. What's notable is that individuals are driving Germany's green energy revolution. Germany's performance highlights the success of energy wind, or energy transition. Germany's push to expand clean energy, increase energy-efficiency and democratize power generation — smart policies — have opened the renewable energy market to utilities, businesses and homeowners. Remarkably, as of 2012, individuals own more than one-third of Germany's renewable energy capacity.

Despite the Premier's dire warnings of moving to a renewable energy policy, Germany is the fourth largest economy on the planet. Germany's \$3.7-trillion GDP beats the economic output of any other country in Europe. Its renewable output shows that wind and solar can keep pace with the demands of an economic powerhouse. What's more, the growth of clean energy has tracked the growth of Germany's economy.

Madam Speaker, the NDP has always supported local economic development. We support the idea of IPPs, as they give the communities local control of the power. It's also a local source for the generation of revenue, moves forward the diversification of local economies and promotes local economic development. In order to meet our commitments to the Paris agreements, we as Yukoners should look toward creating social and economic change. We should consider the social, economic and environmental benefits that utilizing our proven, applicable and economical renewable resources for local power generation gives our current residents and future generations — an opportunity. Local renewable power production will also help reduce costs of upgrading and maintaining the larger electrical infrastructure that operates in the Yukon.

At an energy charrette hosted by Yukon Energy in 2011, Yukoners agreed on four priorities when it comes to

electricity: it had to be flexible; it had to be affordable; it had to be reliable; and it had to be environmentally responsible.

We already have examples of Yukoners' innovation hard at work, moving toward a brighter, fossil-free future. Burwash Landing and the Kluane First Nation are stepping deeper into the world of producing renewable energy. The First Nation is expanding their array of photovoltaic solar panels it uses to power buildings while supplying surplus energy to the isolated grid that otherwise depends on diesel generation to keep the lights on in Burwash and Destruction Bay. The Kluane First Nation is also moving forward this year with stage 1 of its wind farm as an independent power producer. It is a step in the right direction. However, Madam Speaker, it's becoming increasingly evident that we have to move quicker than we previously thought. The technology to make renewable energy affordable exists today and the pace of innovation and technology is reducing the cost, making it more efficient and viable. We must get on the bandwagon.

Amendment proposed

Mr. Tredger: Therefore, I move:

THAT Motion No. 1031 be amended by adding the word “renewable” immediately after the word “community-based” — so that the line reads, “... the development of community-based renewable energy projects...”

Speaker: The amendment is in order.

The motion presented by the Member for Mayo-Tatchun is:

THAT Motion No. 1031 be amended by adding the word “renewable” immediately after the word “community-based”.

Mr. Tredger: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The IPP initial consultation was conducted as part of looking at renewable energy. The Yukon Party government introduced LNG into the policy and, in my mind, this is a step backwards.

“Renewable” is an important word. It promotes the better use of our energy generation capacity and it moves us forward in our challenge toward reducing fossil fuel use. We are committed as a territory to do our part in the fight for climate change.

The signing of climate change agreements, like the Paris agreement on climate change, commits us to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to 30 percent of 2005 levels by 2030. The justification for the inclusion of LNG in the policy is the thought that it will produce lower greenhouse gas emissions than diesel, but evidence shows that natural gas is not a viable strategy for lowering carbon emissions. Concerns exist with LNG, like the upstream production of methane. Methane emissions have 60 times more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Various studies have put that between 60 and 80 percent, depending on the time that it is looked at. Furthermore, while LNG produces less carbon dioxide at point of source burning than diesel, it produces 10 to 15 times more carbon dioxide per unit of energy than solar voltaic or wind power. Biomass is slightly more than those two — but again, much less than the burning of liquefied natural gas.

LNG is not a bridge fuel. It is a fossil fuel. It is a commodity, and the use of fossil fuels ties us to the global market forces that drive the prices of natural gas, oil and other commodities that we use here in the Yukon.

Madam Speaker, it is frustrating. Yukon citizens, energy experts, science and economists have shown us that the economics for renewables are there. Other jurisdictions have forged ahead, showing us the way, and proven the economics. The Yukon Party government is finally waking up to that fact — yet here we are, still talking about renewables. Twenty-three years later, we still have two windmills on Haeckel Hill. A number of studies — Kluane First Nation has shown the initiative — and good for the Yukon Party government to come on board. But where is the leadership? We are still talking about pursuing pilot projects. We are following the First Nations' leadership. We are following the leadership of private enterprises.

Yukoners want to be part of the solution. They want to step up. They know it's going to be hard. They have listened to the scare tactics used about higher prices and inconveniences, but they are willing. The Yukoners I know are ready for the challenge.

They are investing in renewable energy. They are looking for political will to go to a renewable energy future. They are willing to do that economically, knowing that renewables are based on technology and, while renewables can compete with fossil fuels today, we also know that technology-driven renewables will decrease on a consistent basis over time.

If we look into the future — five, 10 years — we know that renewable energies will be cheaper. We also know that commodities — our fossil fuels — are subject to the vagaries of the market, and they will rise and fall, but, ultimately, we have signed agreements to get off of fossil fuels.

Any production facility is looking at a fairly long lifespan. If we agree to fossil fuels today, as we have with F.H. Collins, we know that for the next 40 years, we will be producing carbon and burning fossil fuels. The decisions we make today as to whether we go renewable or continue to burn fossil fuels will affect not only the economics today, but the health and well-being of future generations. I am concerned that sometimes people take a look, very narrowly, and they say, through scare tactics, that taxes might go up or costs might go up.

I read the news the other day. There was a heat wave in India. Over 1,000 people died each day because of the heat. There is a real push on the part of some people in India to produce electricity that would provide air conditioning with coal. It is a fairly compelling argument, but India has signed an agreement and is respecting that agreement. They are phasing out their coal-fired plants.

We live in a first-world country. We are very, very fortunate. We've been gifted a legacy where much of our current electricity is produced by hydro. Let's hope our future electricity is produced with renewable sources.

We know that there are ways out of this quagmire, but we also know that Yukoners know that we need to move and, given the warm winter we've had and the changing patterns

that are affecting our caribou, our salmon, our rivers, our lakes, our roads and our buildings, we know we need to act and act now.

Even if we do act now, it's not a moment too soon. That's why I put the word "renewable" in there. I want this Legislature to take a strong stand to support the Government of India, to support the government of Brazil, to support the third world countries and all those countries around the world that have signed the Paris climate agreement and have shown a willingness to make changes to reduce our use of carbon fuels.

I would encourage the Legislature to join Yukoners who want to be part of the solution. Renewable energy makes sense economically, environmentally and socially. To include fossil fuels is a step backward. To support renewable energy is a step into the future and for our children and our grandchildren.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: We don't have a problem with the amendment. We will be supporting the amendment brought forward by the Member for Mayo-Tatchun.

It should be noted that the primary intention of the independent power production policy is to encourage and incentivize the production of renewable energy by small producers. But what we are doing on this — and I do have to point out to the Member for Mayo-Tatchun that where I think we differ from the NDP on this is not primarily even about the intention and desire of moving toward reducing fossil fuel emissions — producing more energy through renewable sources and so on — but the fact that we're focused on doing so in a reasonable and moderate manner and in understanding what the costs of renewable power sources are before committing to going down those paths, rather than simply saying, on the basis of ideology, that society has to move in that direction without understanding the costs.

What I would like to draw the members' attention to — as well as the attention of others who may be listening — is that this government has taken a number of steps to support the use of renewable energy. Earlier today, we heard the Leader of the NDP suggesting that we should have added solar panels on this building, that being the main administration building, when the reskinning was done. I would remind the member there are solar panels on the roof, and those solar panels were put on the roof by this government. I was minister responsible at the time when we installed them. There used to be a display in the lobby of this building. I understand it's currently up at Yukon College, showing how much energy is being produced.

Again, for the same reason, as a demonstration project and a moderate source of renewable energy, Yukon Energy has added solar panels on their building just within the last year. As well, the Kluane First Nation wind project — referenced by the NDP member who spoke is a project that was proposed to the Yukon government by the Kluane First Nation. The Yukon government has invested a million dollars in that project, I believe, to assist in that project being something that they can proceed with.

I would also point out to the member some of the other initiatives we've taken — the microgeneration program, which is a change that, for the very first time in Yukon history, allows Yukoners to put in home-based renewable energy projects and sell that power back to the grid at a small premium. I would remind the members that, back when the NDP and Liberals were proposing a policy of this type, they were proposing a net metering policy, which would have been a kilowatt hour-per-kilowatt hour credit that, for each kilowatt hour of energy produced by a home-based renewable energy project, one kilowatt hour of consumption off the grid would be deducted from their bill. We went in a different direction. We provided an incentive and have based that on the avoided cost of burning diesel fuel and allows it — I believe it's 21 cents a kilowatt hour within the grid primarily served by hydro, and it's 30 cents per kilowatt hour in diesel communities.

As we said when we announced the microgeneration policy, that policy is being done as a pilot project for two reasons. One is to very specifically give us the opportunity to review the rate paid for energy consumption and the success of other elements of the program structure after a two-year time period and, secondly, that while it is our view that ultimately the costs of the program should be paid for by the utilities that are purchasing the power, the cost of going to the Yukon Utilities Board for a rate hearing to seek an amendment to the current structure would have cost significantly more than the estimated cost of funding the program under the Energy Solutions Centre, so government felt that getting a structural amendment at a greater cost would not be money well-spent. That's why the program is done on a pilot-project basis — for those two very specific reasons.

I would also remind the members that we brought in, in the fall of 2013, Bill No. 80, which not only extended the successful rural well drilling program into city limits and made it available for Yukoners within city limits for the first time — and I should again remind members that the model picked for that was based on four options we proposed to Yukon municipalities. We chose the option that they preferred and tacked on an administration fee at their strong request, although we would have preferred not to see an administration fee passed on to the homeowners. That successful program has seen over \$5.4 million in support from the Yukon government since it was created in 2004 and over 300 Yukon homeowners assisted in developing a home-based water source for their families, or improving an existing one through the successful rural well drilling program, which is now the municipal domestic water well drilling program for the portion that is within city limits.

In addition to the changes Bill No. 80 made to enable the expansion of the rural well drilling program, Bill No. 80 also made changes to the rural electrification program, allowing Yukoners, for the first time, if they were already connected to the power grid, to access the rural electrification program, borrow up to 25 percent of the assessed value of their property as required under that program and put in a home-based, renewable energy project or a power source. This included

hydro, solar and wind, so through a combination of the microgeneration program and the expansion and change of the rural electrification program, it allowed Yukoners who are on-grid to borrow money at low interest rates under the rural electrification program and put in a home energy source. As well, I believe there are incentives — which the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources can speak to — through the Energy Solutions Centre, that allow a rebate for homeowners who are putting in an energy source.

In addition, through the Energy Solutions Centre, some of the other programs include the good energy program, which we announced back in 2009 when I was Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. That program, through its rebates for fridges, for water, heat and appliances and so on, has assisted in getting old, inefficient refrigerators off the system and reducing demand. Refrigerators have to be 10 years of age or older and currently in use. Through that incentive of \$50 per eligible old refrigerator, with a maximum of two refrigerators, it has been successful in getting high-cost refrigerators off of the grid and has reduced that demand, so that is one of the things we've done in the area of demand-side management.

I should also remind members of the investments that we have made through the investment in the Mayo B hydro dam and the Aishihik turbine. Those investments in renewable energy, as well, have been undertaken by this government. Members, I know, have been critical of those investments, but something that members do need to recognize is that hydro is renewable energy. The up-front costs of hydro do make it, when considering energy choices, one of the more expensive options for initial construction but, in the long-term life cycle of those projects, hydro projects pay off very well for government and consumers in the long term, because most of the high costs are up-front. Over time, they compare very well to fossil fuel sources or to wind, for that matter.

I should also note that while we do support the amendment proposed by the Member for Mayo-Tatchun, when they look to the German example, it is really comparing apples to oranges. They need to look at how much of the German energy supply has been produced through fossil fuel sources, including coal, to understand the fact that replacing energy produced by coal plants and comparing energy produced by liquefied natural gas are two very different things. The emissions from coal are significant, and they need to understand that, in talking about how many new solar panels have been added to the system — a solar panel is a more expensive energy source over time than hydro is. For the member to simply look at what Germany is doing with solar without understanding the context and without understanding the fact that, unlike Yukon — which has over 95 percent of our energy supply produced by renewable energy sources — Germany was very heavily dependent on fossil fuels and coal plants. It is important to understand that context, rather than simply arguing that wind and solar must be the energy option of choice purely because they sound like a good idea.

I do need to remind members what the Auditor General of Ontario determined about the billions of dollars in increased costs passed on to consumers in Ontario as a result of energy

policies put in place by the Liberal government there. I would note that I'm sure that that government had good intentions in going down that road, but the effect on system stability and on energy costs to consumers in Ontario was significant. That is why I would contend to anyone on any type of project that, no matter what the energy supply source is that is being added to the system, before you commit to that course of action and add that component to the grid, it is absolutely important that utilities and government — when government is involved in those matters — have an understanding of the costs of that energy supply and understand that simply looking at how many megawatts it produces at maximum production, without looking at the reliability and continuity of energy supply from that type of production, is looking too narrowly at that project. One needs to understand the effect of it on the system and fully consider whether backup power sources are required if those new energy sources are added.

That being said, Madam Speaker, we do support this motion and we fully support the intent of focusing on promoting renewable energy projects — but I do have to add the caution that any time we do that, we do have to understand the fine print and the costs.

Speaker: Are you prepared for the question on the amendment?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Graham: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Kent: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Hassard: Agree.

Mr. Elias: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Agree.

Ms. Hanson: Agree.

Ms. Stick: Agree.

Ms. Moorcroft: Agree.

Ms. White: Agree.

Mr. Tredger: Agree.

Mr. Barr: Agree.

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

Speaker: The yeas have it. I declare the amendment carried.

Amendment to Motion No. 1031 agreed to

Speaker: Is there any debate on the main motion as amended?

Hon. Mr. Kent: It's my pleasure to speak to the motion as amended — and in support of the motion as amended. Renewable energy is extremely important. It's highlighted in the IPP as one of the major sources to move forward, and we certainly want to encourage as many renewable opportunities as possible. I thought I would take my opportunity today to provide the House with an update on the good energy program and provide the year-end report, April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016.

Before I do, I would like to just talk a little bit about — it's Mining Day in Alaska, and I would like to acknowledge that for our friends who are involved in the industry in Alaska and to speak really to how mining makes solar energy possible.

I found this graphic on www.resourceworks.com, and I thought it would be interesting to share it with members of the House because many of these materials that make renewable energies possible are mined right here in the Yukon.

Before a solar panel is assembled, raw materials are mined and refined. Mining makes solar energy possible. Before a solar panel is assembled, raw materials are mined and refined, including the following: indium, gallium, arsenic, selenium, coal, tellurium, phosphate rock, silica, boron, copper, bauxite, lead, iron, titanium dioxide, cadmium and molybdenum. These materials are sourced from over 60 countries, including Canada — and, of course, the Yukon in some instances as well.

Most important in the process to put together solar panels is usable, pure silicon, which starts out as silica. That resource is found in 25 different countries around the world — in one location in Canada mainly is where silica is processed.

After processing and cutting we get silicon wafers. These wafers semi-conduct electricity, thanks to treatments of boron and phosphorus. Electrical contacts carry the current, thanks to silver, copper and palladium — all three of which are found right here in the Yukon as part of our mineral endowment. There is also a titanium dioxide coating that is applied to the solar cell, making it a lot less reflective and lot more productive with the sun's energy. After the cell is sealed, it is placed into an aluminium housing.

I hope this provides members of the Legislature with a bit of an idea as to how much mineral production is needed and the importance of mining and mining production for the development of renewable energy sources. These are only some of the ways that natural resources go into clean and green energies. It's found across the board with hydro development and wind-turbine development as well. It's that bumper sticker that I know I have seen around town — and I've seen this on coats and I saw a bumper sticker on Senator Murkowski's site today: "If it can't be grown, it must be mined".

It's certainly something that's extremely important for us to be cognizant of. We certainly support responsible resource development — and especially those resources that are used to enhance renewable energy opportunities throughout the world, help us transition to a low-carbon economy and meet the commitments that were made in Paris and at other

environmental conferences, looking to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Madam Speaker, we can play a part, not only here by the work that we're doing on renewable energy initiatives, but by encouraging responsible production of the many minerals that we have in the Yukon and throughout Canada and the United States that are used to develop these important technologies.

I'm going to speak to some of the highlights of our good energy 2015-16 year-end report. In January 2015, under our government, the Energy branch introduced several new residential incentives to the good energy program, a market transformation program that identifies energy-efficient products and provides financial incentives for clients to realize energy and cost-savings and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

These new incentives include: up to \$10,000 for building super-insulated new homes; 20 percent of cost, up to \$11,000, for air-sealing and adding insulation to existing homes; \$50 per unit, up to \$1,000, for the installation of Energy Star windows and doors; \$500 for the installation of an efficient heat recovery ventilator, or HRV; 20 percent of material costs, up to \$5,000, for installing a residential renewable energy system — again, this is the microgeneration program that was referenced during Question Period today. Of course, our government is playing an important role in that program. Unfortunately, the Leader of the Official Opposition, in her questions, didn't recognize that this program was introduced by this government and that much of the success we've seen in recent months with people installing these systems in their homes is due to the incentives that we put in place for this type of work.

These new incentives have been very popular with Yukoners. Since the launch of the program, 99 super-insulated new homes have been built; 16 existing homes have had insulation upgrades; and 24 residential solar PV systems have been installed.

A super-insulated new home, built to an EnerGuide 85 rating, can achieve an annual heat load of 14,000 kilowatt hours, which costs, on average, \$300 per month to heat over the course of a heating season. Families living in super-insulated homes not only save energy and the cost of purchasing energy, but they also reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and enjoy the comforts of a cozy and draft-free home. The estimated annual thermal energy savings from these super-insulated new builds is 515,000 kilowatt hours, resulting in annual client cost-savings of \$89,000.

Not every Yukoner is able to build a super-insulated new home. Those Yukoners living in existing homes are able to improve the energy performance and comfort of their home by taking advantage of the window and door air-sealing, insulating and HRV incentives. Two hundred and one clients have received incentives, totalling \$124,000, for the installation of Energy Star windows and doors. Sixteen clients, to date, have completed insulation and air-sealing retrofits on their homes. These clients have saved an estimated 25,000 kilowatt hours in thermal energy savings per year, which amounts to client cost-savings of \$4,300 per year.

There has been strong interest in the residential renewable energy incentive, with a total of 24 clients installing photovoltaic systems to date, for a projected capacity of 40 kilowatts, with an estimated annual generation of 44,000 kilowatt hours. Using the incentive to add to or expand existing PV systems, off-grid Yukoners save significantly on their self-generation expenses while also reducing fossil fuel expenses, consumption and emissions from diesel and gasoline generators.

The generation from these off-grid PV systems is projected at 12,000 kilowatt hours of the 44,000 kilowatt hours of annual generation. Since the launch of the new incentives in January 2015, Yukoners have collected 650 residential incentives, totalling \$1.453 million in incentives paid out. This translates into 540,000 kilowatt hours of annual energy savings and \$93,000 in annual Yukon cost-savings.

In addition to the new residential incentives added to the good energy program in May 2015, the Energy branch introduced the commercial energy incentive program. It has two components. The first targets the lighting efficiency of commercial buildings by encouraging owners to upgrade to energy-efficient and long-lasting LED lighting systems.

Yukon businesses can qualify for incentives of 20 percent of LED lamp and fixture costs up to \$10,000. Interest in this incentive has been very strong, with 22 businesses completing LED lighting retrofits and receiving \$56,000 in rebates in the last fiscal year. Annual energy savings to date are estimated at 1,414,000 kilowatt hours, with \$170,000 in annual client cost-savings. The second component offers up to \$100,000 for air-sealing, insulation, and window and door upgrades for multi-family dwellings. Unfortunately, there was no participation in this program this year, although there was interest from some of the individuals and owners in pursuing it.

In addition to the residential additions to the good energy program and the rebates for commercial businesses, Energy branch has continued to offer rebates for home appliances, heating systems and water-efficient products through the good energy program. Participation in the program continues to be very strong. Yukoners have received over 12,000 incentives, totalling \$1.6 million, since the launch of the program under this Yukon Party government in 2007. The good energy program has been very successful in transforming the local market to stock and promote energy-efficient refrigerators, clothes-washers, freezers and heating — systems ranging from wood stoves to propane and oil furnaces and air-source heat pumps. The estimated annual electrical saving is 1.5 million kilowatt hours, with \$186,000 per client electricity cost-savings.

This is certainly an exciting opportunity that our government has provided to Yukoners to make a difference in energy savings as well as greenhouse gas emissions. Again, these totals include January to March 2015 counts for residential incentives — 650 rebates, paying out at just over \$1.4 million, with significant annual energy savings of almost 540,000 kilowatt hours and annual client cost-savings of \$93,000. The good energy rebate count for 2015-16 is 1,351 — rebates paid, \$163,840 — and annual energy savings of

just over 152,000 kilowatt hours, with annual client cost-savings of just under \$20,000.

Again, the commercial energy incentives, which have been focused on the lighting upgrades — 22 rebates paid out at \$55,690, 1.4 million kilowatt hours in annual energy savings, and \$170,000 in client cost-savings. It certainly pays, obviously, to make those upgrades, and we're seeing more and more businesses interested in doing so. With the residential incentives, 650 different incentives paid out \$1.452 million, as I mentioned, with significant annual energy savings and cost-savings as well.

Madam Speaker, we're certainly making a difference with the programs that we have brought in. We continue to implement the 2009 energy strategy through introductions of the microgeneration program and the independent power production policy that is the focus of this motion that was brought forward. I'm particularly excited about the recently announced biomass strategy and the work that we're doing in Energy, Mines and Resources and in Highways and Public Works to identify some of our educational facilities, both in Whitehorse and in a number of communities, that would be able to be heated by biomass and look to expand. I've had many inquiries from companies in Europe — in Germany, as the members opposite talked about — with an interest in coming here and looking to apply some of their biomass technology to space-heating opportunities in the Yukon. There has been interest from Yukon companies and First Nations as well.

We want to make sure that we have the entire supply chain proven out. We will be going out to a request for qualifications on the educational facilities in Watson Lake, Teslin and Haines Junction, as well as the cluster of buildings at Yukon College, to see if there are opportunities for us to harvest and produce the biomass resources here in the territory and then continue through the heating side of things as well. It's good for the environment and it's good for the economy. We certainly recognize that, and we are looking forward to proceeding.

As I mentioned, there are a number of excellent highlights with what we have been able to accomplish. I am always excited to talk about the energy work of our government and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources in the Energy branch. We continue to come up with new programs and enhancements to programs to put people to work right here on the ground in the territory. It's an exciting time.

I want to thank the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin for bringing this motion forward today for debate. Just to conclude — to recognize all of those individuals who are currently working in the mining sector who help us to realize our dream of renewable energy and help us to make sure that the technology and the equipment are available for the production of renewable energy products, such as wind turbines, solar PV cells, hydro and geothermal. Everything relies on the mining industry, and so, just to conclude, in honour of our Yukon Mining and Geology Week that we celebrated last week and for the Mining Day that is taking

place today in Alaska, I certainly encourage everyone to — if they know a miner or know someone who is involved in that industry, to thank them for helping us to realize renewable energy opportunities that exist here in the Yukon and, indeed, across the world.

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

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Graham: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Kent: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Hassard: Agree.

Mr. Elias: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Agree.

Ms. Hanson: Agree.

Ms. Stick: Agree.

Ms. Moorcroft: Agree.

Ms. White: Agree.

Mr. Tredger: Agree.

Mr. Barr: Agree.

Clerk: Madam Speaker, the results are 16 yeas, nil nays.

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

Motion No. 1031, as amended, agreed to

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chair (Mr. Elias): I will now call Committee of the Whole to order. The matter before the Committee is general debate on Vote 8, Department of Justice, in Bill No. 23, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2016-17*. Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

Bill No. 23: *First Appropriation Act, 2016-17* — continued.

Chair: The matter before the Committee is general debate on Vote 8, Department of Justice, in Bill No. 23, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2016-17*.

Department of Justice

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Since it is my first opportunity to rise in Committee on a department since the Chair has taken on the new role, let me congratulate him on his election yesterday as Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committee of the Whole.

I am pleased to rise to speak to the Department of Justice's 2016-17 operation and maintenance and capital budget contained in the main estimates. The operation and maintenance budget as contained in these estimates is \$68 million in operation and maintenance and capital of approximately \$1.85 million. These are aimed at helping the Department of Justice continue to advance multi-year modernization and infrastructure projects as well as to collaboratively address policing and public safety needs with our community justice partners and to continue to provide high-quality and cost-effective programs and services.

I'll highlight a few of the budget items relevant to those areas as well as some of the important day-to-day initiatives and standard operational matters that this budget supports, with more focus on significant line items and policy initiatives.

The multi-year land titles modernization project and the justice enterprise information network project, commonly referred to in department circles as the JEIN project, are improving the efficiency of operations and accessibility of services. This will largely be achieved through the implementation and transition to new information technology systems.

You will recall, Mr. Chair, that the land titles modernization project is building a modern land titles system with accessible and efficient land titles services for the benefit of all Yukoners and that in 2015 we introduced and passed new land titles and condominium legislation that protects the interest of property owners and supports Yukon's real estate market. Under the new land titles act specifically, provisions to enable an electronic database and land titles registration system were introduced.

I would also note that the land titles act itself was a significant change to a piece of legislation that had remained largely the same for over 100 years, and that underlines the size of the project both from a drafting perspective and the transition from a paper-based system toward an electronic registry.

I should note for those reading Hansard or listening to this that there is still work — and that is what is in part

supported through this budget — to develop that electronic registry system. That is not going to happen overnight. It will take a matter of a number of months to do that, but the legislation is aimed at enabling and allowing for the move to that system while setting up a structure that continues to work under a paper-based system while being worded in a way that would facilitate, enable and cover the transition to an electronic database and land titles registration system.

At this point, the Department of Justice is currently focused on the procurement phase for the new electronic system as well as in the policy and drafting area doing the development of accompanying regulations that will allow the new legislation to be brought into force and effect.

As I believe I've mentioned before in this House, we're targeting implementation in June with the new regulations, but the project itself is a substantial one, so while best efforts are being made to hit that target and the department is certainly focused on doing so, until the work is actually done, there is always some slight chance that an unexpected delay could occur.

Mr. Chair, the 2016-17 budget identifies \$1.1 million for the procurement of the new electronic system and for the policy needs as well. That is composed of — through the capital budget — \$513,000 for the electronic system and supporting the procurement of that; as well as in the area of operation and maintenance, \$632,000 in funding for the Land Titles Office personnel and additional drafting and policy support to accommodate the accelerated timeline to develop regulations to bring in the new *Land Titles Act, 2015* as well as to begin work on *Condominium Act, 2015* regulations because those, in sheer size, as anyone who has read through those — either piece of legislation — could understand there are many, many hours that go into writing a bill that has that many pages to it. In fact, in terms of legislative drafting, I was advised by the department that the amount of legislative drafting conducted by the department in 2015 in terms of total pages — and that is including legislation and regulations for all departments — was the largest number of pages of drafting that had been done in any year except during the transition prior to devolution, with the development of mirror legislation that was brought into force.

The department is certainly working very hard, and I would like to thank and acknowledge the lawyers and legislative drafters as well as our policy people for their many, many hours of work in this area.

It should also be noted that, because the land titles act in particular is dealing with new areas of law — not only for the Yukon, but for the development of the ability of First Nations that choose to register settlement land in the land titles system — and because that is the first model of its kind in Canada, that does — as members, I am sure, can understand — require a significant amount of consideration, consultation, as well as careful drafting, to try to ensure that, while we're breaking new ground in this area, we have carefully thought out the path and understand how to address it in a way that protects the interest of everyone and does not lead to unanticipated parliamentary challenges.

There are also other areas in both the land titles act and the *Condominium Act, 2015* that are not new areas of law for Canada, but are new areas of law for the Yukon. In bringing our legislation up to a standard more in keeping with what a number of jurisdictions in Canada have been doing, that has required figuring out which of those provisions in place in provinces and territories would be beneficial for the Yukon and determining how to bring those into force.

I should also thank the stakeholders advisory group that has been working on both pieces of legislation for the time that they have spent and providing their input about how to structure this legislation in a way that is fair, clear and also works for citizens and for the private sector.

As I mentioned, the creation of the new regulation of the land titles act that provides the ability to register category A and B First Nation settlement land in the Land Titles Office, while retaining aboriginal title, is breaking new ground in Canada. We are endeavouring to have the land titles regulations completed in June, as I mentioned, with the focus thereafter on drafting the regulations under the *Condominium Act, 2015*.

I should have mentioned the proper terms for the committees that were involved — the Land Titles Modernization Project Advisory Committee and the drafting advisory groups.

Moving on to the area of the JEIN — the justice enterprise information network is the new software database for the retrieval and storage of court records, replacing the current system, commonly known as CRIS. The existing mainframe dates back to the 1980s and, as any members who use computer or phone technology will be aware, technology has changed dramatically since the 1980s, and the mainframe system is in need of an upgrade to meet the operational demands of the administration of justice.

The current system has limited ability to produce statistical information, has a diminishing supply of technical support, which impacts business continuity planning, and is a significant risk to the functioning of Yukon's courts if there was a problem with it. The complete JEIN system, once it is completed, will link and support Victim Services, the Sheriff's Office, the criminal courts, and Corrections operations. The Victim Services module was implemented in August 2012 and the sheriff's module — the new system — was implemented in the spring of 2013.

During my fall 2015 budget address, I explained how the Victim Services JEIN module has created operational efficiencies between offices and enhanced client service levels. I'm sure that members vividly recall that debate from that day — tongue in cheek, Mr. Chair. The records of that, if members are interested in looking at specific details, will be found in Hansard from fall 2015.

Once implemented, the JEIN system is expected to substantially streamline business practices for courts and corrections. Among other advantages, it will also allow for faster production of court documents for more complete and more easily produced statistics and better information-sharing between branches. A contractor is currently working on the

completion of the criminal courts module of the JEIN project, which is scheduled to be fully implemented by the end of the 2016-17 fiscal year. The capital budget identifies \$792,000 for the completion of the criminal courts module. Work to implement the corrections module of JEIN will commence once the criminal courts module is complete.

Moving on to another area within the capital budget, the capital budget assigns \$400,000 for building maintenance, renovations and space upgrades. As members will understand, investing in our buildings and physical assets is important to keep them in good condition, as well as to make improvements — such as money that is identified for: better soundproofing; roof upgrades; compliance with current fire code regulations; building security improvements; carpet replacement and various tenant improvements to the Law Centre; funds allocated for cooling upgrades and renovations at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre; and for an office move in Watson Lake.

Mr. Chair, the Department of Justice supports safe and healthy communities through an integrated approach with partners, communities and governments. In the last year, the Department of Justice has heard many concerns from our community justice partners and citizens related to the increase in crime in Whitehorse, including a drive-by shooting, property crimes, vandalism, drug trafficking and other incidents. As I think you are aware, we responded to this by working within the Department of Justice and with partners, including the RCMP, to consider what additional steps might be taken to effectively target the increase in criminal activity. Two of the items that came out of that work resulted in an increase in RCMP resources, where we've allocated \$385,000 in this year's budget for the creation of five new RCMP positions — four of them being constables and one being administrative support — as well as the creation of a Crime Stoppers program, which was another element that came from that discussion with stakeholders, including the Association of Yukon Communities, Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce and the Yukon Chamber of Commerce.

I would like to thank those entities for their work on this and for their advice and input on how to do this. In particular, the re-founding of the Crime Stoppers program here in the territory would not have been possible without the work done by the chambers of commerce and by the members they reached out to who stepped forward to help re-establish this group. Of course, \$21,000 is allocated in this year's budget to assist them with administrative and operational expenses. As members are likely aware, right across the country, it is a practice that neither the government nor the police provide rewards under the Crime Stoppers program. Those rewards are paid for through donations from businesses and citizens and they are administered by a volunteer board, which is why we need volunteers in that role.

Mr. Chair, effective partnerships are essential and an important part of creating innovative solutions to policing and public safety issues. In another step taken within the last year to strengthen the partnerships and collaborative approaches that began with the *Sharing Common Ground* initiative, we

formed the Community Safety Committee last May to engage a broad spectrum of service providers in working-level dialogue on policing and public safety issues. The Community Safety Committee has met several times in its first year and has held subsequent working group meetings. They have been focused, so far, on items including approaches for at-risk children and youth, with the aim of supporting health and wellness and preventing future involvement in criminal activities. This work culminated with a two-day seminar held in February of this year to map existing support services and partnerships.

Another focus of the committee this year has been to share information about effective community safety initiatives, like the Kwanlin Dün First Nation community safety and wellness strategy, as well as to support measures to reduce violence against women and girls, coordinate responses to vulnerable populations — such as high-risk youth — and share information on new and emerging research.

As members will probably be aware, in this area, as well as partners outside of government and First Nation governments, the department has also been working in partnership with Yukon departments, including the Women's Directorate. Initiatives we've taken in that area include supporting the establishment of the women's legal advocate that the minister responsible for the Women's Directorate and I announced last year, and which is now housed at the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre. As well, the Department of Justice has been pleased to partner with the Women's Directorate in supporting the continued funding of the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre's successful A Safe Place program. We look forward to continuing to work with all of our partners in this area to continue to build on the excellent work that has been done to date and to look for ways to strengthen both our public safety structure, as well as those specific elements aimed at targeting vulnerable people and helping them out in a time of need — and in the case of the women's legal advocate, helping women understand their rights better when navigating the justice and court systems.

In the area of the Community Safety Committee, I should note that the Department of Justice supports the committee under its operational mandates with chairing support provided by the director of Public Safety and Investigations. The justice manager from the Council of Yukon First Nations has been the first to assume the co-chair role — a role that will rotate every 18 months. Committee members on the Community Safety Committee are from the Council of Yukon First Nations, Kwanlin Dün First Nation Justice, Association of Yukon Communities, Yukon women's coalition, Yukon RCMP, Department of Justice, Women's Directorate, Department of Health and Social Services and Emergency Medical Services. We certainly hope and expect that the committee will continue to explore and find avenues to create safer communities in the Yukon. We thank all the members on this committee for their commitment.

Mr. Chair, with that, I will conclude the first part of my introductory remarks and look forward to questions and comments from other members of the Legislative Assembly.

Ms. Moorcroft: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will start with welcoming the officials to the Legislative Assembly to support the minister and the debate in the House this afternoon. I appreciate their work and the work of all the people across the department who produce quite a lot of information to be made available to us in debate on the Department of Justice budget. I want to thank them for the technical briefing as well in providing an overview of the changes in budget allocations.

The minister was just speaking about policing and community safety, and so I'm going to start my questions with that. Effective partnerships are important. This government has allocated \$385,000, as the minister just said, toward four new RCMP officers and an administrative support in the City of Whitehorse. The press release suggested that the consultations that took place were between the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Whitehorse and that this allocation would focus on community and property policing.

The minister wasn't clear whether groups other than the Association of Yukon Communities and the chambers of commerce were involved in the public consultation. Did the government engage in other consultations with First Nations or with the women's justice coalition? What methodology was used to determine where the resources were eminently needed and that they needed to be focused on property crime? Did the government's consultations include the Downtown Residents Association in Whitehorse or other community associations across Whitehorse?

What I hear people talking about is that they would like to see more police out in the community, getting out of their vehicles and walking around. In the summertime, they would like to see the RCMP cycling program that often employs youth and constables who are new to the force. Is that going to be a focus for any of the new officers? When do they start?

Also, coming out of the recommendations that were made from the review of Yukon's police force in 2010, the *Sharing Common Ground* report, there were recommendations that indicated the RCMP should put a strong effort into trying to recruit more women into the RCMP and that the RCMP should put a strong emphasis on recruiting more First Nations into the force. I know there were some initial courses offered by the social justice institute at Yukon College. Perhaps the minister can let us know if there have been any further intakes on that, and how many of the people who took that program then went on to apply for positions with the RCMP and how many of them have remained in the force. I will ask the minister to respond to that, and then I will pursue other areas of questioning.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I should have noted as well, in referring to the increase in RCMP resources, that I unintentionally missed mentioning the fact that the work of the Police Council is an important part of feeding into the policing priorities as well helping us understand the resourcing needs.

The Police Council itself — since it was established — does have, as part of its role, community consultation as well. In terms of the RCMP resources specifically, I would be

remiss if I didn't note to provide additional explanation to the member that the RCMP do sit down with stakeholders and work with them on assessing those needs. They review things like the statistics, calls for service, et cetera, as well as spikes in certain types of crime.

So no, it was not just discussions with the chambers of commerce and the Association of Yukon Communities that led to this, but we did specifically reach out to AYC because of its role in representing municipalities as well as to the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce and the Yukon Chamber of Commerce because of comments that had been made and concerns that were expressed by the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce specifically about the pressure in Whitehorse and a spike in property crime.

Additionally, because of discussion by municipalities and, if memory serves, comments by the mayor or councillors about property crime, we felt that it would be appropriate to add to the normal steps that are taken to assess the demand for police resources by also specifically inviting them to come to us with ideas. As a result of that, the input from AYC and from the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce and the Yukon Chamber of Commerce was especially of importance, as it related to whether re-establishing Crime Stoppers would be a good idea and whether, if they agreed, they would be prepared to assist us with that.

When I sat down with the chambers and the Association of Yukon Communities at that point, we were already through the work done with the RCMP and their identification of resource needs. We were looking at increasing the number of RCMP officers and we did identify that to them at that time — that we were considering that — so there was positive feedback, but that specific idea and request related to RCMP positions came primarily from the RCMP based on their business case and on the work done by the RCMP and the Department of Justice in analyzing pressure for police resources.

I should also clarify for the member that the new RCMP positions are not dedicated solely to targeting property crimes or drug crimes. They are intended to help the RCMP put more focus on that. As the member may be aware, there has been, through the structure that the RCMP has been operating under for the last several years — it does allow them to coordinate and dedicate specific teams on an ad hoc basis toward where it has pressures.

But since 2007, the Government of Yukon has invested the addition of 32 positions to RCMP M Division, which is Yukon overall. Many of these positions are front-line police officers, including eight new police officers added to the Whitehorse detachment, duty watches, a four-officer relief unit and the addition of officers to all small community detachments to bring them to three officers each. Other positions added to M Division perform specialized police functions, along with some front-line duties. These include a four-officer specialized response unit to respond to sexual assault and domestic violence investigations, a major crimes investigator, a crime reduction coordinator, First Nation police coordinator and a divisional communications officer.

As the Member for Copperbelt South may or may not be aware, I should note that the RCMP, even those who are specialists, may find themselves dedicated to other general duties, depending on the pressures of the month and the day that the RCMP are facing operationally, and on the usual pressures that exist with any department or agency related to staff being human and being subject to all of the things that can cause someone to be on leave from work — whether it be sickness, maternity or paternity leave, injury, et cetera.

In March 2016, as I mentioned, we committed to providing \$385,000 to fund four new regular RCMP members to work from the Whitehorse detachment, along with an additional civilian operational support position, to address the increased service calls and rising rates of property crime, and to allow for enhanced crime reduction operations. This adds to the \$733,000 that we most recently added to our support for the RCMP, which provides for five new RCMP telecom operators to ensure capacity for 911 call-taking once basic 911 is expanded to all Yukon communities, which is targeted for July of this year.

That as well, in terms of resource needs — I should note to the member that, primarily in determining the resource needs, this was after hearing input through all the various sources that the RCMP and the Department of Justice received that input. The discussion about the exact resourcing needs tends to be a fairly business-case and needs-based assessment of what is required in that area. So just as with the five new positions we recently announced, the five positions we announced last year for the 911 call centre were based on the RCMP successfully making the case that that is what would be required for them to meet operational needs once basic 911 is expanded.

I should note as well that prior to that, in the 2013-14 fiscal year, there was another increase of \$499,000 to support a First Nation policing coordinator to help the RCMP improve communication and foster positive relations with the First Nation governments and communities and support implementation of the First Nation policing program and, at that time, there were operational record clerks added, as well as increased support for telecommunications.

As far as the question the member asked about the graduates from the Northern Institute of Social Justice, I don't have that specific information here about the number who have gone on to the RCMP. We will look into whether that's information that we have or can get and if we are able, we may be able to provide that to the Member for Copperbelt South.

Mr. Chair, I also realize I was remiss at the start of my remarks in not thanking the officials here with me today — Tom Ulyett, who is the Deputy Minister of Justice and Clara Northcott who is a senior policy advisor in the Department of Justice — for assisting me here today and for taking the time out of their busy days to join me here and supporting me in debate in the Assembly.

Mr. Chair, under the — let me see; I'm just trying to figure where I left off in my notes because I think I said that already. I just jumped ahead of my notes. I won't repeat —

now that I'm actually looking at my notes — what was in there about Crime Stoppers and the RCMP, but I should just add on Crime Stoppers that the volunteers are working on putting the key components of the program in place over the next several months, such as the association's tip line and website.

Another area I would like to provide an update on is the safer communities and neighbourhoods unit and an update on SCAN activities. The SCAN unit has effectively disrupted drug trafficking and bootlegging activities on properties in communities across the Yukon since 2006. Since that time, nearly 700 complaints have been received. In the 2015 calendar year alone, the unit received and investigated 61 new complaints and took action in 11 cases through landlord-supported evictions, formal warnings and one community safety order. The unit continues to engage community associations, First Nation governments and housing agencies to offer assistance and promote the work of the unit. The unit has signed protocols with five First Nation governments: the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, Na Cho Nyäk Dun First Nation and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. It also has a good working relationship with the RCMP. A capital budget of \$8,000 has been allotted this year for the purchase of specialized equipment to support the SCAN unit in their investigations. These are just a few of the things that are being done by staff of the Department of Justice to build safer communities and target Crown operations here in Yukon.

I would like to also move on to provide members with a quick status update on initiatives that support the delivery of police services in the Yukon, which include commitments made under the 20-year police services agreement. The first is an update on the capital project to replace the RCMP detachment in Faro. Under the *Territorial Police Service Agreement*, Canada and Yukon jointly maintain policing throughout the territory and this includes sharing the construction of costs of new RCMP detachments and living quarters.

The planning and design phase of the Faro project was completed in September 2015 and the tender for construction closed at the end of October 2015. The tender could not be awarded, as the lowest bid exceeded the federal budget for the project. As members will probably be aware — and will likely have read the letter that I tabled to Minister Goodale from me regarding this matter — the Yukon government was fully prepared to award this tender and asked the federal government for assistance in revising the budgetary restrictions, which have been placed by Treasury Board on the RCMP, but the response we received from Minister Goodale was that they could not do that, so unfortunately they were either unwilling or unable to assist us in that regard, but I will acknowledge the assistance of Yukon's Member of Parliament in contacting Minister Goodale and making a request and I will thank him for that.

Since that time, the Department of Justice, the Department of Highways and Public Works and the RCMP have been working to advance the Faro project construction

phase and we are working on commencing the procurement process as soon as possible and hope to be able to announce timelines soon.

The department is working with the RCMP to determine the next steps in this area and, Mr. Chair, I'm pleased to highlight as well that the official move of the RCMP's operational communication centre and public safety answering point — commonly known as the 911 call centre — to our emergency response centre happened a couple of months ago, and this joint initiative of the Department of Justice, Community Services, Highways and Public Works and the RCMP allows us to have a central integrated hub for taking and transferring 911 calls to the appropriate agency — fire, ambulance or police — as well, it is aimed at supporting the expansion of basic 911 services to all Yukon communities in July, 2016.

I should also add that this is not the only investment the Yukon government has made in the past year in improving communications and infrastructure. The new ambulance station on the hospital campus that I had the pleasure of opening on behalf of the Minister of Community Services earlier this year includes a new EMS dispatch call centre, which was a dramatic improvement from the old ambulance station and call centre — commonly referred to by staff as the fish bowl, because whoever was working in the EMS dispatch centre was surrounded — it was in a small room with windows on each side and they did not have any real privacy within the ambulance station. It was a room that had not been well-designed for the needs of that facility and, if memory serves — based on what I was informed of by EMS staff, the temperature in the former EMS call centre would get quite warm during the summer and reached a high point of 34 degrees last summer. The staff indicated to me that they are very happy to move into the new call centre.

I would like to acknowledge the work of all of the staff of EMS and Community Services, as well as of Whitehorse General Hospital, for the great work they did in completing that project on time and underbudget.

The new EMS dispatch centre is a properly cooled facility, both for staff and for the communications equipment. The communications system itself has been upgraded to a modern standard and replaced the old system, which was not as functional as we thought it should be, and I would again like to thank everyone who worked on that for doing a great job in getting this new facility up and running because, as important as the investments in new front-line officers are and as important as the investments we've made as well in other areas are — including ambulances and fire trucks; a total of eight new ambulances added to Yukon's fleet of 23 since 2011 and the 12 fire vehicles that have been purchased through our increased investments in the Fire Marshal's Office — all of these supports do not work and function well if the communications network is not working quickly or if there are delays in that system.

The equipment itself — and the work done by the 911 dispatchers as well as the EMS dispatchers and those for fire — is vitally important to our ability to deliver emergency

response services of all types to people when they need it as quickly as possible and allow, as well, for the communication back from those front-line personnel to the communications centre as well as to the hospital and others who may need that. Additionally, we believe that the rollout of basic 911 territory-wide will be important in Yukon communities to help people who are not only residents of the area, but visitors who may not be familiar with emergency numbers. They will undoubtedly know how to call 911.

With that, Mr. Chair, I will once again cede the floor and look forward to further questions and comments from members opposite.

Ms. Moorcroft: The minister referred to the capital budget related to the Faro RCMP project. Because the tender quote had exceeded the federal budget, it wasn't proceeding at this time. The minister indicated he has corresponded with Minister Goodale and that he hopes to be able to announce something soon. Has the project been retendered? Is there a timeline for when there might be further action taken on that?

Turning to the minister's remarks related to the 911 call centre and the new central integrated hub — the minister referred to the fact that this integrated hub will respond to all 911 calls. I would like to ask him whether that new integrated hub centre will be where the people who respond to calls from communities will be located. Can the minister give us an update on when communities will be brought online with 911 service?

The minister spoke about the \$800,000 capital investment for new specialized equipment for the SCAN unit. The minister also referred to the fact that the SCAN unit now has protocols with Kwanlin Dün, Carcross/Tagish, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Na Cho Nyäk Dun and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and good relations with the RCMP. The SCAN unit receives complaints and does investigations that can then result in actions such as evictions where an investigation has led to concerns related to drug trafficking or other safety concerns in neighbourhoods.

I want to ask the minister why the Department of Justice did not do a privacy impact assessment when the allocation of \$800,000 was made for specialized surveillance equipment. I would like to also ask the minister whether the department has worked with the privacy commissioners on the protocols that they have established already, and whether the department is working with the privacy commissioners on protocols related to the retention and destruction of records.

I understand that the specialized equipment is updated electronic surveillance, and so I would like to know what protocols are in place regarding the privacy of records.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: What I should note for members — I think she has perhaps misunderstood what I was indicating with the equipment for the safer communities and neighbourhoods office, commonly known as SCAN. The amount of money that is referred to here is \$8,000 in new equipment for SCAN investigations, but the basic policies and procedures have not changed in that area.

With regard to the privacy impact in the area of SCAN, the argument certainly can be made that any time surveillance

is done, it has a potential impact on privacy. I do have to remind the member that this legislation was supported in the House by all parties and the idea was proposed by the then-Leader of the NDP, Todd Hardy, if memory serves. I know he certainly was a supporter of it — the argument being, in that case, that the benefits of SCAN legislation in other jurisdictions outweighed their downsides. There was robust discussion back when that legislation was passed.

It is an area that I should just emphasize to the member that, while I don't have the specific procedures at my fingertips, the legislation itself does limit and set out what the scope of the SCAN unit is, and that is the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*.

SCAN is a law enforcement agency. It acts within the provisions of ATIPP, governing law enforcement. That is the basic structure to that. I will just see if I can find additional information for the member regarding that.

In moving to another area — the member asked about the timing for the RCMP detachment. I actually had mentioned that in my remarks, but perhaps I spoke too quickly or didn't explain it as clearly as I thought I had.

We are currently working with the RCMP. The RCMP is now leading the tendering of the Faro RCMP detachment. That was not the original plan. That was not our preference but, after we ran into the issues last December, it appeared to be — because of their timelines for Treasury Board approval of their threshold — the quickest path forward and the best under the circumstances.

I should note that one of the things that we were concerned about, and made the point about to federal government, at that time, is that retendering the project could lead to increased costs. One of the reasons for that, as the member may be aware, is that with a lot of equipment related to security and law enforcement, some of the specialized equipment does come from the United States, so the drop in the dollar was one thing that we were aware of at the time — and are currently aware of — and we are concerned that the delay on their part — and again I would remind the member that the federal share of the cost of the RCMP detachment was the increased costs beyond their budgetary envelope, which was a mere \$120,000. Not to say \$120,000 isn't significant money, but in federal resources and in terms of a \$5.4-million project, \$120,000 is relatively small, especially since system risks and changing conditions, such as the drop in the Canadian dollar, were likely to lead to increased costs for some of that equipment over that time.

I would remind the member that the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act* was passed in 2006. It was amended in 2008 and 2012. It contains provisions related to: definitions; prescribing complaints to a director; actions of a director after receiving a complaint; application for an order; procedure in court; making a community safety order; emergency closure; closure order at a later date; length of closure period; the ability to make an order for part of a property; service of order by a director; filing an order in the Land Titles Office; application by resident for variation of order; application by complainant for order of notice to the

director; abandonment of application; court may continue application in director's name; director may intervene in certain applications; costs on frivolous or vexatious applications; court must consider merits — and I'm referencing for the member just some of the highlights from the table of contents to understand the areas of law it covers.

It also includes under this legislation limitations on actions and proceedings; the ability for the director to enter property; the director's authority to obtain and disclose information; as well as the ability of the director to delegate to other staff.

The test under the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act* has been administered by the safer communities and neighbourhoods unit, which began operating on November 29, 2006. The act itself was enacted in May 2006 and was related in addition to, as I mentioned, the support it received by former MLA, the late Todd Hardy, and his party at that time.

Also, a component that I failed to mention was referenced as an enforcement action under the draft substance abuse action plan and was an enforcement pillar in the implementation of the substance abuse action plan.

It is similar to legislation implemented in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and permits the government to investigate complaints of illegal habitual activities that have an adverse effect on communities. It is administered by the SCAN unit. The process begins when a confidential complaint is received from a member of the public. The complaint is assessed by the safer communities and neighbourhoods intake analyst, and if it meets three tests under the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*, an investigation follows.

The three tests are as follows: first is the activity a specified use under the act — namely drug use or trafficking and bootlegging; second is the illegal activity habitual — occurring repeatedly in a community or neighbourhood; and third is the illegal activity having an adverse effect on a community or the neighbourhood.

An additional element I can mention is that the SCAN officers are peace officers who must carry out their duties within the parameters of the legislation. The investigation must be in response to a public complaint, and all evidence gathered, including video surveillance and other personal information, must conform with the consistent-use provision of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The SCAN unit has safeguards in place to protect confidentiality of complainants and any records or evidence retained during the course of an investigation.

There is also, under the act, provisions related to the appointment of inspectors, the authority to issue a warrant and provisions for offences.

I hope that has answered the member's questions. If not, I would be happy to elaborate on SCAN and reference specific sections of the legislation that relate to this area.

As I mentioned, the SCAN unit has had a significant effect on disrupting illegal activity. There have been close to 700 complaints received since its inception. In the last

calendar year, SCAN received and investigated 61 new complaints of legal activity and took action through landlord-supported evictions, formal warnings and one community safety order.

I think that has probably addressed that specific area.

Moving back to the RCMP — as I mentioned, the policing priorities were established after input by the Yukon Police Council and finalized by the Minister of Justice. We can only set out strategic priorities. As the Member for Copperbelt South is likely aware, we don't operationally direct the RCMP, nor should we.

The RCMP responds to priorities on a number of fronts. The local RCMP detachment commander works closely with local governments, partners and citizens to identify and address local community and territory-wide priorities. The RCMP provide regular updates to the Department of Justice on implementation of the policing priorities and examining ways of communicating what they are doing with communities through their annual report.

I would also like to thank Yukon's RCMP members for all that they do, each and every day, to keep the territory and community safe.

I would also like to acknowledge that Chief Superintendent Peter Clark, through his promotion and reassignment to Newfoundland and Labrador, is unfortunately leaving the territory. I would like to thank him for his work and his leadership in working to build stronger community relations and relations with First Nations while using innovative ways to improve many aspects of the ways that policing is carried out. Chief Superintendent Clark has helped to build a legacy of trust, transparency and confidence in the RCMP and, on behalf of the government — and the Department of Justice specifically — I would like to commend him for his leadership, vision and commitment to Yukoners and wish him and his family well in the next stage of their life and of his career.

In keeping with the spirit and recommendations in *Sharing Common Ground*, we've reached out to the RCMP to ensure that Yukon has strong input and representation on the hiring panel for the next commanding officer, as is a requirement in our agreement with them.

The RCMP commissioner has also agreed to a request that a Yukon First Nation representative be added to that panel, along with a government representative. I have written to all Yukon First Nations and the Council of Yukon First Nations inviting input and recommendations on a First Nation representative.

As I had indicated in my letter, had we received one nomination on which there appeared to be consensus from the Council of Yukon First Nations and individual member First Nations, we would have appointed that person. We did receive the nominations from First Nations of four qualified and capable individuals and look forward to announcing in the relatively near future who that would be. We will communicate that to First Nations, as well as thanking all of them — as well as the three we unfortunately cannot appoint

to that position because of limited participation — for their willingness to assist us in this important process.

I should also note that the final decision on appointments does go to the RCMP, but the ability to have representatives on the hiring panel is a significant step forward from what occurred in past eras here in the territory. We believe it will help us in recognizing the important role that a commanding officer plays and will help to select an individual who is a good fit for the Yukon and for serving the Yukon and all its citizens.

Moving on to another area, I would like to talk briefly about the area of legal aid. We have increased the previous core funding budget by \$442,000, which is reflected in this year's operation and maintenance budget. The new total amount is \$2.1 million. This includes \$864,000 that is recoverable from the Government of Canada under the access to justice service agreements. It is expected that this increased budget will alleviate operating pressures on this program that have in the past been dealt with by one-time funding increases. The department will continue work with the Yukon Legal Services Society to continue to fund the legal aid program, and we thank them for their work in delivering exceptional legal aid services to Yukoners.

I should also note, briefly, that department officials are currently working with stakeholders, including the Crown prosecutors, the defence bar, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Council of Yukon First Nations and the judiciary to discuss the provision of the Gladue reports for the courts. As I believe I have previously indicated in this House, because Gladue reports relate to federal prosecutions in criminal cases, it is our view that the primary responsibility for funding that should be the federal government; however, our approach in dealing with this has been to engage First Nation governments and the federal government in a discussion from the standpoint of — we don't begin a successful conversation by arguing about the bill at the start of the conversation. Step one should be trying to agree on an appropriate model for facilitating the services that are required in that case, and then steps are taken to determine where that funding come from.

Again, that is something that should be recognized by members in talking about Gladue reports — the fact that it should primarily be the federal government. I would hope they would agree that the financial responsibility should primarily fall on the shoulders of the federal government, and I would hope they would support the approach we've taken, which is to not draw any lines in the sand at the beginning of that conversation, but instead engage in a discussion aimed at being positive and constructive with First Nations and the federal government about how to best launch and pilot a Gladue report service.

Mr. Chair, with that, seeing the time, I move that you report progress.

Chair: It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that the Chair report progress.

Motion agreed to

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

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

Mr. Elias: Madam Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 23, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2016-17*, and directed me to report progress.

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

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

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

Motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

The following sessional papers were tabled May 11, 2016:

33-1-200

Annual Contributions to Political Parties in the 2015 Calendar Year — Elections Yukon (Speaker McLeod)

33-1-201

2015 Annual Report — Zero is Possible — Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board (Nixon)