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HANSARD

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Jeremy Harper

YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2024 Spring Sitting

SPEAKER — Hon. Jeremy Harper, MLA, Mayo-Tatchun
DEPUTY SPEAKER and CHAIR OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE — Annie Blake, MLA, Vuntut Gwitchin
DEPUTY CHAIR OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE — Lane Tredger, MLA, Whitehorse Centre

CABINET MINISTERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PORTFOLIO
Hon. Ranj Pillai	Porter Creek South	Premier Minister of the Executive Council Office; Economic Development; Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation
Hon. Jeanie McLean	Mountainview	Deputy Premier Minister of Education; Minister responsible for the Women and Gender Equity Directorate
Hon. Nils Clarke	Riverdale North	Minister of Environment; Highways and Public Works
Hon. Tracy-Anne McPhee	Riverdale South	Minister of Health and Social Services; Justice
Hon. Richard Mostyn	Whitehorse West	Minister of Community Services; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board
Hon. John Streicker	Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes	Government House Leader Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources; Tourism and Culture; Minister responsible for the Yukon Development Corporation and the Yukon Energy Corporation; French Language Services Directorate
Hon. Sandy Silver	Klondike	Minister of Finance; Public Service Commission; Minister responsible for the Yukon Liquor Corporation and the Yukon Lottery Commission

OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

Yukon Party

Currie Dixon	Leader of the Official Opposition Copperbelt North	Scott Kent	Official Opposition House Leader Copperbelt South
Brad Cathers	Lake Laberge	Patti McLeod	Watson Lake
Yvonne Clarke	Porter Creek Centre	Geraldine Van Bibber	Porter Creek North
Wade Istchenko	Kluane	Stacey Hassard	Pelly-Nisutlin

THIRD PARTY

New Democratic Party

Kate White	Leader of the Third Party Takhini-Kopper King
Lane Tredger	Third Party House Leader Whitehorse Centre
Annie Blake	Vuntut Gwitchin

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**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Wednesday, April 24, 2024 — 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.

Introduction of visitors.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Silver: Mr. Speaker, today we have some folks in the gallery who are joining us for the Administrative Professionals Day tribute. I will start with Carla Gostick, who is the administrative assistant for the Minister of Community Services and Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board and the Minister of Education and Minister responsible for the Women and Gender Equity Directorate. We also have Kayla Morrison and Sylvia Anderson, administrative assistant to the Minister of the Executive Council Office, Economic Development, and Yukon Housing Corporation — shared responsibilities.

We have Sascha Robertson, administrative assistant to the Minister of Environment and of Highways and Public Works and the Minister of Finance and of the Public Service Commission and the Yukon Liquor Corporation. Also, many thanks to our incredible receptionist Ana Labindao, whom we really couldn't exist without.

Applause

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to please help me to welcome two guests from les Essentielles: Charlie-Rose Pelletier, gender-equity project manager; and Elodie Bernard, communications manager. Thank you so much for being here today.

Applause

Speaker: Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of Administrative Professionals Day

Hon. Mr. Silver: Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our Yukon Liberal government to pay tribute to administrative professionals everywhere. Whether in government, the private sector, educational institutions, or health care facilities, imagining our daily operations without them is simply unthinkable.

Administrative professionals are indispensable members of the organization. They are dedicated; they are knowledgeable, typically knowing the ins and outs of all of the operations with a unique understanding. They anticipate challenges and provide timely solutions on a daily and sometimes minute-by-minute basis. Beyond every successful

project, every seamless operation, and every efficiently run office, there is no doubt that an administrative professional is working tirelessly behind the scenes.

I am incredibly fortunate to work with such exceptional administrative professionals in our office. Their experience and unwavering commitment make every work day smoother and more efficient. If you have the pleasure of working with such individuals, you know exactly what I mean. Everybody who works in an office knows exactly what I'm talking about.

If you encounter them in other walks of life, their dedication is immediately noticeable and impressive. Every day, they manage countless tasks and responsibilities with dedication and efficiency. They not only keep everything running smoothly but also elevate our workplace with their positive attitudes and readiness to assist. Even during our busiest and most stressful times, their steady presence is a reassuring constant that we all depend upon.

To all of the wonderful administrative professionals, thank you. Thank you for your commitment, your hard work, your invaluable contributions to our teams — for everything that you do, thank you very much. Your efforts are deeply valued and sincerely appreciated.

Applause

Ms. McLeod: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to pay tribute to the important role that administrative professionals play in the workplace.

This day has greatly evolved since it was first launched in 1952 as National Secretaries Week. Through the years, the role of the secretary has evolved, and responsibilities have grown as well. Today, the administrative professional works in all sectors of governments, in our schools and non-profits, and throughout the private sector. They work as assistants and office managers, customer service representatives, finance and human resource coordinators, and more.

Today, we recognize them for their professionalism and the work they do keep the workplace moving forward. They support, they fill gaps and solve problems, and they organize and encourage and are often the first point of contact in an organization. Their contributions are what truly make an organization successful, and we would like to thank all those who work in an administrative capacity to support their workplaces.

Applause

MLA Tredger: I rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP to celebrate Administrative Professionals Day. They are the glue that holds organizations together. They are the friendly face or voice that greets you at the front desk. They are the architects of systems that keep us all from drowning in a mess of lost documents and unlabeled folders. They manage budgets and schedules, cashflows, and reporting. This is only a fraction of the things they do, because a complete list would take the whole rest of the day and I am pretty sure they do a lot of hidden things that we don't even know about but still completely depend on.

I have always admired administrative professionals — in particular for the way they manage a million things at one time

while never missing a beat. It is these multi-tasking wonders who are the ones who make our offices function.

This week, we officially recognize administrative professionals for the work they do each day, for their support and encouragement, for their patience and insight, for their friendship, and for the contributions they make to the success of each of our organizations.

Please take the time today to thank the administrative professionals around you, and remember to celebrate them all year long.

Applause

In recognition of Denim Day

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our Yukon Liberal government and the New Democratic Party to pay tribute to Denim Day.

This day is observed annually on the last Wednesday of April as a part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Most sexualized assaults never get reported for a variety of reasons, including the fear of not being believed and because of the shame and stigma associated with sexualized violence.

According to a 2019 national study, only six percent of sexualized assaults were reported to police; sadly, only 42 percent of those reported assaults resulted in guilty verdicts. Sexualized assault is a gendered crime. The vast majority of victims are women and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. While sexualized assault can happen to people from all backgrounds and walks of life, it disproportionately impacts the most vulnerable members of our society; this includes those affected by poverty and homelessness, people living with disability, and racial minorities.

The rate of sexualized assault reported by Indigenous women is over three times higher than the rate reported by non-Indigenous women. The response that a victim of sexualized violence receives, especially when they first disclose, whether to a family member, friend, or service provider, can inform their healing journey. The re-telling of their assault and the responses that they get from professionals has been cited by trauma survivors as experiences that can be worse than the assault itself.

We don't all need to know exactly what to do after someone discloses to us that they have experienced sexualized assault. It is enough to begin by believing them, by supporting their choices, and by helping them find resources that fit their needs. This is why we are proud to support the sexualized assault response team, a network of agencies dedicated to creating a better response to sexualized violence in the Yukon. SART agencies provide the collaborative and coordinated response that prevents re-traumatization of victims during the reporting process and focuses on their needs and their wishes.

We know that victims of sexualized violence living in rural areas experience additional barriers to seeking safety and justice. This includes access to supports and services, lack of affordable transportation, and barriers to maintaining confidentiality — just to name a few.

The SART agencies are currently working toward expanding their services to the Yukon communities. We must

continue the culture shift in how we perceive sexualized assault. We must call it out for what it is: a serious crime that often has a devastating, lifelong impact on the victim.

Applause

Ms. Clarke: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and also Denim Day for sexual assault awareness.

Wearing jeans on Denim Day signifies solidarity with victims and survivors. This practice began in Italy after a sexual assault conviction was overturned in the Supreme Court. Justices argued that there was consent based on the victim's clothing. She was wearing jeans. The following day, women in the Italian Parliament wore jeans in solidarity, sparking a movement for over two decades.

Victim-blaming puts the responsibility of a crime or trauma on the victim and not the perpetrator and is a harmful way to address crime and trauma survivors — the belief that the victim had control over the situation and could have prevented it by behaving or dressing differently or just being more careful. It is a key discouraging factor in survivors coming forward and prevents survivors from getting the assistance and the support that they need. It can lead to feelings of shame, self-blame, and anxiety. It is damaging to mental health and delays healing.

Survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence should be reminded that it is not their fault and that it is safe to share their experiences without being shamed. Becoming aware of victim-blaming is an important step to changing attitudes. Listen to those who have something that they need to say. It is not always easy for them to talk about it, but it's always important.

Salamat po.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Ms. White: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling two letters today: One is regarding the review of gender-affirming care by Yukon insured health services; the other is a letter regarding the need for an increase in the arts operating grant. And I have policy B.14, gender-affirming surgery, from the Health and Social Services website.

Speaker: Are there any further returns or documents for tabling?

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House recognizes the important efforts of the Lorne Mountain Community Association to host its first repair fair.

Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Highways and Public Works to use the 2024-25 capital budget to repair damaged sections of the Alaska Highway in Ibx Valley early in the construction season.

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

THAT this House calls on the Government of Yukon to work with the Canada Revenue Agency to ensure that funding provided through the individualized supervisory care program is not subject to income tax.

MLA Tredger: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House supports the City of Whitehorse motion calling for there to continue to be an elementary school in downtown Whitehorse.

Ms. Blake: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House do issue an order for the return of the following documents: any documents pertaining to changes to regulations being considered by the Yukon government pertaining to funding the costs of fertility treatment and medical travel for fertility treatment for Yukoners.

Speaker: Is there a statement by a minister?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

McIntyre Creek Park

Hon. Mr. Clarke: Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to share that the Government of Yukon, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, the City of Whitehorse, and Parks Canada have announced a commitment to work together to protect the McIntyre Creek area in Whitehorse.

Mr. Speaker, the Southern Tutchone name is Chasàn Chùa. Its English translation is Copper Creek. It sits within the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

Chasàn Chùa/McIntyre Creek is a special place. It is a place that connects nature with nature and people to nature. It is a wildlife corridor that runs through the heart of the City of Whitehorse. Its habitats are home to a wide range of plants and animals, and, Mr. Speaker, protecting nature is, of course, important to Yukoners. Our governments have signed a memorandum of understanding outlining our commitment to work together on establishing a protected area boundary for McIntyre Creek, determining a protected area designation, and

identifying a governance model for shared decision-making and management of this area into the future.

Permanent protection of McIntyre Creek will guard a diverse ecosystem of species and habitats and welcomes Yukoners and visitors to a valued and accessible recreational area in Whitehorse.

In support of the City of Whitehorse's commitment to establishing McIntyre Creek regional park in their 2040 official community plan, the Government of Yukon introduced protections for McIntyre Creek in April of 2023. These included expanding a previous ban on staking in the area under the *Quartz Mining Act* and establishing an administrative reserve to guide land use decisions with a view toward protecting this area.

I want to applaud Kwanlin Dün First Nation, the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, the City of Whitehorse, Parks Canada, and the public servants working at the Government of Yukon Department of Environment for taking this key next step forward. Establishing McIntyre Creek as a permanent protected area supports resilience to climate change impacts and biodiversity loss. Protecting and restoring nature and increasing the Yukon's protected areas is a key commitment of the *Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement*.

Earlier this week, on April 22, we announced our participation in the feasibility assessment for a new national park in the Peel watershed together with the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, and Parks Canada.

Today, we are announcing another step toward our work together with Indigenous governments across the territory to permanently protect key areas of the Yukon. Through this effort, we have an opportunity to increase our total percentage of protected areas in the Yukon and supporting people of all ages and abilities to connect with nature. This memorandum of understanding is a great example of the collaboration and partnership it takes to protect land and waters in the Yukon.

Thank you once again to the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, City of Whitehorse, and Parks Canada for signing on to this memorandum of understanding to follow through on this important work.

Ms. Clarke: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the minister for the update. It sounds like the work to answer all of the questions that we have regarding this announcement is yet to take place with the government, First Nations, the City of Whitehorse, and Parks Canada.

McIntyre Creek runs through a portion of my riding, Porter Creek Centre. I know that this area is very important to many of my constituents, so this announcement is welcome. I wish the government, First Nations, the city, and Parks Canada much success as they embark on this work to preserve the McIntyre Creek area of Whitehorse.

We look forward to future updates.

Ms. White: Mr. Speaker, nearly a year ago, through a ministerial statement, we were told about some of the steps being taken to protect McIntyre Creek, a jewel in the middle of

our city, for future generations. The issue of protecting McIntyre Creek isn't a new one. I tabled a petition in my very first Sitting of the 33rd Legislative Assembly urging for the protection of this special place. It has been a long journey to get to this point and it is not over yet. Chasàn Chùà is a corridor for mammals travelling safely through our city. It is a spawning creek for salmon. It is a wetland. It is wild space for people to reconnect with nature, and it is so valuable for hundreds of different reasons.

We thank Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, the City of Whitehorse, Parks Canada, and those working at Yukon's Department of Environment for continuing the long march to get us to the ultimate goal of protection for Chasàn Chùà.

Can the minister share with us the role of Parks Canada? Is there the potential for this to be a national park? Can he share with us what comes next through the MOU? Is the minister considering the possibility of making it an Indigenous protected and conserved area? Can he let us know the status of the comprehensive management plan to be completed with Kwanlin Dün First Nation, the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Yukon University, and the City of Whitehorse that he referenced a year ago?

We appreciate today's update but would like to know more about what comes next and the details of the memorandum of understanding.

Hon. Mr. Clarke: Thank you to the member of the Official Opposition and the Third Party leader for their statements today. I will get back to the member opposite with her specific questions.

Mr. Speaker, a key component of the *Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement* is to support Indigenous-led conservation. Indigenous governments are stewards of their ancestral lands, often leveraging traditional knowledge and sustainable practices to lead conservation efforts across Canada.

Working together with the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council to protect McIntyre Creek is essential not only to conserve the ecological diversity of the area but also to support its cultural importance. I look forward to continuing to learn from the valuable insight and leadership that the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council are providing throughout this process. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to permanently protecting an area, it is important to emphasize the fact that it is a process and that good, concrete collaborative work takes time.

The signing of this memorandum of understanding is a key next step forward toward protecting this important natural space. Moving forward, the parties will work together to determine how we will permanently protect this area. We will be considering our joint vision and goals for the area, what engagement with community partners and stakeholders will look like, and how to consider the social, cultural, environmental, and economic values of the area in planning.

This area is a wildlife corridor, home to a variety of important species and habitats. It is also an area of significant cultural importance, home to heritage values and ongoing

traditional activities. We recognize that this area has been subject to exploration and development activities, with historic development and land tenures still in place. In fact, earlier this week, we heard from the City of Whitehorse regarding their decision to pause amendments to mining policies within the municipality. We look forward to further updates from the city as they continue consultation with Yukoners on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I think that we can all agree that parks are good for communities. We have heard from many partners and stakeholders and from members of the opposition that, by protecting McIntyre Creek, we are working in the best interests of our community. The vision for this work is to identify a protected area, boundary designation, and a governance and management approach that all parties are supportive of so that this area can be permanently protected for future generations. Whenever we talk about protected areas, it is important that we keep in mind that we are working to conserve something special for our grandchildren and their children to experience this land the way that we have.

Our government, through partnerships and collaboration, continues to lead the way in protecting our incredible spaces. At 21.1 percent of total protected areas, the Yukon currently holds the highest percentage of lands and waters reported as protected in the Canadian protected and conserved areas database of all provinces and territories.

I look forward to continuing this critical work to achieve ecological connectivity and nature conservation in the Yukon.

Speaker: This then brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Conflict of interest re lawsuit involving Department of Education

Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the Premier received a letter from a Yukoner entitled "Apparent Conflict of Interest for the Attorney General of the Yukon". In that letter, the question was raised to the Premier about whether the Minister of Justice is in a conflict situation due to a legal action being taken against the government in relation to her conduct and the actions of a government department that was under her leadership as minister.

Can the Premier tell Yukoners how he intends to respond to that letter?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, first, I think it's important to note that we do receive lots of different letters from Yukoners and we take each and every one of them very seriously. In this particular case, we reviewed the letter that we received and passed on — normally, the undertaking for any Member of the Legislative Assembly is that they then, either of their own accord or if something comes up, can just refer their interest to David Jones, who is our conflicts commissioner, and you can get a ruling in that place and that gives you a sense of whether or not there is any conflict of interest. That is the individual who everybody here in the Legislative Assembly has access to, and that is the work that we always do.

Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, the letter from a concerned Yukoner also notes that, if they are mistaken about the conflict

of interest, they request that any advice the Minister of Justice has sought from the conflicts commissioner be shared publicly so that the perception of a conflict can be resolved.

Did the Minister of Justice seek the advice of the conflicts commissioner about this matter, and if so, will she share the advice that has been provided?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, we always follow the protocols that are laid out for every member of the House. In that case, that's exactly what we would be doing in this particular case, but again, it's important to note — I believe that we received a letter earlier this week. So, we will make sure that we take our undertaking to due course and have to take all letters that come from all members of the public — from all members of the public whom we represent — very seriously and make sure that we review them in due course.

Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, the Premier didn't answer the question that I had asked.

The letter to the Premier also points out that, in situations where there is the potential for a perceived conflict of interest, ministers should ask a colleague to act in regard to the matter. Did the Minister of Justice ask one of her colleagues to act as an alternate minister in the event that any legal matters related to her own conduct and the actions of her former department under her leadership might otherwise involve her in her capacity as either Minister of Justice or Attorney General?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, that series of questions went to a lot of places. I think the first was just — there was a letter sent, and in all these cases, we have to take the proper processes and follow through.

Again, the member opposite knows full well that, if there is a grave concern that he may have, he also has a series of options available to him. If this is just about bringing something to the House to cast shadows, then sure — but there are options available to the member opposite as a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Question re: Downtown school replacement

Ms. Van Bibber: Mr. Speaker, on Monday, just a few hours before their council meeting, the Minister of Community Services wrote a letter to the City of Whitehorse about a location for a new downtown school. He then provided that letter to the media and tabled it in the Legislature. The letter stated — quote: "... the future of downtown Whitehorse may indeed include an elementary school."

The word "may" stood out for many folks who read that letter. Can the government confirm that they are fully committed to a downtown school?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Mr. Speaker, we were thrilled — thrilled — to hear that the City of Whitehorse supports the idea of an elementary school in downtown Whitehorse. Schools and educational facilities contribute to the vibrancy and liveability of our communities and we all know that this is why my colleague is investing in public schools, the likes of which we haven't seen in 20 years. We are investing in our children because we know the importance of schools.

As I said in my letter to the mayor and council, our government is committed to ongoing consultation and long-

term planning to ensure that the educational needs of Yukoners are met, and as several of my colleagues have stated, with prospective development and densification of the downtown core, the future of downtown Whitehorse may indeed include an elementary school.

Ms. Van Bibber: The letter also suggests that a site larger than the current site of Whitehorse Elementary School is needed. Finding a piece of land that large for a downtown school seems to be a new bar to meet and one that could be very difficult to achieve.

Why did the minister stipulate that a downtown school requires a lot bigger than the current location of Whitehorse Elementary School?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Mr. Speaker, we are doing the work on this right now — right now. As I said, we are thrilled that the City of Whitehorse supports the idea of an elementary school in downtown Whitehorse, and this is how the process goes. We have asked the City of Whitehorse to work with us to identify land within the downtown core for an educational reserve. We have asked the City of Whitehorse to make the appropriate changes to their official community plan once we have identified this land so that we can begin the work to study the feasibility of future downtown schools. We have done consultation work with Whitehorse residents to better understand the needs and wants when it comes to educational facilities across the City of Whitehorse, and it is great to have a downtown school, but we all know that the needs of students aren't being met by the current École Whitehorse Elementary School on its site.

Ms. Van Bibber: The need for a larger site than the current location of Whitehorse Elementary School was notable because it also presumes that the current location of Whitehorse Elementary School would not be used for a school.

Can the minister confirm that the current location of Whitehorse Elementary School will not be the location of a future downtown school?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, thanks for the question. I thank my colleague for following up with the City of Whitehorse as they were moving toward a motion in their government system. I am happy that the conversations are happening — absolutely.

Last spring, we did an extensive public engagement. We conducted open houses to hear the public and schools community better to understand the needs of our partners in Whitehorse schools. We have released that "what we heard" document. We are working toward replacing École Whitehorse Elementary School at the Takhini Educational Land Reserve. We have not come to a conclusion on what will happen with the site of the current École Whitehorse Elementary School. That process for planning is absolutely still in process, and we are very much looking forward to the planning for the École Whitehorse Elementary School to continue. We're very pleased to be investing in educational infrastructure in the Yukon.

Question re: Education Act review

Ms. White: Mr. Speaker, on April 3, the minister asked me what areas of the *Education Act* I believe should be updated

and, as I said then, nearly all of it. For example, section 52(6) requires the minister to meet with the Central Indian Education Authority annually to review the status of Indigenous language instruction in Yukon schools and make appropriate modifications, if necessary. Section 54 requires the minister to consult with the Central Indian Education Authority on — quote: “... any matter affecting the education and language of instruction of aboriginal people.” Section 196 of the *Education Act* describes the appointment of the teacher certification board. It requires one person from the Central Indian Education Authority to sit on that board.

So, can the minister explain what the “Central Indian Education Authority” is and whether she has been abiding by the requirements of the *Education Act* with respect to that authority?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, thanks for the questions today. We are working very closely, of course, with Yukon First Nations to ensure that all schools meet the needs of Yukon First Nation students and offer all students opportunities to learn about Yukon First Nation ways of knowing, doing, and being.

We work with Yukon First Nations on a government-to-government basis and at the community level as well on education for their citizens and on their traditional territory and collectively at the Yukon-wide level with all Yukon First Nation governments and the Council of Yukon First Nations, including through the Yukon Forum, the Yukon Native Language Centre, the Chiefs Committee on Education, Yukon First Nation Education Directorate, the First Nations Education Commission, the First Nation School Board, and the data working group.

We will continue to work, always, in partnership with Yukon First Nation governments to improve educational outcomes for students through community-level education agreements, the joint education action plan, which is a 10-year action plan, and responding to the 2019 audit, including the work of reimagining inclusive and special education.

I could go on a while longer with all of the work that we’re doing directly with Yukon First Nations.

Ms. White: Mr. Speaker, the last question was meant to make a point about just how outdated the act is. There is no “Central Indian Education Authority” and there never was, yet there are no fewer than 28 different mentions of the authority in the text of the act as it stands now. Section 205 of the act requires regular reviews, yet the last time this happened was in 2002.

The minister is required to establish a process for the review of this act on or before 10 years from the act’s proclamation. The review requires consulting with the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Yukon Teachers’ Association, and other education stakeholders. Finally, the minister must issue a report on recommendations and table it.

Have the Liberals taken any of these actions since they formed government in 2016?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, again, I have listed a long list of work that we do directly with Yukon First Nations. We also have a memorandum of understanding and transfer

payment agreement with the Yukon First Nation Language Centre, implementing the joint collaboration framework that outlines how the department and the Yukon First Nations will collaborate to address their joint education priorities and other initiatives, such as working toward a Yukon First Nation credit policy, implementing the Ready-to-Learn Schools initiative, and the Indigenous Academy at F.H. Collins.

We have done extensive work on reshaping education in the Yukon and we will continue to do that good work. We also work closely with the Advisory Committee for Yukon Education, which includes 31 partners and which we meet with on a quarterly basis. We will continue to work with our partners.

Another key body that we work directly with, which is agreed upon in the joint education action plan, is the Yukon First Nations Education Commission, which is the technical level. Again, Mr. Speaker, this is an area of huge importance and we will continue to do the good work.

Ms. White: Mr. Speaker, I could probably spend the rest of the afternoon pointing out the inconsistencies, anachronisms, contradictions, and gaps in the Yukon’s *Education Act*.

On April 3, the minister stated that changing section 43(2) was unnecessary since, in practice, everyone was using locally developed courses anyway, but that is my point here today.

So much of this act is outdated and unnecessary, not to mention racist, colonial, and exclusionary. That is exactly why we need a full review and possibly a rewrite of the entire act. In fact, when I spoke to the different stakeholders in education when I was reaching out about the NDP’s amendment, every one of those people I spoke to talked about the need for a full review and rewrite of Yukon’s *Education Act*. A lot has changed since it was first written in 1991 and last reviewed in 2002.

So, when is the Minister of Education going to commit to a full review of the Yukon *Education Act*?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, again, I have listed off a number of areas where we are working directly with our partners. I would like to also point out to the Legislative Assembly today that we are moving toward a renewed joint education action plan in the Yukon that will take us from 2025 to 2035. We are in the process right now of identifying the priorities that will be established under that trilateral agreement with Canada, all 14 First Nations, and the Yukon government. That is extensive work that is happening right now as we speak.

Of course, we know that we have a number of other partners whom we work with whom I have spoken about today. The advisory committee on Yukon education is another body that I work directly with and which the department is meeting with on a regular basis. That will help shape those priorities as well.

I meet directly with Yukon First Nations and all the partners from time to time, and I am going through a process right now of meeting directly with Yukon First Nations. Certainly, I have discussed with them the review and rewrite of the *Education Act*.

Question re: Rental housing policies

Ms. McLeod: Mr. Speaker, last year, the government admitted that their rent control policies were failing, and as a result of that failure, further intervention in the market was needed, so they introduced a one-time landlord subsidy of \$338 per rental unit.

In this spring budget, they cancelled the program, which is a further admission of failure. Whether it's with regulations or subsidies, the government's interventions in the rental market have not had the desired effect. Instead, they have been driving investment away from the rental market; all the while, rents continue to increase throughout the Yukon.

Will the government admit that their interventions in the rental market have failed?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, I think that there is a lack of understanding from the member opposite on a number of those programs, so I will try my best to work through that question.

I guess the first would be the conversation around the rent cap. What we are seeing across the country right now is extraordinary in the number of individuals who are actually being left out of the rental units that they have had for many, many years. Again, we see this policy, which we have worked with the Third Party on, as something that has been created — a safety net for many people in the Yukon — many on a fixed income — and we think that is something that was necessary at the time, and certainly, we heard from many, many Yukoners that they needed that support and help.

At the same time, we felt that the landlord and tenant act needed to be renewed, and that is the work that we have been doing. We said that, over the two-year period, that work would be in place and that there would be some interventions — one being, of course, the rent cap — and that, if we were in a position where the consumer price index was over five percent, which it was last year, we would help make up a bit of difference for those who have rental spaces. This year, of course, it came in at 4.9 percent, so we didn't cancel it because it failed; we cancelled it because we didn't need to provide anything over the mark of five percent. I look forward to question number 2.

Ms. McLeod: Well, Mr. Speaker, it is not just the Official Opposition who has problems or — sorry — concerns with these interventionist policies.

In their annual report to stakeholders released in late March, Northern Vision Development raised concerns. Discussing the confidence and supply agreement, the report said this — quote: “The agreement has created uncertainty in some sectors and had had a direct negative impact in others. The rental market, for instance, has been hampered by the ongoing rent cap provisions.”

So, will the Liberal government recognize that their interventionist policies have created uncertainty and are hampering the rental market?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Well, I point to the fact that what has been identified as the largest private sector investment in the Yukon into housing is now being made by Northern Vision Development.

Just this morning, I heard from Northern Vision Development that they want to start work on the 5th and Rogers site. They are about to invest a quarter of a billion dollars. So, I would say that, if it's their report and they're making the biggest investment into rental housing in Yukon history, the words from the member opposite probably wouldn't be accurate.

Again, I look forward to question number 3.

Question re: Ross River School

Mr. Hassard: Mr. Speaker, I have some questions for the minister regarding rural schools. In April of 2022, the Yukon government released a ranking for Whitehorse schools replacement or major upgrades.

I am wondering if the minister can tell us when a similar ranking will be done for rural schools, and how will that be integrated with the Whitehorse list?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to be investing in infrastructure in our schools throughout the territory. We are working with — as the member may be aware, the majority of rural schools are now under the First Nation School Board, and we are working directly with them around the care and maintenance of the schools. We work, of course, closely with the school councils and the other partners at the school level. It is certainly an area that we are looking to take some recommendations from as we work through those discussions with those partners to develop a plan for the further review of those schools. I do have extensive information around our operation and maintenance of rural schools and how we work to upgrade them and keep them operational as we do the work for future planning.

Mr. Hassard: Mr. Speaker, the Ross River School continues to receive structural upgrades on an annual basis. The minister told us earlier this Sitting that \$2.05 million is in this year's budget for Ross River School upgrades. We know that there have been millions spent over this the past number of years, and the five-year capital plan shows \$6 million more yet to be spent.

Why is the government spending millions of dollars on upgrades rather than building a new facility in Ross River?

Hon. Mr. Clarke: Thank you for the question from the member opposite.

As the member opposite has heard many times, the Ross River School is inspected quarterly by a multidisciplinary team that includes an architect, a structural engineer, a geotechnical engineer, and a surveyor.

Last spring, approximately 200 permanent jacks were installed underneath the Ross River School. The new releveling system can be used in the future to address any future movement of the school. This project provided significant Yukon First Nation participation and plan opportunities for the Ross River Dena Council.

The construction of a new modular mechanical room to replace the existing mechanical plant was completed during the summer of 2023 and was operational for the start of the school year. The heat emitted from the old mechanical plant was contributing to the deterioration of permafrost under the school.

With respect to this summer, there will be a roof repair and a new septic field as well as design for a remote level and temperature monitoring systems. So, I would agree with the member opposite only to the extent that this government is in constant communication or frequent constant communication with the Ross River Dena Council, and certainly, the issue of a different site for the school is a live issue, but those conversations continue and the school is currently in good condition.

Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hassard: Mr. Speaker, so, again, the minister has told us that there's \$2.05 million in this year's budget for upgrades to that school. There have been millions spent over the past number of years and a showing of \$6 million more to be spent in the five-year capital plan.

Again, Mr. Speaker, why is this government spending all of this money on this building rather than working toward a new facility for Ross River?

Hon. Mr. Clarke: Mr. Speaker, thank you for that question. I would just, I suppose, redouble on the second answer, which is, of course, that the safety of the students, the teachers, and support staff of the school in Ross River is of paramount importance to this government, and many cutting-edge technologies have been used to ensure the safety. As I said, there are these quarterly inspections which confirm the safety of the structure.

The conversations will continue with Ross River Dena Council with respect to possibly identifying another location at some point in the future, but, of course, those will be complex discussions. So, we certainly support that.

As the Minister of Education has indicated, we are dedicated to the overall resilience and safety of many schools in the territory, including a lot of work at Robert Service School.

Very recently, there was this work at the Ross River School. Kêts'ádañ Kù is coming online, and there will be the completion of Whistle Bend. So, lots of work at many Yukon schools.

Question re: Residential lot development

Ms. Clarke: Salamat, Mr. Speaker. It has now been over three years since the Liberals promised that they would create 1,000 new lots during their mandate. According to the most recent information provided by the Minister of Community Services, the Liberals have only been able to release 114 lots in Whitehorse and 29 lots in rural Yukon since the last election. That's a total of 243 lots. We are now heading into the fourth year of this mandate, and the Liberals have only released 243 lots.

Can the minister explain how he thinks that they are on track to meet their platform commitment to develop and release 1,000 new lots before the next election?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Mr. Speaker, I am elated actually to be able to rise again and speak about all the good work we are doing to develop lots in the Yukon — not just Whistle Bend. We are building lots in Haines Junction; we are building lots in Watson Lake; we are building lots in Teslin; we are building

lots in Dawson; we are building lots throughout the territory to meet the growing demand that this red-hot economy that we live in — because of the stewardship of my colleagues, the confidence of the mining sector, the confidence of the retail sector, and the confidence that the construction sector has in this economy. It's incredible.

So, yes, we have lots of people moving here. We need houses. We inherited a deficit in housing because the members opposite didn't know how to get 'er done, so we are doing that work. We are investing tens of millions of dollars every single year in housing, and we are committed to building 1,000 lots by the end of our mandate, and we are going to make that goal.

Ms. Clarke: Salamat, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this month, the Liberals announced that they are releasing 136 lots in Whistle Bend this year; however, in order to keep their promise, they will need to develop and release over 750 new lots before the next election, which is scheduled for next year. Even if we take their prediction seriously, they are nowhere near their goal.

Why has the minister given up trying to reach the goal of 1,000 new lots developed and released by the next election?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Mr. Speaker, in the first question, the member talked about the lots released in 2023 — 117 in Whistle Bend and 28 country residential/industrial — then in the second question, stood up and talked about the lots that we just released a couple of weeks ago. By the way, we offered a ministerial statement, and the members opposite said: No, thank you. They again, in this House, voted to say that they could veto ministerial statements. We offered to do it, and now they are asking questions about it. Her second question is referring to 130 lots, which we put out one week ago.

So, we are putting out a lot of lots. By the way, the Premier earlier, in one of his responses, talked about 5th and Rogers — one lot — and it is only counting as one, but man, that is an important lot which is going to provide a lot of housing for Yukoners.

Ms. Clarke: Salamat, Mr. Speaker. In addition to the promise to release 1,000 new lots before the next election, the Liberals also promised to establish a land bank of housing lots. We know that they can't even keep up with the demand for lots on an annual basis, let alone establish a bank of housing lots.

Why hasn't the Liberal government been able to keep their commitments to develop housing lots for Yukoners?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that my colleague just outlined some of the misinformation coming from the members opposite and the manipulation and the lack of — they don't want answers, Mr. Speaker, because, as my colleague just said, we offered a ministerial statement on this very issue, and they turned thumbs down.

Improving access to housing — \$27.3 million to build affordable homes, community housing, and Housing First projects and replace aged-out units; \$6 million to assist the Safe at Home Society to develop supportive housing units in Whitehorse; \$5.5 million in loans for individuals and developers to buy and build houses and homeowners to repair their principal residences; \$8.3 million to fund the development of rental housing; \$2 million to renovate and rehabilitate units

owned by the Yukon Housing Corporation; \$1.2 million in rental subsidies to the Canada-Yukon housing benefit.

That doesn't count the tens of millions of dollars that we are investing in lot development across the territory. I said it just a few minutes ago — from Haines Junction to Watson Lake, and points in between, we are working to address the needs of Yukoners. We have heard them. We are building housing and making sure that they have more housing options than ever before. That stands in stark contrast to the good folks on the opposition benches who didn't know how to get 'er done.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Mr. 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 (Ms. Blake): Order. Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

The matter before the Committee is continuing clause-by-clause consideration of Bill No. 38, entitled *Health Authority Act*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

Deputy Chair (MLA Tredger): Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

Bill No. 38: *Health Authority Act* — continued

Deputy Chair: The matter before the Committee is continuing clause-by-clause consideration of Bill No. 38, entitled *Health Authority Act*. We are currently considering the amendment proposed by the Member for Lake Laberge to clause 74.

On Clause 74 — previously stood over — continued

On amendment — continued

Deputy Chair: Is there any further debate?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Just before we begin, I would like to have my colleagues again welcome Deputy Minister Tiffany Boyd who is with me today immediately to my right; beside her is Jenny Imbeau, the director of legislation and partnerships; and to her right is Pamela Muir, legislator drafter with respect to this matter.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Ms. McPhee: We also have some guests in the Legislative Assembly we could welcome, please: Teresa Acheson from the Federation of Labour here in the territory; we have Kristeen McTavish from the Council of Yukon First Nations Health Department; and welcome again Stephen Mills and Doris Bill from the Health Transformation Advisory Committee.

Thank you all for being here.

Applause

Ms. White: Of course, welcome to our guests as well.

Yesterday, I took a bit of a risk, and I asked for the grace of time in an attempt to support workers, to support the government, and to support all those who are passionately behind the *Health Authority Act*. I'm really excited to say that, at the very last minute, when I didn't think we would get there, an MOU has been signed between the Yukon government, the Yukon Hospital Corporation, the Public Service Commission of Canada representing the Yukon Employees' Union, and the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada.

It happened — which I think is an incredible thing — and I just really want to thank the team who supported the minister through this, because this was unexpected, and it was big, and I asked a lot, and yesterday — against pretty much all advice — I chose to try to stand over in hopes that we could get that list bit done, and it did.

So, every action that has been taken has just made this bill stronger, and I'm grateful for that. With that, I will be voting against the amendment.

Mr. Cathers: I do note and welcome hearing that a memorandum of understanding has been signed that apparently provides more protection for the union members. While that is welcome news, again, this is a situation where not having that information presented to us — the minister herself made reference to the fact that they were, yesterday during debate, working on a memorandum of understanding. But again, we have not seen that document; we have not seen the other correspondence that the minister made reference to yesterday when she took the unusual step of moving to report progress almost immediately upon beginning debate of this legislation, and we would appreciate that information being shared with us.

We have proposed these amendments in the interest of providing clear legislated protection for Yukon health care workers. I would note, as I did previously, that we have also shared the wording of this previously with unions and with the Yukon Federation of Labour. We have received positive indications regarding the language, including, in some cases, a formal indication of support, and we have not yet been advised by them in writing that they wish to rescind that, so we will be voting for the amendment that we proposed, and we believe that it strengthens the protections for Yukon health care workers.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: While I appreciate the comments made by the Member for Lake Laberge, I think that it's important for Yukoners to understand that, when the Leader of the Third Party says that this arrangement/agreement was just reached — I think it would be fair to estimate that would be

about six minutes ago — so providing anything to the members opposite with respect to this would be impossible at the moment.

That said, we have full confidence in the conversations and documents that have been provided back and forth yesterday, last night, and today that Yukon workers, who are health care professionals — the individuals who will at some future date become employees of a Yukon health authority — Shāw Kwā'a, — are protected to the greatest possibility, and our commitments to have them be at the forefront of our work together is now in writing.

So, I appreciate that the moving of the amendment to Bill No. 38 at section 74 did spur on a conversation. I am very pleased that we are here and that no amendment, in my view, as I said earlier, should be made to this section but that the opportunity for protections for Yukon workers, all of which we had previously made publicly in this Legislature and in other places, are now committed in a way that satisfies the representatives of those employees, and we look forward to that process proceeding.

Deputy Chair: Is there any further debate on the amendment?

Shall the amendment carry?

Some Hon. Members: Count.

Count

Deputy Chair: A count has been called.

Bells

Deputy Chair: All those in favour, please rise.

Members rise

Deputy Chair: All those in opposed, please rise.

Members rise

Deputy Chair: The results are eight yea, nine nay. I declare the amendment defeated.

Amendment to Clause 74 negatived

Deputy Chair: Is there any further debate on clause 74?
Clause 74 agreed to

On Clause 99 — previously stood over

Mr. Cathers: As I noted before but I will just briefly reiterate, we had developed proposed amendments to sections 74 and 99. We have shared those proposed amendments and sought input from labour organizations. The Yukon Federation of Labour said in a letter addressed to the minister dated April 11 — and I quote: “The Federation of Labour is in support of the amendments calling for consultation with unions representing affected employees”. In an e-mail regarding those amendments from the senior advisor to the president of the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada dated April 8, they indicated — quote: “PIPSC in support of these amendments.”

I do appreciate the information provided by both the Leader of the Third Party and the minister confirming that a memorandum of understanding has been signed with labour organizations to provide more comfort regarding protection for

employees. We have not seen that yet, and not having received any indication from the labour organizations yet in writing that they wish to reconsider the support they provided previously, we will be proposing the second amendment that we had prepared to clause 99, which is regarding protection specifically for employees of the Yukon Hospital Corporation.

Amendment proposed

Mr. Cathers: Therefore, I move:

THAT Bill No. 38, entitled *Health Authority Act* be amended by deleting clause 99 at page 69 and replacing it with the following:

“99 Transfer of employees of Yukon Hospital Corporation to health authority

(1) The Commissioner in Executive Council may make regulations, subject to any terms and conditions, respecting the transfer of employees of the Yukon Hospital Corporation to the health authority.

(2) Before the Commissioner in Executive Council makes regulations respecting the transfer of employees or classes of employees from the of the Yukon Hospital Corporation to the health authority, the minister must

(a) consult with health professionals who may be affected on the details of the proposed transfer, and its effect on the health system, patient care, and employees;

(b) consult with health stakeholders, including, but not limited to, any union or unions representing employees who may be transferred, on the details of the proposed transfer;

(c) negotiate a clear plan showing how pay, benefits, and pensions will be affected with the union or unions representing employees, and provide that plan to each employee affected by the proposed transfer.”

(3) A regulation under subsection (1) must be made to come into force on the day section 86 comes into force.”

Deputy Chair: The amendment is not in order.

Would members like a brief recess to consider?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

Deputy Chair: Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

The matter before the Committee is continuing clause-by-clause consideration of Bill No. 38, entitled *Health Authority Act*.

We are currently considering clause 99.

Is there any further debate?

Mr. Cathers: Deputy Chair, I would just note for the House that there was a small typo in the copies of the amendment that was submitted before, and my apologies for that. We have corrected the typo and ensured that the copies reflect the actual amendment being submitted.

Amendment proposed

Mr. Cathers: Therefore, I move:

THAT Bill No. 38, entitled *Health Authority Act* be amended by deleting clause 99 at page 69 and replacing it with the following:

“99 Transfer of employees of Yukon Hospital Corporation to health authority

“(1) The Commissioner in Executive Council may make regulations, subject to any terms and conditions, respecting the transfer of employees of the Yukon Hospital Corporation to the health authority.

“(2) Before the Commissioner in Executive Council makes regulations respecting the transfer of employees or classes of employees from the Yukon Hospital Corporation to the health authority, the Minister must:

“(a) consult with health professionals who may be affected on the details of the proposed transfer, and its effect on the health system, patient care, and employees;

“(b) consult with health stakeholders, including, but not limited to, any union or unions representing employees who may be transferred, on the details of the proposed transfer;

“(c) negotiate a clear plan showing how pay, benefits, and pensions will be affected with the union or unions representing employees, and provide that plan to each employee affected by the proposed transfer.

“(3) A regulation under subsection (1) must be made to come into force on the day section 86 comes into force.”

Deputy Chair: The amendment is in order.

It has been moved by the Member for Lake Laberge:

THAT Bill No. 38, entitled *Health Authority Act* be amended by deleting clause 99 at page 69 and replacing it with the following:

“99 Transfer of employees of Yukon Hospital Corporation to health authority

“(1) The Commissioner in Executive Council may make regulations, subject to any terms and conditions, respecting the transfer of employees of the Yukon Hospital Corporation to the health authority.

“(2) Before the Commissioner in Executive Council makes regulations respecting the transfer of employees or classes of employees from the Yukon Hospital Corporation to the health authority, the Minister must:

“(a) consult with health professionals who may be affected on the details of the proposed transfer, and its effect on the health system, patient care, and employees;

“(b) consult with health stakeholders, including, but not limited to, any union or unions representing employees who may be transferred, on the details of the proposed transfer;

“(c) negotiate a clear plan showing how pay, benefits, and pensions will be affected with the union or unions representing employees, and provide that plan to each employee affected by the proposed transfer.

“(3) A regulation under subsection (1) must be made to come into force on the day section 86 comes into force.”

Is there any debate on the amendment?

Shall the amendment carry?

Some Hon. Members: Count.

Count

Deputy Chair: A count has been called.

Bells

Deputy Chair: All those in favour, please rise.

Members rise

Deputy Chair: All those opposed, please rise.

Members rise

Deputy Chair: The results are eight yea, nine nay.

I declare the amendment defeated.

Amendment to Clause 99 negatived

Deputy Chair: Is there any further debate on clause 99?

Clause 99 agreed to

On Preamble

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I note that preambles do not exist in every piece of legislation, but I am very pleased that we have determined that a preamble should be in this piece of legislation. Not unlike other incredibly important pieces in legislation, a preamble provides a context to all who might read it and takes it into account of the purpose and determinations behind the particular piece of legislation and the need for that piece of legislation, whatever it might be, to be read in the context of the statements made in the preamble.

We note that, through the preamble in this Bill No. 38, it is clear that the health authority is to contribute to a health and social services system that is effective, efficient, integrated, and population-health-oriented and that the health authority is committed to improving health outcomes for all Yukoners, to providing access to services for all Yukoners without discrimination to ensure that health equity is an outcome for Yukoners.

It also notes that the health authority will include Indigenous determinants of health as part of achieving equity and health outcomes and that the health authority will respect other equity-deserving groups — those who do not experience equity in our health and social services system.

To further enhance the preamble, it is my intention to propose amendments to this section to reiterate respect for the purpose and the provisions of the *Languages Act*. In my view and my submission to my colleagues here, it will only enhance the preamble of the *Health Authority Act*, which is incredibly strong to begin with. To reflect linguistic protection, we propose the addition of subsection (c), which states: “respects for the purpose and the provisions of the *Languages Act*, including the right of any member of the public to communicate with, and receive available services from, the health authority in English or in French”.

Amendment proposed

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Therefore, I move:

THAT Bill No. 38, entitled *Health Authority Act*, be amended at page 2 by

(a) adding the following paragraph after paragraph (b) of the fifth recital of the preamble: “(c) respects the purpose and provisions of the *Languages Act*, including the right of any member of the public to communicate with, and receive available services from, the health authority in English or French;”

(b) renumbering the current paragraphs (c) and (d) of the fifth recital of the preamble as paragraphs (d) and (e) respectively.

Deputy Chair: The amendment is in order.

It has been moved by the Member for Riverdale South:

THAT Bill No. 38, entitled *Health Authority Act*, be amended at page 2 by

(a) adding the following paragraph after paragraph (b) of the fifth recital of the preamble: “(c) respects the purpose and provisions of the *Languages Act*, including the right of any member of the public to communicate with, and receive available services from, the health authority in English or French;”

(b) renumbering the current paragraphs (c) and (d) of the fifth recital of the preamble as paragraphs (d) and (e) respectively.

Is there any debate on the amendment?

Ms. White: Je crois qu’il est important de prendre une minute pour respecter et remercier la communauté francophone, qui a fait part de ses préoccupations pour faire avancer ces changements. Il est important que, comme anglophones, nous respections la *Loi sur les langues officielles* du Canada, et je crois que cet amendement nous mènera à ce but.

I am grateful to the francophone community that has brought forward its concerns and worked with the minister and her officials to make sure that the importance of the *Languages Act* was reflected in this legislation. I believe that it strengthens this act and brings it to the next level.

I am grateful for the willingness to make the changes that were required.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Thank you for the opportunity to speak to this particular amendment. I agree, as noted by the Leader of the Third Party, that our work together with the francophone community here in the territory has only strengthened this piece of legislation. Our work together has brought forward a number of amendments, this being the final one. It’s important to have it included in the preamble.

As I have noted, I express my true support and preference that preambles in legislation do really help us tell the story in a way that might not otherwise be told through regular sections of an act.

Lastly, I would, with the grace of my colleagues, just like to take the opportunity to welcome Lisa Vollans-Leduc, whom I understand is the vice-president of the Yukon Employees’ Union, so thank you for being here.

Deputy Chair: Is there any further debate on the amendment?

Amendment to Preamble agreed to

Preamble, as amended, agreed to

On Title

Title agreed to

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Deputy Chair, I move that you report Bill No. 38, entitled *Health Authority Act*, with amendment.

Deputy Chair: It has been moved by the Member for Riverdale South that the Chair report Bill No. 38, entitled *Health Authority Act*, with amendment.

Motion agreed to

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I move:

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 60(1), Bill No. 38, entitled *Health Authority Act*, as amended, be reprinted and tabled in the Legislative Assembly in its reprinted form before the House proceeds with third reading and passage of the said bill.

Deputy Chair: It has been moved by the Member for Riverdale South:

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 60(1), Bill No. 38, entitled *Health Authority Act*, as amended, be reprinted and tabled in the Legislative Assembly in its reprinted form before the House proceeds with third reading and passage of the said bill.

Motion agreed to

Deputy Chair: The matter now before the Committee is general debate on Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, in Bill No. 213, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2024-25*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

Deputy Chair: Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

Bill No. 213: *First Appropriation Act 2024-25* — continued

Deputy Chair: The matter before the Committee is general debate on Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, in Bill No. 213, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2024-25*.

Department of Tourism and Culture

Deputy Chair: Is there any general debate?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Deputy Chair, to begin, I would just like to welcome officials to the Assembly today to help us get information for Yukoners and the opposition about Tourism and Culture. To my right is Deputy Minister Sierra van der Meer, and to my left is the Assistant Deputy Minister of Corporate Services, Kate Olynyk. My thanks to them, as always.

I will say a few opening remarks — not too much for today — and just get right into the question-and-answer.

Last week, we had a bit of an announcement with the new Yukon banners going up. So far — you know, from the feedback I have gotten — people are pretty excited about them. Just today, we have an all-staff meeting going on with Tourism and Culture sort of getting ready for the season coming up. I want to give a shout-out to them, because we are in the Assembly today — what that means is that a bunch of people are pulled to try to support us with getting additional information to questions. So, I just want to make a personal thank you to them and also to all of the administrative professionals because today is Administrative Professionals Day.

The last thing I want to say is that I didn't get a chance to talk about it here — we had a ministerial statement coming — and one of the things that we were hoping to talk about was “The Yukon: It's a Little Bit Metal” ad campaign, which has been doing really well for us as a territory — a lot of interest from Canadians and beyond. I just want to give a shout-out because that — and I mentioned this by way of a motion a couple of weeks ago — that ad has been awarded a Clio Award, which is sort of like the Oscars of advertising. Just thank you so much to our marketing firms Cossette and Aasman here in the Yukon as well as the creative folks who put the production together, GBP Creative and the Bullen Brothers, and as well the musicians who were in the ad. I just want to say thank you to all of them; they did a great job. When I have done radio interviews, I have put — if you have seen the ad, you will see that there is a scene in there where the drummer has tattoos across his knuckles saying “cozy fire”. I just wanted to give a shout-out to the creativity in that ad.

I am looking forward to today's debate. I will say that — and I tabled earlier the tourism statistics for the last quarter of 2023. They are very positive for the sector.

One more small shout-out — tomorrow and the next day, the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon is hosting a spring conference — “Compass” is the title of the event — and we have lots of people here talking with local operators and strategizing for the coming year and years, so I'm looking forward to that event starting tomorrow.

Ms. Van Bibber: Thank you and welcome to the officials who are here to assist today. The focus on the upcoming tourism season, of course, starts in the next two days with Compass, and I'm hoping to get over and chat with a few people whom I used to chat with a lot more.

As we know, the visitors will be filling our highways soon, and hopefully, they are going to be spending some of their vacation money at local businesses, because we do rely on that big influx of tourists during our four-month season. But as the costs, of course, rise — tax, food, and I understand that insurance is a huge factor this year both here and in the Northwest Territories — but that's not a question for the minister; I was just stating a fact.

I would like to start with the convention centre. During Question Period, the minister stated that the convention centre was not only his top priority but his second as well, and the Chu

Niikwän Development Corporation was awarded the bid for building this new centre beside the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre location.

Can the minister give us an update? Since the RFP was issued in March 2023, what has been accomplished to date?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: We are in the design phase of the project and, like the member opposite, I would like to congratulate Chu Niikwän for being selected as the preferred developer — I think that is the title. This is looking to be the first convention centre of this size in Canada that will be owned and operated by a First Nation, so that is pretty impressive. I know that they have some funding to do that design work and we are anticipating results this summer, with sort of a class C estimate. I know that they are working back and forth with both federal and territorial officials. That is the phase that we are in right now.

Ms. Van Bibber: At that time, there were no firm costs that were estimated or even given. Has the minister been able to firm up those costs, and have they been able to acquire a firm commitment from the federal government?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: One of the things that is happening now in the design phase — it is also what that financial model will look like for the proponent. For example, there can be trade-offs between O&M expenditures and capital expenditures, and then there are different choices that can be sought by the proponent and with governments. We anticipate that, once there is a class C estimate, that is when the request will go back toward governments. There is no class C estimate yet, so there is no expectation, but we certainly have been putting it on the radar screen.

As the member opposite noted, I have stated in this House that, when it comes to Tourism and Culture, this is our top priority, and when asked what was second, I still said that it was this one.

We have relayed that same information to our federal partners. I don't recall a time when I met with the federal minister that I haven't highlighted this important project. I think it's going to be important not only for Whitehorse — certainly for the Yukon — but I actually think for the north as well.

Ms. Van Bibber: The discussions that are ongoing, as you say, with the cost factors, the lease agreements, and all the details that have to be put in place — there was to be a formal announcement made. Are we close to a formal announcement?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: When we get to the end of the design phase and there is a class C estimate in place, I am anticipating that it certainly would be a time when there would be public-facing information.

Respectfully, that dialogue should be with Chu Niikwän as well — what their expectations are around that. But I am confident that there would be some outward-facing communication at that point. That's a natural sort of step in the evolution of the process.

Ms. Van Bibber: That leads right into my next question, because the mandate letter from the Premier states that he wanted building to begin in 2024-25 and completed in 2025-26.

Is this, then, a reasonable timeline to ask for?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: The first thing I want to mention is that timeline is if everything goes as well as it could. I think that there are possibilities there under that timeline, but I also want to just make sure that I am stating in the House that it is not us building this project; it will be Chu Níkwän's build, and I think that it is subject to several things. On our side, we will work to try to make sure that we are helping to get funding in place — that is what I see as my main job or our main job as the territorial government in partnership with this, but I don't want to be the person who is putting timelines on Chu Níkwän. I think that we will see out of this design phase what that looks like, and there may be some updates to the timelines at that point once we have that class C estimate and the design plan in place. But respectfully, I will turn to them to see what they anticipate, and we will do our diligence around seeking the funding for the project.

Ms. Van Bibber: Thank you for that answer, and we look forward to hearing the updates after speaking with the corporation.

On October 24, 2022, I gave notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Tourism and Culture to engage the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, the Yukon Chamber of Mines, and the Yukon Heritage Resources Board to explore the designation of the Venus mine mill on the south Klondike Highway as a heritage site.

Is this something that the minister would consider, and if so, what is the process to get a structure like this designated as a heritage site?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I will try to provide some information in a few ways. The first one is that I would always want to talk to Carcross/Tagish First Nation to have that conversation. Whenever we have community partners who indicate that they wish to identify something as an historic site, of course, we try to enter into it. It is also my recollection — but I am trying to ask colleagues to run this to ground — that I know that there had been some cleanup being done around some of the old sites, so you need to be careful about that as well, because if you're trying to designate something as an historic site, you still need to make sure that we're protecting the environment, and you can coordinate those things, I'm sure, but I just flag it.

Colleagues have given me sort of a process description about what happens around a designation. It's under part 3 of the *Historic Resources Act*, so usually, there is a nomination that is received by the Department of Tourism and Culture Cultural Services branch. That branch would conduct a technical review of the nomination to look at accuracy, significance, and any other considerations that would be relevant to the site — maybe public safety — and I just mentioned about cleanup. So, there is a process that is undertaken.

I think that if the question is: Are we open to that? — the answer is yes. I would want to hear from CTFN about what their priorities are versus others. I don't know, as I haven't had the conversation directly with them about this site. Then we could see from there.

Ms. Van Bibber: Yukoners have always been proud of their direct international connection via Condor, and it has been known for a few years now that Condor will not fly into Whitehorse due to the changing size of their planes and not being able to use our international airport.

The tourism industry needs some firm knowledge so they can begin planning. Can the minister tell us his latest info on Condor's continued connection to Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: There is a whole lot of work that has been going on. I will try to flesh it out, and then maybe there will be more questions just to get more details.

First of all, the situation: Condor is moving away from some of its prior aircraft to Airbuses. Those Airbuses require a different level or credential of airport. It doesn't have to do with our runway per se. Our runway is good enough for the Airbuses, but there are several other things. I won't list them all off, but we have been doing work to identify what those things are, and I will talk about that in a second.

We also have the important investment work — or reinvestment — in our airport infrastructure, including the runway. For the next two summers — and I think the Minister of Highways and Public Works mentioned this yesterday during Question Period or maybe it was during Committee of the Whole; I don't recall — but over the next two sort of summers, the main runway will be re-done — the north half and the south half each of those summers and then opened back up for the winters. So, even if Condor had not switched to the Airbuses, which it has, we wouldn't be able to take those flights over the next two summers.

Okay, let's talk first about some of the numbers. You will recall that 2019 was our most active tourism season ever in the Yukon. I hope someday soon to say that 2019 was the most active. We are well on our way to recovery. I don't know whether we overtake it in 2024, but we are moving in the right direction; let's say that.

In 2019, the number of direct seats sold on Condor was 4,700 seats for the season. While the airport reconstruction work has been happening, we shifted to — one of our solutions was to support Air North in interline agreements. Interline is where a person buys a ticket to the Yukon. They might choose to get a stop somewhere on the way, but it is one ticket even though they are switching carriers, let's say, in Edmonton or Calgary or Vancouver. Those interline agreements — we have been staying in touch with Air North and asking them how those sales are going, and what they told us was that, last year, tickets sold through Condor and Air North were 2,300. This year, as of April 1 — I am a few weeks out of date right now — but as of April 1, we had already sold 2,300 plus an extra 1,000 tickets which allowed — they are called "split tickets" where the passengers stop for a day or two in, let's say, Calgary or Edmonton or at another stop on the way. So, we are at 3,300 tickets so far as of April 1. Our sense is that we might surpass the 2019 numbers this year.

It is not exactly the same thing, of course, because — and this is one of the things that we are doing — is doing this analysis of who is coming and who is not coming.

What are we trying to do about the change that Condor has made? There are sort of three plans. The first one is the interline agreements, working to try to support and promote those. I think they are working well, and it is opening our eyes up to other possibilities with other countries of origin. I think there are a lot of conversations we are having about them, but still, our immediate step is to try to support this air traffic or these travellers from Germany and Europe.

Number 2, we are in conversations with Transport Canada to see whether there can be some form of intermediate classification. Currently, we are an airport group number: AGN IV.

If the airport group number were V, we would be able to take the Airbus flights. Because the things we are short on — again, it's not an exhaustive list, but some of the main things we are short on: baggage handling, customs, and firefighting capacity.

Those are sort of the big-ticket items, but an AGN V is sort of imagining that you could have — I don't know what it is but more than five — maybe less than 10 — international flights at a time. That's not really what we are anticipating here. We are sort of trying to see whether Transport Canada has this possibility. We have asked to create a working group with federal counterparts through Tourism and Culture. We have met with the federal transportation minister. We put this on his radar screen, for sure. My colleague the Minister of Highways and Public Works is also following up on it.

Our third approach around this issue is to think for the long term how we will, over time, increase the size and the capacity of the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport. So, what are the things that we need? We have been working on Tourism and Culture's side to meet with the tourism industry to talk about the business case for it so we can build up a good case around this and make that argument. I have had several meetings myself directly talking about this issue with industry folk — along with the department, the deputy minister, and others. We have also asked Highways and Public Works to do the technical side of it about what is required for an airport group 5.

Those things that we're talking about — we can recognize right away that they are going to be substantial changes, so we know that they are not a tomorrow sort of solution. So, we have this range of solutions.

Finally, I should mention that we have made a commitment to the tourism sector that we would keep them informed about this. One of the things that the deputy minister did almost right away was to create —

Deputy Chair: Ten seconds.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Sorry; I will finish here, Deputy Chair, and then I will answer more in a second when I get back up.

Ms. Van Bibber: I think that the minister has pretty well answered my next question, which was: What would we need for additional upgrades to have those international flights return in the future? Speaking with Condor — and you already mentioned possibly working with Transport Canada, so those are all good things. Please keep us updated as well.

Now to the 125th anniversary — it has been kind of interesting to see the rollout of this celebration funding. The novel fund of \$250,000 was awarded or given out, and we have heard some comments about the use of this block of money. I would like to know what the minister feels about the feedback that he has gotten on how \$250,000 was spent.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Deputy Chair, apologies for going long on my last answer — I'll just finish off.

The deputy minister has created these information nooners and working with the industry — like the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon, the Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon, Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association, all of them — to say: What are the priorities? Condor was one of the first ones that we did as an info nooner, and we'll have more of them coming up.

The 125 Prize — there are a few things that we have done and this one is really about how we are showcasing the Yukon and sharing these interesting things about the Yukon. Of course, I heard some criticism, and one of the projects in particular will be kind of a focal point of that — why are we paying to fly a grand piano into Kluane National Park? Yes, there are dollars going toward that, but that's not what we're trying to create. We believe that all three of the projects that we have — because they are individual Yukoners doing these projects, there is a natural amplification of the social media, but we also get these products where we get to show these things to the rest of the world. That was part of it. When people applied, they understood that it wasn't just to do it; it was to share it. We think that there is actually very strong value for money through what I will call an "investment" into these stories.

I started my opening comments by talking about "The Yukon: It's a Little Bit Metal". When stories carry some of the character of the traditional territories that they are on, the history of this place, and the people who live here, it really starts to resonate with visitors. What we find today is that visitors want more authentic experiences when they come to a place. They are not interested in the cookie-cutter side of things; they are interested in what makes this place different and unique.

The 125 Prize is about showcasing those types of stories. Yes, I have had some criticism, but when you're a minister, you hear criticism on almost everything, so I was okay with the criticism that I heard there. In reaching back out to people, I have explained to them what we're trying to do and most of them have said: Okay, that's not what I was thinking at first.

I love the Yukon in the sense that we have a range of views, so I'm sure that there are still some people out there who are skeptical, but we will see.

We have a way to measure these things over time to see what kind of impact they have in promoting tourism and visitation to the Yukon.

Ms. Van Bibber: We are talking about the 125th anniversary. In less than two months, we are going to be 126 years old — the Yukon — and we have had this talk of a distribution of anniversary pins — so many to First Nations and so many for the rest of Yukoners.

So, was this idea just slow getting out of the gate, or what was the holdup that it didn't actually happen in the anniversary year?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I will just note that one of the things that the deputy minister just reminded me is that when you have social media — consumers trust word of mouth, what we call “user-generated content”, more than any other form of advertising. So, if there are real folk who are not paid to say things and if they are out there commenting on stuff, that tends to be very important or powerful content.

The 125 medals are being led by the Executive Council Office. I will try to provide some information here today, but if there is something that I don't have, I know that the Premier will be able to respond. I think that what took the time was the beautiful artwork by Violet Gatensby. It was presented and announced in February, so it was in the anniversary year when the medals were done. I have heard Violet describe it twice publicly — once to communities and First Nations and once when we launched the medals officially. Both times, I found it incredibly moving — the story behind it, the elder and the youth in the artwork, in the depiction, and the balsam branch as a symbol of peace and connection to the land and teaching.

It all seemed really quite fitting for what we were trying to achieve with the medals. Once that artwork was ready, it had to be made into medals — you have to actually go back and forth in the minting of this. Violet talked about this. She was very explicit about what she was trying to achieve and she worked with the folks who are commissioning it into a minted medal, so those were the things that I think took some time. It did get launched during our 125th anniversary and now we're just working to distribute those to a bunch of great Yukoners.

Ms. Van Bibber: I would like to switch to the labour shortage now, as this is an ongoing issue, especially within our service industry of tourism. We have been hit the hardest, and seasonal work doesn't seem to be picking up as it has in past years. I understand that there has been a recruitment brochure made to encourage Yukon employment. I am not sure if this is the correct department, but do you have a measure on the value of this technique? Was this put out by the Tourism department?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Labour is a significant issue for the industry and the sector. We have been working with the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon and have been supporting them in the development of a recruitment and retention action plan. That has been work that we are funding and assisting them with.

I would have to check on the specific brochure, but there is some stuff that we have had and some stuff that TIAY has had, but I think that with these sorts of approaches, we are often looking for a range of tools, not just one thing. So, a brochure is one of them — for example, to go to job fairs and to have it as information that is shared. But I'm sure that the same information is available on websites, et cetera.

I will note another one of the issues that goes hand in hand with the labour issue, and that is housing, especially if we're talking about seasonal housing. We have a couple of ways in which we have been working on that one — again, with industry. One of them, for example, is that the Klondike

Visitors Association has developed the Village off King, which is a seasonal wall-tent housing project. It is somewhat furnished; there is a sort of central washroom and cook shack. They are doing it differently from how the old tent villages used to be. They were successful in the pilot in the last late-summer season, so it is going this year.

We are also working with a couple of other projects to try to assist — and we are looking for groups where we can start to work off of one another. For example, if we have stuff that is more winter in nature, then it would really complement our summer tourism.

The last thing we are doing is that we are looking to extend the shoulder seasons — so earlier in the spring, later in the fall — in order to get more bang for the buck around labour. Generally, we find that if you can offer that extra, then you can attract and retain more labour. Again, it clearly is an important concern that the industry has raised with us and we will continue to work with them on it.

Ms. Van Bibber: That leads right into my next question on staff housing. As we know, the Village off King has been spoken about in this House for over a year now. I understand that, through the community tourism destination fund, they have received \$219,000. Does this cover all of the costs?

I just have a range of questions on these tents. Are they heated tents? Who covers the insurance? Is there a rent for these tents? Is there a hired caretaker or overseer? How is the permitting allowed for these tents within Dawson?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I am going to end up having to check in with the Klondike Visitors Association to ask them some of the questions. First of all, I can say that the \$219,000 is not the entire cost. This is a contribution that we are making to offset the costs. Second of all, the Klondike Visitors Association — I will just say KVA — is managing the site, but the way I understand it is that they are renting to businesses, not to workers. Then the businesses are making sure that their workers are doing right by the rules around the site and keeping it well, and that was a big shift.

I know, for example, that there are hot showers. I think that there is heat in the tents. The deputy minister took a tour recently and is trying to remember exactly.

The costs that go in, for example, around the rent to the businesses and insurance and things like that — I would have to check that with the Klondike Visitors Association.

Finally, there was a question in there about permitting. All the permitting was done with the City of Dawson. I recall us working to get that in place. They wanted to see this happen. I just recall it being sorted out in the last tourism season, but I would have to check again explicitly to see which permits were acquired and how that all went, but my understanding is that this was one of the things that was needed before we got the pilot going last year.

Ms. Van Bibber: I would like to thank the staff for getting me this list of community tourism destination staff projects. We have: one in Carcross to Cabin Fever Adventures for \$425,000; the Dawson City Bonanza Gold Motel & RV Park for \$158,250; and in Whitehorse, the Northern Lights Resort and Spa got \$245,000. Adding on the KVA at \$219,000,

the total is \$1,047,250. How were these four destinations chosen? I believe the minister just said that they were contributions, so obviously these businesses don't have to pay the money back.

Could you give me a little more of an update on how this amount of money was given to these businesses, aside from the KVA?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: The dollars that came here — first of all, just where they are coming from. It's under the community tourism destination development fund, which has a couple-of-year funding cycle. This was a subset of the community tourism destination development fund for staff accommodation projects. A call was put out to industry, and then they applied and there was a series of criteria against which they were judged: how much staff housing they were going to supply, what the impact was to the community, et cetera. So, there was a public call and interested groups or businesses applied for it, and yes, the dollars are going to subsidize that staff housing.

As the member opposite noted, the current numbers that we have are just over \$1 million.

Deputy Chair: Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Deputy Chair: Committee will recess for 10 minutes.

Recess

Deputy Chair: Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

The matter before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, in Bill No. 213, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2024-25*.

Is there any further general debate?

Ms. Van Bibber: I would like to ask a few questions on the arts operating fund and how the process works in awarding to organizations.

We have heard from Yukoners that it is difficult for groups to access funding through this stream, as new applicants are not given the opportunity to access these funds on an equal basis as those who are already being funded.

So, what is the current allocation of funding for the arts operating fund, and how many groups or individuals are funded currently?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: The amount of funding that we put toward it every year is \$825,000. The department is trying to get specifically how many are funded under the arts operating fund. But while we work to get that number, I can share with the House that, of all of our arts funding programs that fund artists and arts organizations, we funded 233 organizations, projects, or activities with funding last year. Once I hear what that number is, I will pop back up and try to share what it was for the arts operating fund.

Ms. Van Bibber: I think the issue is that the repeat subscribers continually get funding and new applicants don't get considered, so will the minister reconsider maybe the criteria for accepting new applicants or maybe increase the operating fund?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: How the choices are made is that we have a Yukon Arts Advisory Council. They are the ones who sit there and look at projects and make suggestions. I know that it's my job to sign these things, but I have never in my time in this role done anything other than to accept the good work of this group. I think they always try to balance. There are some programs and events, for example, that happen kind of regularly. We have 20 organizations I think that — sorry, that's receiving; sorry, back up. We have organizations that look to apply each year, and they are asking us to provide them more stability and indicate over time what we can give them so that they don't necessarily have to come back each year. That's one of the competing forces.

Another is that we get new groups on the scene, and they are looking to enter into these funds. I ask the question: How does the Arts Advisory Council reconsider its decision-making over time? I would have to pose that question to them, but I think that these people who are selected for these groups are people from a cross-section of the Yukon, trying to have a cross-section of interests in various media and things like that so that we are not too focused on one thing or another.

We are looking to see — for example, I know that the department is in conversation with the Lottery Commission to consider if we can partner with them around how they issue funding, because they also support cultural things, so maybe there is a way there where we can pool our resources, but I want to be careful about that. That is just in initial conversations right now, so we are not there yet.

Then, to answer the question from earlier about how many recipients there were under the arts operating fund for last year, the answer is 20.

Ms. Van Bibber: Thank you to the minister for that, and thanks for mentioning the Arts Advisory Council.

The new welcome signage that has been around and is coming up this August 2024 — that are supposed to be complete and erected — can the minister tell us the progress of this project, and can he also give us the cost of these new signs?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: The artwork — we created these committees — sort of one for the southeast of the Yukon, one for the south of the Yukon, one for the west, and one for the north. So, we had two highway signs everywhere, but with the south group, we put the Whitehorse airport sign as well, so they have three. Those committees were there to select the artwork through a call for proposals. They did; they selected all of it. We are going to take delivery of the final artwork in the next — this week — so it's just about done. Then we will get to an announcement once — because those artists have to sign off on their artwork being displayed and things like that.

So, once that is all in hand, we will stand up and do a bit of an announcement for the public so that they know what is coming. We anticipate installation to happen over this summer — let's say I think June and July and maybe a bit of August. That is what we are looking at right now.

We have roughly \$200,000 in this year's budget, and I have asked the department to just check. The total project cost is more than \$400,000 — it is somewhere between \$450,000 and under \$500,000 total over the last fiscal and this fiscal.

Ms. Van Bibber: I thank the minister for that answer.

There was a direct-award contract to an Outside company from Nova Scotia to design these, and we have heard that a few local companies were not pleased. Can the minister tell us why they had to go to the east coast to find a designer for signs being used in Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: The company that was designing the signs — first of all, the artwork around the design is from here; it is from the Yukon. It was from the Yukon story, and that is shared intellectual property that was based on all these interviews that happened with Yukoners. Then, this was a contract that was in place quite a few years ago. They are a community sign specialist company, I think. My recollection is that the company name was Fathom, so I'm going to have to look back through old briefing notes that predate me and which I'm pretty sure we shared with the members opposite, but I will try to find out what led to that.

In terms of the artwork, of course, it is local. In terms of the fabrication, I am pretty sure that was a local company. The fabrication is being done by Hvactech services. I am not sure of the last name of their company, but it is a Yukon company. So, yes, there was some work done several years ago around community signs; I believe that it was brought in as specialization around community-based signs.

Ms. Van Bibber: Now, as was asked in Question Period about the need for longer hours and a longer opening season at Top of the World, has the minister heard from KVA formally or informally about anything that has happened to date on this pressing issue?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I know that the Klondike Visitors Association has been in conversation with the Canada Border Services Agency. I know that the department has been as well. I think that they are getting to an announcement very soon, so I don't have anything for today. I know that we were bugging them to see if they were able to give us dates, but I believe that they will be announcing it for the Yukon shortly.

Ms. Van Bibber: Thank you, minister, and here's hoping for Dawson City businesses.

I have a few questions around the Tourism Yukon marketing advisory committee. This new committee was designed by YG, and I understand that this committee is a government-led version of a committee that has been running over a number of years in different variations led by the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon. The director of Tourism is now the chair of the committee, whereas TIAY used to chair those meetings.

Can the minister please provide further information around how this committee came about, who made the decision, and who is the decision-maker around the makeup of this committee?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Deputy Chair, I think that there are two discrete things going on here. Let me start first with what was previously the Yukon marketing committee, which was an industry-led committee. When the Yukon tourism destination strategy — the new destination strategy that was brought in place several years ago, before the pandemic — the request from industry was to transition that group into the Yukon

Tourism Advisory Board, YTAP. So, that is what became of it, and that is populated by industry folk, and they do provide advice directly to me as the minister, and they work closely with the department.

Then, again, the second thing that happened, in meeting with industry, they said: Okay, we do want to have input on how marketing happens. So, it wasn't — the Yukon Tourism Advisory Board — that's great — it was providing advice to me as minister, but they wanted a route to provide advice to the Tourism branch, so they asked to create a second thing.

Sorry, I'll just have to check on the name of that second thing. I'll get it when I pop up another time.

So, the partner organizations — the tourism organizations here in the territory — asked first of all to create guidelines for the committee itself. That came as advice directly from the industry. Then they made nominations — it is an industry-populated group; they report directly to the director of Tourism to advise on marketing. Those are the two things. What is being explained to me is that this is not a government group; it is advice, first of all, that comes to me as the minister and, second of all, more explicit marketing advice that is going to the director of Tourism from industry.

Ms. Van Bibber: The Spark microgrant was a new grant that was launched. Can the minister tell me what the uptake is and what the reporting mechanism is in place to get this grant?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: This is a new program; it came out this spring. It is supporting new or emerging entrepreneurs who are offering visitor experiences within the sector. It is meant to be a catalyst to encourage development, so the overall dollars that are going toward the program are \$75,000 each year, but the microgrants are sort of like between \$1,000 and \$5,000. We had our first round of successful applicants just recently. I was invited to speak — I can't remember now, but then I had, as often happens, several conflicting bookings that night, so I didn't get to go and meet the folks, but I talked with the deputy minister, and she said that there was pretty good interest in the program.

Ms. Van Bibber: The minister of health travelled to Scotland, and one of the reasons she went was to promote tourism between Scotland and Yukon. She said that she discussed tourism opportunities between Scotland and Yukon, including a new Calgary-Edinburgh flight route.

Does the minister know anything about this new flight route?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Earlier when I got up and I was talking, I talked about these interline agreements with Air North, and I said that we have been working on them in a range of ways. For example, when the Governor of Alaska was here, we sat down — the Premier and some of our other folk — with him and Air North to talk about possibilities with the Ted Stevens airport.

We are hunting for other opportunities around interline agreements. We do know that Canada has lots of flights coming from the United Kingdom. There are opportunities. I would have to talk with Air North about whether or not there is anything specifically going on with that.

I also know that when I talk with consulates, tourism is always one of the conversations that we have, so I have met with the Scottish consul and the English. We do believe that there is a tourism opportunity, but I would have to get specific information about that flight.

Ms. Van Bibber: As I know, the Department of Tourism and Culture, in their marketing department, usually has a strategic growth plan where they spend their marketing dollars. Has Scotland now become an area that Tourism Yukon is interested in?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Whenever ministers are travelling — and I have been asked to do this — we try to get them to do as much outreach as they can to take as full advantage of that travel as possible. I appreciate the Minister of Health and Social Services doing work on this front.

The member opposite is asking about Scotland specifically. I think that we think of the United Kingdom generally, and I think that we think of it as also being a gateway for other parts of Europe — so is Germany, for that matter.

You look to take advantage of flight opportunities. When we've talked with Air North, as I mentioned earlier, we have suggested that it would be good if we can do this with a range of locations. I don't think that it is specifically just Scotland. I have had conversations about Japan and I have had conversations about many countries of origin.

Again, I don't have specifics on Scotland in front of me. As I just mentioned, Scotland is included in our United Kingdom strategy.

Ms. Van Bibber: I hope we do see some tangible outcomes from that trip.

I would once again like to thank the staff for being here, and I will turn the floor over to the Third Party.

Ms. Blake: I would like to start by welcoming the officials and thank them for being here today.

I am going to start by asking about the arts operating fund. Earlier today, the Member for Takhini-Kopper King tabled a letter from Larrikin Entertainment, which is a local theatre company, highlighting the need for an increase to the arts operating fund to allow for new applicants to access funding. Has the minister considered the request, and will the minister be working toward allocating more money to this fund next year?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I appreciate the question from the member opposite. I did get a question about it earlier, so I will just encourage the member — I will give an answer here, too — to also check back to see what else I said there in case I miss something right now.

We did get the letter from Larrikin Entertainment. By the way, a big shout-out for the show that they just recently put on: *Jenny Hamilton - Teenage Cult Leader*. It was a great show. I was there with several other members of this Assembly for the opening of that show. I did the math and something like 30 percent of this Assembly was there for the opening, which is kind of amazing.

We will work to give a response to Larrikin Entertainment.

I want to be a little bit careful here because we do have a group — the Yukon Arts Advisory Council — that we have

asked to make these recommendations about where the funds should go, and I really don't want to weigh in on their professional role that they have.

They are selected to consider a range of applications — new, repeat, all those things. I think that the fund should be able to consider new proponents. That should not be a barrier. It should be based on the merits of the proposals themselves. Of course, it is limited by the amount of dollars that we have. At the all-staff that I was at today, I said to the Tourism and Culture staff: Of course, we would love to have more dollars all the time.

If we went down through the list of all of the funds that we give, I bet you I could find worthy recipients out there on many of them. It is difficult to say, so you have to work to try to balance a budget. There are certain funds that we look at each time. I think the one we have been working on a lot lately is the museums and culture centres funding. We have been doing this deep review around that, and I will turn back at some point into the budgeting process to consider these things.

You know, I guess on the side of it, where there is a request for more money, I just want to note that we often hear additional requests, and we do our best to try to see where we think a place is that hasn't had an increase for a longer time and where there is more pressure. We are always trying to weigh that pressure as well.

I appreciate the letter that we got. I always ask the department to look at it and let me know what they think, so we are just in that process right now.

Ms. Blake: I thank the minister for his response to that question.

The *Yukon Tourism Development Strategy* highlights that maintaining current assets like roads while expanding and improving infrastructure like pullouts, viewpoints, and waste management are key to supporting the tourism industry. We have heard from communities and operators alike about the effects of transfer station closures and rest stop closures — or lack thereof — on travellers.

Has the minister made the case to his colleagues about the importance of local transfer stations and roadside rest stops for supporting tourists and Yukoners alike?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: What we hear most about are outhouses, honestly, if you want to know — the comments that we get. The deputy minister and I were sort of whimsically looking forward to the day or a weekend when we don't get an e-mail or a call about some problem with an outhouse. The issues — so, we don't hear very much about transfer stations, but, you know, I think we always try to put feedback across the system. We definitely hear about rest facilities and most importantly about outhouses. What we hear, though, is not that we need more of them; what we hear is that we need to make sure that they're clean. If they are not clean, it is awful, and we will hear about it right away.

This is going to sound a little strange, but I recently signed funding — I think it was late last year — for a musician to tour what he was calling the "outhouse tour". He was going from outhouse to outhouse to do performances, and I thought: How Yukon. I wrote a special note to him on that letter where he was

getting — like, because the advisory group who selected him for a touring artist — you made that choice, and I just — I knew who it was, and I gave them a note and said: This is amazing that you're doing this.

When there is an outhouse that is well-kept — it's clean and it's not stinky — then, you know, as Yukoners, that's kind of a thing that we all know and we all appreciate. When it's not — man, it's not good. That is what we hear about most; that is what we are trying to fix the most. Of course, we need them to be spaced out well, and like, you know, if there is a huge road and there is nothing there, then there is going to be a problem.

I also hear from Yukoners who live along roads where people have decided to avail themselves out in the public and left things that need to be cleaned up. It's just a reminder to Yukoners as we get into the warmer weather and you start to head to our communities, could you please be respectful of our communities and not do things that you wouldn't want done in your own backyard?

Ms. Blake: Thanks to the minister for his response to that question. While we're on the subject of outhouses, I am wondering if there has been an outhouse built or created between the communities of Carmacks and Faro. That was one of the concerns that came up from the mayor and council during a couple of community visits. If there hasn't been an outhouse placed between Carmacks and Faro, are there any plans to build one between those two locations?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I will have to check with my colleague the Minister of Highways and Public Works to find out. I was just sort of trying to ask across the way to the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin. I'm not aware and would have to check the status on that.

Ms. Blake: Going back to the tourism development strategy, another important part of the strategy is sport tourism. I am wondering what work has been done by the department — or supports provided to industry — to encourage more sport tourism in the territory.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: We recently increased funding to go to Sport Yukon to identify a position within that organization that would have some focus on sport tourism. They have a great person there — Amanda Deuling, who was here just the other day for one of the tributes. It's early days, but she is doing very strong work.

There is a lot of potential with sport tourism. One of the roles that I think Amanda will have is trying to coordinate all of our various sporting communities' sporting events, trying to line them up. We think that there is especially a lot of opportunity around the shoulder seasons — again, winter. We had some really great conversations with Snowboard Canada when Mount Sima and Snowboard Yukon hosted the world cup for the para-snowboard event here just last month I think. It was an opportunity, and Snowboard Canada sat down with us and talked about this strong potential that we have here in the Yukon because of the fact that we are going to have snow earlier and later than a lot of places down south — and could we do more? We came up with a bunch of next steps in order to promote that. Some of that work will totally be coordinated. That is an example of where our investment that is trying to

support Sport Yukon's work around sport tourism will start to provide some real inroads. Of course, it is not limited to that one event or that one possibility. I think there are many others, but that is a nice example that just happened recently.

Ms. Blake: One of the major short-term commitments of the tourism development strategy is to establish the Yukon as a premier destination for Indigenous tourism experiences. What work has the minister and his department done to support this goal?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Deputy Chair, almost every time I am at national or even international tourism meetings, Indigenous tourism products are really seen as a strong opportunity for the Yukon because people recognize the strength of the culture here and the opportunity we have to help develop it.

We have a memorandum of understanding with the Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association to collaborate in the development of Indigenous tourism. The Spark microgrant was an example of one of the things we did bring on board. One of the big ones is that Destination Canada selected the Yukon as one of only three programs I think nationally to look at a tourism corridor strategy program around Indigenous-led projects. That was a pretty big deal.

There was, I think, some funding announced last summer around that when the federal government announced some funding for that.

The last one that I think is worth noting — and we have had some conversation here today about it — is the new convention centre, which is in the design phase right now. The lead on it is Chu Níikwän, so that is going to be an Indigenous-led convention centre. It's the largest that I know of — a 1,000-person convention centre — and it will be the first of that size in Canada and only the second I know of in North America. It's a really big deal. It will attract a lot of people for that specific reason.

Ms. Blake: I am excited about the convention centre, and I look forward to the day when we can jig it up in there.

In regard to Rampart House, there is \$75,000 in the budget. What work will be completed with this money, and does the money go directly to the Vuntut Gwitchin Government or to a contractor?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I think the member said it very well the other day: Every day is Gwitchin Day — so jiggling it up in the new convention centre will be a great thing.

The dollars both for Rampart House and Lapierre House is a funding agreement that is going to the First Nation government I believe, and I think that there are dollars — some are for some capital improvements and some are for O&M dollars. I'm just working to try to get those numbers so that I can share them with the House.

Ms. Blake: I thank the minister for his response to my previous question. In regard to historic sites in the Yukon, are there sites that are at significant risk of flood or other natural disasters? What work is the government doing to prevent any negative impacts to these historic sites?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I just looked up the numbers for the dollars that are going to both Rampart House and Lapierre

House, and my understanding is that there is \$75,000 under capital, and I think that is going to be repeated over the next years — so three times \$75,000 a year. Then there is \$120,000 a year — sorry — going into O&M. Okay.

Then with respect to emergencies — look, we're going to get more emergencies, right? These kinds of disasters — like, we have a huge geography with a small population spread out across it, and climate change is happening, and we're going to get more of these.

I have a couple of examples that we worked on this last year. We can talk about Herschel Island and the whaling station and what is happening there, but Forty Mile is just this huge tragedy. Our sense is that we are going to get more of these. We are trying to be proactive where we can. We certainly are working with communities all the time.

Let me give you two examples. With Herschel Island, we can see that there is some sea level rise, but the bigger issue is that it's not freezing up as much. When it doesn't freeze up as much, you get more storm fetch, and when you get more storm fetch, you just get more water. So, the water table is rising along the peninsula or the spit where the historic site is. The whaling station was at risk. It was getting mouldy and it was too low. Last year, a crew went up and spent a couple of weeks I think. They used air bags and jacked up the site, and then they built up underneath it so they could try to reduce that risk. Will we have to keep doing those things? Probably. Will we win on all of them? Probably not. It's difficult.

Forty Mile is an example where you have a bad breakup year right where the Fortymile River comes into the Yukon River. It caused ice-jam flooding. Those blocks of ice — some of them are the size of houses — just backed up quickly and they moved buildings or removed buildings. Half of them were gone; all of them were moved. In that instance, the way I would describe it is that we are trying to work with the community — with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in — and say to them: What do you think? What should we do over time?

We're just in that dialogue. That was right on the heels — well, I guess it happened and then we got the announcement of the Tr'ondëk-Klondike UNESCO World Heritage Site, the first cultural UNESCO world heritage site in the Canadian north. It's a pretty amazing thing, and the first thing that happened was that the site was severely damaged. What will we do? That has to be a dialogue with the community.

Of course, we try to think about sustainability. You can't prevent some of those things. The member opposite will know these challenges about flooding in a community and how you try to deal with it. They are not easy problems to solve. Yes, the department does look at them and think about them. We work as closely as we can with communities. We work as closely as we can with our Emergency Measures Organization and, for that matter, Water Resources branch, but some of them might be from fire in the future — the disasters that we have to navigate. What I can say is that the crew at our Heritage Resources branch is incredibly dedicated to trying to preserve this history over time.

Ms. Blake: In regard to Forty Mile, there is \$95,000 in the transfer payment agreement for the Forty Mile historic site.

The minister mentioned that they are in conversation with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Is the minister considering increasing this amount, considering the damage that was done?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I think that the first step for us is to land on a strategy or a plan with the nation, and then we will see about what funding looks like, what we have, and what the request is for. It is too early for me to say, but we are certainly anticipating to think that through with the nation directly.

Ms. Blake: In regard to heritage trails, there is a transfer payment agreement for \$20,000 per year. What types of organizations are receiving that, and what trails have been funded for work in recent years?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: That is one of those ones where I am just going to ask the department to try to get me some more information and then, if there are other questions, we can keep going. As soon as I get an answer, I will pop up and provide it for the House.

Ms. Blake: I only have two questions left.

In regard to transfer payments ending, there was \$80,000 in transfer payment agreements under Cultural Services and \$85,000 under Tourism last year that were not renewed this year. Can the minister share what those are?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: First of all, with respect to the trails, it's a call for proposals. Applications come in for small dollars to work on trail improvements. It changes from year to year I guess is the way that it goes. The difference in the capital dollars — it's a net effect. So, it isn't one project that came to an end. There would be quite a few projects that come to an end and quite a few projects that come on board. What we're just talking about is the net difference on it I think.

If what we're talking about is capital projects — so, something changed with the Yukon Archives server. That one finished and so that one comes off, and that was like a \$50,000 thing. But then there are dollars going to replace the lift — not the elevator but the Arts Centre lift where they move pianos around from above and below and things like that. They had a problem with it; I remember talking with the Arts Centre folks right away. There are dollars that are going toward that. So, there are some projects on, some projects out. It's not one specific project where that \$80,000 is done.

We did a bunch of digital kiosks last year, but those are in place now. There is a half dozen of them I think — I would have to look up the number — but we put them around. It's just a way for visitors to get information if they are not right at the visitor information centre, and so there are other ways to connect with tourists. Those are in place now, so we will see how they work over time. There are just projects that naturally come to an end.

Ms. Blake: My last question is in regard to the Arts branch. I believe that I asked this question in the budget briefing. There is \$550,000 in capital for building renovations and space. I'm wondering what work is being done with this, and I'm kind of guessing that it was for renovations at the Yukon Arts Centre or the Yukon Archives centre.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: It gets called, as a category, "building maintenance", but it really is this Yukon Arts Centre lift. I remember at my first meeting with the Yukon Arts Centre

board and staff, they told me about this really specific problem with the lift and they were having to work around it all the time, so these are just dollars a year or so in to repair that lift.

While I am on my feet, in case we don't have other questions coming today, I would just like to thank officials.

There will be another question.

Mr. Hassard: I would like to thank the officials for being here as well.

I had a question regarding the vehicles that were transferred from the Johnsons Crossing site to the Teslin landfill. Of course, that was unintended — or a mistake I guess we could call it. I am just curious if the minister could provide some update — the status.

The vehicles currently are still in the Teslin landfill, but are there any plans to return those vehicles to the site at Johnsons Crossing? Where are we at with that little mishap?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: The department is letting me know that they have been in a few meetings with the community recently, including a public engagement and some direct engagement with the Teslin Tlingit Council. They are looking to develop a plan to return the trucks and provide interpretation about the history of the Canol and its legacy. I don't have timelines or outcomes; I just know that they had a recent meeting and that they are working toward getting them back in place.

I would like to thank the officials for coming in today and helping us out here.

Deputy Chair: Is there any further general debate on Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture?

Seeing none, we will proceed to line-by-line.

Mr. Hassard: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, cleared or carried, as required.

Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, cleared or carried

Deputy Chair: The Member for Pelly-Nisutlin has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, cleared or carried, as required.

Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Deputy Chair: Unanimous consent has been granted.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$31,988,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$2,219,000 agreed to

Total Expenditures in the amount of \$34,207,000 agreed to

Department of Tourism and Culture agreed to

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Deputy Chair, I move that you report progress.

Deputy Chair: It has been moved by the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes that the Chair report progress.

Motion agreed to

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

Deputy Chair: It has been moved by the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes 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 Deputy Chair of Committee of the Whole?

Chair's report

MLA Tredger: Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 38, entitled *Health Authority Act*, and directed me to report the bill with amendment.

Committee of the Whole has also considered Bill No. 213, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2024-25*, and directed me to report progress.

Speaker: You have heard the report from the Deputy Chair of Committee of the Whole.

Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

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

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

Motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

The following documents were filed April 24, 2024:

35-1-248

Yukon Insured Health Services policy on gender-affirming surgery, letter re (dated April 22, 2024) from Sabin to Hon. Tracy-Anne McPhee, Minister of Health and Social Services (White)

35-1-249

Arts Operating Fund, letter re, from Katherine McCallum to Hon. Ranj Pillai, Premier, Hon. John Streicker, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Kate White, Leader of the Third Party, and Currie Dixon, Leader of the Official Opposition (White)