



# Yukon Legislative Assembly

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Number 43

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35<sup>th</sup> Legislature

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## HANSARD

Thursday, March 3, 2022 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Jeremy Harper

# YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## 2022 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 — Emily Tredger, MLA, Whitehorse Centre**

### CABINET MINISTERS

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

### OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

#### Yukon Party

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

### THIRD PARTY

#### New Democratic Party

<b>Kate White</b>	Leader of the Third Party Takhini-Kopper King
<b>Emily Tredger</b>	Third Party House Leader Whitehorse Centre
<b>Annie Blake</b>	Vuntut Gwitchin

### LEGISLATIVE STAFF

Clerk of the Assembly	Dan Cable
Deputy Clerk	Linda Kolody
Clerk of Committees	Allison Lloyd
Sergeant-at-Arms	Karina Watson
Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms	Joseph Mewett
Hansard Administrator	Deana Lemke

**Yukon Legislative Assembly**  
**Whitehorse, Yukon**  
**Thursday, March 3, 2022 — 1:00 p.m.**

**Speaker:** I will now call the House to order.

I would like to begin the 2022 Spring Sitting of the Legislative Assembly by respectfully acknowledging all Yukon First Nations and that we are meeting on the traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

We will proceed at this time with prayers.

*Prayers*

**Withdrawal of motions**

**Speaker:** The Chair wishes to inform the House of changes made to the Order Paper. The following motions have been removed from the Order Paper as they are now outdated: Motions No. 136, 173, 226, and 227, standing in the name of the Leader of the Third Party; Motion No. 142, standing in the name of the Member for Watson Lake; Motions No. 179 and 262, standing in the name of the Member for Copperbelt South; and Motion No. 264, standing in the name of the Member for Porter Creek Centre.

The following motions have been removed from the Order Paper as the actions requested in the motions have been taken in whole or in part: Motion No. 141, standing in the name of the Member for Porter Creek Centre; Motion No. 133, standing in the name of the Member for Lake Laberge; Motion No. 151, standing in the name of the Leader of the Third Party; Motion No. 156, standing in the name of the Leader of the Official Opposition; and Motion No. 230, standing in the name of the Member for Copperbelt South.

Finally, Motion No. 277, notice of which was given on December 2, 2021 by the Member for Lake Laberge, was not placed on today's Notice Paper as the action requested in the motion has been taken in whole or in part.

**INTRODUCTION OF PAGES**

**Speaker:** It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Legislative pages who will be serving the House during the 2022 Spring Sitting. They are: Noah Kinney and Melody Qiu from Vanier Catholic Secondary School; Aislynn Thompson-Elias and Adanchilla Nolan from Porter Creek Secondary School; Ariel Ibrahim, Audrey Provan, and Hassan Amir from F.H. Collins Secondary School; and Gabriel Mamer-Roode from CSSC Mercier.

Today we have with us Audrey Provan and Gabriel Mamer-Roode. I would ask all members to welcome them to the House at this time.

*Applause*

**DAILY ROUTINE**

**Speaker:** We will proceed at this time with the Order Paper.

Introduction of visitors.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to ask my colleagues of the Legislative Assembly to help welcome some folks who are in the gallery today.

We have Carly Carruthers joining us. We also have Mike Pemberton and Arthur Mitchell, former Leader of the Liberal Party. We also have Linda Casson, Staci McIntosh, Terry Sherman, and I believe Ted Adel is with us as well today. Thank you.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** Mr. Speaker, could we please welcome, from the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Deputy Minister John Bailey, Bobbie Milnes, director of the Agriculture branch, and Brad Barton and Randy Lamb.

Also, we have recipients for this year's Yukon Agriculture Award, Lorne and Jean Metropolit. I just learned — and I think that it's worth mentioning — that Lorne is the past president of the Yukon Ukrainian association — if we could please welcome them here today.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take a moment to welcome Clarence Timmons to the House. He is a mentor — he is my old boss — so, please take a moment to welcome him to the House.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I would also like to introduce some individuals who are with us today for our tribute to the Available Light Film Festival's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Joining us today — Mr. Andrew Connors, Guin Lalena, and Jessica Hall, and I think we were also hoping to see Mr. Evan Stepanian. Welcome.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Are there any further introductions of visitors? Tributes.

**TRIBUTES**

**In recognition of Available Light Film Festival**

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I rise today on behalf of the Yukon Liberal government to pay tribute to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Available Light Film Festival. Co-founded in 2003 by festival director Andrew Connors and the Yukon Film Society Board, Available Light has become a treasured mid-winter celebration of art and culture — an increasingly prestigious showcase of the voices and stories of local, northern, international, and indigenous artists.

Over these 20 years, we have seen the festival flourish and expand its content, reputation, and audience. With its unique blend of dedication to the north and its cinematic storytellers and new, innovative, and international filmmakers, it has become one of the circumpolar world's outstanding film festivals.

The festival showcases feature-length and short films, industry workshops, artist talks, and social events, and in the COVID era, the organizers have adapted to offer on-demand screenings and virtual events enjoyed from the comfort of one's home. The Available Light Film Festival presents a diverse selection of compelling and challenging content from Canada and beyond, with an emphasis on captivating stories of the First Nation and indigenous north. This festival has become synonymous with thought-provoking work exploring a wide range of genres and topics that encourage us to examine history, society, and ourselves.

Each year, festival organizers curate a diverse lineup of films that are personal, profound, impactful, and artistic. Available Light also nurtures the creative development of Yukon artists, building valuable film partnerships across the north and beyond.

Through the industry conference and workshops, Yukon filmmakers and industry delegates learned from the content with distributors, financiers, broadcasters, and potential production partners to promote the Yukon film industry as a whole.

I ask the members of this House to join me in extending sincere congratulations and gratitude to the founders, organizers, technicians, volunteers, and, of course, the countless filmmakers and presenters who have shared their voices, perspectives, and knowledge over the past 20 years.

This festival is made possible by these dedicated creators, organizers, and volunteers. Thank you for your talents, passion, and time. As the continued success and the steam of the Available Light shows, there is a lot to look forward to as the film and media industry in the Yukon grows and evolves.

The power of sharing culture and storytelling connects us. It strengthens us; it strengthens our communities locally, internationally, and globally as we move together into the future. Sharing our unique Yukon stories with the world helps to build awareness of our developing industry and our beautiful territory.

We look forward to what the future of the Available Light Film Festival has in store. Again, Mr. Speaker, and to everybody, thank you.

*Applause*

**Ms. Van Bibber:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to pay tribute to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Available Light Film Festival. The *Worst Person In The World*, *Skymaster Down*, and *Licorice Pizza* — such titles to pique one's interest. The Cariboo, Prince Edward Island, and Dawson City, all shooting locations that people would recognize or identify as Canadian — a diverse selection that will satisfy any film buff.

Held this year from February 11 to 28, the festival is geared to showcase northern films as well as Canadian and international titles. It truly is a window to the world. Between two venues — the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre and the Yukon Film Society's newly acquired space, the Yukon Theatre — people could view in person or go online for over 100 presentations.

Around the world, film festivals are held, but with the main focus on the north, the Available Light Film Festival continues to provide a world-class event. By encouraging film production and general interest and what is available to amateur and professional filmmakers, the festival continues to expand and explore new talent and new exposure for ideas and dreams.

The end receivers of any event, the audience, sometimes never think of how much goes on before, during, and after to make such a festival happen, and very few events are done single-handedly. We would like to give a huge thank you to all of the board, the organizers, the sponsors, the volunteers, and all who eventually make it a success by participating; well done and continued success in future years.

*Applause*

**Ms. Tredger:** It is with great delight that I rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP to pay tribute to the Available Light Film Festival. My colleagues have already spoken about the history of this festival and its incredible achievements, so I would like to tell you about a few of the festival's personal highlights for me.

I have always enjoyed ALFF as an audience member, but it was a few years ago that I got to see the work that they do to support filmmakers. At the time, I had started experimenting with animation, but certainly didn't have the confidence to call myself a filmmaker. That changed because of how incredibly welcoming and supportive everyone at ALFF was. I remember when I was first invited to an industry event, and I was half convinced that I wouldn't be allowed in, but everyone there was so kind and welcomed me with open arms. People from all sides offered help and advice, feedback, and offers of collaboration and encouragement. They told me that I could do it and helped me problem-solve when I got stuck. The support of ALFF is the reason that I made my film, and I'm confident that I'm not the only person out there who can say that.

ALFF works so hard to support Yukoners, especially those from marginalized communities, to overcome the barriers to making their visions into reality. Thanks to that work, we all benefit from seeing these stories on the big screen. ALFF rose to the occasion again this year with an extraordinary array of films. I would like to tell you a little bit about my personal favourite from this festival because I think that it's especially relevant to us here in the Legislature.

It was a short called *Svonni vs the Swedish Tax Agency*. It told the story of a Sámi woman in Sweden fighting to have her purchase of a dog for herding reindeer recognized as a business expense. She was told by the tax agency that it was just a pet and that dogs were obsolete for herding reindeer, so she appealed the decision over and over again until she won. It was a funny but also insightful story of how bureaucracy and systems created with only one world view in mind can marginalize entire ways of life.

Film can do so many things. It can help us examine the systems that we live in and empower us to change them; it can delight us; it can terrify us; it can take us out of the world that we're in or help us to see the world we're in more clearly. Every year, ALFF brings us films that do all of those things and make

the Yukon a richer, more enjoyable place to be. Thank you to the organizers, volunteers, staff, filmmakers, storytellers, and to everyone who makes it happen, thank you.

*Applause*

### In recognition of Yukon Agriculture Award

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** I rise today to pay tribute to Lorne Metropolit, owner and operator of Yukon Gardens, as the recipient of this year's Yukon Agriculture Award.

Lorne is being celebrated for his decades of work developing agriculture and building food security in the Yukon. We announced the award last week as part of the 2022 celebration for Canada's Agriculture Day. In 1985, Lorne started Yukon Gardens as a show garden to demonstrate what can be grown in the north's colder climate. Over the span of 40 years, the family business diversified from supplying Yukon residents with bedding plants to growing greenhouse produce. Yukon Gardens' produce of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and lettuce can all be found on the shelves of most of Whitehorse's grocery stores. The produce is available from early spring until late fall each year, greatly extending the season for Yukoners to be able to access locally grown produce.

Over time, Yukon Gardens has become the Yukon's largest family-run greenhouse and garden centre. It is also one of the largest employers in the Yukon's agriculture industry. In the late 1980s, Lorne was promoting what can be grown in our northern climate on CBC's *Canadian Gardener*, a national television show. In 2019, he was featured on the cover of *Greenhouse Canada* for his hydroponic vegetable greenhouse heated with biomass. Lorne has also delivered many gardening programs at our correctional facility and in communities and schools across the territory. His resilience, innovation, and hard work has ensured that Yukon Gardens' greenhouses continue to put healthy, nutritious food on the tables of Yukoners and is an example of the territory's ability for self-sufficient food production.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to Lorne and his family being recognized, we also received nominations for other exemplary members of our agriculture community, including Trevor Amiot, Sunnyside Farm; Megan Waterman, Jean Van Bibber, Gail Riederer, Al Stannard, Bluebird Farm, Jolene Billwiller, and the late and wonderful Agnes Seitz, who, I have been told, came a very close second for this year's award.

Mr. Speaker, despite all of the hardships and uncertainties that our agriculture community has faced during this pandemic, we have watched our agriculture community rise to the challenge of skyrocketing demands to increase the Yukon's food self-sufficiency. Lorne, his family, and staff are doing their part in building the Yukon's agriculture industry.

Again, congratulations to Lorne Metropolit and his family on winning the 2022 Yukon Agriculture Award, and I wish Lorne, Jean, their family, and all those involved in Yukon agriculture the best for the upcoming season.

**Mr. Cathers:** I'm pleased to rise today on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to congratulate Lorne Metropolit and his family and Yukon Gardens for

winning the 2022 Yukon Agriculture Award. Yukon Gardens has been part of Yukon's agricultural community for over 40 years. It is the largest family-run greenhouse and garden centre in the Yukon, and beyond plants and produce, you can purchase soil, decorative trees, shrubs for landscaping, and novelty gardening items. Their customers range from gardeners of the backyard-hobby variety to master gardeners, contractors, and more.

Their greenhouse operation has expanded over the years to provide fresh, locally grown lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes, and other vegetables to grocery stores, the Fireweed Community Market, and the food bank. In addition to the experienced and knowledgeable staff at Yukon Gardens, you can also find imported bees and ladybugs hard at work throughout the greenhouse, doing their job of pollination.

Food security and buying local has always been important, but there's growing recognition of the importance of this to the Yukon and across the country. Lorne's northern-specific agricultural knowledge helps to ensure that local produce is readily available and to expand the season during which it is available to Yukoners.

I encourage Yukoners to drop by Yukon Gardens this spring ahead of planting season and show your support by purchasing their produce once it hits the grocery store shelves. Thank you to Yukon Gardens for all you do to support Yukoners and to expand the range of produce available here.

I would also like to recognize the second runner-up, Agnes Seitz, for her work in the Annie Lake Road food forest, which I understand holds a wide array of trees, plants, vegetables, wild foods, and herbs, and I would also like to recognize the other nominees for this award, including Jean Van Bibber, Gail Riederer, Al Stannard, Trevor Amiot, Jolene Billwiller, Sunnyside Farm, Laststraw Ranch, and Bluebird Farm for their contributions to the Yukon's agricultural industry.

Again, congratulations to Lorne and the entire Metropolit family on this award, and all the best for the upcoming season.

**Ms. White:** I'm pleased to rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP to congratulate the winner of the 2022 Agriculture Award, Lorne Metropolit. He and his team at Yukon Gardens have proven that, with innovation and a lot of gumption, you can overcome the dark and the cold of a Yukon winter and still run a successful greenhouse that feeds the community around you.

I remember the first summer that Yukon Gardens became a regular at the Fireweed Market. Setting up hear his daughter, Kelsey, was always fun, because I got to hear her share with enthusiasm what she and her family were up to.

The hard work, education, and big dreams of this team have produced herbs, cucumbers, peppers, and — most exciting — heaps of tomatoes for Yukon tables. The efforts and actions of this family-run business are addressing the very real issues of climate change and food security in the north. So, congratulations to Lorne and his team. We all wait with bated breath to see what comes next for our tables.

*Applause*

## TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Speaker:** Under Tabling Returns and Documents, the Chair has for tabling a report from the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly on the absence of members from sittings of the Legislative Assembly and its committees, dated March 3, 2022. This report is tabled pursuant to the direction of the Members' Services Board.

Are there any further returns or documents for tabling?

**Hon. Ms. McLean:** I have for tabling a copy of the independent review regarding Yukon government's response to the allegation of sexual abuse committed at Hidden Valley Elementary School, completed by Amanda Rogers on January 31, 2022. Additionally, I have for tabling the action plan for the Hidden Valley Elementary School report, completed by the Hidden Valley Elementary School deputy minister committee on February 18, 2022.

Further, I have five legislative returns, mainly arising out of Committee of the Whole Vote 3 for Education during the last Sitting.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I have for tabling a letter from me, as well as the premiers of Northwest Territories and Nunavut, to the Chair of the Council of the Federation, Premier John Horgan of British Columbia. In this letter, we have outlined the severe concerns that we, the northern premiers, have following Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I have for tabling a legislative return responding to a question from the Member for Porter Creek Centre.

**Ms. Tredger:** I have for tabling the report entitled *Making Work Safe: A Summary on the Engagement of Paid Sick Leave*.

**Hon. Mr. Clarke:** I have a legislative return for tabling pursuant to a question raised by the Member for Copperbelt South.

**Ms. Blake:** I have for tabling the taxi safety report.

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

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

**Hon. Mr. Clarke:** I have for tabling the third report of the Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Boards and Committees, dated December 15, 2021.

**Speaker:** Are there any other reports of committees to be presented?

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### Bill No. 203: *Third Appropriation Act 2021-22* — Introduction and First Reading

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I move that Bill No. 203, entitled *Third Appropriation Act 2021-22*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 203, entitled *Third Appropriation Act 2021-22*, be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 203 agreed to*

### Bill No. 204: *First Appropriation Act 2022-23* — Introduction and First Reading

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I move that Bill No. 204, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2022-23*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 204, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2022-23*, be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 204 agreed to*

### Bill No. 205: *Interim Supply Appropriation Act 2022-23* — Introduction and First Reading

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I move that Bill No. 205, entitled *Interim Supply Appropriation Act 2022-23*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 205, entitled *Interim Supply Appropriation Act 2022-23*, be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 205 agreed to*

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

## NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT Standing Order 76 of the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly be amended for the 2022 Spring Sitting by deleting all instances of the words "Government Bill" and substituting in their place the words "appropriation bill"; and

THAT, following the 2022 Spring Sitting, the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges convene to review this provision prior to the 2022 Fall Sitting.

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

THAT this House supports efforts by the Government of Canada and the international community to respond to the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia by:

(1) imposing strong sanctions on Russia, including banning the import of oil and other products;

(2) helping the people of Ukraine defend their freedom, including by providing equipment and other resources; and

(3) welcoming refugees from Ukraine.

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

THAT this House urges the Minister of Education to provide updated COVID-19 operational plans for schools, including clarity about whether indoor mask use will continue to be mandatory, prior to the start of the 2022 spring break.

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

THAT this House urges the Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation to support Yukoners trying to afford homes by reintroducing programs cancelled by the previous minister, such as the first-time homebuyer program.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Canada to recognize the importance of making protection of our Arctic sovereignty a top priority by taking immediate action to modernize and strengthen our air force, navy, army, reserves, and Coast Guard.

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to work with residents of southeast Yukon to design, build, and operate a continuing care facility in Watson Lake.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon, in recognition of the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, to celebrate with Yukoners by:

(1) creating a one-time Queen's commemorative medal to present to deserving Yukoners and front-line workers in recognition of significant contributions they have made to their community or to the Yukon; and

(2) providing funding to interested communities for the purpose of holding a community tea or celebration on June 2, 2022, in honour of Her Majesty's 70-year reign.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to work with Teslin School to install a PA system in the school.

**Mr. Istchenko:** Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Highways and Public Works to take action to improve the north Alaska Highway by:

(1) meeting with the Alaska government to jointly develop a plan for funding reconstruction of the Alaska Highway from Beaver Creek to Haines Junction and Haines, Alaska to Haines Junction, known as the Shakwak portion; and

(2) using the 2022-23 capital budget to make additional investments.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to work in collaboration with the Yukon Fish and Game Association and the Yukon Agricultural Association to explore adaptive management options in the *Management Plan for Elk in Yukon* to address the elk-agriculture conflict, with the goals of improving protection of farms and providing increased elk hunting opportunities.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to commit to protecting 25 percent of Yukon's landmass by the end of 2025.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to accept and implement the recommendations of the Making Work Safe Panel on paid sick leave for Yukoners.

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

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Russian invasion of Ukraine

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Yukoners, Canadians, and people around the world are deeply disturbed to witness the tragic events that are unfolding in Ukraine. We stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine. Russia's horrific and unprovoked attacks on Ukraine and President Putin's blatant disregard for international law and human rights have been condemned by international leaders around the world. The message is clear: Russia's unjust actions will have consequences.

It is important that we work together, as members of the international community, to bring an end to these attacks and to support the people of Ukraine.

This week, our government announced that we will be donating \$50,000 to the Canadian Red Cross to support humanitarian efforts in Ukraine and to help ensure that Ukrainians can get food, clothing, shelter, and other assistance. Russia's aggression in Ukraine demonstrates its ambition to secure power at the expense of others and is a threat to global security, including the Arctic. I also met this week with my fellow northern premiers to discuss our shared concerns about Russia's aggression and its implications for the Arctic Council. We have written a joint letter to the Prime Minister urging the Government of Canada to bolster security in the Arctic and to confirm a meeting with northern premiers to discuss Arctic sovereignty and security.

We stand by the strong sanctions that Canada has imposed on Russia and support further measures that are being taken with international partners. We have also written to our fellow premiers at the Council of the Federation for their support in these increasingly important conversations.

Yukon's minister responsible for immigration has been working closely with his fellow immigration ministers, including the federal immigration minister, Sean Fraser, to find ways to support refugees to enter Canada and to find employment opportunities here in the territory. I also want to acknowledge the efforts of Northwestel, which has announced that they will be waiving all long-distance call charges and messages to Ukraine until March 23.

Every action that we can take to support Ukrainians during this challenging time is contributing to a larger global effort. It warmed my heart to see Yukon's Ukrainian community, and Yukoners across the territory, joining the demonstration in Whitehorse this past weekend, including representatives of all three parties of the Legislative Assembly.

The minister responsible for immigration met with Yukon's Ukrainian community last night to listen and to learn about how we can best support them. He provided clear and accurate information about how the Yukon and Canadian governments are working together to support the people of Ukraine.

The Ukrainian flag is flying alongside the Yukon and Canadian flags outside the Assembly. It symbolizes that we stand united in support of the people of Ukraine in these challenging times. The Yukon government will continue to monitor the situation in Ukraine and work to support Ukrainians.

We continue to work with our federal, provincial, and territorial partners to advocate for Ukraine's sovereignty.

I want to thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for the time to speak today.

**Mr. Dixon:** First of all, I would like to make absolutely clear, on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition, our unequivocal condemnation of the abhorrent atrocities taking place in the sovereign nation of Ukraine by Russia. The images emerging on social media and on television are truly heartbreaking and unfathomable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I cannot help but think of the many Yukoners and Canadians with family in or connections to the nation of Ukraine. It is truly disturbing that an otherwise peaceful and stable democracy is being invaded in an attempt at an illegal and immoral annexation.

I share the concern for Ukraine and the anger that Ukrainians' rights and the right to choose their future and their right to live free from war are being stripped away by Putin's illegal invasion.

World War II taught us a lot of things that in recent years seem to have been forgotten. The lesson that we must learn as a global community is that dictators ultimately must be dealt with like bullies. That begins by standing up to them together — united. That is why I would like to thank the Premier for his words today and the actions taken to date by the Yukon government. I am indeed pleased to learn that he has met with northern premiers and that they have jointly agreed to press the federal government to increase of level of attention paid to Arctic sovereignty in light of the aggression of Putin's Russia in the north. Increasing efforts and measures related to Arctic

sovereignty is something that the Yukon Party certainly supports and has pushed for, for years.

We are also supportive of the variety of actions that are taking place here in Yukon and across Canada. We also applaud Northwestel for their long-distance calling exemption for Yukoners to connect with family and friends in Ukraine. We encourage Yukoners to donate to the Red Cross in support of humanitarian efforts and appreciate the donation from the Yukon government.

I am pleased to see sanctions being introduced that demonstrate that an illegal war cannot be conducted without consequences — consequences such as banning the import of Russian petroleum products, closing Canadian airspace to Russian commercial traffic, and imposing economic sanctions against high-ranking Russian officials.

Further, as I stated last week, it is my view that the Russian ambassador ought to be expelled from the country.

I would also like to thank the Minister of Economic Development for his swift actions on this issue. Some will be aware that my colleague, the Member for Porter Creek North, wrote to the minister urging him to work with the federal government to streamline the process to allow refugees from Ukraine to come to the Yukon and to ensure that the Yukon was ready to welcome them. We are very pleased to hear that he is working with other immigration ministers to make that happen, and we hope that his department is engaging with organizations and businesses to ensure that they are prepared to receive these refugees. This work could help displaced Ukrainians build a new life in Canada — in the Yukon, if they so choose.

While I know that many of us do not want to see a further escalation of the fighting, we must be ready to help those who want to be free to make their own choices when it comes to merely existing as a sovereign nation. I know that many Yukoners have been concerned about what has been happening, as witnessed by Sunday's rally in downtown Whitehorse, which I was honoured to attend with other members of the Legislature. We certainly share those concerns. We may not know what is next, but all I can say in closing is that we hope for a peaceful resolution, peace for the people of Ukraine, and for a sovereign Ukraine now and for many years to come.

**Ms. White:** Over a week ago, Russia launched a comprehensive invasion of Ukraine, marking a major escalation of the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war. What we have seen since has been hard to understand. On Friday, I was sitting on my couch scrolling through Twitter and I was overcome with emotion reading people's stories of what is happening on the ground. What lessons haven't we learned at the cost of others already? — and tears, because honestly it all feels very hopeless. But there is hope in all of that darkness. Stories are making their way of regular people doing incredible things to look out for each other. We have seen beautiful examples of resistance in Russia as well, as Russian citizens stand in solidarity with their Ukrainian neighbours.

I was contacted later on Friday night with a message from a neighbour that read — and I quote: "The Ukrainian community here is in pain. We are watching from a distance as



our homes are destroyed, as our friends and families are put in harm's way. As with every armed conflict, it is the common people who are hurt the most.

"I am asking for you to show your support for the Ukrainian community, and to join us on Sunday."

So, Mr. Speaker, under a beautiful blue sky on Sunday, I joined hundreds of others. It was an incredible show of support. Blue and yellow fabric was flapping in the wind, yellow flowers and flags. Of all the things that could be said, I think that what Svetlana shared to open the event says it so well, and I share it today with her permission.

I am quoting: "Good afternoon, my name is Svetlana Koptyeva. I am a Yukoner, and a Ukrainian.

"The first that comes to mind when I think of Ukraine on a regular day is the Dnipro River. It flows from Russia into Belarus and then into the Ukraine. Within Ukraine, the river expands tenfold before emptying into the Black Sea.

"Ukraine turns the averaged size river into a flowing and unstoppable mass, and that is what Ukrainian people are.

"Unbreakable people who even in the most horrifying time in their lives, do not give up, and even make jokes and try to make their relatives abroad feel better.

"Last Wednesday night, my close friend messaged me to tell me the city near her in eastern Ukraine was under attack. That message began a nightmare for me for which I see no end.

"My friend made it to safety. Many others have not. My mother is in Kyiv, my brother is trying to get closer to the border in the west. Our friends and our families are under attack. Friends and families of Canadian citizens are under attack.

"A tyrant is taking the world hostage. The Russian invasion is far bigger than Ukraine. We've all been taught that fairness and justice mean more than taking what you want, when you want it.

"Ukraine will survive. A nation is more powerful than any government. The Ukrainian nation, our culture, and our people have survived tyranny many times before. Every time we have shrugged it off, and our people have endured.

"Yukoners, please stand with us. Stand with us to denounce tyranny and justice, and stand with us so that those fighting to protect our homeland know that they are not alone. We believe in our strong army that is defending our cities from aggression alone at this very moment. Their battle will echo for generations to come.

"Thank you for being here and hearing us. We are incredibly grateful for the support Canadians have given Ukraine so far."

Mr. Speaker, I and many others went to a very powerful chant on Sunday afternoon: "Glory to Ukraine. Glory to the heroes."

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I'm happy to see Members of the Legislative Assembly standing united in support of Ukraine and Ukrainian people around the world in the face of authoritarianism and aggression. It is our duty as leaders to lead with integrity and to stand up for what is right, and I commend you for doing that today.

The battle today is in Ukraine, but it is also our fight here too.

I want to highlight the actions that the Government of Canada has taken to address the situation in Ukraine, to limit Russia's power, and to help Ukrainians to defend themselves against Putin's war of aggression.

Working closely with G7 leaders, Canada is imposing crushing sanctions on the Russian economy, marking the strongest economic actions taken on a major economy to date. Canada has announced that all Canadian financial institutions will immediately be prohibited from engaging in any form of transaction with the Russian central bank, the Russian federation's national wealth fund, the Ministry of Finance, and members of the Security Council.

They have announced sanctions on Russia's energy sector prohibiting the import of Russian oil, restricting Russian ships and vessels from entering Canadian waters and Russian planes from entering into Canadian airspace. Following the northern premiers' joint letter to the Prime Minister yesterday, the federal Minister of Foreign Affairs announced today that Canada will not be sending representatives to Russia for the meetings of the Arctic Council, a forum that Russia chairs, and will be temporarily pausing the participation in the council and its subsidiary bodies.

I continue to work closely with my fellow premiers and the Prime Minister to ensure the future of Arctic sovereignty, including a strong Canadian presence. Canada has donated millions of dollars to humanitarian efforts in Ukraine and, following requests from our government, has begun to introduce new immigration streams for Ukrainian refugees who want to come to Canada temporarily or permanently.

Our country is actively coordinating with NATO allies to fulfill the aid request by Ukraine to send arms, ammunition, and protective gear, which are aiding Ukrainian fighters on the ground now. I'm extremely proud of our country and its leadership and our actions to aid the people of Ukraine to stop Russia's unjust and unprovoked action.

As Canada continues to work with allies and partners around the world to hold Russia accountable, the Yukon will continue to support their efforts in every step and in every way. We are overwhelmed by the support for Ukrainians shown by Yukoners and local businesses. We will continue to work with partnerships to support the friends and families of our Ukrainian community.

**Speaker:** This then brings us to Question Period.

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: Sexual abuse within elementary school, government accountability

**Mr. Dixon:** On the day before the Fall Sitting last year, the Liberal government commissioned a Vancouver lawyer to complete a report looking at the Hidden Valley school scandal. Throughout the Fall Sitting, the Liberals stonewalled opposition, media, and Yukoners who were looking for answers. However, just over four weeks ago, the Rogers report was released, and unfortunately, it confirmed what many of us

already believed. It confirmed that the government's response to the matter was entirely inadequate, that the government failed, and that parents and Yukoners were justified in their outrage.

Despite this, the Liberals' response was that enough people across enough departments made mistakes that no one should actually be held responsible. The result of this is that not a single person in the entire government has received even the slightest reprimand for this failure. They have avoided responsibility, and they have avoided accountability.

How can the Premier think that this is acceptable?

**Hon. Ms. McLean:** Mr. Speaker, I am happy to rise today in the House to speak about important matters that mean a great deal to Yukoners. We started out on this note in the last Sitting, and I see that we will start there again. I ask that we always keep at the heart of this that there are children at the heart of the matters we are speaking about. So, I keep that in the forefront always and know that there are still families going through incredibly difficult processes within systems in our government and with other institutions. There is absolutely nothing more important, Mr. Speaker, than the safety and well-being of students when they come into our care. We acknowledge that there have been breakdowns of trust between families at Hidden Valley school and the Department of Education.

As I talked about many, many times in the last Sitting, I worked to have an independent review happen. That independent review has now provided us with a detailed account of what happened in 2019 and I will continue to build on my answer as we go forward.

**Mr. Dixon:** Mr. Speaker, my question was for the Premier, about leadership and accountability. As much as I have thought about this, I haven't been able to come up with a better metaphor than the one used by one of the affected parents in the media. She said to the CBC — and I quote: "If a large ship accidentally plowed into a dock, severely injuring a bunch of kids, even if the captain didn't intentionally do it, would they not still be held accountable?"

So, Mr. Speaker, I don't know what the former minister's intentions were — she hasn't told us — but what we do know is that Yukoners expect accountability from their government. The buck has to stop somewhere. So, my question is to the Premier: Where does the buck stop in his government?

**Hon. Ms. McLean:** Mr. Speaker, again, I will continue building on my response here. I was talking just a moment ago about the independent review and the findings of that review. It revealed significant long-standing policy gaps in the Department of Education and government as a whole. We are implementing all of the report's recommendations to ensure that this does not happen again. Last month, just a very short time ago, we released the implementation action plan that was created to ensure that these issues are addressed immediately. This action plan provides tangible next steps for us to improve the coordination of government department responses, address gaps in internal policies, and enhance oversight mechanisms. We are committed to making system-wide changes to ensure that we respond swiftly and effectively to incidents in our

schools. Supporting our students is a top priority as we move forward on a long and important healing journey.

Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to speak with the Hidden Valley school council last night. I've had meetings virtually with families and the affected communities, and I'll continue to do so.

**Mr. Dixon:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the response to the independent report. Of course, we'll have plenty of time for debating policy gaps, intergovernmental protocols, communication guidelines, and internal staff training manuals, but that's not what this is about; this is about accountability and it's about leadership. Sadly, we've seen neither of those things from this government.

How can the Premier tell us that no one should be held responsible and that no one should be held accountable and expect us to believe that's leadership?

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Mr. Speaker, the member opposite should be accountable for his own words. The Yukon Party has been completely unreliable when it comes to this issue. They have jumped to conclusions, disregarded the facts. They ought to correct the record and apologize for misleading Yukoners, including comments about addendums to briefing notes that absolutely did not exist.

The independent review made it clear.

**Some Hon. Member:** (Inaudible)

#### Point of order

**Speaker:** Member for Lake Laberge, on a point of order.

**Mr. Cathers:** In the Premier's choice to use the word "misleading", he is clearly in contravention of Standing Order 19(h), and I would ask you to have him retract the comment and apologize for making it.

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

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I think that Standing Order 19(g) talks about false or unavowed motives of another member, and misleading is not talking about lying or any issue like that. It's talking about — in 19(h) — deliberate falsehoods. This is just talking about statements being misleading, and I hope we're able to talk about that here.

#### Speaker's ruling

**Speaker:** There is a point of order and I would ask the member not to phrase his debate in that manner.

Please continue.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me make my point: The independent review report made it clear that the information did not flow up to the minister's office or to anyone in Cabinet. The decision about informing parents was not made by anyone in Cabinet. As soon as officials learned about the incident in 2019, the individual was removed immediately to prevent any further harm. The independent review found that there was a prior incident with this educational assistant in 2014 and 2015. It was not properly documented or reported.

Can the members opposite explain why that incident was mishandled? Will the members opposite go back and take a look at Hansard at what they said in October and correct the record if necessary?

**Question re: COVID-19 vaccine and safety measures**

**Mr. Hassard:** Mr. Speaker, over the last two years, the Yukon has been in a state of emergency for a staggering 21 months. For 21 of the last 24 months, the Liberals have exercised emergency powers, bypassed legislation, restricted the ability of the tourism industry and small businesses to survive, and imposed massive restrictions on the way that people live their lives. The justification for this has always been that decisions are only being made based on science; however, over the last year, it has become more and more clear that political science has been a big part of the motivation for this Liberal government.

Can the Premier explain the science, other than today being the first day of the Spring Sitting, that justifies the removal of vaccine passports and mandates on employees over the next few weeks?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Mr. Speaker, it is great to be back here in the Legislative Assembly this afternoon, especially given events around the world. It is very important to recognize that this Chamber is so very important to our democracy and it's great to be answering questions on the floor this afternoon.

On November 13, Mr. Speaker, a state of emergency was declared in the Yukon due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The state of emergency was put in place to allow for a mask order, a health protection order, and an enforcement order. The decision was based on the expert advice of the chief medical officer of health, and we thank everyone who continues to follow these orders, protecting themselves and others. The sacrifices and the support that these measures received from the Yukon public have made the territory one of the shining examples of how we can navigate this pandemic.

Due to the arrival of Omicron in December 2021, ministerial orders continued to be adapted to respond to and mitigate its spread with the goal of safeguarding Yukoners. That has always been our goal, Mr. Speaker — to make sure that Yukoners are safe, to enable a quick response, and to continue our current health protection measures. On February 3, 2022, our state of emergency was extended for another 90 days. We are reviewing the situation and will remove the state of emergency as soon as possible.

**Mr. Hassard:** Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, there was no answer in that response. Throughout the pandemic, it has been hard to ignore the influence of politics on the decisions that the Premier says are based on science. Shortly after they extended the state of emergency in March last year, they called an unnecessary snap election. Then, in August 2021, they ended the state of emergency just in time for another politically motivated snap election, which was just in time for the chief medical officer of health to run for election. Now, on the eve of the Spring Sitting, knowing full well that they would have to explain and answer questions about the nonsensical restrictions

that they have imposed, they announced the removal of most of the remaining restrictions.

It certainly seems that the timing of this is based on political science as much as anything else. So, can the Premier explain why the vaccine mandate needs to be in place today but not on April 4?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise in the House today. I am going to take the opportunity here — having a matter being brought before us of the evidence of how long this COVID-19 situation has been here for us all to deal with. Our government has had a measured response; we have followed the science. For the past two years, we have worked every day, all day — including front-line workers, nurses, doctors, and health care professionals — across the territory to keep Yukoners safe. We have avoided the most severe health and economic impacts as a result of the decisions that have been taken — difficult decisions — every day by this government in response to the science that has come with Omicron, with COVID-19, across the territory, with ups and downs that have had Yukoners struggling.

Our strong leadership has guided us through the pandemic and kept our economy going. Our top priority has always been the health and safety of Yukoners.

By working with our partners, we have supported Yukoners and avoided the most severe health and economic impacts, and we would not be in a position to have done that without the efforts of every Yukoner and our front-line health care workers.

**Mr. Hassard:** Again, no answers.

Now, the Premier has refused or been unable to explain the evidence that backs up the decision to impose any of these incoherent rules that he has imposed on sports organizations, faith communities, and NGOs. He has been unable to explain how the vaccine mandate on employees is needed today but won't be needed in April.

What we do know is that, a few weeks ago, public polling came out that indicated that the popularity of this Premier and his government is waning and that Yukoners want to see a clear path forward. Businesses, NGOs, sports organizations, and chambers of commerce have been expressing strong concern for months about how little sense these restrictions make and how negatively they are impacting Yukoners, yet it's not until the Premier realizes that his approach has been unpopular and his support is crumbling that he will decide to change course.

How can Yukoners look at the Premier's —

**Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I guess the Yukon Party goes with what's popular or not popular. We go with science, absolutely. The state of emergency was completely unpopular, but it was necessary. It has supported an effective response and that's what we did. We avoided the most severe health and economic impacts because of our measures, because of our leadership through policy with recommendations from the chief medical officer of health. We are in a position to lift the state of emergency, yet the opposition is not happy with that.

The Yukon Party has supported lawsuits against the Government of Yukon regarding the state of emergency. The

same people who have taken the Yukon government to court over the state of emergency are listed as donors to the Yukon Party. It is important that Yukoners know that this lawsuit is costing taxpayers around \$3 million and it is being supported by the members of the Yukon Party.

The Yukon Party is focused in on dividing Yukoners. Our direction and leadership, for two years, is making sure that Yukoners are safe and protected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Question re: Opioid crisis**

**Ms. White:** Mr. Speaker, since 2016, Yukoners have been grieving the loss of loved ones to overdose. Last year, 23 Yukoners lost their lives to drug poisoning. This year, the tragedy of deaths by drug poisoning has only continued.

While the Yukon watched and waited, it was Yukon First Nations that took action. It was Yukon First Nations that developed treatment programs when this government wouldn't, and it's a Yukon First Nation that is opening a managed alcohol program when this government wouldn't. It was Yukon First Nations that declared a state of emergency when this government wouldn't, and it was only after Yukoners from all over the territory took to the streets that this government finally listened.

Can the minister tell us why it took so long for this government to finally declare an emergency for the opioid crisis?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** It's my pleasure to rise and address this important issue here on the floor of the Legislative Assembly. The Yukon is facing an unprecedented rate of drug-related deaths. On January 20, 2022, our government declared a substance use health emergency. In the month of January, eight Yukoners died from drug poisoning over a three-week period, and this followed unprecedented numbers from 2021.

We recognize that the illicit drug supply in Yukon and across Canada is toxic, is putting anyone who consumes any drug in this area at significant risk of drug poisoning — absolutely everyone. This requires an urgent and comprehensive response, and that is what the declaration of a substance use health emergency is. It is a call to action by our government; it is a call to action to every Yukoner; and it is a call to action for a coordinated partnership response across the territory. Every element of what has been announced by First Nation governments, by our government, by community groups, and by individuals to address this issue are important parts of how this substance use health emergency will become a priority here in the territory.

**Ms. White:** So, let's compare this to another recent emergency that we faced last summer — that of a flooding emergency. During that emergency, the government allocated \$8 million right away to help people save their homes, for good reason, but imagine if, instead, the government reacted like we just recently saw, and they called a summit full of experts who all said the same thing: Yes, the Yukon has a flooding problem; yes, people's houses are being flooded as we speak — and then did nothing — no real concrete help, no more boots on the ground, no support, and no new money, just a summit.

So, how many more conversations and how many more summits and experts does the minister need to call on before this government offers real support to Yukoners who are dying of preventable drug-poisoning deaths today?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I am extremely disappointed to hear the comments from the member opposite and disparaging remarks with respect to the Mental Wellness Summit, which was held here in the territory on February 14 and 15, 2022 — a few weeks ago. Our government hosted part 1 of a mental wellness summit where leading experts from across the territory and the world shared innovative and successful approaches to mental health and substance use. More than 550 participants tuned in to be part of that conversation and provide their feedback.

Presenters at the summit discussed mental wellness topics such as prevention, treatment, support services, and after-care while also sharing a variety of harm-reduction models and approaches. The focus of the summit was education and to spark conversation and to spark ideas here in the territory. It did just that.

**Ms. White:** It makes me wonder if the Minister of Health and Social Services was watching the comments section as all those presenters were saying that there was a crisis and that there were solutions. Maybe she even heard from some of the presenters who said that we have had enough conversation; let's see action.

It has been over a month since the declaration of a substance use emergency was declared in the Yukon and still no real change has happened. Safe supply is still nowhere to be found in the communities, and it's almost impossible to access, even in the City of Whitehorse. Long-term mental health supports are still impossible to access, the wait-list for family doctors is still never-ending, and the Yukon government still hasn't opened a managed alcohol program — all while Yukoners are still dying of drug poisoning.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell Yukoners when these services will finally be available to those who need them?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Unfortunately, I think that some of the comments made here today are not really helpful and are not really supportive of this process going forward. The NDP would have Yukoners believe that the solutions to this emergency are easy. In reality, the root causes are complex and the situations require that we all work together. I know that recently the Third Party of the Legislative Assembly passed a resolution. My question with respect to the resolution about action going forward is: What are they prepared to do? How are they prepared to be a partner, and how are they prepared to help?

Actions that have been taken to date, Mr. Speaker, include developing a new territory-wide public awareness and education campaign to address issues and be focused on youth. We are expanding drug testing and opioid treatment services to rural communities and continuing to expand availability in Whitehorse by enhancing Yukon government's existing supervised consumption site to support people who use inhalants, which will be only the second place in Canada to do so.

We're increasing the land treatment options within the territory. We're working with Blood Ties Four Directions to extend the hours and the operation of the outreach van and to consider a second van. We're developing a drug and substance harm-reduced action plan to roll forward. I welcome all members of this House to help us with this work.

**Question re: Cyber security**

**Mr. Cathers:** As Putin's illegal war against Ukraine and its people has developed, Canada and international allies have imposed a series of strong sanctions on Russia. Provinces and territories, including the Yukon, have also taken action.

We strongly support these actions, as well as sending weapons, ammunition, and equipment to Ukraine and supporting refugees fleeing the conflict, but we need to be ready for potential retaliation. Many security experts have noted that these sanctions could illicit a response from Russia.

A few weeks ago, the federal Canadian Centre for Cyber Security issued a threat bulletin urging critical infrastructure operators to raise awareness and mitigate against known Russian-backed cyber-threat activity.

Has the Yukon government taken any steps in response to this warning from the federal agency?

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** As we mentioned earlier in the minister's response and the ministerial statements, it's extremely important that Yukon does its part when it comes to these outrageous aggressions to the Ukrainian people. Their sovereignty and their territorial integrity must be respected, and the Ukrainian people must be free to determine their own future.

The Yukon will stand with our allies in condemning the actions of Russia, and we will continue to look to offer support where we can, whether that is in conversations with the Council of the Federation's First Ministers' meetings on Arctic sovereignty — actions early from Yukon have determined Canadian actions when it comes to the Arctic Council — or any other conversations when it comes to technologies as well.

We welcome suggestions from the opposition when it comes to making sure that Yukon has all of our different variables being considered and that we are not shy on how we can help support the federal government when it comes to Russia's actions that are a global threat to security and that are a global threat to international rule-based order.

The security piece definitely has an economic activity component to it, but it also has a technologies position as well.

**Mr. Cathers:** We do believe it is important to stand united around the world in supporting Ukraine, but the Premier didn't provide me an answer to the specific question that I asked.

Over the past several years, cyber attacks have increased considerably. In 2020, cyber attacks shut down the municipality of St. John, New Brunswick, and last year, Newfoundland and Labrador's health care system was brought to a standstill by a cyber attack that still causes problems today. Now with the war in Ukraine and the tendency of Russia and Russian-backed groups to use cyber attacks as retaliation against western sanctions, experts are advising Canadian businesses,

governments, and organizations that deal with critical infrastructure to begin preparing. In cyber warfare, Russia is one of the most sophisticated and capable in the world.

Will the Yukon government take steps immediately to ensure that our cyber security is enhanced and that we are doing everything we need to do in order to proactively monitor for and mitigate against potential cyber attacks?

**Hon. Mr. Clarke:** Mr. Speaker, keeping government-held information secure is a key objective. In recent years, the Yukon government has seen an increase in cyber attacks, which are increasingly happening around the world to both governments and companies alike. We take these threats seriously, and in an effort to counter these threats, Highways and Public Works is continuously evolving our security threat and detection solutions to repel attacks, improving the government's resiliency by taking new approaches to the ways in which we protect information, retaining a digital security contractor to monitor our IT infrastructure 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and conducting security threat risk assessments on systems and regularly patching servers.

I can advise that in the whole-of-government approach, in the budget discussions that we will have during the course of the spring session, the member opposite will note that additional funds were provided to the Department of Highways and Public Works to improve the resiliency of the cyber infrastructure of the territory.

So, we are very mindful of the comments made by the Member for Lake Laberge and couldn't agree more that we should be vigilant with respect to cyber threats, whether it is from Russia or from anybody else.

**Mr. Cathers:** I want to emphasize that my colleagues and I believe that it is important that we stand united in supporting Ukraine and opposing Russia's illegal and immoral actions, but also that we prepare for retaliation for sanctions.

An area of particular concern to many experts in the field of cyber security is the electricity generation sector. A few weeks ago, Brian Hay, the president of the Mackenzie Institute, which is a Canadian think-tank focused on domestic and global security, said that electricity-generating companies are likely to be targeted by Russian-based groups for cyber warfare.

In light of the growing war and the likelihood of Russian retaliation against sanctions, including the possibility of cyber war for targeting us and others in the west, will the Government of Yukon consult with cyber-security experts here in the Yukon and in the federal government to immediately assess the vulnerability of our critical infrastructure, including our electricity grid, and take the necessary steps to protect it?

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** I thank the member opposite for his question. I will reach out to Yukon Energy to flag this concern and to see what steps they are taking, and I'm happy to look into it for the member opposite. Of course, the Yukon has an islanded grid. Our grid is not connected to the national grid, so it's a very different reality for us, as Yukoners, both in terms of our energy security and our energy insecurity. That's just one of the realities that we have, but I take the point and also the points of all members who have risen today talking about the importance of supporting Ukraine and making sure that we are

protecting the safety of Yukoners, and I will happily follow up on that suggestion.

**Question re: Psychology profession regulation**

**Ms. Clarke:** The availability and quality of mental health services has been something on the minds of many Yukoners recently, and when we consider mental health services, it's impossible to ignore the role of psychologists. Unfortunately, the Yukon remains the only jurisdiction in the country without any regulation at all of this important sector.

Last year, I introduced a motion in this House urging the government to introduce a regulatory framework for psychology in the Yukon. Can the government tell us what work has been done on this important file?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** This is a very important issue. The regulatory environment that we have in the territory to govern all of our medical professionals — certainly psychologists, psychiatrists, and a number of other professional services — is woefully out of date. My predecessor in this role and I are working very hard to update the rules. We're looking at all sorts of measures to make sure that these professions are regulated properly and thoughtfully by the government.

We're a very small jurisdiction; we have many, many thousands of regulatory services to provide, so it's a very taxing environment and we are looking very hard at how we can improve this and make it efficient and not onerous on the professions that we are regulating. I will have more to say on this in follow-up questions.

**Ms. Clarke:** One solution that has been advocated by the Psychological Society of Yukon is to develop an agreement with the College of Alberta Psychologists and allow that organization to handle the regulatory aspect. This is how the other two territories have approached the regulation of psychology.

Will the minister consider this approach and, if so, when will Yukon have such an agreement in place?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Late last year, I met with representatives of the psychologists' association and we had a very good talk. They actually floated this idea with us. The Department of Community Services has looked at this, working in tandem with Justice officials. Unfortunately, we have determined that we do not have the ability to form such a partnership with the agency in Alberta. That said, we are now looking at other options and looking at how we can modernize and change our regulations and our legislation to make such synergies and cooperative arrangements possible.

This was a platform commitment of our government. We are going to stand by it. We are working very hard on this. I have heard about this from not only psychologists, but we have physiotherapists and optometrists. There is a whole raft of people who are looking for change to make these efficiencies so that these medical professionals can actually offer the services that are offered in other jurisdictions. This was woefully ignored for decades, Mr. Speaker. We are working very hard to overcome a large backlog of work that should have been done a long time ago.

**Ms. Clarke:** Regulation is important for at least two reasons. First, it introduces a standard of practice that ensures that Yukoners receive services guided by a set of professional standards and, second, that there is a mechanism in place for complaints and professional conduct. We know that regulation will take some time, but while the government is doing the work to develop regulation, how will the Yukon government ensure that Yukoners can receive psychology services that are guided by professional standards and that they will have the recourse of a disciplinary process if they are harmed in the interim?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** There's a lot of unanimity in the House this afternoon. We agree — absolutely right. We are fully in agreement, Mr. Speaker. The difference is that we are the government, and we are looking at how we can actually execute on this, and the opposition doesn't understand the full complexities of what we have before us. We are working through the process with my colleague in Justice to make sure that these professions are properly regulated.

The Yukon government itself only uses official and certified psychiatrists and psychologists. We go through and make sure that the services we are providing to Yukoners are done by professionals who are certified, and we will continue to do that, but the work is underway to revise the *Health Professions Act* and improve how we regulate health care service professionals. This multi-year project will ensure a high standard of regulation that responds to Yukon's unique needs and context.

This is one of the areas of legislation that has been woefully neglected for a long time. My good colleague, my predecessor in this role, worked very hard on this file. I have inherited the work that he has already done, and I am continuing that work to make sure that these professions are brought up to the modern age and so that these professionals can actually provide the services that they're allowed to in other jurisdictions.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### GOVERNMENT BILLS

#### **Bill No. 204: *First Appropriation Act 2022-23* — Second Reading**

**Clerk:** Second reading, Bill No. 204, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Silver.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I move that Bill No. 204, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2022-23*, be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 203, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2022-23*, be now read a second time.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I'm very pleased to present Yukon's budget for the upcoming fiscal year. It's a great honour to be on the traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council to present our government's

second budget, which comes at a very pivotal time in our territory's history.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created acute challenges across the Yukon, testing the strength of our public health system and the resolve of our communities, of our businesses, and of our people. After two long and trying years, Yukoners — like people right across the country and around the world — are looking to turn the page on COVID-19 and to move firmly along the path to recovery.

At the same time, the promise of the Yukon continues to draw people to our beautiful territory. Our commitment to reconciliation based on respectful relationships with our First Nation partners, balancing environmental stewardship with economic growth and diversification, building healthy, vibrant, and sustainable communities and a modern, inclusive, and welcoming society is resonating. It is resonating well beyond our borders. Our government's strong leadership has guided our territory through the pandemic and kept our economy going.

The Yukon is leading the nation as we witness unprecedented growth in our territory's population and economy. The 2022-23 budget includes \$1.97 billion in spending. Of this, a record \$546.5 million in capital expenditures is identified, representing a 26-percent increase from last year and nearly doubling the capital budget from just five years ago.

Operation and maintenance expenditures account for a total of \$1.42 billion. This year's budget shows a surplus of \$39.5 million, which reflects our government's enduring commitment to responsible fiscal management, even in the face of COVID-19.

Budgets are fundamentally about choices. With limited resources, choices must be made about where to focus government spending to ensure that it is responsive to the needs of the present while also creating the conditions of prosperity for the future. This year's budget addresses critical needs in the territory while making necessary investments to make sure that all Yukoners benefit from the territory's historical economic growth.

We are building a brighter future for our territory by investing in housing, education, health care, social services, green energy, and resilient infrastructure that will create sustainable communities for the next generation of Yukoners.

The Yukon's economy is seeing tremendous growth that truly sets us apart from the rest of Canada. Indeed, our economy continues to experience strong growth despite the impacts of COVID-19. At the outset of the pandemic, our government took immediate action to protect the health and safety of Yukoners.

We introduced comprehensive economic relief programs to protect Yukon businesses and mitigate the effects on local employees, employers, and organizations.

We have continued to adapt program supports throughout the pandemic. To date, these programs have provided over 500 businesses and organizations with more than \$85 million in support.

The Yukon's economic support programs have been recognized as the best and most generous in the country, and they have prevented the most severe economic impacts of COVID-19. In fact, the Yukon's economy exceeded expectations throughout the pandemic. In 2020, the Yukon had the strongest GDP growth in the country and was one of only two jurisdictions in Canada to experience GDP growth. We also continued to have the lowest unemployment rate in the country, as we have for much of the last few years.

Along with the 2022-23 main estimates, I am pleased to present the fiscal and economic outlook for the Yukon. It forecasts robust economic growth of 9.6 percent in 2022, along with continued economic growth each year out to 2026.

Among other promised trends, the outlook notes that our tourism sector continues to recover along with our labour market, which has seen gains in every industry since May 2020. The average weekly earnings of Yukoners continued to increase while consumer spending is pushing record levels. The outlook for employment also shows strong growth for both 2022 and 2023.

Under the leadership of our government, mining is flourishing in the Yukon, creating tangible benefits and economic opportunities for communities and Yukon First Nations.

In 2015, the Yukon was in a recession. It had a single operating mine and was mired in division and expensive legal disputes that discouraged investment. We have built strong relationships with First Nations, and we have fostered reconciliation and worked in partnership with industry to help restore investor confidence in the Yukon.

Our territory now has three operating mines with a number of others under development. Mineral production is expected to increase to more than \$1.1 billion this year — a record high — while staying above \$1 billion every year through to 2026.

Mineral exploration spending was \$139 million in 2021, and we are developing a new mineral exploration fund to support junior mining companies in the Yukon.

This year, Victoria Gold president and CEO, John McConnell, was awarded the Association for Mineral Exploration's 2021 E.A. Scholz Award for excellence in mining development in British Columbia or Yukon for his work to bring the Yukon's Eagle Gold mine into production. The mine continues to provide many jobs and benefits to Yukoners, particularly First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun citizens and the Village of Mayo.

Through industry leadership and a commitment to creating positive community impacts, Mr. McConnell and his team continue to demonstrate what modern mining is all about. Mining remains a significant driver of our territory's economy, and our government has worked with partners to ensure that the Yukon is helping to lead the way in the development of sustainable mining practices.

The strong momentum of our economy is bolstering private sector confidence in the Yukon and will continue moving us along the path to recovery. Northern Vision Development recently announced plans for the first Hyatt hotel

in northern Canada, on Main Street in the heart of downtown Whitehorse.

Our tourism sector has been deeply impacted by COVID-19, and Northern Vision Development's commitment to developing Hyatt Place Whitehorse represents a bold investment in the future of tourism in the Yukon. Condor has announced that it will resume direct international flights from Frankfurt, Germany to Whitehorse this summer. Air North, Yukon's airline, will also be introducing services to Toronto for the first time this year. This is fantastic news for the Yukon's tourism operators as they prepare to welcome back tourists from all around the globe to enjoy the unique and world-class experiences offered across the territory.

Strategic investment in this year's budget will continue to support our private sector and increase economic opportunities for Yukon businesses. Alongside the budget, I'm very pleased to present the Government of Yukon's latest five-year capital plan, which includes average annual spending of \$519 million for a total of nearly \$2.6 billion in spending. Since it was first introduced five years ago, the five-year capital plan has dramatically increased transparency around government capital planning while creating more certainty for the private sector.

It has also maximized federal funding opportunities through improved coordination with our First Nation, municipal, and private sector partners. By working together, we are addressing a historic infrastructure deficit while advancing community-driven priorities throughout the Yukon. Despite record spending, I am proud to once again deliver a balanced budget that reflects the prudent fiscal management that Yukoners expect from their government and which they deserve.

Our government's sustained efforts to build a modern Yukon continues to attract people to our territory. Yukon's population has grown at a rate higher than any other Canadian jurisdiction over the last decade. Since 2016, our population has grown by 12.1 percent — well above the national average of 5.2 percent. This has created an unprecedented demand for housing in the territory that we are working to address through strategic investments and partnerships.

Over the past five years, housing construction has kept pace with population growth, with the number of private dwellings in Yukon increasing by 12.9 percent. In fact, residential investment has reached record highs in the Yukon, with \$267 million in residential construction in 2021, shattering the 2020 record of nearly \$200 million.

This budget includes more than \$60 million for housing initiatives across the Yukon. We are investing \$255 million in capital over the next five years to support access to stable, affordable housing and to allow for future development. These are historic investments throughout the housing spectrum, from land development and affordable housing construction to barrier-free housing and supportive, accessible housing for seniors and people with disabilities. Our government is making more affordable and supportive housing available for Yukon families through partnerships with the private sector. We are also working together with the municipalities to make more residential lots available throughout the territory.

A flurry of housing construction is happening right across the territory, and a variety of exciting projects are scheduled to be completed this year. In Whitehorse alone, where the majority of new citizens are choosing to live, hundreds of new homes will soon be available for Yukon families.

The Yukon Housing Corporation's new community housing project at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Jeckell Street will create 47 new affordable homes along the Yukon River for those in need. Challenge Disability Resource Group's Cornerstone supportive housing project will create 45 new homes for vulnerable Yukoners at the end of Main Street. The Normandy Manor project on Range Road will create 84 new homes for Yukon seniors within walking distance of McIntyre Creek, and in the city's newest neighbourhood of Whistle Bend, 87 new homes will soon be available as part of the Boreal Commons affordable and rental housing project.

In partnership with local businesses and organizations, our government has helped to fund these innovative projects that fill long-standing gaps in the territory's housing continuum. New homes are taking shape in our rural communities as well. More than \$15 million is budgeted for the completion of a new mixed-use community housing project that will provide 10 new homes in Old Crow. Money is also included for a planned mixed-use community housing project in Carcross. A total of \$6.5 million in northern carveout funding under the National Housing Co-investment Fund is supporting community housing projects in Dawson City, Teslin, Watson Lake, and Whitehorse this year.

We have also included \$1.5 million through the new community housing development fund to support community partnerships that increase housing supply throughout the territory. Our strategic investments in lot development and residential construction are helping to ensure that all Yukoners have access to modern, affordable housing into the future.

In partnership with First Nation governments and Yukon communities, our government is working to develop land to address increasing demand for residential lots. This year's budget includes more than \$30 million for land development. Our territory's population growth continues to be concentrated in Whitehorse where construction of the Whistle Bend neighbourhood continues, along with planning for the Range Point Road subdivision in partnership with the Kwanlin Dün First Nation. More than \$11 million is included to incentivize residential construction for projects like the proposed Kwanlin Dün First Nation subdivision expansion in Copper Ridge that will create more than 180 new residential lots. The land parcel at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Rogers Street, which has the potential for new downtown residential lots, will also be out for tender this year, while the site of the old Macaulay Lodge will create new housing development opportunities in Riverdale.

We continue to work with partners to meet the demand in our growing communities as well. Work on serviced and country residential lots is underway on the Dome Road and the Dredge Pond development in Dawson City.

In Carmacks, urban and country residential lots are under development. We are also working with the Village of



Carmacks and the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation to plan new residential and industrial subdivisions.

New lots are being serviced in Haines Junction as planning gets underway for the next residential and industrial subdivisions, together with the Village of Haines Junction and the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.

Residential lots in the upper bench above Mayo are being planned in partnership with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the Village of Mayo.

A substantial portion of the Lone Tree development near Teslin is scheduled for completion this year, and we're working with the Teslin Tlingit Council and the Village of Teslin to identify further areas for residential, commercial, and industrial development.

Planning and feasibility work is also underway in Watson Lake, Carcross, and other rural communities.

Our government continues to take bold and progressive action to address the housing needs in our territory. In 2019, we opened the first-ever Housing First residence in the north to provide barrier-free housing to those in need in Whitehorse. Last year, operations were successfully taken over through an innovative partnership between the Council of Yukon First Nations and Connective. We are providing an additional \$650,000, for a total of \$1.25 million, to ensure that these organizations can continue to provide holistic and culturally informed service delivery to our most vulnerable Yukoners. Also, \$4.2 million is included to build a new Housing First residence in Watson Lake, in collaboration with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. An additional \$383,000 will help to establish community housing for justice-involved women for the first time in our territory.

Now, meeting the ever-increasing housing demands in the territory is not something that any one government or organization can accomplish on its own. That is why we continue to develop and support partnerships in innovative approaches to address housing needs in the territory.

Now, last year, we provided the Safe at Home Society \$5 million to help transform the old High Country Inn into a new supportive housing program that will help Yukon youth and women who need a safe place to call home.

We have identified land in Whitehorse for the territory's first community land trust. This will provide a long-term, affordable housing solution not seen before in the Yukon.

We also continue to support First Nation governments to register their settlement lands in the Yukon Land Titles Office in a way that does not impact aboriginal rights and title. This has created new residential and industrial land lease opportunities in the territory while creating exciting new economic opportunities for Yukon First Nations.

Yukoners want to see more affordable housing in the territory, and our government is listening. The housing initiatives fund continues to support the development of affordable housing options, from housing with services and rental housing to home ownership. Since 2018, it has supported the development of approximately 470 new homes in partnerships with developers, contractors, community

organizations, First Nation governments, First Nation development corporations, and individual Yukoners.

More than half of these homes will remain affordable for the next 20 years. This fund has increased affordable housing options across the Yukon, and we are pleased to increase the amount of funding available this year by \$2.1 million, for a total of \$5.7 million.

Nearly \$2.5 million in this year's budget will help Yukoners afford to rent homes and meet their needs. More than \$1 million is budgeted for the Canada-Yukon housing benefit. This innovative program provides up to \$800 per month directly to Yukon tenants to help them afford rent. \$1.4 million will continue to help several Yukon households afford a place to live through private-market retail supplements. \$13.7 million is included for rent-g geared-to-income housing. Together, these community housing programs provide much-needed housing solutions to roughly 1,000 Yukon households.

The amount of \$1.65 million under the home repair program will also help Yukoners afford to make emergency repairs and accessibility enhancements to their homes. A further \$3.2 million will help rural Yukoners buy or build their first home through the rural home ownership program. By continuing to work collaboratively with partners in support of diversity of housing options, we will ensure that Yukoners have a safe, affordable place to call home.

The health and well-being of Yukoners is the foundation of a bright future for our territory.

Targeted investment is needed to meet the needs in our communities and to continue building a sustainable health and social services system that supports holistic, collaborative, and people-centred care to improve outcomes for all Yukoners into the future.

The Yukon, like the rest of Canada, is in the grip of two health emergencies of historic proportions that have had devastating impacts in each of our communities. Successive waves of COVID-19 have tested the limits of our public health system, while altering the lives and livelihoods of all of our citizens. Our government ensured Yukoners had access to life-saving vaccines as soon as they became available. A swift, comprehensive, and historic vaccination rollout provided a robust layer of protection throughout the territory that prevented the most severe outcomes from occurring.

Nevertheless, the pandemic has taken a toll on our territory. More than 20 Yukoners have lost their lives from COVID-19, and new variants have emerged during the pandemic, presenting additional challenges for the territory and for the rest of the world. Faced with a historic and unprecedented public health emergency, our government has consistently followed the science to protect the health and safety of Yukoners. With a highly vaccinated population, we have developed a plan to forge ahead toward recovery in a way that protects the most vulnerable in our territory and supports the health and well-being of all of our communities. We owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude to Yukon health care professionals and essential front-line workers who have gone above and beyond in response to the pandemic. These are the heroes who have ensured that Yukoners continue to have

reliable access to services and supplies, while supporting our loved ones.

More than \$11.6 million in this year's budget is dedicated to the health and social resources necessary to manage the ongoing risks of COVID-19 in our territory. Guided by forging ahead with the Yukon's continuing response to COVID-19, we will continue to address both acute care and public health responses, such as testing, transmission control and mitigation, vaccinations, and vaccination verification. We have also included a \$10-million COVID-19 contingency fund to ensure that we can continue to respond effectively as we move from pandemic to endemic. As Yukoners have been affected by the pandemic, our government will continue to support them as we move toward the path to recovery.

Alongside the COVID-19 pandemic, another crisis has wreaked havoc on our communities and taken the lives of far too many Canadians. Substance use is killing people and creating mental health crises in our communities, as people grapple with the grief and pain of the tragic loss of lives. We need to face this challenge with resolve and with compassion, ending the stigma of substance use to ensure that people get the supports that they need.

Earlier this year, the Yukon declared a substance use health emergency in recognition of a tragic increase in overdose-related deaths in our territory. That declaration is a commitment to action by our government and a call to action to all Yukoners. We need to work together to address substance use in our territory and to make our communities safer and healthier. The root causes of the substance use health emergency are complex. Addressing them requires leadership and coordination across all levels of government, communities, and health and social care professionals.

Last month, our government brought together hundreds of individuals from across the Yukon and Canada for phase 1 of a mental wellness summit. This was a vital opportunity to discuss substance use prevention, treatment, support services, and after-care and to share information about harm-reduction models and solutions. As we heard, there is no magic solution to substance use and the associated mental health challenges that Canadians and Yukoners are facing. What is critical is that we work together to address these challenges and to improve the health of all Yukon communities.

Substance use, at its core, is a health problem. Our government has taken the most progressive steps toward substance use harm reduction in the history of the Yukon. Building on our 2018 opioid action plan, we have continued to expand harm-reduction initiatives that have saved lives in our territory. Last year, we opened the first supervised consumption site in the north to increase safety for those who use substances and improve access to social, medical, mental wellness, and substance use supports.

Last year, we also expanded access to a safer supply of opioids for Yukoners suffering from addiction and serious substance use issues. The supervised consumption site and the safer supply program are important tools to address the opioid crisis, along with continued outreach, public education, and harm-reduction initiatives like drug testing. While we have

taken significant actions to address substance use in our territory, we know that we need to do more.

Over \$5.5 million in this year's budget will support our government's immediate response to the substance use health emergency. This includes more than \$1.1 million to enhance the supervised consumption site, to increase access, and to support more people in need. More than \$850,000 will allow the safer supply program to be expanded to rural communities and increase availability in Whitehorse. Nearly \$1.8 million will support additional mental health and social services throughout the territory. As part of increasing funds for policing services this year, almost \$300,000 will bolster the RCMP's response to the toxic supply of illegal drugs in our territory.

We know that many Yukoners are struggling with mental health and substance use issues. By coming together as a territory, we are working to find solutions to help ensure every Yukoner can access the supports that they need, when they need them.

To ensure a bright future for the territory, we must continue to invest in a sustainable, people-centred health and social services system that improves outcomes for all Yukoners. As our government continues to implement the recommendations in the *Putting People First* report, Yukon's health care system is being transformed into a national leader.

Mr. Speaker, our government has taken significant steps to make service delivery more sustainable, effective, and responsive to the needs of all Yukoners, including reducing pharmacy markups and fees and expanding palliative and end-of-life programs and supports for Yukoners.

We've doubled the medical travel benefit for Yukoners as part of enhancements to the medical travel program and hired additional nurse practitioners to increase access to primary health care providers in Yukon communities. We have also expanded access to publicly funded vaccines, including the shingles vaccine. In fact, our government received the highest grade improvement, out of all Canadian jurisdictions, for our adult vaccination program this year.

Work is also underway to establish "Wellness Yukon", a new public health agency for Yukon that will improve outcomes and experiences for clients, patients, families, and health and social service providers. Our government is committed to modernizing Yukon's health and social services delivery to better meet the needs of all Yukoners. \$20.7 million is identified in this year's budget to continue to transform our health care system into a national leader.

More than \$1.8 million will allow us to begin providing dental coverage to uninsured Yukoners. There is \$13 million for the health and wellness centre in Old Crow to ensure quality services are available in our most remote communities.

More than \$2.6 million will support the new bilingual health centre in Whitehorse. This health centre will use a collaborative team-based model of care and will be the first health care centre in the Yukon based on the integrated primary health care model that was recommended in *Putting People First*.

Yukoners can be proud of the growing range of quality health care services being delivered through Yukon hospitals.

Just last year, Yukon's orthopaedic care team completed the territory's first-ever total hip replacement surgery at the Whitehorse General Hospital. The orthopaedic care team includes one of our homegrown surgeons, Dr. Scott Westberg. It is wonderful to see Yukoners pursuing the honourable calling of health care professions.

This year, \$255,000 will support health and social services training in Yukon communities. An additional \$250,000 is included to support careers in health and social services, including adding an additional cohort to the licensed practical nurse program at Yukon University. This program provides opportunities for up to 18 new students each year to pursue health care careers and to have jobs waiting for them upon graduation.

The amount of \$397,000 in the budget will allow us to hire additional nurse practitioners and a chief nursing officer to enhance community nursing in the territory. By investing in the territory's health care system, our government is increasing access to medical services while reducing wait times and the need for out-of-territory medical travel. A total of \$88 million will support the Yukon Hospital Corporation to continue providing Yukoners with the best hospital care services.

We have once again increased the Hospital Corporation's operation and maintenance budget, as we have in each of the last five years, to ensure that Yukoners receive the standard of care that they deserve. An additional \$1 million is included for drug dispensing units and mobile units for the Hospital Corporation. Another \$1 million will expand spirometry services in the territory. This will provide care close to home for all Yukoners, and it will keep wait times low and will reduce the need for travel outside of the territory for specialist lung appointments.

In addition to expanding services, we're also enhancing our health care facilities to ensure that they meet the needs of all Yukoners. The amount of \$10.8 million in this year's budget is for the completion of a new short-stay psychiatric unit at the Whitehorse General Hospital. This will offer a safe place for patients with a mental health diagnosis to receive medical care.

More than \$3.3 million is budgeted for the ongoing implementation of IHealth, a modernized information system that will give health care providers and Yukoners improved access to integrated, accurate health care records and information. A further \$315,000 will support renovations to the health and wellness centre in Carcross.

Together with modernized health and social services, creating safer communities is vital to the well-being of all Yukoners. Working with partners across the territory, our government continues to fund innovative community safety programs across the Yukon. There is \$300,000 in this year's budget to advance the community safety planning project. It is part of nearly \$3 million to support the implementation of community safety initiatives in the coming years. A further \$400,000 will support the Selkirk First Nation community safety officer program. These community-designed and community-led initiatives have been recognized across Canada for helping to create safer and stronger communities across the territory. An increase of \$125,000 will support the expansion

of the sexualized assault response team to rural communities to improve access to victim-centred wraparound services for victims of sexualized assault. Nearly \$150,000 will allow the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council to continue to provide women and children with support through the Sally and Sisters program. There is \$3.2 million included in the cultural connections program to support children living in out-of-home care to remain connected to their communities, languages, and cultures.

The Yukon was the first jurisdiction to develop a strategy to respond to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. This year's budget includes \$285,000 for the ongoing implementation of *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ Strategy*. We are proud to work in partnership with Yukon First Nations and indigenous women's organizations to take action to address the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women, girls, and two-spirited people. This is a vital aspect of our efforts to advance reconciliation and to ensure a brighter and safer future for all Yukoners.

We are also providing \$595,000 to support the work of the Yukon First Nation governments' burial site investigation committee. Our government recognizes the lasting impacts of trauma caused by the residential school system on survivors, their families, and their communities. We continue to support efforts to bring to light and to record the harms of residential schools as we move together along the path of reconciliation.

Mr. Speaker, creating a safer territory requires ending discrimination and making a more inclusive society that is welcoming to all Yukoners. In 2021, our government launched the territory's first ever LGBTQ2S+ action plan as part of our commitment to reducing barriers, increasing inclusivity, and creating more equitable government programs and services. We have included \$110,000 to continue implementing this innovative plan, which takes a multi-faceted approach to creating a more inclusive territory.

We have also included \$425,000 toward the very first Pride Centre in the Yukon — a safe and welcoming community space for LGBTQ2S+ individuals and their families, operated by Queer Yukon. This funding is being delivered by the Yukon Women and Gender Equity Directorate — formerly the Women's Directorate. The new name reflects our government's commitment to advocate and support women, girls, and the LGBTQ2S+ community in our territory.

Our government continues to make historic investments in early learning and childcare to ensure that all Yukoners have access to a brighter future. Last year, we launched the Yukon's first universal, affordable childcare program to put more money in the pockets of Yukon families and to ensure that Yukon children get the best start at life. The program offset the cost of childcare by up to \$700 per month per child. It also ensures that fully qualified early childhood educators in the Yukon receive over \$30 per hour — the highest minimum wage for early childhood educators in the country. This ground-breaking program has made the territory — and I quote: "Canada's new leader in early learning and childcare", according to the

Atkinson School for Society and Child Development at the University of Toronto. By investing in early learning and childcare, we are making life more affordable for Yukon families and ensuring that our children have the support that they need to succeed.

We are building on historic investments in Yukon families by contributing more than \$40 million this year toward early learning and childcare initiatives. Working collaboratively with our partners, we have reached an agreement to access an additional \$54.3 million in federal funding over the next five years to support expanded access to high-quality early learning and childcare throughout the territory.

Ensuring that Yukon learners are supported from childhood right through to adulthood is an essential part of building a brighter future for our territory. We are committed to working together with our partners to ensure that our education system empowers all Yukon students on their learning journey.

This year, on the 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*, our government officially established the Yukon First Nation School Board in partnership with the Yukon First Nations Chiefs Committee on Education. This marks an exciting new chapter as we continue to build a modern education system that meets the needs of all Yukon students. This historic partnership reflects our government's unwavering commitment to reconciliation based on respectful relations with our First Nation partners.

As more families choose to raise their children in the Yukon, our education system continues to grow. More than \$25 million is included in this year's budget to build a new elementary school in Whistle Bend — the fastest-growing neighbourhood in Whitehorse. The school is being built by Whitehorse-based Ketza construction and will be the first new elementary school in Whitehorse in more than 25 years. It will provide modern learning spaces for over 400 students and support a vibrant and thriving community.

Additionally, more than \$1 million will advance the planning and design for the new Kluane Lake school project that is in Burwash Landing, while over \$2 million will support modernizing learning spaces in Dawson City.

Nearly \$800,000 in this year's budget will support the implementation of the recommendations of the review of inclusive and special education in the Yukon. The review provides a blueprint for providing a world-class system where the strengths of every learner are built upon to help them meet their own personal goals. Our government is committed to improving and modernizing inclusive and special education programming to more effectively support student learning needs and outcomes.

The health and wellness of our students is paramount. More than \$450,000 will ensure that Yukon students are successful at school in the era of COVID-19 while also ensuring the health and safety of students, families, and staff. An additional \$400,000 will bolster mental health supports for Yukon schools. Through increased education and expanded developmental supports, we will ensure that we give students

the ability to talk about, understand, and seek support for their mental health.

Supporting our educators is instrumental to the success of our students. This year, \$3.7 million will support educational professionals throughout the territory to continue empowering Yukon students. Through a new agreement with the Yukon Association of Education Professionals, the salaries for teachers will increase over the next three years while teachers on call, educational assistants, and Yukon First Nation language teachers all receive additional pay to support their invaluable work.

As Yukon communities continue to enjoy historic population and economic growth, it's important to continue expanding advanced and post-secondary education opportunities within the territory. Yukon University provides a growing range of opportunities, from continuing education options to made-in-Yukon degree programs. More than \$1.2 million is being provided this year to support the growing staff, information, and equipment needs in this institution. Our government is proud to have helped establish the first university in Canada's north. We are committed to supporting its ongoing innovation and development as a hub of knowledge that supports the diverse learning needs of Yukon communities.

Through collaboration and strategic investments, we are making enhancements throughout our education system. Together with our partners, we are writing a new chapter on education in the Yukon and building a brighter future for the territory.

Our government is also building a stronger future for the territory by investing in resilient infrastructure to meet the needs of Yukon communities while moving us toward our climate action targets. Record capital spending on modern transportation, renewable energy, and community infrastructure is contributing to sustainable communities throughout our territory and supporting a diverse, resilient, and green economy.

Our actions are guided by *Our Clean Future*, Yukon's strategy for climate change, energy, and a green economy. This comprehensive 10-year strategy was developed in partnership with municipalities and First Nations across the Yukon.

For the first time in the territory's history, it identifies clear targets to reduce Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions, ensure Yukoners have access to reliable, affordable, and renewable energy, adapt to the impacts of climate change, and build a green economy. This year's budget contains more than \$80 million to address the Yukon's climate emergency through *Our Clean Future* initiatives.

Yukoners recognize the urgent need to tackle climate change and our government is taking action to meet Yukon's climate change goals. Last year, we mounted the largest flood mitigation effort in Yukon history. It was truly inspiring to see families, businesses, and organizations all coming together to support Yukoners in a time of need. This year's budget includes \$3.7 million for flood remediation and recovery in the Southern Lakes and Lake Laberge areas. This will help Yukoners restore their properties, mitigate against future flooding events, and

prepare long-term plans to better prepare our communities and residents for future climate change events.

An additional \$3.1 million is budgeted for wildland fire management this year. After reaching an agreement with the White River First Nation last year, our government is proud that all 14 Yukon First Nations are now involved in keeping Yukon communities safe from wildfire. We continue to work with our partners across the territory to protect Yukoners from the increased threats of climate change.

We continue to support the Yukon Energy Corporation's 10-year renewable electricity plan. This plan complements *Our Clean Future* and sets the Yukon on track to be a national leader in sustainable electricity by 2030 in collaboration with First Nations and development corporations. It has been endorsed by all parties of the Legislative Assembly. This year's budget includes more than \$35 million for renewable energy projects; \$15 million will go toward the Atlin hydro expansion project. Earlier this year, Yukon Energy Corporation signed an electricity purchase agreement with the Tlingit Homeland Energy Limited Partnership that will increase the supply of dependable, renewable electricity in Yukon. This is an exciting opportunity; it is an exciting opportunity for Yukoners to expand renewable energy capacity in partnership with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation while reducing the territory's emissions and ensuring that energy remains affordable for Yukoners.

More than \$7.7 million will advance additional energy system upgrades, including the new grid-scale battery storage project in Whitehorse. This seven-megawatt battery will be a first in Canada's north and will replace the need for four rental diesel generators each winter. Under the Arctic energy fund, \$12 million will advance a range of exciting community-driven projects such as the Haeckel Hill wind project, the Dome Road solar project, and the Kluane wind project. An additional \$2.5 million is budgeted for the innovative renewable energy initiative to support more renewable energy projects in Yukon communities.

These are the most substantial investments in renewable energy in the Yukon in more than a decade and mark significant steps forward in meeting the territory's climate change targets.

More than \$13.9 million is dedicated to upgrades to help existing community buildings conserve energy, including the Beaver Creek grader station, the Mayo administration building, Copper Ridge Place, Elijah Smith Elementary School, Yukon University, and the Yukon Justice Centre.

The amount of \$16.5 million will support a range of community infrastructure projects, such as: the Faro public works building and fire hall; the arena and public works building in Carmacks; a new public works facility in Old Crow; the fire hall, municipal centre, and public works facility in Teslin; the Teslin Tlingit Council's public building; and the City Hall and services building in Whitehorse.

A total of \$19 million will allow for the installation of solar energy systems at off-grid grader stations over the next five years. This will contribute approximately 10 percent toward our greenhouse gas reduction targets for government buildings.

*Our Clean Future* is a Yukon-wide strategy to tackle climate change that involves all levels of government, businesses, organizations, and individuals. Our government is leading by example, and we continue to support efforts that empower Yukoners and Yukon businesses to advance the territory's climate change goals.

This year, we are spending more than \$1.5 million toward the electrification of our transportation network. This includes expanding Yukon's network of electric vehicle chargers in communities along the highways that connect them. A total of 19 fast chargers will be installed by the end of this year to enable electric vehicle travel to all of our road-accessible communities.

We are expanding our good energy rebate program to help more First Nations, municipalities, and businesses to install electric vehicle chargers as well.

More than \$1.7 million will help to enhance public transportation in Whitehorse to increase options for commuters.

More than \$3.7 million of this year's budget will help retrofit homes throughout the territory to make them more energy efficient. We are also working with municipalities to create the better buildings program. This innovative program will provide Yukoners with up to \$50,000 to retrofit their homes and up to \$100,000 to retrofit their buildings at the lowest interest rate in the country. Making it more affordable for Yukoners to upgrade their homes and businesses will save Yukoners money on heating costs while reducing the territory's greenhouse gas emissions. It will also increase economic and employment opportunities in Yukon's green economy.

We continue to implement *Cultivating Our Future*, the Yukon's 10-year agricultural strategy developed together with Yukon's fast-growing agricultural industry. Nearly \$1.5 million will provide support throughout the territory for community gardens and markets, as well as farm business plans, building farm infrastructure, and funding specialized equipment. By working together, we are fostering the growth of Yukon's agricultural society while increasing our food security.

Our territory's strong economic growth and record-low unemployment rate has led to jobs being created at a faster rate than they can be filled. Nearly \$6.5 million is included in this year's budget to support the development of Yukon's labour market. A strategic restructuring will see services from the Department of Education establish a new labour market unit with the Department of Economic Development. With sharper focus on economic development, the labour market unit will make support more easily accessible and will help Yukon employers and business owners find new opportunities for growth and development. We also continue to adapt the Yukon nominee program to meet the needs of employers as work continues on the Yukon's new immigration strategy.

More than \$150 million will advance resilient infrastructure projects to support our territory's growing economy. This includes nearly \$43 million for improvements to the north Klondike Highway. This is part of the over \$330 million that we have secured to enhance one of the most

critical transportation links in our territory. The amount of \$10.8 million is included for Resource Gateway projects to support Yukon's mineral resource development sector while creating economic opportunities and partnerships with Yukon First Nations.

More than \$27 million is included for improvements to the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport runway, which is set to welcome international flights again this summer. With over \$51 million in the budget, our government continues to make historic investments in the Yukon's airports and aerodromes to support our aviation industry, tourism, and increased economic opportunities throughout our territory. A further \$69 million will support a wide variety of community infrastructure projects in and around Yukon communities.

A total of \$27 million in this year's budget will advance the Dempster fibre line. Construction is underway on this long-awaited project that will make northern information technology infrastructure more resilient while bolstering the growth of our nationally recognized knowledge and tech sector.

Our government's continued focus on developing this sector has contributed to the diversification of Yukon's economy. Building on the momentum of NorthLight Innovation, the first innovation hub in the north, we will be launching an innovation strategy this year to continue stimulating innovation and entrepreneurship in the territory.

Fostering our creative and cultural industry sector is another way that our government is building a strong, diverse, and resilient economy. Nearly \$500,000 is included to continue implementation of creative potential, advancing the Yukon's creative and cultural industries — the territory's first-ever creative and cultural industries strategy. The Yukon's creative and cultural industries sector will play an important role in the recovery of Yukon's economy and promoting well-being throughout our territory.

An additional \$310,000 will enable us to co-host the 2022 Arctic Arts Summit with the Canada Council for the Arts. This will be the first time that the summit has ever been held in Canada and it will provide a unique opportunity to showcase the Yukon's arts and cultural sectors while strengthening and promoting circumpolar collaboration.

Last fall, our government supported the Yukon Film Society to reopen the iconic Yukon Theatre as a community space for screening films and for performing arts, lectures, and concerts. The Yukon Theatre was the focal point as the Yukon Film Society hosted the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Available Light Film Festival last month.

In addition to devoted film lovers, the Yukon is home to exceptionally creative and unique film and digital creators. This year, our government launched four new film, television, and digital media funding programs to support local media content creators with projects at every stage of development. We have included more than \$1.2 million for these new programs that will support the territory's internationally recognized media sector, help Yukon creators bring their ideas to the screen, and contribute to the diversification of our economy.

In addition to a flourishing arts and cultural scene, the Yukon is home to thousands of priceless and globally

significant archaeological artifacts and paleontological specimens. There is \$850,000 set aside for planning and designing a new arts heritage collection facility together with First Nations to meet the storage needs for these treasures now and into the future. An additional \$450,000 is included for the Yukon's Beringia exhibit to create a more hands-on, exploratory, and immersive experience for visitors from across the country and around the world.

The Yukon is also gaining an international reputation for world-class recreation infrastructure that helps elite athletes gain a competitive edge. This year's budget includes significant investment to enhance recreation facilities that encourage active living and supports, and it supports the development of Yukon athletes. In recent years, Mount Sima has established itself as the premier early season training ground for Canada's best skiers and snowboarders. Max Parrot — who won the gold medal for Canada in snowboard slopestyle at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics — has trained at Mount Sima in recent years, along with Mark McMorris, who won bronze. More than \$3 million in upgrades will enable the electrification of Mount Sima's hill operations, leading to a significantly smaller carbon footprint. This will improve the reliability of seasonal snowmaking operations at Mount Sima so that they continue to provide early season training opportunities for amateur and professional athletic teams. The installation of LED lighting will also conserve energy and expand operating hours and recreational opportunities for Yukoners.

The Yukon is well-established as a breeding ground for top-level cross-country skiers. Dahria Beatty competed in several solo and team cross-country skiing competitions in the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics where she recorded new personal bests. She joins Knute Johnsgaard and Emily Nishikawa, who have each participated in Olympic competitions in the last decade, along with Graham Nishikawa, who will be returning to the Winter Paralympics this year as a guide. Yukon's biathletes are also starting to make their mark. Nadia Moser is a Canada Winter Games medallist who was named the 2019 Female Athlete of the Year in Biathlon Canada.

Over \$230,000 is included in this year's budget to begin developing a new space for Biathlon Yukon. This will support athlete preparation, hosting activities, storage, and the future growth of the sport. This investment will ensure that the Yukon continues to enjoy world-class cross-country ski and biathlon facilities to support the next generation of Yukon Olympians.

More than \$8.85 million will support the construction of a new gymnastics gym and climbing facility. This new multi-use sport complex will support the growth of the Polarettes Gymnastics Club and the Climb Yukon Association.

Last year, Bianca Berko-Malvasio, Maude Molgat, and Lily Witten were the first members of the Polarettes club to compete in Canada's nationals in 20 years.

In addition to growing the sport of climbing in the territory, Climb Yukon has been actively working toward getting a dedicated climbing facility for years, and we are pleased to be supporting them in making that a reality.

Mr. Speaker, under our government's stewardship, the Yukon is truly emerging as a leader in Canada.

While our territory was not immune to COVID-19, we led the country's vaccination efforts and worked with our partners to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated response that prevented the most severe health impacts. We introduced Canada's best economic support programs and have continued to adapt them to support local businesses and organizations to move along the path to recovery. Our government's strong leadership has guided the territory through the pandemic and kept our economy growing.

Our record capital investments have kept Yukoners working while continuing to enhance community infrastructure throughout the territory. Historic investments have been made in the Yukon's early learning and childcare — the best in the country — while making life more affordable for Yukon families.

Our efforts to diversify our economy have placed us at the forefront of entrepreneurship while growing our agricultural industry and fostering the development of Yukon's beloved arts and culture sectors.

Our collaborative approach to tackling climate change is increasing community resilience throughout the territory while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating opportunities in the green economy. The Yukon already has one of the greenest energy systems in Canada, with 93 percent of our electricity coming from renewable sources. By working with partners and making strategic investments, we will ensure that we continue to set the standard for green energy.

Our commitment to strong government-to-government relationships with First Nations has ensured that Yukon continues to be a national leader in reconciliation. From revitalizing the Yukon Forum to establishing the National Indigenous Peoples Day as a statutory holiday to finalizing the *Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan* and working in partnership to develop a Yukon-wide strategy in response to the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, we have charted a new respectful and collaborative path for the benefit of all Yukoners.

The establishment of the Yukon First Nation School Board is yet another milestone that honours the vision of past First Nation leaders while building a brighter future for the next generation.

This budget will make sure that Yukoners benefit from our territory's historic economic growth. We are improving access to housing through strategic investments and innovative partnerships. We are prioritizing health and safety as we create more effective and sustainable health and social support systems to better meet the needs of all Yukoners. We are empowering the next generation by making life more affordable for families and modernizing Yukon's education system. We are creating a diverse, resilient, and green economy that will contribute to healthy, vibrant and sustainable communities right across the territory.

Our territory's population growth is the strongest in Canada, which has seen the strongest population growth of all

of the Group of Seven countries. The more that we tell the story of the Yukon, the more people want to listen and be a part of it.

We will continue to work together with our partners to write the next chapter of our territory, one that ensures prosperity for all Yukoners.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Merci, mahsi' cho, günilischish.

### Motion to adjourn debate

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

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Leader of the Official Opposition that debate be now adjourned.

*Motion to adjourn debate on second reading of Bill No. 204 agreed to*

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

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

*The House adjourned at 3:31 p.m.*

### The following sessional papers were tabled March 3, 2022:

35-1-38

*Report from the Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly on the Absence of Members from Sitzings of the Legislative Assembly and its Committees* (March 3, 2022) (Speaker Harper)

35-1-39

*Third Report of the Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees* (December 15, 2021) (Clarke, N.)

### The following legislative returns were tabled March 3, 2022:

35-1-33

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Mr. Kent related to general debate on Vote 3, Education, in Bill No. 202, *Second Appropriation Act 2021-22* — NGO vaccination rates (McLean)

35-1-34

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Mr. Kent related to general debate on Vote 3, Education, in Bill No. 202, *Second Appropriation Act 2021-22* — supported child care worker program (McLean)

35-1-35

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Mr. Dixon related to general debate on Vote 3, Education, in Bill No. 202, *Second Appropriation Act 2021-22* — early learning framework (McLean)

35-1-36

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Mr. Dixon related to general debate on Vote 3, Education, in Bill No. 202, *Second Appropriation Act 2021-22* — supported child care worker program (McLean)

35-1-37

Response to oral question from Mr. Kent re: French immersion programming and capital plan for schools (McLean)

35-1-38

Response to Written Question No. 3 re: development schedule for Whistle Bend (Mostyn)

35-1-39

Response to Written Question No. 13 re: clearance times at the Fraser border crossing (Clarke, N.)

**The following documents were filed March 3, 2022:**

35-1-42

*Report of Amanda Rogers, Independent Reviewer, in the matter of an independent review undertaken by the Government of Yukon, Department of Education, Re: Government Response to Allegation of Sexual Abuse Committed by Educational Assistant William Auclair-Bellemare at Hidden Valley Elementary School — January 31, 2022* (McLean)

35-1-43

*Action Plan for the Hidden Valley Elementary School Report — February 18, 2022* (McLean)

35-1-44

Russian invasion of Ukraine, letter re (dated March 3, 2022) from Hon. Sandy Silver, Premier, Yukon, Hon. Caroline Cochrane, Premier Northwest Territories, and Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Premier, Nunavut, to Hon. John Horgan, Chair, Council of the Federation (Silver)

35-1-45

*Making Work Safe — A Summary on the Engagement on Paid Sick Leave* (Tredger)

**Written notice was given of the following motions March 3, 2022:**

Motion No. 294

Re: member participation in sittings of the House via video conference due to COVID-19 during the 2022 Spring Sitting (Streicker)

Motion No. 295

Re: authorization for the Assembly to meet via video conference during the 2022 Spring Sitting (Streicker)

Motion No. 296

Re: pairing arrangements for the 2022 Spring Sitting (Streicker)